

PDP Suspends Fayose, Anyim, Others, Refers Ortom to Disciplinary Committee

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Kogi Assembly Suspends 9 Members, 8 LG Chairmen Over Terrorism, Anti-party Allegations *Story Page 4*

Tears Flow As Men In Military Uniform Allegedly Demolish Place Of Worship, 10 Homes In Kaduna Community In Pre Dawn Invasion

- Victims allege NAF responsible
- NAF denies involvement
- Community leader says houses owned by serving, retired military officers left untouched by exercise

By: IBRAHIMADAMU, Kaduna.

While there is said to be a subsisting court order, barring the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) from taking further action, victims affected by a pre dawn invasion and

vandalizing of over ten houses including a church in Barakallahu rural community in Kaduna State, have pointed causing fingers at the Nigeria Air Force (NAF). The victims, whose homes were affected in the yesterday 5am demolition

exercise by men fully armed in military fatigues who stormed the sleepy community, drew ire and anger from dwellers of mostly Gbagyi tribe. When our correspondent visited the community

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Protesters Storm Abuja, Demand Interim Govt, Mahmood's Arrest Over Election Outcome *Page 3*

**Want proper audit of financial accounts of INEC*



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African Descendants Worldwide Cannot Afford To Be Divided - Ooni

**Attends official launch of Ise Day in Brazil*

Ramadan: Experts Warn Against Rescheduling Medication, Caution Lactating Mothers

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

Lactating mothers for babies below six months have been warned to desist from fasting, also patients are warned against rescheduling medication without recourse to their doctors.

A medical expert gave the advice during a Pre-Ramadan Lecture organised by Islamic Medical Association of Nigeria (IMAN) Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) and Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH) Branch in Zaria on Wednesday.

Prof. Abdullahi Randawa, Consultant Obstetrics and Gynaecologist ABUTH said babies depend on mothers for their survival after delivery; if such mothers fast, she would not produce enough milk and the baby would suffer a lot.

Randawa, a former Provost College of Medical Sciences, ABU Zaria discouraged breastfeeding mothers from fasting because the baby may suffer especially if the baby is less than six months.

He added that when such a baby is more than six

months and he is able to eat other food, then mothers of such babies can fast.

"I would not discourage a pregnant woman who is healthy from fasting if she has the motivation, but she should consult her physician for evaluation to ensure that she is healthy," he said.

He noted that the body of a woman has been created to take care of the baby during pregnancy.

He added that babies are blessed with capacity to participate in its survival while in the womb of the mother, hence the need for mothers to increase food intake during pregnancy. He said pregnancy is a condition whereby, whether a mother eats or not, the growing baby would make her breakdown her own body store for his survival.

"So, whether the mother increases her food intake or not, the baby would access her body store for his survival. The best thing for her is to eat more so that she and her baby live well and remain healthy".

According to him, it is not good for her to stay long without eating (like during Ramadan) it can lead her

to suffer some minor illness, lose blood sugar and even become unconscious," he said.

Similarly, Dr. Muhammad-Mustapha Yaqub Consultant Physician, Department of Medicine, ABUTH cautioned patients on rescheduling of treatment and medication without recourse to their doctors.

"It can't be decided by the patient; some of these drugs work better in the night or in the morning and some drugs work for a few hours while others work for long hours.

"So if you take your decision without recourse to a specialist you may find yourself in trouble," he said.

Yakubu said the Holy Quran has exempted Muslims who are sick or traveling from fasting, explaining that the exemption is not a final statement on itself.

He however, said the sickness referred to in the Holy Quran has categories and grades; the people of knowledge came-in had classified the sicknesses, illnesses and injuries for better guidance.

He said, if the illness would be worsened by fasting or fasting would

delay the treatment of illness, then in that situation, fasting should be kept aside.

Prof. Abdulaziz Hassan, Amir of IMAN, ABU/ABUTH branch said the association provides pre-Ramadan lectures annually to enlighten the members and neighboring communities on Ramadan vis-à-vis health issues.

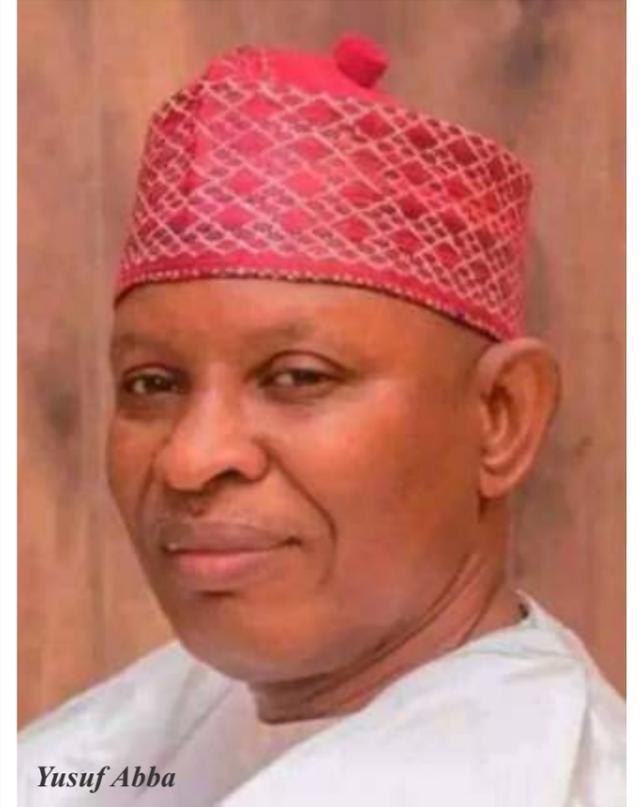
This year, the discourse was on pregnancy, maternal health and how people should take medications during Ramadan.

According to him, the lecture aims at preparing members of the association and the community towards achieving the maximum spiritual and health benefits of Ramadan fasting in a healthy manner.

He therefore, called on the society to strive harder and impart into the younger ones, the knowledge of both Islamic and Western education and use the Ramadan period to pray for a prosperous Nigeria. The lecture was on the topic, "Maternal Health and Ramadan Fast and Health and Medications during Ramadan Fast".

Ogun NNPP Guber Candidate Congratulates Kano Governor Elect Yusuf Abba

*Says popularity among masses earned him victory



Yusuf Abba

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) governorship candidate in Ogun State, Ambassador Olufemi Oguntoyinbo has described the election of Yusuf Kabir Abba as the Kano State governor elect as well deserved and landslide.

In a congratulatory message to the Kano State governor elect, Ambassador Oguntoyinbo said his election clearly showed that the people of Kano have demonstrated their trust and confidence in the governor-elect.

The Ogun State NNPP governorship candidate pointed out that the "victory is as a result of the sagacity, hard work, teamwork, skillful campaigns, efficient resource allocation, openness and humility exhibited by Abba and his team players".

"I wholly congratulate you for this feat, which has shown your level of popularity and acceptability with the people of Kano. I want to also congratulate all the party leaders and executives in the state starting from the party chairman and secretary, and all other party executives", he said.

The Ogun State NNPP governorship candidate

added, "I want to also commend the courage of the party members and the masses who stand by the good governance by voted en masse for Abba as the next governor of Kano state".

"You concentrated on issues that mattered most to Kano people and they responded in kind, bestowing on him and the NNPP an earth-shaking victory of historic proportions, which also confirms the famous dictum that the voice of the people is the voice of God".

According to Ambassador Oguntoyinbo, the Kano state governor elect Kabir Abba victory "is also a testament to the value that you have brought on the former positions you have occupied", and that the victory was a lesson for all that everyone matters in politics, particularly the masses and that Abba's feat was a manifestation of his popularity among his people, and thus the right person to take the mantle of leadership in the state.

Praying that almighty God will give him the wisdom and grace to direct the affairs of Kano State, Ambassador Oguntoyinbo said, "it is my prayer that the almighty God would lead to deliver value to the Kano people who have shown implicit confidence in you",

Be Magnanimous In Victory, Engage Competent Hands, Oyo NUJ Urges Makinde

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Oyo State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) on Monday, urged Gov Seyi Makinde to be magnanimous in victory and engage competent people from across the state.

Congratulating Gov Seyi Makinde on his reelection for second term in office, Oyo NUJ in a statement signed by the Chairman, Comrade Ademola Babalola, described Gov Makinde's victory in the last Saturday governorship election as well-earned and well-deserved.

According to Oyo NUJ, Engr Makinde should see his return as governor for another four years as a golden opportunity to

further the development of the state and the welfare of its people under his watch and that the spread of the various developments projects embarked upon by the governor in his first term made him the darling of the people of the state who have seen in him a compassionate and just administrator.

Comrade Babalola stressed, "the signs had been so visible that Saturday's guber election would be a walkover for Governor Makinde, having endeared himself to the common people by showing to them that he is a compassionate administrator".

"The governor's good deeds were also trumpeted by the workers and particularly pensioners many of whom trekked distances to their polling

units to vote for the man who has returned smile to their faces", he said

Comrade Babalola added "Hitherto neglected zones are getting their deserved attention through road and other infrastructural projects connecting the zones and making the movement of agric produce from the production to the consumption centres possible".

Charging Gov Makinde to be magnanimous in victory by engaging competent people from across the state, irrespective of political leanings in his government, the NUJ Chairman commended the two leading opposition candidates, Senator Teslim Folarin of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and Oloye

Adebayo Adelabu of Accord for congratulating Gov Makinde.

Comrade Babalola also urged them to support the governor to move the state forward by offering suggestions to Gov Makinde on how they think certain things should be done for the progress and development of the state.

The NUJ Chairman further tasked winners of the 2023 elections across level not to forget the promises they made to the people of their constituencies, reminding them that they would give account of their stewardship in another four years and that the people of Oyo state should continue to embrace peace and support the Makinde-led administration, adding that no good progress can be made in an atmosphere of chaos.

Protesters Storm Abuja, Demand Interim Govt, Mahmood's Arrest Over Election Outcome

**Want proper audit of financial accounts of INEC*

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

A new set of protesters yesterday stormed the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja over the just concluded elections, even as they asked Presidential Muhammadu Buhari to put in place an interim government before he leaves office on May 29.

The angry Nigerians, protesting under the umbrella of the National Youth League for the Defence of Democracy (NYLDD) also demanded an immediate arrest of the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof. Mahmood Yakubu by the Directorate of State Security Service (DSS).

The in their numbers armed with various placards, asked the Nigerian government not only to sack Mahmood Yakubu but also to sack the Finance of the electoral empire.

Addressing newsmen at the Unity Fountain where the protest started, one of the leaders of the group, Dr. Moses Paul, said the interim government they were asking for is expected to appoint a new INEC chairman and conduct a fresh election that will produce a befitting President for Nigeria.

Dr. Paul said: "We are citizens of Nigeria, lovers of Nigeria, standing on the part of our constitution and citizens' rights, we are here particularly to address the greatest crime that

has happened in the history of the world and in Nigeria. People were burnt in Kano, people were shot in Rivers, we have seen the greatest inhumanity happened in Lagos state in the course of this election.

"Two demands we are making; we are asking the President of this country to arrest immediately and prosecute the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, who has committed the greatest fraud in the history of humanity, we need him arrested and be prosecuted.

"Our number two demand is that we are asking for an interim government be put in place. We are saying that because we do not want President Muhammadu Buhari to continue, his tenure is ending, so as a father he should put in place an interim government so that the interim government will now appoint another INEC chairman who will conduct a free and credible election and produce a befitting President for our country."

When asked to provide other options if the two demands are not met, another speaker and one of the co-conveners, Anngu Orngu, said they are harmless Nigerians "but we will use every other civil and lawful means to make sure that our demands are met.

"We are here as frustrated Nigerians and the fundamental rights of Nigerians have been trampled upon by Mahmood



Yakubu-led INEC and we are here calling for his immediate resignation, we have also requested that DSS should arrest him, and he should be prosecuted by the EFCC.

"We are calling on DSS to arrest Mahmood immediately, the EFCC should investigate him and we are also calling on the Nigerian Judiciary because those concerned are already in court, particularly the presidential election of February 25th, we are calling on the judges in Nigeria that we want justice to prevail.

"We have been to the US Embassy, we have been to the British Council in Nigeria, and we have also submitted letter to the French embassy, calling on

them to advise the Nigerian government that the Nigerian people are not happy. We the young people of this country are not happy over what is happening in our country. We may be peaceful now but when you push even a goat to the wall, the goat may bite," he said

In one of the letters made available to newsmen which is addressed to the United State Embassy and Consulate, the protesters called for sanction against the INEC Chairman.

The letter read in part: "The conduct of the elections in substantial none compliance with the the extant legal framework.

"These criminal actions of Prof. Mahmood Yakubu have led to

the dampening of the revived spirits of youths who in anticipation of a country that works for all, turned out in their large numbers to vote, some for the first time in their lives, for their preferred candidates only to be greeted with violence and subversion of their collective will.

"Based on the foregoing, we pray your good offices to amongst other appropriate sanctions, withdraw the visas of Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, all the Resident Electoral Commissioners of states where these infractions were prevalent, particularly the RECs of Lagos, Rivers, Borno, Zamfara, Niger, Jigawa, Kano, Imo, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Ogun, Oyo, Parts of Cross River, parts of Katsina and Edo State."

Prevail On NNPC, CBN Governor, Nigerians Suffering Over Petroleum Products, Cash, Afenifere Tells Buhari

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A Pan-Yoruba socio-political organization, Afenifere has tasked President Muhammadu Buhari to prevail on the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to ensure that petroleum products and new Naira notes are available.

Afenifere in a statement on Monday, said that Nigerians are still finding it very difficult to obtain cash from banks and related spots such as Deposit Monetary Banks as well as getting petroleum products.

The Pan Yoruba socio political organization in the statement signed by its National Publicity Secretary Comrade Jare Ajayi, President Buhari "should

order Mr. Godwin Emefiele of the Central Bank to supply commercial banks with both the old and new naira notes adequately.

Afenifere specifically said there is the need for President Muhammadu Buhari to make good his declaration regarding the Supreme Court pronouncement on the circulation of naira notes, saying, "reports from various parts of the country are indicating that people are still finding it very difficult to obtain cash from banks and related spots such as Deposit Monetary Banks."

According to Afenifere, "this is making life very difficult for our people just as the situation is forcing many businesses to go under, especially small and medium scale businesses."

It pointed out that "as at the beginning of this week, currency notes are not only hard to come by, banks still put a limit on the amount a customer can withdraw. Even then, it was not all the banks that are giving out cash as many are still complaining of scarcity of either the old or the new notes", and that "if this trend

continues, the country and the citizens are in for serious economic and social upheavals".

It stressed that only last Thursday, Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) warned that the high rate of inflation that is complicating "business climate and deepened challenges facing small scale businesses".

"Right thinking Nigerians never cease to be amazed by disclosures from the Presidency which seem to fly against the reality of what is happening in the country. At the moment, everybody knows that not only are businesses under serious strain, Nigerians are finding it difficult to maintain what they have", it said.

The Pan Yoruba socio political organization added, 'besides that, millions of people are finding it difficult to stay afloat as their means of livelihood are experiencing a lot of setbacks. It is therefore surprising to hear voices from the seat of power asserting that businesses are growing".

Katsina Records First 2023 Rainfall

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

First rainfall for the year 2023 has been recorded in Katsina and Daura towns.

The rain started at about 3.04am to 3.30am Tuesday morning and later exceeded to more than an hour in Katsina metropolis making the atmospheric condition cool.

In Daura metropolis, New Nigerian gathered the rainfall which lasted for 26 minutes has also reduced the excessive

heat experienced in the area.

Some farmers have already started clearing their farms for the preparation of this year's farming season.

Sarkin Noma, Alhaji Babangida Wagini of Batsari local government area prayed to Almighty Allah to give a bumper harvest in this year's rainy season.

One Malam Musa Adamu expressed that, the new Governor elect, Dr Dikko Umar Radda would give all necessary support to Farmers to boost their Farming activities in the state.

African Descendants Worldwide Cannot Afford To Be Divided - Ooni

*Attends official launch of Ise Day in Brazil

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan
The Ooni of Ife and Co-Chairman, National Council of Traditional Rulers of Nigeria (NCTRN), Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi has declared that African descendants worldwide cannot afford to be divided again. Ooni Ogunwusi said this on Tuesday in Brazil, while addressing a special parliamentary session organized in his honour at the Federal House of Representatives Chamber in Brasilia. According to the Ooni who was in Brazil as Royal Guest of Honour at the official launching of annual African Religion Day (ISESE DAY), the time has come for unity of African descendants across the world irrespective of our colour, race, religious and cultural differences". "We cannot afford to be divided again. We are one, irrespective of colour and race. President Lula is our pride, he remains determined to do well for Africa, and you must support him with legislations helpful to his mission for Africa. That's all I beg of you if truly we are one big family", he. Ooni Ogunwusi added, "What we need now is to unite for growth of all persons and be

good to all regardless of religious and cultural differences. Look at the good-looking Afro-Brazilians in this chamber who have stormed here to honour me". "They all look like my first cousins back home in Nigeria and in other African countries, we are one people and the earlier we recognize the strength in our unity the better for us all". The royal father maintained "I am sitting on an ancient throne of over hundreds of centuries, a sacred throne of the Kingdom where most of you all migrated from. Beyond here in Brasil, I am delighted to inform you that you all have a home in my Kingdom and there are free lands for you to come and build your homes across Africa". Ooni Ogunwusi stressed further, "I vow never to forget you, you are a major part of us in my Kingdom of Ile-Ife and we hope to receive you home soon as possible, in fact, I have deliberately mapped out free land for you all to come and live, invest and reside." He however, urged the legislative arm of Brazilian government to support President Lula with necessary pro Afro-Brazilian legislations. Welcoming Ooni Ogunwusi, the Parliament's Deputy Speaker,

Hon. Deputado Vicentinho Requerente, described the Ooni as a caring father whom the Afro-Brazilian community holds in a very high esteem, saying, "Your presence here today has added to the dignity of people of African origin in Brazil and this day will remain a history making day for life." At the official launching of annual African Religion Day (ISESE DAY) held at the banquet hall President's office in Brasilia, Ooni Ogunwusi said Afro-Brazilians like their other counterparts in Brazil have done a lot to prove their love and support for the country, urging President Lula not to renege on his promise of an inclusive pro African government. "I can remember very vividly when your visit to Nigeria in 2003 during the former President Olusegun Obasanjo's term, you still have the love and respect of the African people. We have you in our prayers and we pray that the Almighty Olodumare (God) continues to be with you, with your darling wife who is my daughter and your administration. Africa is proud



Ooni Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi in Brazil

of you. Responding, President Lula da Silva lauded Ooni Ogunwusi for his mission towards reunification of not just the Afro-Brazilians but also Africans worldwide which he believes means well for the global peace.

President Lula stated that efforts of the Afro-Brazilians towards nation building in Brazil can not be over emphasized, and that his government is committed to strengthening the ties between Brazil and Africa which is the home continent of his people.

65 Inmates To Graduate From Open University - VC

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Sixty-five inmates from correctional centres are among the 28,740 students that will graduate from the forthcoming convocation of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), its Vice Chancellor, Professor Olufemi Peters, has disclosed. Speaking at its 12th pre-convocation briefing in Abuja on Tuesday, he explained that of the 58 inmates are undergraduates and seven, postgraduates. He further explained that they (inmates) are studying at no cost as the university offers them scholarship being part of its social responsibility, stressing that it is to

provides them the opportunity to make a living for themselves after serving their terms. Professor Peters stated that six students would be awarded First Class; 2,306, Second Class Upper; 11, 075, Second Class Lower and 5,558. Third Class. He explained, "The convocation will take place simultaneously at the 114 study centres of the varsity across the country to get students and parents to participate from the centres close to them." He disclosed that NOUN was working on a new proposal for the National Youths Service Corps (NYSC) with the hope that it would be more receptive and bring in some of the students into NYSC.

Kogi Assembly Suspends 9 Members, 8 LG Chairmen Over Terrorism, Anti-party Allegations

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Nine members of Kogi State House of Assembly have been suspended based on allegations of terrorism, while eight council chairmen and three vice chairmen were also suspended for alleged anti-party activities. Also the Council chairman of Lokoja Local Government Area, Hon Dansabe Muhammed has been suspended on allegations of misappropriation of funds amounting to about N150 million. Reading both letters at plenary session, the Speaker, Prince Mathew Kolawole said the correspondence from the governor alleged that the lawmakers were involved in terrorist activities based on a security report while the correspondence from

the state All Progressives Congress (APC) chairman, alleged that the chairmen and some vice chairmen carried out anti-party activities in the just concluded elections. Contributing to debate on the allegation levelled against them, the Deputy Speaker, Rt Hon Alfa Rabiuh Momoh Ankpa II State Constituency, supported the suspension of the lawmakers, saying the state is bigger than any personal interest and that lawmakers should not be found contravening the law. Also, Hon Collins Musa, Omala State Constituency aligned himself with the Deputy Speaker, arguing that the issue that borders on terrorism is too great to be swept under the carpet. The House, therefore, placed the nine lawmakers on suspension until investigation is

concluded. The suspended lawmakers include Daniya Rayin of Bassa constituency, Muktar Bajeh, Okehi constituency, Kilani Olumo, Ijumu constituency, Moses Akande, Ogori-Magongo constituency, Lawi Ahmed, Okene One, Constituency Atule Igbunu, Ibaji Constituency, Suleiman Attajachi Musa, Idah Constituency, Aderonke Aro, Yagba West Constituency and Bello Hassan Abdullahi, Ajaokuta Constituency. The suspended chairmen with their vice chairmen, include, Ogori-Magongo, Kabba-Bunu, and Bassa, while those with suspended chairmen are Yagba West, Adavi, Ajaokuta, and Ibaji. The suspension of the lawmakers followed a correspondence from

Governor Yahaya Bello to the Speaker, while that of the council chairmen and vice chairmen was based on a correspondence from the State APC chairman, Abdullahi Bello. Meanwhile, a seven-man ad hoc committee headed by the Deputy Speaker, Rt Hon Rabiuh was set up by the House to investigate those on suspension. The committee Secretary is Bayero Jiya. In another development, the House also placed the Council boss of Lokoja Local Government Area, Hon Dansabe Muhammed on suspension, based on allegation of misappropriation of funds which amounts to about N150 million. The councillors and the vice chairman had written a letter accusing the council boss of reckless financial spending and misappropriation of funds without recourse to legal order.

Ramadan: Kano Residents Task CBN To Make Cash Available

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

As the Islamic holy month of Ramadan commenced yesterday following the sighting of the crescent as announced by the Sultanate and other traditional rulers, residents of Kano State have appealed to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to make Naira available in cash to ease the hardship being faced

by Nigerians.

Our correspondent who was at the city of Kano and some environs, reports that Muslims across the 44 local government areas in the state commenced fasting, while local eateries and other commercial food vendors in various spots remained closed shops till after the month of Ramadan. Similarly, people were seen at the banks trying to get money for family

expenses, despite the cash shortage, which is one of the great set backs that may seriously affect this year's Ramadan feeding. At SabonGari, Badawa, some parts of Na'ibawa and Brigade where non Muslims dominated, New Nigerian observed that there was presence of food vendors and other eateries, which is habitual every year, while the Kano State Islamic Police known as Hisbah, monitored the

commencement of the fasting across the city as well as rural communities. Speaking to our correspondent at First Bank main branch, people called on the CBN to make the cash available at ATM's and over the counter in order to reduce the hardship suffered by customers to cater for their families.



Fruit market in Kano

Emir Bayero Congratulates Kano Governor-elect, Abba Kabir Yusuf

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero CFR, JP has congratulated the new Governor-elect of Kano State, Engineer Abba Kabir Yusuf, in his victory in the election conducted on Saturday 18th March 2023.

According to a statement signed by the Chief Press

Secretary to Kano Emirate Council, Abubakar Balarabe Kofar Naisa, dated March 23, 2023, in a letter signed by His Highness, Alh. Aminu Ado Bayero, the Emir noted that the people have accepted the democratic system of government, which is very important looking how they came out en masse to cast their votes as provided by the

constitution.

Emir Bayero also thanked Islamic Scholars, Priests and the rest of the community for all the prayers they offered for peace, before, during and after the elections.

Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero also called on the new governor-elect to cooperate with all the community groups in running the government,

because doing so will help to improve lives and bring economic growth.

He further wished for lasting peace and stability in Kano State as well as other parts of the country.

He prayed for Almighty Allah for the successful completion of his tenure as well as the development of his government and the development of the economy of Kano state

Uba Sani Vows To Challenge PDP's Kaduna Guber Results

**Says victory gap will widen*

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Governor-elect, Senator Uba Sani, has said that he will challenge some election results where the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) won with unimaginable margins.

The Governor-elect who spoke with the Hausa Service of BBC which was monitored in Kaduna, expressed surprise that PDP won some local government areas with bogus figures.

Senator Uba Sani said that he will go to the Election Petition Tribunal to contest PDP's victory in those areas, adding that after the verdict, the margin of victory between him and Alhaji Isa Ashiru, the PDP candidate, will widen.

It would be recalled that Senator Sani was declared the winner by the Returning Officer for Kaduna State and Vice-Chancellor of the Usman Dan Fodio University, Sokoto, Professor Lawal Bilbis on Monday.

According to the election result, Senator Sani polled a total of 730,002 votes to defeat his closest rival, Isa Ashiru of the PDP who polled 719,196 votes, a difference of 10,806 votes.

The Governor-elect who

said that the election results were marred by irregularities in areas where PDP won, gave the example of Chikun Local Government Area, where the opposition got over 89,000 votes, describing the figures as unimaginable.

Senator Uba Sani however promised the people of Kaduna State, "to be fair and even handed to all, including those who didn't vote for me. I'm glad with the outcome of the election. People came out and voted for me."

On the allegation that his election was rigged, the Governor-elect said that such allegations is in the character of the Nigerian politician, adding that "God gives power to whomsoever He wants and when He wants."

He recalled that in 2011, he lost the Kaduna central senatorial election and his supporters urged him to go to court but he refused, believing that that was not his time, adding that "as God willed it, I became senator in 2019."

The Governor-elect expressed confidence that he will be victorious at the Election Petition Tribunal where the opposition promised to challenge his victory, adding that he will also go to court to challenge PDP's bogus victory in some local government.



Police Nabs Man Over Alleged Forged UN Invitation Letter, Other Documents

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Operatives of Police Special Fraud Unit (PSFU) attached to the Diplomatic Section have arrested and arraigned one Abioye Abolaji, male; on an eleven-count charge bordering on alleged forgery, obtaining money by false pretence, false representation and stealing.

The arrest of the suspect was in furtherance to a petition from the Diplomatic Security Services (DSS) Regional Security office at the United States Consulate General (USCG), Lagos; which requested discrete investigation into forged documents submitted by certain C-2 Visa applicants to the Non-Immigrant Visa (NIV) Unit of USCG.

C-2 Visa is a NIV category reserved for participants at United Nations (UN) Conference/Events.

The spokesperson of the Unit, SP Oyetayo made the disclosure in a release made available to journalists yesterday in Lagos.

According to the statement, investigation by USCG and PSFU into 77 C-2 applications from 24 organisations in Nigeria to attend 2 separate Conferences, namely, 67th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and UN 2023 Water Conference scheduled to

take place in New York between 22nd-24th March, 2023; revealed that most of the applicants are not qualified for the Visa classification they applied for because the applicants provided forged UN Invitation Letters.

It added that the applicants, who claimed to be employees of Osun & Sons Agricultural Venture, Ray D. Exclusive Electrical Contractor, or ACE Technoresources Integrated Services; planned to attend UN Water Conference as a representative or nominee of these organisations.

However, investigation revealed that none of the organisation is in consultative status with the UN and that the employment of most of the applicants had no bearing to either of the referenced UN conference.

Further information elicited during Police interview of the Visa applicants led to the arrest of one Mr Abioye Abolaji, who is the arrowhead of a notorious syndicate that specialises in Visa Fraud.

Consequently, the Commissioner of Police, Police Special Fraud Unit, CP Adepoju Ilori has advised prospective Visa Applicants to desist from patronising Document Vendors/Visa Racketeers for the processing of category B-1 and B-2 Visas or any other travel documents.

Ilori further encouraged applicants to research the procedure/requirements of Visa for their intended country of destination or to approach the Diplomatic Section of PSFU for guidance in order not to fall victim of Visa Racketeers.

The Unit is currently on the trail of other members of the syndicate.



The suspect

Ramadan: Reps Member Samaila Suleiman Salutes Muslims, Sues For Spiritual Rebirth

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Federal Legislator, Hon. Samaila Suleiman has saluted Muslims for yet observing another Month of Ramadan.

While expressing hope that the month would provide an ample opportunity to seek God's intervention for several challenges confronting the nation, Hon. Suleiman enjoined fasting Muslims to seek sustainable spiritual rebirth by abstaining from trivial and other forbidden acts as spelt out in the Holy Qur'an.

He called on faithful men and women in Islam to exemplify great virtues of Prophet Muhammad whom he noted was very generous to the needy and less privileged.

Suleiman who was People's Democratic Party (PDP) Kaduna North House of Reps Candidate in the just concluded 2023 general election mentioned humility, almsgiving,

generosity, caring and above all problem-solving ability as some attributes of the Prophet which he said if practised would make the society a better place to live in.

"I want to use this opportunity to call on my Muslim brethren to inculcate the habits of the Messenger of Allah whose virtues and good characters cannot be overemphasized."

"He was always good and kept doing good year in year out with increasing the acts of goodness in the holy month of Ramadan.

"I call on us to imbibe the lessons we would have learnt by observing

fasting in this Month and ensure we make it a part of us to always do good to the people around us.

"If we keep this commendable legacy, I

assure you our society will be a better and peaceful place to live in," he observed.



Samaila Suleiman

Governor Inuwa Mourns Ex-Gombe Speaker, Nasiru Nono

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has expressed deep sorrow over the demise of former Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Nasiru Abubakar Nono who died as a result of a ghastly motor accident along Abuja Road.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, Governor Inuwa, while reacting to the sad news, described the death of the former lawmaker as a monumental loss, not only to his family but the state and Nigeria as a whole.

He said the late former legislator was a humble



Ex Gombe Speaker, Nono

and down-to-earth politician who was known for his commitment to the well being of his constituents and the people of the state in general.

The Governor recalled that as the Speaker of the State Assembly, Hon. Nono exuded tact, dexterity and statesmanship while presiding over the state legislature and earned the respect and loyalty of his colleagues.

Governor Inuwa, on behalf of the government and people of Gombe State, conveyed his deepest condolences to the immediate family of the deceased, his political associates and the people of Yamaltu Deba local government area over the great loss, praying Almighty Allah to grant the deceased Aljannat Firdaus.

Tears Flow As Men In Military Uniform Allegedly Demolish Place Of Worship, 10 Homes In Kaduna Community In Pre Dawn Invasion

- Victims allege NAF responsible
- NAF denies involvement
- Community leader says houses owned by serving, retired military officers left untouched by exercise

known as Ungwar Kano few hours after the exercise, he met affected families with children and babies strapped behind their mothers, wailing with no place to go to as alternative shelters. An elder in the community who simply identified himself as Danjuma Adamu, decried what he described as contempt of court, lack of compassion and insensitivity by the men in uniform.

"Can you imagine these men from Air Force Base invading a sleepy community while we were still asleep, startling little children in the process and rendering several families homeless in this rainy season. "Our people initially thought the men in uniforms were bandits as it has become a frequent

occurrence in Igabi Local Government and other suburban settlements where people have been kidnapped for ransom.

"Until it dawned on us that the assailants were men from the Air Force in full military combat uniforms in about eleven vehicles with all sorts of tools meant for demolition.

"The most annoying and humiliating aspect of it these men ordered occupants of the houses being demolished to use their own hands to destroy their homes," he lamented.

While explaining the incident of the wee hours of yesterday, Adamu noted that residents of the community had lived there for over 50 years after their forefathers were instructed to vacate the innermost parts of the

swath of land near Kaduna Air Force

"We were relocated after so much dialogue with peace and harmony

"We were shocked by kleptomaniac attacks by men in uniform looking for more land

"Instead of relocating poultry farm owners, general and other

owned by big men of the military, they insisted the poor masses who could seldom eat three decent meals daily should be the ones to move.

"Our people with the help of good spirited individuals instituted a court process which is still on and bars any action from the Air Force.

"To our astonishment they

came and brought down our houses, including a house of worship, the Redeemed Church.

"Is this how to pay us back after being peaceful and law-abiding for years since living in this part of the state?" He asked.

Our correspondent observed



and occupied by the untouchable big men who are allowed to live in peace but only us the less privileged are subjects of ridicule and harassment.

"This is perplexing coming at this time when tensions are high all over the place due to aftermath of elections and other issues capable of causing uprising in the state.

Personnel responsible. However, I will confirm and get back to you," he said.

Also contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Kaduna State Command, DSP Muhammed Jalige said that the command was yet to be briefed on the development.

He however, promised to make

PDP Suspends Fayose, Anyim, Others, Refers Ortom to Disciplinary Committee

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Working Committee (NWC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has after very extensive review of the affairs of the party in the country and pursuant to the provisions of the PDP Constitution (as amended in 2017) referred the Governor of Benue State, Dr.

Samuel Ortom to the National Disciplinary Committee over his reported involvement in anti-party activities.

A statement signed by the National Publicity Secretary, Hon. Debo Ologunagba, made available yesterday, said that the NWC also approved the suspension of the following from the Party with effect from yesterday, Thursday, March

23, 2023.

1. Ayodele Fayose (Ekiti State)
2. Sen. Pius Anyim (Ebonyi State)
3. Prof. Dennis Ityavyar (Benue State)
4. Dr. Aslam Aliyu (Zamfara State)

The PDP urged all leaders, critical stakeholders and teeming members of our Party across the country to remain united and focused at this critical time.

"We call on concerned authorities to wade into this issue before

findings and get back to our correspondent. He was yet to reach out as at when filing this report.



Zulum Appreciates Buhari, APC Leaders, Stakeholders, Borno People Over Re-election

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State has appreciated the support and assistance of President Muhammadu Buhari over his election victory for his second term in office.

He also thanked the All Progressives Congress (APC), ruling party National Executive Council, APC NWC, all APC national, zonal and state stakeholders and people of Borno for their solidarity, concern, commitment and support.

The governor who stated this immediately after the announcement of his victory by INEC Collation/Returning Officer, Borno State, stressed that his victory at the 2023

governorship election is a will of God and a destiny and gift from God, who gives power to whomever He pleases or wishes and no creature would dare question or challenge the destiny of God, while expressing his gratitude to all the members of the Borno State House of Assembly who also contested election alongside his and we're also victorious at the polls under the same ruling party, APC.

Zulum however, promised to redouble efforts towards performing more than what he did in his first tenure towards bringing dividends of democracy to the door steps if the rural people and common man on the street.

He called on the opposition to eschew bitterness and exercise restraint to join his government machinery towards redeeming

the state fortunes and potentials. The governor also solicited for the consent of the APC State Chairman, Hon. Ali Bukar Dalori to allow opposition parties that challenged the incumbent governor not to relocate to Abuja or any other place, hence Borno is their own state and collectively, could be salvaged.

Zulum further pledged to provide livelihood support to the resettled IDPs in their respective communities and residents of host communities as well as create job opportunities for the unemployed youth and women through vocational and skills acquisition training schemes.

He also reiterated his intention to checkmate the anti party activities of some of the APC members and betrayal perpetrated by some of his

enemies and government, stressing that leadership comes from God and He gives to whomever He pleases and whether they like him or not, God has chosen him to be their leader and governor.

Meanwhile, Nigeria's Vice President-elect, Senator Kassim Shettima has also expressed his appreciation and congratulations to the Governor-Elect, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum on his re-election bid for the coming four years.

He said that this is the second mandate given to the governor to stir the ship of the state and take it to greater heights and he has no doubt that Zulum will again, vindicate him as a greater performer even better than him. Kashim who described Zulum's re-election as a "Humbling experience", for Zulum and the

party, prayed that God will grant the Governor-elect the wisdom, good health and generosity of spirit to move the state forward.

Speaking further on the general outcome of the governorship election, Shettima said, "It is normal in democracy to win some and lose some," and advised aggrieved parties to challenge the results in court.

For the winners, Shettima said it should be taken as an act of humility, while those who have been defeated, should have the courage to accept defeat.

"The outcome of the elections is a reflection of the people's choice across the country just like in Borno, Yobe, Lagos and other states where the All Progressive Congress won the votes of the people," he pointed out.



FCDO-PERL Supports Kaduna Govt In Strengthening Mechanisms Critical To Sustaining Reforms Beyond 2023

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kaduna State Government with Support from FCDO PERL has organized a two-day technical session with members of Reform Sustainability Technical Committee. (RSTC). The purpose of the session was to inaugurate members of the RSTC as well as to harmonize reforms being implemented across MDAs from 2015 -2023 with a view to developing the Kaduna State Compendium of Reforms and Sustaining them. Speaking at the commencement of the session in Zaria, the Permanent Secretary, Planning & Budget Commission (PBC), represented by the Director Monitoring and Evaluation, PBC Mrs Jummai Bako, noted the discouragingly low levels of indicators across sectors, due to poor implementation of documented recommendations designed to build a prosperous state.

She opined, "the state should not be allowed to return to such harrowing moments. Hence the need to harmonise, document and sustain all the reforms beyond this administration." Mrs Bako urged participants to

be dedicated and committed to the session so that all reforms (2015 – 2023) can be well documented and sustained, ensuring Kaduna State remains a model across Nigeria.

She added that the state government, development partners and other stakeholders invested heavily in bringing all the reforms to fruition, and we (Kaduna's Public Service) cannot let them fail.

The State Facilitation Manager of the Accountable Responsible and Capable (ARC) Government Pillar of the PERL Programme, Mr Ashiru Sani, explained that Governor Nasir el-Rufa'i administration has embarked on several reforms across all sectors since coming into power in 2015.

"These reforms and the resulting improvements in the lives and livelihoods of residents have transformed Kaduna's governance architecture and repositioned it as a model Sub-national Government worthy of envy".

He said as the curtain calls on the current administration's time in office, the focus is on the sustainability of reforms beyond the current administration.

"This renewed focus has since culminated in the inauguration of the Kaduna State Reforms Sustainability Technical

Committee".

He further explained that to drive the process, the Kaduna State Government requested technical assistance from long-time partners, the United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) funded Partnership, to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL) to strategically reposition the Reforms Sustainability Technical Committee to ensure the Committee is well placed to deliver on its mandates,

Mr Ashiru highlighted the impact of the reforms implemented by KDSG from 2015 to date the present across – the Social, Governance, Economic Development, Security and Justice and key Sub-Sectors

He pointed that "in the context of Governance in Nigeria, Kaduna State leads in terms of translating reforms to impact Badanasi Musa, the Director State Planning, in his presentation shed more light on the rationale for constituting the Reforms Sustainability Committee.

"The RSC will serve as a mechanic to be put in place to maintain the admirable change



that have earned Kaduna State above other Sub - national as a model state for the rest of the nation to emulate beyond the tenure of the current administration".

DSP noted the RSC will further improve the structures and procedures necessary for the progression of reforms initiatives.

He stressed that the inclusion of lessons learned, challenges, recommendations and impact of the reforms in their reports

would go a long way in the sustainability of these reforms beyond 2023.

The session witnessed presentations from the members of the RSTC on the various reforms being implemented in their respective MDAs.

The participants at the event include Representatives of Partnership, to Engage, Reforms and Learn (PERL) and Members of the RSTC representing strategy MDAs across the state.

Tela Variety Will End Shortage Of Maize In Nigeria With 7 Tonnes Yield Per Hectare - Experts

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Major stakeholders and experts in the agricultural sector from within and outside Nigeria, have asserted that Tela Maize technology is the best option available for Nigerian farmers as far as maize cultivation is concerned.

The stakeholders who hail from research institutions such as the Institute of Agriculture Research (IAR), Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, National Biotechnological Agency Abuja, African Agricultural Technological Foundation (AATF) as well as others, made their findings known at a one-day interactive seminar with farmers, at Asaa Pyramid in Kaduna on Wednesday March 22, 2023.

According to them, the Tela Maize seedlings would not only reduce cost of production for farmers, but give the maximum yield as well as resist the different varieties of diseases that have ravaged other maize seedlings in the country.

Dr. Rose Gidado, a Director Agricultural Department, National Biotechnology Agency Abuja, explained that Tela is a genetically modified seedling of maize that is meant to resist attacks from fall Army and Stem Bora worms, which have ravaged maize and caused financial losses to farmers.

She further explained that the Tela Maize

is also resistant to drought, adding that when planted and rain doesn't fall as expected, the seedling would still thrive.

"Tela Maize gives higher yields than the conventional maize. While the ordinary maize gives about 1.4 tonnes, the Tela gives about 5.6 tonnes.

"Since, it yields more tonnes, it means more money for Nigerians farmers.

"Farmers that have access to the Tela Maize would smile because they only need to do chemical spray two times, instead of the normal four times, thereby cutting down costs," she explained.

She also revealed that Nigerian farmers have accepted the two varieties of Tela Maize that were introduced to them.

The director also refuted fears that genetically modified seedlings are unsafe adding that such seedlings have

undergone all the necessary safety checks before being handed out to farmers.

Another agricultural expert, Prof Rabi Adamu, Principal Investigator Tela Maize, Institute of Agricultural Research, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, added that if the Tela Maize is fully adopted by Nigerians farmers, it would go a long way in solving the maize shortage that the nation currently suffers.

"If adopted, the Nigerians farmers would harvest about seven tonnes of maize per hectare, instead of the two to three tonnes, which which would go a long way. In addressing the food insecurity in maize production in the country.

The university don also reiterated what Dr. Gidado said earlier about the safety of the Tela Maize.

"Tela Maize has gone through the

necessary regulatory requirements to ensure the safety of the product. The product was cleared by the agencies of Federal Government before it was sold out to the farmers.

"We have the certification from the necessary regulatory agencies," he assured.

Director with African Agricultural Technological Foundation (AATF), Kenya, Dr. Sylvester Oikeh stated that Tela Maize would go a long way in addressing the shortfall in maize production in the country.

"Currently, Nigeria cultivates 5 to 6 million hectares of land, but only get one tonne of maize per hectare, but in South Africa, the yield per hectare is 5.6 tonnes. This is made possible with the use of Tela Maize Technology.

"If you are growing maize on a hectare of land with the normal maize, you will have about a hundred tonnes of maize, while a farmer growing maize on a hectare of land with the technology, would harvest about 140 tonnes of maize.

"With the current issues with climate change, the threat of pests and diseases, the trials all over Africa, the Tela Technology has proven to be resistant to drought and diseases," he stressed.

He further said that the technology is not new in Africa, but was recently introduced to Nigeria.



Group photograph of some participants at the meeting

Only 77 Per Cent Populace In Akwalbom Drink Potable Water -IbomWASH Director

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Analysis has revealed that only 77 per cent of the population in Akwalbom State have access to clean and potable water, Project Director of IbomWASH+, Prof. Gabriel Umoh has stated.

Prof Umoh, who stated this in a welcome address to mark this year's World Water Day Celebration in Uyo on Wednesday, also disclosed that only nine per cent of urban population in the state have access to safely managed water, thus shooting up the percentage of persons with poor hygiene.

According to Prof Umoh these figures were contained in United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) report released in March this year.

He noted that Akwalbom is still behind in WASH sector, thus, an urgent need to accelerate change if the state must attend the mission of United Nation's Sustainable and Sanitation for All by 2030 as well as achieve the Executive Order 009 targeting Open defecation-free status by 2025.

These steps, Prof Umoh enumerated, include; "The approval of Akwalbom State WASH Policy which has long waited approval by the state government, approving the State WASH Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

"Approving the State Open Defecation-free Roadmap (the WASH policy, M&E framework and ODF Roadmap), establishing a stand alone Ministry of Water Resources to provide steady attention to water, sanitation and hygiene issues in the state.

"Increase budgetary allocation to the WASH-related MDAs for WASH activities, ensure timely release of funds appropriated for WASH sector and giving effect to the contents of Akwalbom Water Resources Management and Regulations Act without delay," he



outlined.

The General Manager of Akwalbom Water Company Limited (AKWCL), Engr Etido Etuk earlier, lamented that the company is facing myriads of problems that have worked against the smooth water supply in the state.

These according to Engr. Etuk, include, decayed infrastructure, epileptic power supply, cost of power/running of generators, poor funding and commercial viability of AKWCL.

In a keynote address at the occasion, the State's Commissioner for Lands and Water Resources, Capt. Iniobong Ekong (rtd), said government is making efforts to revamp and rehabilitate dilapidated

water facilities for adequate provision of potable water for all.

Ekong, who was represented by a Director in the Ministry, Dr Asumpta Udousoro expressed optimism that soon, water would be provided in sufficient quantity and quality, while also adequately managed to reduce incessant drilling of boreholes across the state with its attaining risk on the environment and lives.

He described the theme of this year's World Water Day Celebration, "Accelerating Change" as apt, since it focuses on solving the water and sanitation crisis globally.

IbomWASH+ is a cluster of six Civil

Society Organisations led by African Human Development Centre, implementing WASH Policy Cluster Project in Akwalbom. The project is part of a national project-SCALE (Strengthening Civic Engagement and Local Engagement) implemented by LLC International and funded by USAID with the aim to support reforms in drinking water sector of this state among others.

World Water Day is an annual United Nations observance day that holds on March 22 that highlights the important of fresh water, advocate for the sustainable management of fresh water resources.

Ramadan: K/South Reps Member-elect congratulates Muslims

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Hon. Member-elect Representing Kaduna South Federal Constituency, Malam Hussaini Abdulkarim Ahmed (Mai Kero) has congratulated the Muslim Ummah, particularly his constituents on the sighting of the Crescent, commencing the holy month of Ramadan 1444 After the Hijra.

He called on Muslims across the 13 wards of the constituency to seize the opportunity of the holy month to showcase the good virtues of Islam.

In a statement made available yesterday by his Media aide, Sharifudeen Ibrahim Muhammad (Dan Jarida), Hon. Mai

Kero enjoined the Muslim ummah to coexist with non-Muslims peacefully, saying peace has no alternative.

He described the month of Ramadan as a month of repentance from bad to good deeds, forgiveness, reaching out to the needy as exhibited by the Noble Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W).

Hon. Mai Kero, pleaded with the Muslim Ummah to pray for him, to have a successful tenure for a better representation.

The MEMBER-ELECT prayed to Allah to give Kaduna South, Kaduna State and Nigeria as a whole, long lasting peace and sustainable development.



Mai Kero

2023 World Poetry Day: UNICEF Organizes Protect Competition For Children In Borno

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

In commemoration of the 2023 World Poetry Day, UNICEF Borno State has organised a poetry competition for children affected by the conflict in Maiduguri, North-East Nigeria.

A statement issued and signed by the Communication Officer, UNICEF, Borno State office and made available to journalists in Maiduguri on Tuesday March 21, 2023, said

the winning poems dedicated to peace in the state and North East zone by the four competitors, include:

"A place bestowed with peace
Exalted as the home of peace

A fortunate scope full of heroes

Surrounded by young men and women As resilient as a rock."

"Killing and maiming became a visual perspective
Freedom hijacked Lives lost Properties crumble"

"Our eyes are tired of weeping,
Our hearts are sick of woe,
Our days pass heavily"

"But the lamp of hope must glow

If life must be so full of care,

Then call us soon to thee,

Or give us strength enough to

Bear our load of misery – Abbas Bukar Lawan, 17,
North-east Nigeria"

"From loud cheers to painful tears

From warm homes to cozy embraces The wind blows

cold, heavy with their fears

The skies clad and grey

Condensing into swords of rain

Cutting through our skin

Our blood boils with revenge

But what we need is change

The grey hair is withering away

Without any wish to stay."

"When will we see the day?

When the wind will now be light

And the thick clouds would be bright

So the rays of peace will shine

With happiness and cheers

And the lives of the people who perished

Would now be relished "

"Let's raise up the cup of hope

And let the rivers flow

To grow the plant which they sow

And the fingers which chose the contrary of peace

Would live to reap what the sow – Fatima

Husna Zaharadeen, 15, north-east Nigeria "

"I stand under the sun stranded

Thinking of the days gone by

When people stand in unity and in peace

"The grasses were then green

The wind danced through with ease

Peace was all that we could hear.

"But today, today we hear gunshots

In place of the songs of the birds

Today we receive bullet shell showers

In place of the rainfall"

"Peace torn to pieces.

The soft music of life is now the painful dirge of our soul.

"Only when the power of love

Overcomes the love of power

Then the world will know peace! – Khadija Hassan

Elechi, 14, North-East Nigeria

"Everyone needs free air

To breath freedom and peace

Let's make the night bring a brighter day

For the owls to wander throughout the day

"Stones are not food to chew

For the poor man to relish with stew

The world is greenish on the other side

While here, it's grey and yellowish

"Bring the key that locks the door

When the bad eggs approach like owls

The light is powerful in its brightness

But the stars never hide in the darkness

"Peace beams the heart brightly

For the soul to inhale and be healed Peace is water, air

and food

That everyone needs to survive.

"Peace is food to the soul For the heart feeds on peace –

Zainab Umar Alfa, 14, north-east Nigeria "



Ramadan: Governor Inuwa Enjoins Muslims To Intensify Prayers For Peace, Development, Prosperity Of Gombe, Nigeria

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

As the Ramadan fast begins today, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has enjoined the Muslim Ummah in Gombe State and the citizenry in general to use the opportunity provided by the Holy month to pray fervently for peace, development as well as prosperity of the State and Nigeria.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, in a goodwill message to mark the commencement of the Ramadan fast, Governor Inuwa stressed the need for all and sundry to play their roles in finding new directions toward fixing the problems bedevilling the country.

He particularly admonished Muslims to embrace piety as demanded of them during the month-long fast.

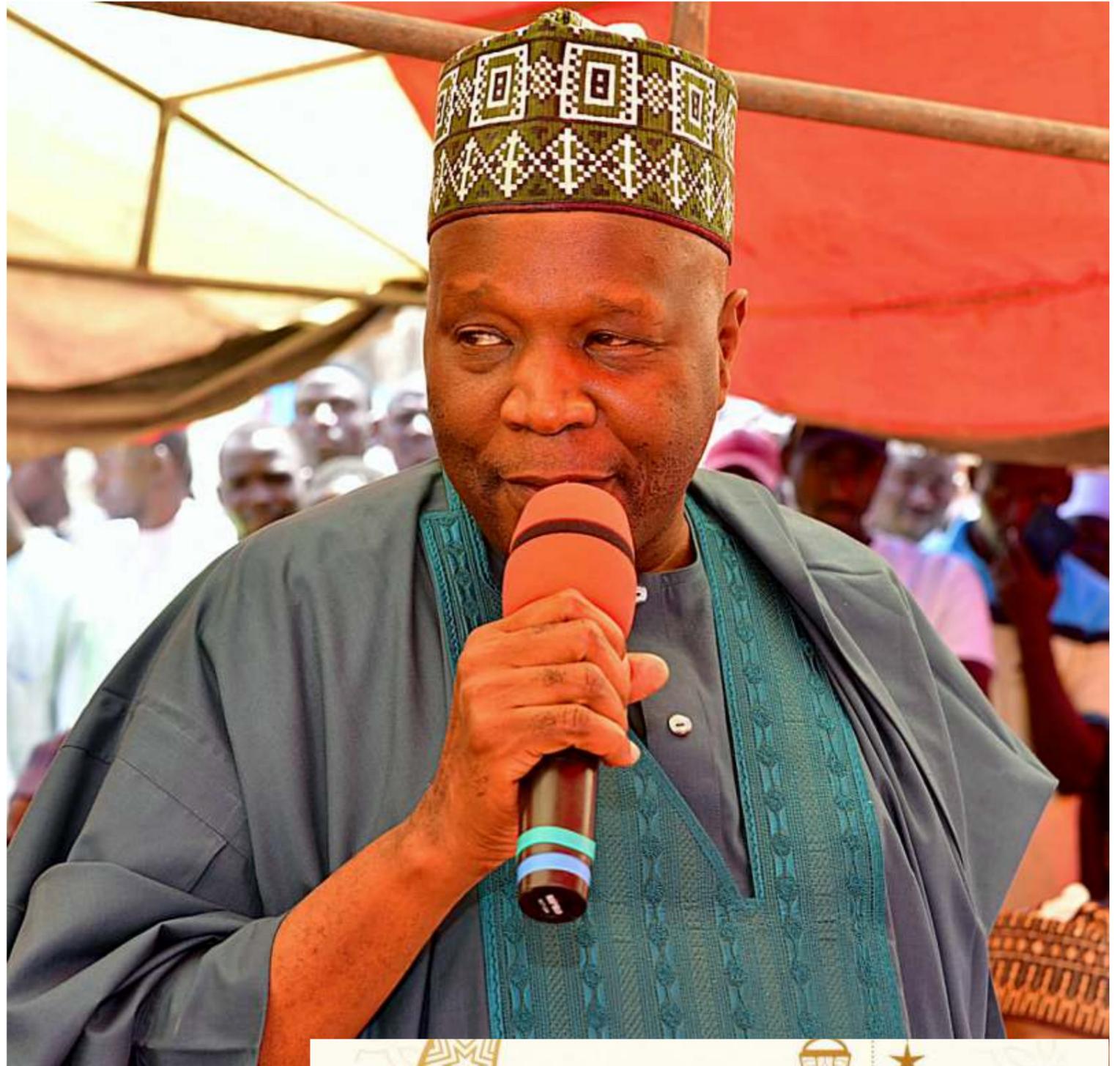
He said, "as one of the five pillars of Islam, Ramadan fast avails the Ummah a golden opportunity for spiritual rejuvenation and devotion through supplication and other acts of worship".

The Governor added that, "We therefore must use this opportunity to pray fervently for our dear state and the nation as well as for those in authority as we collectively battle to combat the many socio-economic challenges facing our nation and humanity.

He expressed optimism that with prayers, commitment and patriotism of the citizens, the country will surely overcome its challenges and emerge stronger.

He also urged the clerics to preach on the importance of peaceful coexistence during their Tafsir sessions and avoid anything that would jeopardise the peace and unity of the state and the country, just as he admonished the well-to-do individuals in the society to assist those in need.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya, particularly admonished the



Muslim Ummah to always demonstrate in their lives the spirit and ideals of Ramadan and by extension, Islam by living according to the tenets of the religion, which promotes peace, kindness and obedience.

He also urged the people of the state to continue to be law-abiding and not to compromise the prevailing peaceful coexistence of the jewel state with any myopic sentiment.

The governor concluded saying, "On our part, we shall continue to live up to our commitment of ensuring peaceful coexistence as well as guaranteeing security and wellbeing of the people.



Nasarawa Council Chair Sacks SAs, PAs Over Alleged Anti-Party

By; SAMSON YAKI, Lafia

The Executive Chairman of Karu Local Government Council in Nasarawa State, Mr James Thomas has sacked all his special assistants and personal assistants over alleged involvement in anti-party activities in the just-concluded Gubernatorial

and state House of Assembly elections.

This is coming barely days after the conduct of gubernatorial and state assembly election was announced, where the All Progressives Congress (APC) yet again lost the area to the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the gubernatorial ballot. A statement issued by the

Council Secretary, Utoh Vakpa Danladi, yesterday in Karu, said the sacking was with immediate effect.

He however thanked the affected appointees for the service rendered to the council and wished them the best in their future endeavours.

The council Chairman had few months to the general elections

appointed them among others to "ensure effective service delivery to resident of the area."

Meanwhile, he has been accused of diverting "feeding allowances" from the state government meant for ad-hoc election staff in the area.

Create Enabling Atmosphere For Cross-cultural Tourism In Oyo State, Rev Ogunkeyede Tasks Makinde

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The team lead of a destination management outfit, owner of Ufitfly brand, Evang Ajibola Ogunkeyede on Tuesday, congratulated Gov Engr. Seyi Makinde on his re-election for the second term in office.

Evangelist Ogunkeyede in Ibadan, commended the peaceful and the alluring disposition of Engr. Makinde to the electoral process, which according to him, was responsible for his landslide victory. He stressed that there is the need for the governor to create more enabling atmospheres for cross-cultural tourism to strive in the state by taken leverage more on the hospitality and tourism sectors to boost the economy of the state.

"I want to believe that the governor has done well to earn the trust of Oyo State people which was evident in the way he was massively re-elected, hence we will like to see a good collaboration with the state government in the area of boosting the hospitality, sports-tourism and pilgrimage sectors", he said.

Evangelist Ogunkeyede added, "This significantly is aimed at promoting cultural assets for national pride, deploying our diverse and rich experiences and resources aimed at helping the government combating the vices such as youth restiveness, insecurity, unemployment etc with hospitality, sports-tourism and pilgrimage".

Emphasizing that "sports is now a money spinning venture and a key component of tourism

which brings some significant benefits to the destinations that sports' event are hosted, with economic boosts, both direct and indirect, being among these advantages, he said, "our government is yet to take full advantage of this".

Stressing further that the direct spending by sports tourists at host facilities, hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues stimulates the local economy, and Jobs are created, and tax revenue is earned,

Evangelist Ogunkeyede said "the Ufitfly brand is a good ambassador of Oyo State because it has grown to become the biggest player in the Christian pilgrimage sector in Africa with many awards of recognitions for unblemished records in moving Christian pilgrims from Nigeria to Israel and

Jordan.

Evangelist Ogunkeyede tasked Gov. Makinde having rebuild the Lekan Salami Sports Complex into an international standard to complement the good deed by ensuring a synergy between sports and tourism which fall under five categories: sports participation, sports training, sporting events, tourism with sports content, and luxury sports travel.

According to him, "if the youth are properly managed through active engagement in sports and a good collaboration is fashioned out between sports and tourism, the state and the country will maximally generate great revenues that will surpass what is derivable from oil".

Bandits Allegedly Kill Soldier, Injured Others In Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Bandits on Tuesday evening, allegedly shot dead a soldier, while three others sustained gunshot injuries during exchange of gunfire in Akoti village, near Kagarko town in Kaduna State.

A resident of the community, Musa Arungo, who confirmed

the incident to New Nigerian, said a civilian was also injured during the battle with the bandits.

According to him, the incident happened on Tuesday evening.

He disclosed that the bandits rustled over 80 cattle and were passing through Akpoti village when soldiers were alerted.

"Unfortunately, the

bandits killed a soldier, wounded three in the process.

"One of the villagers was hit by a stray bullet from the bandits and he is currently receiving treatment at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital (UATH) in Gwagwalada," he said.

The Madaki of Janjala, Samaila Babangida, also confirmed the incident,

added that, "from the information I received this morning, the soldiers came from Kaduna to evacuate the three injured soldiers and the corpse of the one killed."

The Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Mohammed Jalige did not respond to calls and text messages sent to him.

Education: VC Commends Anchor Students Over Feat At Research Competition

*Team comes top, winning N800,000, laptop

By; AY O OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Anchor University Vice Chancellor,

Prof. Samuel Bandele has commended the school's team that featured at the recently concluded

undergraduate category in Science and Technology Research Competition organized by Lagos State Science Research and Innovation Council (LASRIC).

Bandele, who was full of praises for these students that brought honour to the institution opined that this feat was achieved through dint of hard work and commitment to studies by the winners of the highly competitive research work.

The head of the school administration noted that their students are well-groomed to become leaders and captains of industries in their respective fields in all endeavors.

He stressed that the ivory tower is blessed with seasoned lecturers who have impacted on the students positively saying the result was evident in the performance of the students in the recently concluded competition.

"I am proud of my

students for showing the stuff in them in this competition. It is my joy that these young scholars have been able to live up to the expectations of the school management.

"It is obvious that the school has impacted them tremendously. There is no doubt, more awards are still in the kitty as they participate in future competitions", he noted with candor.

Three students-Samuel Oluwatosin Olabisi (200 Level), Prisca Feyikemi Osasona (200 Level), and Christian Udoh (400 Level) all from Physics/Electronic Department featured in the keenly contested competition and came out as the best participants.

These students, who made the school proud at the competition titled: Design and Implementation of Double-edged Scalable Power Generator were prepared by one of the finest lecturers in their department for the competition, Dr. Victor U. J. Nwankwo.

The students, however, were awarded with a laptop and the sum of eight hundred thousand naira (N800,000) for winning the competition.

"Three students-Samuel Oluwatosin Olabisi (200 Level), Prisca Feyikemi Osasona (200 Level), and Christian Udoh (400 Level) all from Physics/Electronic Department featured in the keenly contested competition and came out as the best participants."

Ramadan: Katsina Shariah Commission Trains Islamic Scholars On Tafsir

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Shari'a Commission has said that it has trained Islamic scholars on Qur'anic exegesis (Tafsir) to enhance teachings of the Holy Scripture during the Ramadan fast and beyond. Our correspondent recalls that Islamic scholars conduct Qur'anic exegesis (Tafsir), especially during the Ramadan fast to educate Muslim faithful on the teachings of Islam. Chairman of the commission, Dr. Muhammad Abubakar said the training exercise aimed at exposing the scholars on the importance of promoting unity and peaceful coexistence as well as offer prayers in their teachings.

He stressed the need for the clerics to understand themselves and know that their duty was to deliver the message of the Almighty Allah to their people.

Abubakar, who is also the state's Grand Khadi, said that people had been praying to Allah for good leaders during the general elections.

"We have the believe that Allah Has answered the prayers," he added.

He emphasized that, "We need peace more than ever before, because nothing can be achieved without peace."

"The elections were over, we should pray for the new leaders for Allah's guidance and good leadership.

"Also continue to pray to Allah to bring an end to all the problems we are facing in the country in

general," he said.

Also speaking, the State Chief Judge, Justice Musa Danladi-Abubakar reminded the clerics that they are the representatives of Prophets in the society.

Justice Musa Danladi urged them to use wisdom in answering questions while delivering Tafsir, adding that the clerics were also leaders and would be questioned on the Day of Judgement on the role they played.

Similarly; the former Grand Khadi of the state, Alhaji Ahmad Batagarawa, stressed that scholars who are to conduct Tafsir must possess Islamic knowledge, be of sound character and practice the teachings of Islam.

According to Batagarawa, the Holy Quran contains 114 Chapters, 6,666

Verses; Allah's commandments came 1,000 times; 1,000 prohibitions; 1,000 rewards, among others.

On his part, the former Ambassador of Nigeria to Saudi Arabia, Ambassador, Isa Dodo reminded the clerics that they were chosen by Allah for the great job.

"You are the light for people in the society, tell them that Allah is one without father, wife, son or friend. People should worship Him alone," he said.

He enjoined the clerics to preach to people to ensure proper upbringing of their children.

The ambassador further urged governments to upscale training of Qur'anic school pupils in vocational skills, to make them self-reliant and discourage street begging.

Umahi Joins Senate Presidency Race, Demands Zoning To South East



Umahi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor David Nweze Umahi has called on the All Progressives Congress (APC) national leadership to zone the 10th Senate Presidency slot to the South East and Speaker of House of Representatives to the North East zone in the interest of equity, justice and fairness.

Governor Umahi made the call during a Press Conference at the Executive Council Chambers, Ochoudo Centenary City, Abakaliki, Wednesday.

The governor noted that such decision which reflects the Federal character policy would go a long way to calm frayed nerves across the various regions.

"I am asking the National Assembly to set aside the House Rules for the best to emerge."

He however, indicated interest to vie for the number one position in the 10th Senate, citing his exploits in public service as added advantage.

"If the Senate Zones Presidency to the South East, I am indicating

interest. I have been in public service for the past 16 years, so you can see that I understand what it takes to rebuild this country. I appeal to the Senate to set aside the rules for the best man to emerge, this is without prejudice to the will of God.

"We courageously left PDP to APC because of injustice, so the South East trusts APC because in Ebonyi State, we returned three Senatorial Candidates, three House of Representatives Candidates, Ebonyi is totally APC.

"It will be very fair enough for the nation Nigeria to look in the direction of South East in this Senate Presidency."

Governor Umahi while assuring that his administration will complete all ongoing projects before anchoring the ship in the month of May, announced that flight operations would soon kick off at the Ebonyi International Airport.

"In the next few days we will be having our test flight, the President will be commissioning the airport and other projects soon."

Ladoja Congratulates Makinde On Reelection

**Says campaigns over, outbursts over, promises, stark realities on ground*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The OtunOlubadan of Ibadanland and former governor of Oyo State, High Chief Rashidi Ladoja on Tuesday, congratulated Governor Seyi Makinde over his reelection for second term tenure of four years.

High Chief Ladoja in a message to Gov Makinde, declared that, "the campaigns are over, the outbursts are over, what is now left are your promises and stark realities".

The OtunOlubadan of Ibadanland prayed to God to help Gov Makinde succeed in meeting people's expectations in his second term tenure.

"My dear governor. Congratulations on your reelection for another term of four years. By now the campaigns are over, the outbursts are over, the



High Chief Rashidi Ladoja (left) with Gov Seyi Makinde

various lies are over, the abuses are over, the curses are over, the deliberate misinterpretations are over, the jostling for spaces are over", he said.

The former governor added, "all the dramatis personae have quit the stage with their laurels and bruises leaving you alone. What are now left are your promises and stark realities".

"May God help you succeed to the people's expectation, your satisfaction and fulfillment in this selfless job before you." He prayed.

Tax Administrators Must Match Pace Of Global Technological Advancements – CATA President

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Tax administrators must keep up with the dynamics occasioned by disruptive new technologies of the 21st century, and arm themselves with the necessary skills, capacity and character for effective and efficient tax administration in the fourth industrial revolution age.

According to a statement signed by the Special Assistant to the Executive Chairman, FIRS/President, CATA, Media & Communication, Johannes Oluwatobi Wuraola, this was the position expressed by the President of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA), and Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Mr. Muhammad Nami in his charge to the 2022 CATA Senior Leadership cohort, during the closing ceremony of the programme held at His Majesty's Treasury Headquarters, London, United Kingdom, on Friday.

Mr. Nami, in his remarks, highlighted that due to technological advancements in actualising human needs, fulfilling social interactions and conducting commercial activities, the way and manner of tax administration is constantly changing. He thus called for tax administrators to keep up with the times by improving on their skills and competence in line with these changes.

“The global tax arena is continually changing,” he noted. “The growing reliance on technology for much of basic human needs, social interactions and business dealings means that the tax-turf remains in a state of constant flux.

“The taxman is only able to match the depth and pace of

the changes if equipped with relevant, adequate and up-to-date skills.”

The CATA President praised the Commonwealth association for its investments and contributions through its Senior Leadership Programme, which he noted has helped bridge the capacity gaps of tax officials in member countries.

“I am glad to note that CATA has, over the years, continued to organise the Senior Leadership Programme in order to meet the capacity development needs of tax officials in commonwealth countries. It has become a tradition for CATA to provide participants at this programme with top-notch tuition using case studies in a fun-filled environment.

“The 2022 edition did not depart from this tradition. The classes, according to reports, were very interactive all through the various sessions whether at home, in India or in the UK.

“Without doubt, the capacity of participants to lead themselves, to lead others, and to lead their functional units have been greatly



(L-R: Muhammad Nami, President, Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA), and Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS); Jim Harra, His Majesty's Revenue And Customs (HMRC) Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive; Mr. Jon Swerdlow, Capacity Building Unit Transparency Lead, HMRC, and Vice Chairman, CATA; Mr Duncan Onduru, Executive Director, CATA.)

enhanced.”

Quoting the renowned African philosophy of Ubuntu, “I am, because we are,” Mr. Nami urged the twenty (20) participants drawn from senior tax officials in commonwealth countries to put the knowledge and skills they have acquired during the programme into good use for the benefit of their countries, while further calling on the cohort to maintain and sustain

the network of colleagues they have met during the programme.

The CATA Senior Leadership Programme is a yearly senior-level Leadership Programme delivered by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on behalf of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators. It pools together senior leaders of tax authorities in Commonwealth countries to equip them with the requisite

leadership skills to navigate their organisations in a dynamic and complex landscape. The programme recognises the importance of good leadership to result-driven tax administration in the 21st century.

The 2022 edition combined residencies in India and the UK, accompanied with virtual sessions, and work within the domestic tax authorities of participants.

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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

- All adverts are expected to be prepaid in cash or bank draft in favour of New Nigerian Newspaper's Limited.
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- Cancellation of previously booked advert will be accepted in writing within four working days notice, less than 24 hours to the date of publication will attract 50% surcharge.
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- Advertisers will be surcharged 20% of the applicable rate where artworks are not provided.
- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
- Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing at least 24 hours to desired alteration date.
- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
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TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Kaduna Gubernatorial Election: A Brief Review Of The Results

By: YUSUFI.GOJE

The Kaduna State 2023 gubernatorial election goes down in history as the most intense and keenly contested. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) despite winning 13 LGAs, lost to the All Progressive Congress (APC), which won 10 LGAs, according to the results announced by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

There was low voter turnout, as out of the 4,335,208 registered voters only 1,581,662 were accredited to vote, which is 36.5%. This is lower than the voter turnout of 46% in 2019 and 50.9% in 2015. However, it is still higher than the voter turnout of 1,341,181, that is 31%, for the Presidential election.

The APC candidate got 730,002 votes to defeat his closest rival of the PDP who got 719,196, followed by the candidates of the Labor Party (LP) and New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) that polled 58,283 and 21,405 votes respectively. The APC won ahead of the PDP with a margin of 10,806.

Despite the fact that the party has been in power since 2015 there is an evident trend of rapid decline in popularity with every election. The party won with a margin of 231,259 in 2019 and 631,802 in 2015. Also, the APC lost in some LGAs it won in 2019 and 2015 such as Makarfi, Soba, Lere etc.

In the Senatorial Districts, the APC got 311,793 votes in Zone One, a reduction from the 457,502 it got in 2019; 289,597 in Zone Two, shortfall from the 420,128 in 2019; and 128,612 in Zone Three, also short of the 157,797 in 2019.



Uba Sani

While on the other hand, the PDP got 262,520 votes in Zone One, higher than the 215,480 it got in 2019; 278,299 in Zone Two, an increase from the 258,686 in 2019; and 178,814 in Zone Three, far lower than the 343,992 gotten in 2019. Evidently, in the 2023 gubernatorial election, the APC defeated PDP in Zone One and Two, while PDP only won in Zone Three.

Surprisingly, despite LP's low votes, the party had spread across the State, picking votes in

each of the 23 LGAs. Contrary to popular sentiments that the candidate did not have reach beyond Zone Three, it polled 8,883 votes in Zone One; 11,313 votes in Zone Two; and 38,067 in Zone Three. With more push, consistency and early preparation the LP may be the emerging third force in the State. From all indications, the opposition parties are preparing to head for the courts with claims of irregularities and non-substantial compliance to the Electoral Act, among others.

Interestingly, the IReV portal that should provide the needed evidence, so far has about 94% results uploaded, that is 7563 out of the 8,012 polling units in the State.

Interestingly, despite the influence of the Muslim Muslim Ticket and deployment of huge financial war-chest - other factors that gave the APC advantage was the real time deployment of data science in strategy execution (with a technology driven situation room) and better structural

coordination.

The opposition parties must learn that elections have gone beyond a popularity contest to a game of realtime data-driven strategy. Without data it is difficult to accurately plan and effectively carry out targeted and timely execution.

All said, the ball will be in the court of the courts.

Lets engage, ask the right questions and hold the government accountable.

YusufI.Goje is an Active Citizen

“The APC candidate got 730,002 votes to defeat his closest rival of the PDP who got 719,196, followed by the candidates of the Labor Party (LP) and New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) that polled 58,283 and 21,405 votes respectively. The APC won ahead of the PDP with a margin of 10,806. Despite the fact that the party has been in power since 2015 there is an evident trend of rapid decline in popularity with every election. The party won with a margin of 231,259 in 2019 and 631,802 in 2015. Also, the APC lost in some LGAs it won in 2019 and 2015 such as Makarfi, Soba, Lere etc.”

NFF's Partners Dangle N4m For Various Awards

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Super Eagles have a lot to look forward to today, apart from the three points that will put daylight between them and any other team in their 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying pool.

long-standing supporter of Nigeria Football, and who are NFF partners with their two products, Life and Goldberg, are offering three million Naira in total.

There is the sum of one million Naira for Man-of-the-Match, and another one million Naira for the new Energy-Moment-of-

the-Match. Then, there is one million Naira for Match Winner. Telecommunication behemoth, MTN is offering the sum of one million Naira for that player that is selected Most Valuable Player in the clash with Guinea Bissau's Wild Dogs at the Moshood Abiola National

Stadium, Abuja. The Super Eagles will thus be extra motivated for the big game, even as they look forward to climbing to nine points while the Wild Dogs remain on four points in the race. Sierra Leone are third on the table with two points while Sao Tome and Principe have only one



Election: Lagos SWAN Congratulates Speaker Obasa, Other Members Of Lagos Assembly

**Seek smoother collaboration with*

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Sports Writers Association Of Nigeria (SWAN) Lagos State Chapter has congratulated the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Speaker Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa over his re-election victory in the just concluded Governorship and House of Assembly election held nationwide on March 18, 2023.

According to the Chairman of Lagos SWAN, Olatutu Oladunni and her Executive Committee members, they expressed joy over Rt. Hon. Speaker's re-election to office for the sixth term.

"While felicitating with leader of the most prestigious House of Assembly in Nigeria", Olatutu Oladunni said the re-election of the Speaker for the sixth consecutive term is a good remark of excellence for people in Agege and also for the citizens in Lagos State. The Lagos SWAN Chairman said, the victory isn't coming as a surprise, because the lawmaker has been a committed and relentless legislator since inception and has also held his people in high esteem regardless of the circumstances. Olatutu Oladunni noted that, "the Rt. Hon. Speaker, has been in the forefront in taking Lagos to greater heights as we

can see the footprints in sports sector and making the state a habitable arena, and tourism haven for sports enthusiasts and other individuals who believe in the competent capacity of Lagos State." She urged the Speaker to always continue to protect the interest of the people of Lagos in his legislative functions as he has always done. Saying, "it will be a great deal and greater progress if the Speaker invests more in sports and collaborates with Lagos SWAN to promote some sports developmental Initiatives amongst youth and growing athletes. "This will also be a great relief if the legislative chamber via Rt Hon

Speaker can support the sports journalists in the next Assembly. As this will go a long way to boost a constructive reportage and also enhance positive progress in the society without any bias". She used the opportunity to commend the Speaker for his philanthropic works in sports growth and youth developmental advancement in Lagos and beyond. The SWAN Chairman congratulated other elected legislative members of the House of Assembly and enjoined them to keep working together with the people of the state in order to attract better dividends of democracy to the people.

Ramadan: Increase Acts Of Kindness, Generosity To Poor - EngrAlao

**Salutes Muslims*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Oyo State, Engineer Oyedele Hakeem Alao on Wednesday, called on Muslims to increase their acts of kindness and generosity to the poor in the Holy month.

EngrAlao in a message by his Media Office to felicitate Muslims on the commencement of this year's Ramadan fast, said the month of Ramadan stands as a period of spiritual uplift and complete devotion to Allah.

According to EngrAlao, there is the need for Muslim faithful to take advantage of the Ramadan fast to strengthen their commitment to the service of Allah and humanity.

"I congratulate Muslim faithful in our dear state, Oyo, in the country and all over the world for witnessing yet another blessed month of Ramadan. We thank Allah who has made this possible," he said.

EngrAlao added, "we must endeavour to increase our acts of kindness and generosity by showing love and extending hands of support to the poor and the needy, as it was the usual practice of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)."

"As we all know, Ramadan is a period of spiritual uplift and complete devotion to Almighty Allah. We must, therefore, take advantage of this Holy month to strengthen our commitment to the service of Allah and humanity."

The APC Chieftain stressed, "I pray to Allah to accept all our acts of worship in this blessed month and reward us all abundantly."

EngrAlao then urged Muslims in Oyo state and Nigerians, in general, to use the opportunity of the Holy month to pray for elected leaders at all levels to deliver on their promises for the peace, progress and development of Oyo State in particular and the country as a whole.

Actualizing Continuity Injigawa State Remains Our Pride - Mai Unguwa Jaga

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The Chairman Of the All Farmers Association (AFAN) Jigawa State chapter, Alhaji Idris Yau Mai Unguwa Jaga has described the recent election victory of Malam Umar Namadi Dan Modi as a pride to the people of the state.

He disclosed this in his message to the farmers and people of Jigawa State in an interaction with our correspondent in Dutse, where he described the newly elected governor as a leader with focus towards the progress of the state. Mai Unguwa Jaga added that continuity in governance facilitates development.

He announced that Dan Modi would deliver Jigawa State because he knows most

of the issues affecting the state as Badaru's deputy.

"On behalf of the executive officers, members of our association and Jigawa State farmers, I congratulate Malam Umar Namadi Dan Modi for winning the 18th March gubernatorial election and commend his Excellency, Governor Muhammad Badaru Abubakar for supporting continuity in Jigawa State".

Mai Unguwa Jaga extended goodwill message to all those who won their election in various positions and called on the good people of Jigawa State to give their utmost support to the new government in order to ensure successful delivery of the democratic dividends in the state in every sector.

Nigeria Set To Receive FIFA Women's World Cup Trophy

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

African women's football giant Nigeria will welcome the original FIFA Women's World Cup™ Trophy as the train makes its way to the Federal Capital, Abuja on Sunday.

The trophy has already left FIFA's headquarters and been to several countries, and will arrive in Nigeria, one of only seven countries to have taken part in every edition of the competition, on Saturday evening. The Trophy will make its way to all the 32 countries taking part in this year's finals. with Nigeria

being the ninth stop on the game-changing global tour.

Since world football's governing body, FIFA, launched the women's flagship tournament 32 years ago, only Nigeria, USA, Norway, Germany, Brazil, Japan and Sweden have played in every edition. All seven nations will again be on display at the ninth FIFA Women's World Cup finals to be co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand from 20th July to 20th August this year.

The one-month championship Down Under will be the biggest in the history of the competition.

as it welcomes 32 teams – the same number as featured in the men's World Cup in Qatar late last year.

The FIFA Women's World Cup was launched as a 12-team tournament in China in 1991, and stayed on that number for the championship in Sweden in 1995. It became a 16-nation tournament in the USA in 1999 and 2003 and was also the same number for China in 2007 and Germany in 2011. It became a 24-team tournament in Canada in 2015 and remained that way at the last competition in France in 2019.

Only four countries have won the glittering trophy: USA, Germany, Norway and Japan. USA have been victorious on four occasions and Germany have lifted it twice. Japan and Norway were champions once each.

Nigeria, South Africa, Morocco and Zambia will fly Africa's flag in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, with nine-time African champions Nigeria already slotted into Group B which will also feature co-hosts Australia, Republic of Ireland and Canada. The Super Falcons will play their first match at this year's

FIFA Women's World Cup against Canada at Melbourne Rectangular Stadium on Friday, 21 July 2023.

The FIFA Women's World Cup Trophy will be on display at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja from 12 noon on Sunday, with a photo session planned for a number of invited guests.

Before the display, the FIFA team will pay a courtesy visit to the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports, Chief Sunday Dare in his office at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium.

More information regarding the FIFA Women's World Cup Trophy Tour is available at [FIFA.com/TrophyTour](https://www.fifa.com/TrophyTour).



Olympic Eagles

Paris 2024 Race: Olympic Eagles Fire Blank Against Guinea In Abuja

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Nigeria's U-23 boys failed to take advantage of home soil and finished their U-23 Africa Cup of Nations final qualifying fixture, first leg match against Guinea 0-0 at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja on Wednesday.

Success Makanjuola and Timilehin

Ogunniyi, who ran Tanzania out of gas in Ibadan in October last year, could not produce the same fiery performance as Guinea stifled Nigeria's midfield play, created chances of their own and were solid at the rear.

In the 28th minute, Ogunniyi rocked the crossbar from a free-kick 20 yards out on the right, but that turned out the major

effort of the Olympic Eagles in a tepid game that did not quite live up to its billing.

Makanjuola's inswinger in the 45th minute was parried from danger by goalkeeper Mory Keita.

In the second half, the visitors came quite close when Ousmane Camara hit the upright from a corner kick. Ifeanyi Ogba

blasted a couple of opportunities wide, and in the 64th minute, Jonathan Alukwu watched in agony as Keita punched away his shot when Nigeria flowed forward.

On the dot of time, Nigerian defender Christopher Nwaeze was handed the red card for a second bookable offence, and will miss the return leg in Rabat on Tuesday.

Paris 2024 Race:
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In Abuja

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Women Protest Kaduna Governorship Result, Insist PDP's Ashiru Won

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Placard-carrying Women in their hundreds yesterday, stormed the popular Ahmadu Bello Way, protesting the declaration of All Progressives Congress (APC)'s Uba Sani as winner of March 18 governorship election in Kaduna State.

The women mostly in black attires symbolizing sorrowful mood, chanted different slogans calling on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to rescind its decision, which they described as misappropriating victory and mandate of the people.

Coordinator of the protests, Prince Gbenga Owonaiye addressing newsmen, said that all records at the disposal of people in the state and beyond, pointed to the fact that INEC in connivance with the ruling party

manipulated the governorship result, assigning more and undeserved votes to Uba Sani at the detriment of majority of electorate whom he noted, voted Isa Ashiru.

"This is a dark day for us in Kaduna State and Nigeria in general having to witness yet another misplacement of people's mandates who came out massively to vote for change and new era in the state.

"All available facts at our disposal have clearly shown that the declared results did not reflect and represent true picture of what the people voted for.

"The figures from Kudan and other places were without doubts doctored to suit the rigging strategy of APC in cohort with INEC in order to deny the people of Kaduna State their long awaited mandate of voting out bad and repressive APC administration which has pauperized the people beyond



description.

"But unfortunately the dream of our people was truncated by these people reminiscent of a

broad day robbery.

"We are calling on all those concerned to prevail on INEC to please reverse their stand and

declare Isa Ashiru Kudan as the authentic winner of Kaduna State governorship contest," he appealed.

10th Assembly: Uzor Kalu Should Be Senate President To Douse Tension In South East - Group

By; AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

A political pressure group under the auspices of The Equality Movement (TEM), has said that the Senate Chief Whip, Senator Orji Uzor Kalu, possesses the leadership qualities to be the Senate President of the 10th Assembly.

The group believes that with Senator Uzor Kalu as the Senate President, he would bring his experience to bear in dealing with national issues that would be of great benefits to all Nigerians.

Alhaji Mohammed Yusuf Ajiji, the leader of the movement, in a statement through the group's Publicity Secretary, Garba Noma, described Senator Uzor Kalu as a sensible and reasonable politician, who has the capacity to mobilize the 10th Senate to pursue a common course that would lead the country to higher grounds.

According to him, "We believe strongly that if Senator Uzor Kalu emerges as the Senate President, he has the capacity to mobilize the South East behind the APC and also douse the

tension in the sub-region for the sustenance of peace and unity in the country."

The movement noted that this is the type of personality the nation looking for to lead the 10th



Uzor Kalu

Senate to ensure due process is observed in its affairs of moving the country forward.

The statement explained that it is exhilarating for them to bring to the knowledge of Nigerians that Senator Orji Uzor Kalu has shown his readiness to contest for the Senate Presidency for a better Nigeria and offer himself for the service of the country. He further explained that their movement had earlier issued a statement campaigning for the Senate President to be zoned to the South East in the interest of equity and fairness and the person in mind for the position is Senator Uzor Kalu.

As a businessman, the statement noted that his exploits and

achievements are the stuffs of legend and as a politician, saying that he has acquainted himself creditably as a governor and senator of the republic.

The statement further noted that though Senator Uzor Kalu hails from the South East, his tentacles have spread across the country in his pursuit of education, business, politics and making friends all over the country.

The statement described Senator Uzor Kalu as a patriot and commitment to Nigeria is overwhelming as demonstrated by his capacity to build bridges of friendship across the country for mutual understanding among Nigerians.

The group appealed to the Senators-elect to close ranks and place national interest above personal and political inclinations and support Senator Uzor Kalu, describing him as the best man for the job.