

**NHRC Vows To Investigate Allegation Of Abortion Against Military In North East**

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\*Figures move from 29 to 32 per cent within three months

**Woman Gives Birth In Bandits Den, Baby Killed, Bleeding Mum Freed**

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## Kaduna Concludes Arrangement To Pay Retirement, Death Benefits To Those Without Bank Accounts

### Releases N920m to others

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

The Executive Secretary of Kaduna State Pension Bureau, Professor Salamatu Isah, has said that processes for the payment of beneficiaries of retirement and death benefits to those who do not have bank details have commenced this week.

Prof Isah who disclosed this in a statement, said that beneficiaries will be identified by Local Government Pension Desk Officers as well as their counterparts at various ministries, departments and agencies of government.

Prof Isah pointed out that 112 of these beneficiaries are in Batch 21 of State pensioners while 134 Local Government pensioners fall under Batch 19 of this category, adding that verification payment will be done next week at various zonal headquarters.

It would be recalled that Kaduna State Government had earlier released N920 million for the payment of Retirement and Death Benefits for both state and local government beneficiaries under the Defined Benefit of the old pension Scheme on March 9.

In the payment schedule, state pensioners will get N400 million while local government beneficiaries will

Continued on Page 2

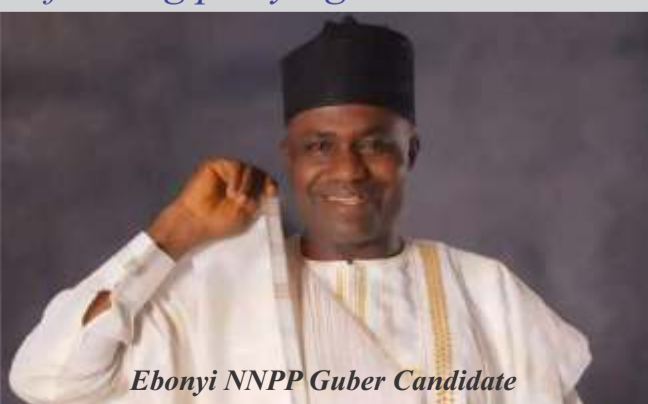


CG, NHFSS, Ambassador Dr Joshua Osatimehin Wole, speaking, while senior officers listen during the 2-day AGM, at their National Headquarters in Abuja yesterday. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

**2023: Ebonyi NNPP Guber Candidate Vows To Challenge Election Result Over Kidnap, Killing, Rigging**

\*Says Electoral Process is Marred With Violence and Malpractices

\*Accuses APC loyalists of killing party agent Page 4



Ebonyi NNPP Guber Candidate

**No Amount Of Intimidation Will Change Decision Of Choice Of Kaduna Governor-elect - APC Integrity Movement**



\*Tasks security agencies to discipline trouble makers

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**DSS' Interim Govt Alarm Ploy To Arrest Obi, Atiku Before May 29, Timi Frank Alleges**



Timi Frank

Story on Page 7



## RAMADAN

DAY 9

CITY/TOWN	FAJR	SUNRISE	MAGRIB
Abuja	5.23	6.33	6.38
Aba	5.29	6.39	6.37
Abakaliki	5.24	6.34	6.35
Abeokuta	5.41	6.51	6.56
Afikpo North	5.26	6.36	6.36
Akure	5.33	6.43	6.48
Akwanga	5.22	6.32	6.38
Ankpa	5.25	6.35	6.38
Argungu	5.29	6.39	7.00
Asaba	5.29	6.39	6.39
Auchi	5.30	6.40	6.44
Awka	5.28	6.38	6.38
Azare	5.08	6.18	6.34
B/Kebbi/Gwandu/Jega/Yauri	5.32	6.42	6.59
Bali	5.09	6.22	6.25
Bama	4.55	5.05	6.20
Baruwa/Gashaka	5.08	6.18	6.23
Bauchi	5.12	6.22	6.31
Benin	5.35	6.45	6.44
Bida	5.28	6.38	6.47
B/Gwari	5.24	6.34	6.47
Birnin Kudu	5.11	6.21	6.35
Biu	5.02	6.12	6.22
Calabar	5.25	6.35	6.33
Damaturu	5.01	6.11	6.27
Bichi/Danbatta	5.14	6.24	6.39
Daura/Kazaure	5.13	6.23	6.44
Dukku	5.07	6.17	6.30
Dutse	5.11	6.21	6.36
Dutsinma	5.28	6.38	6.47
Enugu	5.31	6.41	6.36
Funtua/Malumfashi/Chafe	5.20	6.30	6.46
Gashua	5.03	6.13	6.31
Gembu	5.07	6.17	6.24
Gombe	5.08	6.18	6.27
Gumel	5.11	6.21	6.36
Gusau/Gummi/Anka	5.23	6.33	6.49
Hadejia	5.14	6.24	6.35
Ibadan	5.36	6.46	6.55
Ife	5.14	6.44	6.53
Ijebu Ode/Ikorodu	5.38	6.48	7.00
Ilesha	5.28	6.38	6.49
Ilorin	5.35	6.45	6.55
Jalingo	5.06	6.16	6.26
Jos	5.18	6.27	6.35
Kafanchan	5.21	6.31	6.38
Kano	5.17	6.27	6.41
Katsina	5.25	6.35	6.47
Keffi/Nasarawa	5.22	6.32	6.40
Kafin Maiyaki	5.18	6.28	6.41
Kontagora	5.30	6.40	6.50
Kaduna	5.22	6.32	6.41
Lafia	5.19	6.29	6.37
Lagos	5.44	6.54	6.5
Lere/Saminaka	5.18	6.28	6.36
Lokoja	5.29	6.39	6.44
Maiduguri	4.56	6.06	6.21
Makurdi	5.22	6.32	6.35
Minna	5.28	6.38	6.46
Misau	5.09	6.19	6.31
Monguno	4.55	6.05	6.20
Mubi	4.58	6.07	6.21
Nafada	5.05	6.15	6.28
Ngala	4.53	6.03	6.19
Nguru	5.08	6.18	6.3
Nsukka	5.20	6.30	6.39
Ogbomoshos	5.08	6.18	6.29
Okene	5.26	6.36	6.45
Onitsha	5.27	6.37	6.40
Osogbo	5.36	6.46	6.53
P/Harcourt	5.28	6.38	6.38
Potiskum	5.05	6.15	6.31
Shagamu	5.39	6.49	6.55
Sokoto/Gwadabawa/Wurno	5.30	6.40	6.56
Suleja/Jere	5.26	6.36	6.40
Talata Marafa	5.28	6.38	6.53
Umuahia/Uyo	5.25	6.35	6.37
Warri	5.34	6.44	6.44
Wukari/Takum/Ibbi	5.19	6.29	6.28
Yauri	5.30	6.40	6.55
Yenagoa	5.33	6.43	6.41
Yola	5.02	6.12	6.22
Zaria	5.17	6.27	6.41
Zuru	5.14	6.24	6.28
Benin Cotonou	4.58	6.08	6.24
Cameroun Yaounde	5.14	6.24	6.19
Niger Niamey	5.07	6.17	6.12

SOURCE: Islamic Research and Timing Organisation, Kaduna

## Kaduna Concludes Arrangement To Pay Retirement, Death Benefits To Those Without Bank Accounts

### \*Releases N920m to others

receive N520 million. Last November, Governor Nasir el-Rufai approved N900 million for the payment of Accrued Rights for retirees and families of deceased beneficiaries under the new Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS). The Executive Secretary of Kaduna State Pension Bureau, Prof Salamatu Isah, had said that the amount covered batch 54

for the state and local governments retirees and families of the deceased. Prof Isah further explained that payment of retirees under the Contributory Pension Scheme is being done by the Pension Funds Administrators (PFAs), adding that government will only pay the past savings. According to her, such savings which is known as

Accrued Rights, is the retirees' entitlements prior to the commencement of the Contributory Pension Scheme in 2017, and they are paid to PFAs instead of individual beneficiaries. Giving breakdown of the payment, the Executive Secretary had said that N600,000,000 has been allocated to the state retirees and deceased families, while

N300,000,000 was allocated to local governments retirees and families of the deceased. The November 2022 release came two weeks after Governor el-Rufai had earlier approved N1,160,000,000.00 for the payment of gratuity for batch 17 local government pensioners and batch 19 of state government retirees and families of deceased under the old Defined Benefits Scheme (DBS).

## Afenifere Not Against Declaration Of Tinubu As President Elect - Pa Fazoranti

### \*Rubbishes Adebajo claims, dismisses communique issued at Ogbo \*Voids suspension of two officials

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Leader of the pan-Yoruba socio-political organization, Afenifere, Chief Reuben Fazoranti has disclosed that the organization is not against the declaration of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu as the President elect.

The Afenifere leader in a statement he personally signed, rubbish the communique purportedly issued after a meeting held in the name of the body on Tuesday, March 27, at Isanya Ogbo, Ogun State.

Pa Fazoranti said, "being a law abiding organization, Afenifere could not have asserted that someone, other than the person declared by the body duly authorized by the Constitution and other extant laws of the land, is the winner of the presidential election held on February 25, 2023 in Nigeria". Emphasizing that Afenifere "is not against the election of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu whom he personally blessed and anointed on October 30, 2022 before the whole world", the Afenifere leader said, "How then would we turn round and condemn the election of such a person? We never did so."

"My attention has been drawn to the Communique purportedly issued after a meeting that held on Tuesday, March 27, at Isanya Ogbo, Ogun State. This statement is being issued because of the content of the said



Pa Fazoranti blessing Tinubu

document. Section 2.02 of the document claims that "the results of the lawful votes at the Presidential election available to the Afenifere through credible sources confirm that Peter Obi, the presidential candidate of the Labour Party, won the said election", he said. The Afenifere leader added, "Afenifere could not have asserted that someone, other than the person declared by the body duly authorized by the Constitution and other extant laws of the land, is the winner of the presidential election held on February 25, 2023 in Nigeria".

"The body mandated to conduct elections in Nigeria, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), after the completion of this year's presidential election on February 25th, has declared the candidate of All

Progressives Congress (APC), Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu as the winner of the said election.

Pa Fazoranti stated "On the assertion that someone else other than the person declared by INEC as winner of the presidential election. This type of position is alien to us in Afenifere which does not conduct itself as an agent of the state let alone as an electoral umpire. We accept the results of the elections at all levels as declared by INEC until otherwise decided by competent courts in the land".

"Presently, the whole world knows that Nigeria has a President-elect in person of Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu, a true Yoruba son and nationalist. We in Afenifere not only acknowledge this, we take delight in his in-coming Presidency and are confident that he will, by the grace of God, return

Nigeria to the glorious position that all of us will be proud of."

Our National Publicity Secretary of Afenifere, Comrade Jare Ajayi, issued a congratulatory message to the President-elect after he had been issued a Certificate of Return by INEC. This was cited as an 'uncouth activity' by the Communique mentioned above which further stated that Abagun and Ajayi were 'suspended sine die pending further decisions after their appearance before and recommendations by the Disciplinary Committee'.

The Afenifere leader stressed "meaning that the two were pronounced guilty and consequently sanctioned even before their appearance before a Disciplinary Committee. That is not the Afenifere way. A General Meeting does not have the power to convene and take such a far-reaching decision just at the whims of individuals".





## No Amount Of Intimidation Will Change Decision Of Choice Of Kaduna Governor-elect - APC Integrity Movement

**\*Tasks security agencies to discipline trouble makers**

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

While calling on well meaning people to remain calm, a group, Kaduna APC Integrity Movement has called on security agencies to deal decisively with those trying to cause confusion in the polity, with attempts to protest the emergence on Senator Uba Sani as Kaduna State Governor-elect.

The group expressed this at a press briefing in Kaduna yesterday. Reading the text of the briefing, Chairman of Kaduna APC Integrity Movement, Mal. Jibril Adamu Size insists that no amount of intimidation will change the decision of the electorate who massively voted Uba Sani. "We are calling on security agencies to take foreseeing measures in

bringing the perpetrators of wrongdoers to book.

"We implore well-meaning people of Kaduna to remain calm and focused, Mal. Uba Sani is the Governor they elected, and no amount of intimidation will temper the overwhelming decision of the majority," the group said.

Speaking further, they explained that as a gathering of young, devoted professionals dedicated to the growth of their party and the doctrine of good governance steered by democratic values, they desire to capitalize on the medium to recognize and appreciate the good people of Kaduna State for coming out massively to support and vote for APC in the last elections, a gesture they assured, the Governor-elect will surely repay with democratic

gains, irrespective of the voting pattern.

"Voting for Distinguished Senator Malam Uba Sani as the next Governor of Kaduna State is the true reflection of the will and stake of the voters, knowing his antecedent fully as one of the most active, productive and articulate representatives of his people.

"We also want to note the effort of INEC in conducting one of the most peaceful, free, fair and credible elections in our nation's political history; we also urge INEC to know that its reputation is rated high with no reputational crisis. "We wish to once again reassure the public of our genuine responsibility as young professionals to encourage continuity to improve growth/development and to also go against any

attempt to denounce the noble effort of the Kaduna people in promoting consolidation," they said.

According to them, "as subscribers to el-Rufai developmental school of thought, we will continue to nurture and support the blueprint of Malam Uba Sani for sustainable political development and economic growth.

"We are confident and optimistic that Kaduna State, under the leadership of Senator Mal. Uba Sani, will continue to build on the good legacies and achievements of our leader Mal. Nasiru el-Rufai, whose impact will forever be admired by the good people of Kaduna State".

Other conveners of the group who spoke at the briefing, include, Comrade Nuhu Sani and Hon. Adamu Barde Abubakar (Arewa Man).

## Yoruba Muslims Warn Against Truncating Democracy In Nigeria

**\*Say nothing should scuttle Tinubu/Shettima inauguration on May 29**

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The umbrella body for all Muslim groups and organisations and the mouth piece of all Muslims in the South West of Nigeria, Muslim Ummah of South-West Nigeria (MUSWEN) on Wednesday, said nothing should scuttle the swearing in of the President elect, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and Vice President-Elect Kashim Shettima.

MUSWEN in a statement signed by its President, Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo, said some "dramatis personae" are bent on truncating democracy in Nigeria and have an Interim National Government, thereby having their cronies installed and eventually pave way for them to continue to hold Nigeria by the jugular.

It pointed out that the Islamic body "keenly observing all the on-going stratagems in the political landscape of Nigeria" and that "most of the evil machinations border on intrigues by partisan political actors".

"President-Elect Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Vice President-Elect Kashim Shettima, have won fair and square. They must be inaugurated on Monday, 29th May, 2023", it said.

MUSWEN added, "without a doubt, their ultimate intent is to scuttle the swearing-in of President-Elect Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Vice President-Elect Kashim Shettima. Nigerians know many of them, with their antics of mobilising innocent and exuberant

youths for fomenting trouble".

"Why is it that it is only when a candidate of South-West extraction emerges as President that such political shenanigans are contrived? Unfortunately, some of the dramatis personae are elders of Yoruba origin! We have not forgotten how they scuttled Chief M.K.O. Abiola's June 12, 1993 victory. This time, they will not succeed, in shaaAllah."

According to MUSWEN in the statement, "another method they employ now is to speak through fake prophets who hoax Nigerians into believing that they know which direction Nigeria should go. All these in an attempt to foist their preferred candidate on all Nigerians".

"Thank God for President Muhammadu Buhari, who we know as a committed democrat and cannot be swayed into scuttling this democracy. We hereby further urge President Muhammadu Buhari not to be distracted by the devilish yearnings of the political detractors, masquerading as patriotic nationalists. They don't want him to have a smooth transition of power to an elected President"

MUSWEN stressed, "their dream is to have an Interim National Government. This, they plan, to have their cronies installed and eventually pave way for them to continue to hold Nigeria by the jugular", adding, "MUSWEN says NO, to these retrogressive move. It has failed. Nigerians are wiser now, and will never condone such anti-development agenda."

## NHRC Vows To Investigate Allegation Of Abortion Against Military In North East

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has said that it will leave no stone unturned in investigating the allegation of abortions against military personnel in the Nigerian North East as reported by media in December, 2022.

It was reported that over 10,000 pregnancies were aborted by the military in the region.

The Executive Secretary of the Commission who was represented by the judicial panel, Hillary Ogbonna disclosed this at a consultative meeting with Yobe State Government, civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and groups in

Damaturu the state capital.

According to Mr Ogbonna, no government will sit down and fold his arms to allow such an act in its country, therefore, the National Human Rights Commission will ensure it investigates and gets into the root cause of the alleged misconduct.

The Attorney General and the State Commissioner for Justice, Barrister Saleh Samanja who stood-in as a witness on behalf of the Yobe State Government, revealed that there was no single day he received official information on the purported abortion carried out either by the military or other individuals.

"In capacity as the former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry

of Justice and my present position as commissioner of the ministry, there was no single day that I receive any case of abortion by the military or from others.

"Yobe State Government is totally against such act that was why we established Sexual Assault Referral Centres to ensure we curb the problems of rape in our communities," he said.

Samanja explained the visit by the panel is a welcome development as government looks forward to its outcome.

The consultative meeting was attended by the Yobe State Government officials, military, civil society organisations, among other human rights groups.



## 2023: Ebonyi NNPP Guber Candidate Vows To Challenge Election Result Over Kidnap, Killing, Rigging

*\*Says Electoral Process is Marred With Violence and Malpractices*

*\*Accuses APC loyalists of killing party agent*

By; M K P U M A  
ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The governorship candidate of New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), in Ebonyi State has vowed to challenge the outcome of the 2023 governorship election in Ebonyi state over kidnapping, killing and other malpractices that engulfed the election. The governorship candidate of NNPP in the last 2023 general election, Pst. Adol Awam stated this while briefing newsmen in Abakaliki over the outcome of the governorship election, saying that the electoral process was marred with violence and malpractices and must be challenged in court.

He lamented that Fred Alobu, his agent at Ekpaomaka Ikwo was kidnapped and was whisked away on the day of election while Mr. Thomas Obodo, his party agent at Poll unit 009, Igboagu Ward 2 in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State was killed by boys suspected to be working with the APC state government.

"We have a reputation and a legacy to protect, and we will not be part of any action that could jeopardize our integrity and the trust of our

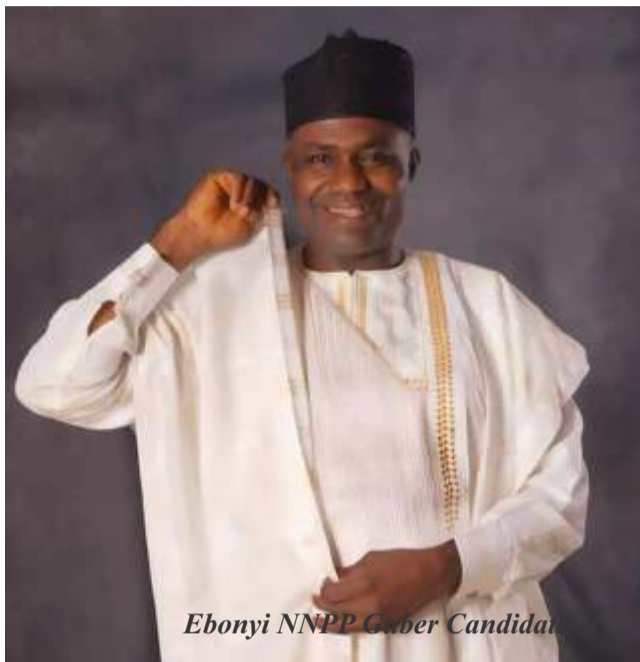
supporters.

"It is with a heavy heart that I extend my condolences to the family of the Late Thomas Obodo, a former party agent of the NNPP, who was killed by thugs in Izzi LGA while protecting the votes of Ebonyians.

"The NNPP is deeply saddened by this unfortunate incident, and we call on the relevant authorities to ensure that justice is served. I also extend my condolences to the PDP over the loss of one of their LGA chairmen.

"Unfortunately, the election was an absolute sham as it was plagued with irregularities, such as failure to use BVAS to upload election results to the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV) in real-time, disenfranchisement of voters, rigging, vote buying, violence and intimidation, manipulation of election results, under-supply of voting materials, over-voting, ballot box stuffing and others are issues of corrupt practices and non-compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Act.

"It is on this premise that the NNPP sternly rejects the outcome of the election, since it is glaring that the process was



Ebonyi NNPP Guber Candidate

flawed. Consequently, a flawed process will eventually produce a flawed outcome. Therefore we call on INEC to cancel the gubernatorial elections in Ebonyi State. We are not alone in this as several other parties have also rejected the results and are in tune with our position.

"It is disheartening to note that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) failed to live up to its mandate of ensuring a free, fair, and credible election. However, we want to reassure all Ebonyians that we will explore all legal means available to ensure that justice is served. We remain committed to our

vision of building a better Ebonyi State, where every citizen can live, work and prosper in a peaceful and secure environment. We urge all Ebonyians to remain calm and law-abiding as we pursue the legal process to reclaim our mandate."

"I must address the shameful pettiness exhibited by the ruling party during the electioneering period. It is highly disheartening to hear that they spread baseless propaganda that I, Prophet Dr Adol Awam of the NNPP, had stepped down from the gubernatorial race. Let me state categorically that such falsehood was inconceivable and never an option for us," he said.

## 64.3m Nigerians Lack Access To Sufficient Food - UN

*\*Figures move from 29 to 32 per cent within three months*

By; AMOS TAUNA,  
Kaduna

The World Food Programme, an organisation within the United Nations, has said that 64.3 million Nigerians about thirty-two per cent of the country's population do not have enough food to eat.

The organisation also explained that in 19 countries of Africa, 170 million people do not have sufficient food to consume.

An update in March 28 'Hunger Map LIVE: Western Africa insights and key trends,' stated that Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Chad, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Liberia, Central African Republic, Togo, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria have the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption.

In Nigeria, the latest Food Security Update from 29 per cent to 32 per cent over the last three months, showed that there is food insufficiency, saying that there is challenging for a large share of their populations in overall food and nutrition situation in Nigeria and other West African

countries.

"The countries with the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption in the order of severity are Niger (18.2 million people, 81 per cent of the population), Mali (13.9 million, 73 per cent), Burkina Faso (13 million, 66 per cent), Guinea (7.7 million, 62 per cent)," the bank said.

It further explained that in Chad (9.2 million, 57 per cent), Sierra Leone (4.4 million, 53 per cent), Cameroon (10.2 million, 40 per cent), Liberia (1.7 million, 38 per cent), Central African Republic (1.6 million, 35 per cent), Togo (2.7 million, 34 per cent), Guinea-Bissau (0.6 million, 34 per cent), and Nigeria (64.7 million, 32 per cent).

According to the Washington-based bank, the food security situation in West Africa is expected to worsen as the dry season progresses in the months ahead, according to the Washington-based bank adding that domestic food price inflation remains high and particularly bad in Africa, North America, Latin America, South Asia, Europe, and Central Asia.

## Tinubu Best Contributor To Sustenance Of Nigeria's Democracy - Engr Alao

*\*Celebrates President elect @ 71*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Oyo State, Engineer Oyedele Hakeem Alao on Wednesday, described the president-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the best contributor to the sustenance of democracy in Nigeria. Engineer Alao, in a congratulatory message, to Asiwaju Tinubu in commemoration of his 71st birthday disclosed that history of democracy in the country would not be complete without special mention of the president-elect, Asiwaju Tinubu.

The APC chieftain said the President-elect stands as a dogged fighter for democracy who has paid his dues in fighting the course of the weak and making Nigeria a better place for all.

According to Engineer Alao, the

emergence of Asiwaju Tinubu as president-elect was not unexpected but rather well deserved, stating that he built bridges across the country in his journey of life thereby reaping his generosity and friendliness to every Nigerian met on way.

The Asiwaju of Irokoland maintained that celebrating the 71st birthday of Tinubu as the president-elect is a unique opportunity as it would prepare him to take on the most important assignment of serving his dear fatherland as the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

The APC Chieftain maintained that Nigerians are blessed to have Asiwaju Tinubu as the next democratically elected president come May 29 with his development-focused and detribalised disposition towards governance, noting that every Nigerian would be proud of

his achievements as he would replicate the feats he recorded in Lagos as governor all over the country.

"I join teeming members of our party, APC; well wishers within the country and all over the world, to celebrate our indefatigable leader and President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, on the occasion of his 71st birthday anniversary", he said.

Engineer Alao added, "I pray that the good Lord will grant him good health and many prosperous years in undiluted joy to continue to be a shining light to his numerous mentees and Nigerians as a whole." He then prayed Allah to keep Asiwaju Tinubu in perfect health and grant him the wisdom and strength to achieve his desire for the country.

## Group Backs Wase For Reps Speaker

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

Conference of All Progressives Congress Equity and Justice Forum in the North/Central of Nigeria, has canvassed support for the emergence of Hon Idris Ahmed Wase, the Deputy Speaker of the 9th Assembly, to emerge Speaker of the 10th House of Representatives.

Addressing a press conference in Jos at the secretariat of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), chairman of the group, Nuhu Ayuba Shikdima and the National secretary, Alh Amadu Babanrabi said. Wase has the needed experience for the speakership position.

They explained that the forum which is being guided by the ideals of national character, solicit for the understanding and support of other geopolitical zones.

They described Wase as an astute politician, a detribalised Nigerian and technocrat per excellent, who will bring his experience to bear in the next Assembly.

'As a loyal member of the APC, we are poised to humbly appeal to conscience of our party leadership which are the national executive of our great party and the national working committee of APC to consider the man Ahmed Wase for the leadership of the Green Chamber of the National Assembly,' they appealed.

According to them, Wase as a two-term chairman, House Committee on Federal Character in the 7th and 8th Assembly, a one time Deputy Majority Leader of the House of Representatives.



# INEC Presents Certificates Of Return To Governor Inuwa, Deputy, Members- Elect of Gombe State House Assembly

*\*Gombe Governor promises to run all-inclusive government; says: "no victor no vanquished"*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), in Gombe State has presented certificates of return to the State Governor and governor-elect, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, his deputy Dr Manassah Daniel Jatau and all House of Assembly members-elect.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs)

Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli yesterday, said that the presentation of the Certificates of Return followed their victory at the just concluded Governorship and State House of Assembly elections.

While the INEC Commissioner-in-charge of Gombe, Adamawa and Taraba States, Dr. Baba Bila presented the Certificate of Return to Governor Inuwa Yahaya and his Deputy, the Gombe State Resident Electoral Commissioner, Umar Ibrahim handed same to members-elect of the Gombe State House of Assembly. In an address at the occasion, Governor Inuwa Yahaya said his, is a victory for all citizens of Gombe State, assuring the people that "this certificate I received today is a license for us to go all out to do more so that we deliver on the mandate given to us by the electorate".

To those who contested and lost in the elections, the Governor said, "as in every electoral contest, there is bound to be winners and losers. But for me, there is no victor and no vanquished. If the ultimate objective of all political parties and contestants is about the peace, progress and development of Gombe State, it behoves on all of them to support us in moving our dear State forward".

He expressed gratitude to the people of the state for their support and peaceful conduct throughout the process.

The Governor-elect noted the 2023 elections are among the most credible polls in Nigeria since the return of democracy in 1999 and commended INEC and security agencies as well as all those who played roles in facilitating the successful conduct of the polls in Gombe State which was adjudged as free, fair and credible.

He particularly praised INEC for its innovation to ensure free and fair election. He however advised that going forward, the commission should introduce more innovative modalities so that elections in the country will move to a near perfection.

Speaking earlier, the Gombe State Resident Electoral Commissioner, Umar Ibrahim said the presentation of Certificates of Return to winners in the just concluded Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections marks one of the major activities in the 2023 elections and urged the Governor-elect and others to see their election as an indication of the confidence reposed in them by the electorate and a debt they must pay through the provision of the dividends of democracy.

The Gombe REC therefore congratulated the Governor-elect, his Deputy and all elected members of the Gombe State House of Assembly on their victory at the polls.

He described election as a multi-dimensional stakeholders' venture which requires the contribution and commitment of all to successfully execute. He therefore thanked all stakeholders in the state for supporting the commission throughout its preparations for the conduct of the 2023 General Elections.

The ceremony, held at the International Hotel, was graced by top government functionaries, APC chieftains, traditional rulers, religious leaders among others.





## Ebonyi Governor--Elect, 17 Out 24 House Members Receive Certificates Of Return

### \*5 declared inconclusive, 2 have minor issues

By ; M K P U M A  
ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), has issued Certificates of Return to the Ebonyi State Governor--Elect and 17 House of Assembly members out of 24 members while five were declared inconclusive; two have minor unresolved issues.

While presenting the Certificates of Return to the Governor--Elect and House of Assembly members at INEC office, Abakaliki, the national commissioner supervising Imo, Enugu and Ebonyi, Mr. Kenneth Ukewu,

urged the newly elected candidates to be good ambassadors of their people and do everything possible to justify the confidence reposed on them, saying that INEC has done its best by conducting credible election in the state.

Also, the Resident Electoral Commissioner in Ebonyi State, Mrs. Onyekachi Paulin Ugochi said, "The Certificate of Return issued by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is an evidence and authority that shows that one has been duly elected by the commission. Hence, to fulfill the

Constitutional requirements in the electoral process.

"As you are aware, there are supposed to be 24 members-elect to be issued with Certificates of Return today, but only 17 members-elect will receive their certificates, leaving five out. The five are the state constituencies where elections were declared inconclusive, while two have minor issues.

"You may recall that Senators-elect and members--elect of the Federal House of Representatives, have been issued with Certificates of Return about two weeks ago."

According to her, the three senators and five members-elect of House of Representatives from Ebonyi State were among those that have collected their Certificates of Return.

However, Ezza North/Ishielu Federal Constituency election was declared inconclusive in the 25th February, 2023 Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

"I am pleased to inform you that the commission has fixed the conduct of supplementary elections into the constituencies where elections were declared inconclusive for Saturday April 15, 2023," INEC informed.

## AbdulRazaq Congratulates Newly Elevated Kwara-born Top Cops



By ; B I L I Q I S  
O L A J U M O K E  
ONAOLAPO, Ilorin.

Kwara State Governor, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq has congratulated three senior police officers of Kwara origin, who have just been elevated to different ranks in the recent promotions announced by the Police Service Commission (PSC).

The newly promoted Kwara-born senior cops are Babatunde Ishola Babaita (Assistant Inspector General of Police); Yekini Adio Ayoku (Assistant Inspector General of Police); and Salman Dogo

Garba (Commissioner of Police).

"The Governor rejoices with the top cops and their families on the deserving elevation. He is excited to have these distinguished Kwara-born officers moving steadily to the peak of their career with records of excellent service to the Nigerian state and its people," the Governor said in a statement on Wednesday.

"These elevations again portray our state in a good light, and I pray God to guide these police officers — and many others like them — as they continue to be great ambassadors of Kwara State and its people."



## Reposition LP As Genuine Workers Party, SPN Tells NLC, TUC

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Socialist Party of Nigeria (SPN) on Tuesday, advocated immediate repositioning of Labour Party (LP) as a genuine mass working people party, which is run democratically and with a socialist programme.

A statement by the party's acting National Chairperson, Abiodun Bamigboye and National Secretary, Chinedu Bosah, asked the Nigeria Labour Congress, (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) to ensure the needed repositioning of Labour Party.

SPN in the statement made available to journalists in Ibadan, emphasized that there is the need to rebuild Labour Party in line with genuine mass working people policies.

It stressed that the repositioning should be done in a way that "candidates who promote capitalist neo-liberal agenda and other anti-poor policies cannot use the party to seek political office"

"It is apposite to note the fact that the presidential candidate of Labour

Party, Peter Obi, who was officially endorsed by the NLC, openly supported the same naira confiscation policy which the NLC is currently fighting against. This is in addition to his resolve to remove fuel subsidy if elected contrary to the position of the NLC", it said.

SPN added, "This shows that despite claims to the contrary, Peter Obi does not fully embrace the even the limited Workers' Charter of Demands which was the basis for the erstwhile Ayuba Wabba NLC leadership declaration and mobilisation of workers in support of his presidential candidacy".

"This should be part of efforts which are needed towards rebuilding the LP as a genuine mass working people party which is run democratically and with a socialist program. This shows that despite claims to the contrary, Peter Obi does not fully embrace the even the limited Workers' Charter of Demands which was the basis for the erstwhile Ayuba Wabba NLC leadership declaration and mobilisation of workers in support of

his presidential candidacy".

The party maintained, "For us in the SPN, we believe it is incongruous and contradictory for the NLC to be organising strikes and protest against anti-poor policies while the Labour Party's presidential candidate supports the same policies" adding, "a genuine presidential candidate of a real workers party must not only be opposed to anti poor and anti worker policies, he or she will serve as a tribune to ventilate issues that affect the working people and would be prepared to join the labour movement in struggle against such policies militating against the wellbeing of the poor masses".

It noted "to correct this disharmony in the programmes of the LP/its candidates and the labour movement, we urge the NLC and TUC to convene a working class and youth summit in the aftermath of the 2023 general elections in order to review the elections, take stock and draw up a common programme of action to unite the party and the labour movement in struggle to liberate the working people".

## Dangote Cement Supports FRCN In Kogi

By; JACOB ONJEWU  
DICKSON

The Federal Radio Corporation Of Nigeria (FRCN), has pledged continued partnership with Dangote Group and other corporate organizations in the country towards achieving set goals.

The Zonal Director, North Central Zone of FRCN, Alhaji Haruna Idris stated this at the presentation of cheque as part of Dangote Cement's support towards the relocation of the transmitter hall of Radio Nigeria Prime FM Station in Lokoja to Mount Patti.

Represented by the General Manager of the Station, Alhaji Adeiza Momoh Jimoh, the Zonal Director, expressed appreciation to Dangote Cement PLC, Obajana, Kogi State for the fulfilment of its pledge to the Station.

According to him, Radio Nigeria is poised in its obligations to partner with individuals, organizations, as well as

government entities to fulfil its mandate of educating, entertaining and enlightenment.

In a remark, the Plant Director of the company at Obajana, Mr JV Gungune said Dangote was into many sectors of the economy to make life more meaningful for Nigerians.

He said Dangote company through its Corporate Social Responsibility schemes had invested in many sectors of the Nigerian economy by empowering different people.

He promised that the company would continue to partner with Radio Nigeria to inform the public of more opportunities available in Dangote Cement Plc, Obajana Plant.

It would be recalled that Radio Nigeria Prime FM Station, Lokoja, held a programme last year in its quest to relocate to Mount Patti for a better signal and coverage of Kogi State and beyond.



## Presidential Polls: IPAC Northern Leadership Distances Self From LP VP Candidate's Comments

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A group under the auspices of Northern Leadership of the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC), has distanced itself from the Labour Party Vice Presidential Candidate Datti Ahmed over comment against the president Elect Bola Ahmed Tinubu. According to the group, the comment attributed to the LP vice president

candidate that the president Elect Bola Ahmed must not be sworn in or democracy will come to an end in May 29 should be condemned. The IPAC Chairman, Abubakar Dogara at a news briefing in Kaduna, said the Forum expressed serious concern over the comment. "We wish to dissociate ourselves from the current moves by Yusuf Datti Ahmed and We are disturbed by the

potential uprising against Nigeria's Democracy," he said.

The group said every Nigerian with good memory will remember the unfortunate event of the 1993 and such should never be allowed to repeat itself by antidemocratic elements.

He urge the relevant authorities to thoroughly investigate all those against the sworn in so as to bring them to Justice.

He explained further that

their forum believes that pre and post elections violence, and other forms of inciting statements from politicians have no Place in the country's democratic process and must be condemned by all well-meaning Nigerians. He said Nigeria has come this far in its democratic journey since civil rule was restored in 1999 and cannot afford a reversal at this stage.



Northern IPAC at the press briefing

## Humanitarian Intervention: UNICEF, UK Govt Float New Project to Protect Children In North East Nigeria

*\*Project to empower over 300,000 mothers, caregivers*

By MATTHEW UKACHUNWA Lagos

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Kingdom (UK) have jointly begun a humanitarian intervention focused on providing integrated food, nutrition, sanitation and protection services in Nigeria's north-east region. The partners said that the project will empower over 300,000 mothers and caregivers.

"The intervention aims to enhance dietary practices, home-based malnutrition screening skills, provision of high impact lifesaving nutrition interventions (such as early identification and referral of acute malnutrition cases for treatment), and micronutrients supplementation to prevent infections among children. These interventions are aimed at improving the survival of children affected by conflict," they clarified in statement issued on 28th March 2023.

Funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK Government, the Multisectoral Integrated Nutrition Action (MINA) project is being implemented by UNICEF and other partners in 24 Local Government Areas of Borno and Yobe states till March 2025.

"With approximately 1 in 4 children aged 12-23 months not vaccinated, the north-east region has one of the highest numbers of unvaccinated children in Nigeria, according to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey and National Immunization Coverage Survey (MICS-NICS 2021).

"Data from the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: National Outcome Routine Mapping (WASH NORM 2021) shows that four per cent of the population in Borno and two per cent in Yobe have access to safely managed drinking water. Up to 1.1 million people across the region still practice open defecation, a risk factor for malnutrition and stunting in children," they elaborated.

They pointed out that the project leverages a bouquet of essential services and community structures to provide integrated essential services for children, including birth registration and immunization services, nutrition counselling, cash transfer support, establishment of vegetable gardens, market-based sanitation and hygiene interventions, mothers' groups, nutrition mobilisers and WASH Committees.

The partners said that critically, the highly successful mother-led Mid-Upper Arm Circumference programme is being expanded while roving midwives will be deployed to hard-to-reach areas to improve the nutrition status and overall wellbeing of the most disadvantaged children.

## DSS' Interim Govt Alarm Ploy To Arrest Obi, Atiku Before May 29, Timi Frank Alleges

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, yesterday, described the alarm about a plot to foist an Interim National Government (ING) on the country as a ploy by security agencies to arrest the Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar and his Labour Party (LP) counterpart, Peter Obi, before the May 29 handover date.

The DSS had on Wednesday in Abuja accused those it referred to as "entrenched interests" of plotting to subvert democracy by forcing the emplacement of an ING in the country.

Frank in reaction to the DSS' claim, said the secret police know more than they chose to tell Nigerians and urged them to be more forthcoming.

He said the security alarm by the agency was meant as an alibi to crackdown on peaceful protesters demonstrating against the rigged 2023 presidential election and to massively arrest opposition politicians in the country.

He said: "The DSS' purported intelligence is fake. It is a plot to crackdown on protesters and arrest opposition



Timi Frank

political leaders before May 29.

"We have credible information that the DSS issued the statement in preparation for its planned disruption of ongoing protest by Nigerians who are demonstrating peacefully to demand for justice and the restoration of their stolen mandate."

Frank, who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), Ambassador to East Africa and Middle East, said that the DSS ought to have used the same intelligence to stop abuse and killing of Nigerians by terrorists groups over the years.

He said: "Where was their intelligence when the Independent National Electoral Commission and Mahmood Yakubu were compromised to rig the 2023 general

election?"

"Nigerians have been under siege by bandits, kidnappers and terrorists for a long time now, but the DSS never gave intelligence to foil kidnapping, heinous attacks, maiming and killings of innocent Nigerians.

"The only time you see the DSS coming up to talk about intelligence is whenever Nigerians are preparing to either protest against obnoxious government policies, rules, human rights abuses or carrying out lawful political activities.

"The DSS must stop this method of intimidating Nigerians, especially politicians, whenever they want to exercise their constitutional rights.

"In fact, we dare the DSS or any other security outfit in the country to arrest Atiku and Obi before May 29 and see the wrath of Nigerians."

He however called on protesters not to be intimidated by "this DSS' fake intelligence of a phantom ING plot."

He enjoined the UK, US and EU to immediately call on the Nigerian Government to allow Nigerians to exercise their democratic rights which is to ensure that the stolen mandate of the Nigerian people is restored through peaceful protests and the judicial process. He added: "We are aware that the DSS is planning to sponsor counter protests across the country to clash with the peaceful protesters and use that as an excuse to crackdown on them.

"We dare the DSS to name those involved in the phantom plot if they genuinely have the 'intelligence' about a m plot to instigate an ING so the world will know those who plan to stop the inauguration of the President.

"But we know they are not being sincere. This is often their style whenever they want to engage in propaganda and do a hatchet job.

"On the contrary, let them name the purported politicians involved in the plot. Their real intent is to clampdown on protesters and arrest Atiku and Obi before May 29. Nothing more.

"We use this opportunity to call on the international community to prevail on President Muhammadu Buhari to call the DSS to order and stop them from meddling in the democratic process.

"The DSS is the one that is about to scuttle democracy in the country at this moment by plotting to arrest Atiku and Obi and other top opposition politicians," he said. He further urged the DSS not to allow the agency to be used to truncate democracy or as purveyors of fake news.

He insisted that the DSS had of recent attempted albeit unsuccessfully to arrest and prosecute the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Godwin Emefiele for allegedly financing terrorism in the country.

"They later pulled back following the outcry that trailed the move. This is another of such hoaxes and it is one too many," he said.

### CHANGE OF NAME

**ALICE** - I, formerly known as **Peter Alice** now wish to be known and addressed as **Odu Alice Peter**. All former documents remain valid. First Bank Plc and the general public, should please take note.



## Enhanced IGR: Lagos Govt, Fintech, eTransact Sign MOU On Management Of Setbacks, Open Spaces

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with eTransact, a foremost Fintech Company, to curb unregulated development, manage setbacks and open spaces and improve beautification of the environment in Lagos State.

The Memorandum of Understanding will strengthen the partnership between Lagos State Planning and Environmental Monitoring Authority (LASPEMA) and eTransact, to sanitise and regulate activities of setbacks and Incidental Open Spaces (IOS) and ensure physical orderliness in Lagos State.

With its MoU with the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, eTransact, will deploy an integrated technology solution for data collection, management, and digitization of revenue collection processes from the informal business players operating on the setbacks and Incidental Open Spaces (IOS) in Lagos State to regulate setbacks/IOS and enhance the State Internally Generated Revenue.

The MoU was signed by the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Engr. Omotayo Bamgbose-Martins, who was represented by Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on e-GIS and Planning Matters, Dr. Olajide Babatunde and Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Mr. Oluwole Sotire, who signed on behalf of the government and the Managing Director of eTransact, Mr. Niyi Toluwalope and Group Head, Legal of eTransact, Ms. Eme Godwin, who signed for the Fintech company.

Speaking during the signing of the MoU held at the State Secretariat in Alausa, Ikeja, Dr. Babatunde said the initiative was a public-private partnership that would yield a good result hence the need to take care of the environment.

He said the MoU is for accountability and in the interest of the general public in Lagos State, as well as improving the IGR of Lagos State.

Also speaking, the Managing Director of eTransact, Mr. Niyi Toluwalope, said his organization is partnering with Lagos State Government for social development, noting that the project would develop solutions on data, enumeration, reordering setbacks, putting incidental open spaces in an orderly manner, among other benefits.

He said: "eTransact is a premier technology solutions company in Nigeria. Today we are partnering with the Lagos State Government and LASPEMA for the enumeration and data management of the occupants of the setbacks and incidental open spaces within the City. We are licensed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to provide this service.

"The Lagos State Government has taken this laudable initiative to identify the setbacks, enumerate the people on these setbacks, do the necessary data capture, and manage the entire setback infrastructure in the State so that it is structured; following the proper model for setbacks, improves beautification, improves transparency within the environment and ensures that our critical urban infrastructure is well laid out properly to ensure Lagos functions as a major critical landmark with global recognition.

"We are committed to partnering with the State government to build a beautiful and prosperous Smart City for all. As Nigeria's Super Fintech Choice, eTransact is committed to providing payment technology support for all public and private stakeholders."

Also speaking, the General Manager of LASPEMA, TPL Daisi Oso said the agency was saddled with addressing challenges that were associated with managing and regulating all activities on setbacks so as to ensure orderliness while leveraging technology.

He said the agency is saddled with the deployment of drones for mappings, collaborating with other ministries, departments, and agencies on urban development to improve security and order in the use of land in tandem with the state's developmental plans to enhance social and political sustainability of businesses.

Oso also disclosed that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu in a bid to further align the LASPEMA's mandate with the incumbent administration's T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda graciously approved the partnership and the pilot project of some selected areas in Lagos State.

## Oyo Govt To Manage Inflow, Outflow Of People, Products - Adegoke

\*Oyo NUJ Chairman lauds creation of Migration Homeland Security office by Gov Makinde

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Special Adviser to Governor Seyi Makinde on Migration and Homeland Security, Mr Segun Adegoke has disclosed that the state government is determined to manage the inflow and outflow of people and products in the state.

Mr Adegoke said this during a courtesy visit to the executive of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Oyo State Council at the Union Press centre in Ibadan, where he was received by the chairman, Chief Ademola Babalola.

According to the Special Adviser to Governor Makinde, the office of Migration and Homeland Security was created to boost security, sustainable economic growth as well as to safeguard Oyo State from criminal activities and enhance the economic

prosperity of the people.

"The office would serve as a One-Stop Shop, especially for diaspora indigenes to make the state attractive for investment. It will preserve and uphold the state's prosperity and economic security. Take proactive rather than retroactive actions, by building information sharing partnership with the grassroots and other security agencies", he said.

Mr Adegoke added, "Prepare for and protect the state against security threats and other hazards such as natural or man-made disasters, as well as public health emergencies".

He stressed further, "it will serve as liaison with Oyo state indigenes, home and Diaspora, to access economic opportunities for the development of the state through tourism and foreign direct investment".

The retired Assistant Controller of Immigration maintained that office of the Special Adviser, Migration and Homeland Security is an Oyo State executive office established by the governor in 2022 to ensure sustainable development, adequate security and economic growth in the state as contained in the governor's Omituntun 2.0 agenda.

Maintaining that the effort of Gov Makinde would foster synergy with critical stakeholders toward provision of database for the state, Mr Adegoke said the office would establish Oyo State Advisory Committee on Nigerian Citizenship for security and increase in the internally generated revenue of the state and that such would be achieved through the processing of application and payment for Citizenship by

naturalisation, Special Immigration Status (SIS) by foreigners resident in the state.

He said that the office would be able to expand opportunities for indigenes of the state through African Continental Trade Area (AfCTA) which has potential to increase employment opportunities and incomes.

Receiving the Special Adviser to the Governor, Oyo state NUJ Chairman Chief Ademola Babalola lauded the initiative of the governor for creating the office and that the appointment of Adegoke to coordinate the office was a highly commendable.

Chief Babalola while expressing the readiness of Oyo NUJ to be a partner in progress for the newly created office called other critical stakeholders to support the governor in achieving the set goals of the initiative.



Mr Segun Adegoke with Oyo State NUJ Chairman, Chief Ademola Babalola



# Lagos Speaker Obasa, Lawmakers Get Certificates Of Return

## *\*Legislators thank Lagosians for mandate*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Speaker of the Lagos Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, and other lawmakers-elect received their Certificates of Return from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) yesterday, promising to ensure a greater Lagos at the 10th Assembly.

"On behalf of my colleagues, we will continue to build on the success of the current Assembly

when we resume for the 10th Assembly. We want to assure Lagosians that we will continue to make laws, pass motions and resolutions that will bring progress to Lagos and protect the interests of residents.

"That's the assurance that I have from the 39 other members-elect," Dr. Obasa told journalists at the event which had Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat in attendance.

A total of 38 lawmakers-elect

from the All Progressives Congress (APC) and two from the opposition received their Certificate of Return.

A statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary Eromosele Ebhomele, said the Speaker thanked his constituents in Agege and Lagosians for their support for the APC.

"I thank my people in Agege for their consistency, loyalty and support at all times. And to Lagosians, we say thank you. At least APC has 38 lawmakers-

elect out of the 40 for the House of Assembly. We have the three senatorial seats and a whole lot in the House of Representatives. We are very happy about this and have reasons to thank Lagosians. "We are going to support the Governor in his assignments to bring growth and progress to Lagos State as well as protect the lives and property of our people. However, supporting the executive arm does not mean we are going to compromise or abandon our constitutionally

guaranteed responsibilities," Obasa said.

He expressed optimism that Lagos will benefit from the centre in the next administration because "we have a President-elect that we all have absolute confidence in and who had done very well in Lagos State with good track record.

"We are sure that with him, many of our national challenges would be resolved because he has the capacity and knowledge to deliver. I have no doubt in my mind about it."





# Support To Publishers, Journalists: DOPF Decries Greed, Passes Vote Of No Confidence On Delta NUJ

## \*Appreciates Delta State Gov

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Delta Online Publishers Forum, (DOPF), a registered and certified body of online newspaper publishers, has decried the greed showcased in the handling of the N25 million support given to newspaper publishers and Journalists in Delta State by Governor Ifeanyi Okowa.

The forum made this known in a statement on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, which was signed by the Chairman, Mr. Emmanuel Enebeli, and Secretary, Mr. Shedrack Onitsha, where they also appreciated the Governor, Senator Ifeanyi Okowa for his attention to media house and journalists in the state for the past 8 years.

The forum in the statement, passed a vote of no confidence in the Comrade Mike Ikeogwu-led Delta State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ over its various greed, lack of transparency and accountability as displayed in the disbursement of the support.

The statement further said that, "the State Governor during the inauguration of the New Government House Press Centre cum Media chat on March 13, 2023, expressed appreciation to the press, especially acknowledging the role of the media in promoting government policies and programmes, in appreciation honored Newspaper publishers and journalists in the state with the Money."

"This, though came as a surprise package, however, journalists and media managers were happy, especially with the cash crunch situation which currently is affecting the nation, but their joy was later cut short as the fund was corruptly appropriated by the Delta State Council of NUJ that warehoused the fund."

It stated that Delta Online Publishers Forum (DOPF) as a body was invited to the programme like any other body, including the NUJ Delta State Council through the office of the Public Relations Officer, Government House, Asaba. This has been the tradition between us and the State Government in the event of any activity that will require us to attend, like in other times, we attended in our numbers.

It said that right after the media chat, there was tension, and apprehension about what will happen to the money, considering the antecedent of the current leadership of the NUJ Delta State Council whenever money is given together.

"As usual, they didn't disappoint us, as they allowed their GREED to take a better part of the sharing formula."

"We discovered that the NUJ Delta State Council, after much delay from 13 March 2023 to March 22, 2023, released a



sharing structure thus: The correspondents Asaba were given N3.2 million; Warri Correspondents, N2.2 million; Indigenous Correspondents; N750,000.00; Ughelli Chapel, N750,000.00; Sapele Chapel, N400,000.00; Association of Community Newspapers of Nigeria, N300,000.00 and DOPF N300,000.00."

"This we consider belittling and insulting to DOPF and its members."

"We discovered that NUJ Delta State Council didn't disburse up to N10m from the Governor's gift to Chapels and other groups; hence we have rejected the money and sent it back to the NUJ Delta State Council, through the Chairman, Mr Mike Ikeogwu."

While appreciating the governor for his generosity, called for urgent resolution of the abnormally

"While we place our sincere and profound gratitude, to His Excellency, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, the Executive Governor of Delta State, for his legendary generosity and magnanimity to the Publishers and Journalists in the state over the years, and especially with this latest largess, he voluntarily released to ease the burdens imposed on Nigerians, by the on-going Naira redesign/cash swap fiasco."

"Our Executive Council and Board of Trustees after extensive deliberation, passed a VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE on Comrade Mike Ikeogwu-led NUJ

Delta State Council and have also directed our members to henceforth shun Delta Government briefings, press releases and other media related activities, until this anomaly is addressed."

The Full Statement.

Support To Publishers, Journalists: DOPF Decries Greed, Passes Vote Of No Confidence On Delta NUJ.

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The forum has therefore, passed a vote of no confidence in the Comrade Mike Ikeogwu-led Delta State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) over its various greed, lack of transparency and accountability as displayed in the disbursement of the support.

Recall that the State Governor during the inauguration of the New Government House Press Centre cum Media chat on March 13, 2023, expressed appreciation to the press, especially acknowledging the role of the media in promoting government policies and programmes, in appreciation honored newspaper publishers and journalists in the state with the money.

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especially with the cash crunch situation which currently is affecting the nation, but their joy was later cut short as the fund was corruptly appropriated by the Delta State Council of NUJ that warehoused the fund.

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This we consider belittling and insulting to DOPF and its members.

We discovered that NUJ Delta State Council didn't disburse up to N10m from the Governor's gift to Chapels and other groups; hence we have rejected the money and sent it back to the NUJ Delta State Council, through the Chairman, Mr Mike Ikeogwu.

Our Executive Council and Board of Trustees after extensive deliberation, passed a VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE on Comrade Mike Ikeogwu-led NUJ Delta State Council and have also directed our members to henceforth shun Delta Government briefings, press releases and other media related activities, until this anomaly is addressed.

However, we hereby place on record categorically, our sincere and profound gratitude, to His Excellency, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, the Executive Governor of Delta State, for his legendary generosity and magnanimity to the Publishers and Journalists in the state over the years, and especially with this latest largess, he voluntarily released to ease the burdens imposed on Nigerians, by the on-going Naira redesign/cash swap fiasco.



## Students Apprehend 5 As Herdsmen Allegedly Invade School With Cattle, Injure Teacher, Colleagues

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

It was confusion galore in Alaropo Nla in Oriire Local Government Area of Oyo State as herdsmen invaded a Community Grammar school in the town with their cattle.

New Nigerian gathered that the herdsmen during the invasion, headed for the school farm with their cattle, with the animals feeding on the crops.

This according to sources, irked the students who were around that time settling down for the commencement of their second term examination, resulting in the students rushing out of their classrooms to stop the cattle and the herdsmen from grazing on the crops in the farm.

Sources said it was at this juncture that trouble started when the herdsmen were said to have resisted the students and their teachers, allegedly attacking them and the teachers of the Community Grammar School, leaving some of them injured.

The students were said to have during the clash, apprehended about five of the herdsmen, while one of the teachers, identified as Mr. Paul Olabode was injured with sword and machete cuts, while many others were left with broken legs and hands.

The school's Principal, Mrs. Grace Alamu, while narrating her experience, said, "By 8am we had finished the morning devotion and I had dismissed the students and teachers so they could continue with the day's business. We had started the terminal exam and I went to my office to attend to the PTA chairman who was waiting to see me.

"We were in my office when I saw through the

window some students running helter-skelter, I was wondering what could be happening. I was alarmed when I also saw teachers including female ones also darting to and fro and I knew something was amiss. I alerted my guest and we went out. That was when we discovered what had happened that some Fulani herdsmen invaded the school farm with cows destroying our crops and attacked those who tried to drive them away", she said.

Mrs Alamu added, " In fact, some students were raising alarm that they were about killing a teacher. Everybody including students rallied round to rescue the teacher during which two of the attackers were apprehended. And in the end five of them were held. But that was after many staff and students had been severely wounded".

She stressed, " indeed an x-ray was conducted on the wrist of one of the students who suffered broken arm to ascertain the extent of damage there just as we would have to return a wounded teacher to the hospital tomorrow for further medical attention."

Disclosing that the matter has been reported to the police and that "Policemen are coming to the school to ascertain the incident, the Principal said it was first reported to the Agro Rangers operatives who came to the scene quickly. "Thank God we made the report in time as these herdsmen had mobilized themselves to the scene spoiling for war. In fact, I don't know how they were so many and how they got so many assault weapons."

## Plateau Makes Significant Leap In Ease Of Doing Business Ranking; Moves To 10th Position

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

Plateau State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong is thrilled about the significant progress that the state has made under his watch in the Ease of Doing Business Ranking. This follows the release of the Second Sub-National Ease of Doing Business Ranking by the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), where Plateau moved from the 14th position (5.68 score 2021) to 10th (5.87 score 2023).

Lalong while celebrating the incremental performance of Plateau State in the Ease of Doing Business Ranking, recalled that the state was on 26th position in 2016, which made him to come up with various economic reforms within the vision of the Rescue Administration.

Such reforms including the establishment of the One Stop Investment Centre (OSIC), land reforms, infrastructure development, empowerment and entrepreneurial programmes, and the restoration of peace among others, moved the state to 14th position in 2021 and now to 10th in 2023.



Lalong

According to the governor, many new businesses have sprung up in the state within the SME, manufacturing and service industry, which have boosted the economic fortunes of the citizens.

Lalong dedicated the award to the citizens of Plateau State, who have supported his administration and embraced his policies, especially as they relate to peace and security, which is the basic requirement

for business and economic activities.

Similarly, the governor is happy that Plateau State has also made significant progress in improving its IGR, which was acknowledged by the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS), placing the state 4th Most Improved IGR among governors leaving office in May 29th this year.

It would be recalled that governor Lalong's three-pillar policy vision of

Peace, Security and Good Governance; Sustainable Economic Re-birth and Infrastructure Development is at the heart of his management of the State's economy.

While specially commending the members of the State Executive Council and Economic Advisory Council, the governor believes that these records are a testimony to the vibrant economy he is leaving behind for his successor to build upon.

## Zone Senate President To North West, Group Appeals

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Northern Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), has noted that with the emergence of Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) as the President-elect, the number three position in the country, the Senate President, should be zoned to the North Western part of the country.

Briefing newsmen in Kaduna on Wednesday, Isah Abubakar, President, Northern Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), said, "Considering the outcome of the 2023 Presidential Election wherein, our

leader emerged from the Southern part of the country, it is only right for the leadership of the All Progressives Congress to Zone the number three position in the country, which is the Senate President to the North Western part of the country."

He explained that the North West region produced 2,884,132 votes which represents about 32% of the total gained by the APC, stressing that it enabled the party to produce the next president of the country.

"A performance of this magnitude is highly significant and should be adequately rewarded for

the sake of unity, peace, progress, and national cohesion," he explained.

According to him, the position of President of the Senate is for capacity, competence and experience not sentiments driven and the North West region is prepared for such national assignment.

Isa Abubakar pleaded with the leadership of the APC and Senators-elect for the 10th National Assembly to accord maximum support to any of the ranking Senators from the North West to emerge the Senate President.

The council he observed, has discovered that the ranking Senator aspiring to be Senate President

from North West Zone has the highest ranking among the list of all Senators from both the Northern and Southern parts of the country to lead the 10th Senate.

He assured, "We want to further assure Nigerians that our people would continue to work towards one indivisible country, for the prosperity of all, as we did during the general election."

The group he said, recognizes the fact that the National Assembly is an important institution that ensures checks and balances in the running of the affairs of the country.



## 15 Election Petitions Welcome Tribunal Into Akwa Ibom

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

No fewer than 15 petitions emanating from the just concluded general elections conducted by the independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) are before the 2023 Akwa Ibom State Elections Petition Tribunal due to begin sitting in Uyo, the state capital.

The Secretary of the Tribunal in the state, Mr Ibrahim Usman, who disclosed to journalists yesterday, said that Tribunal is still expecting other matters before the commencement of sittings on the cases.

Usman said that the 15 petitions, were filed by the All Progressives Congress (APC), Young Progressives Party (YPP), New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Labour Party (LP) and Allied People's Movement (APM).

He added that out of the 15 petitions received, 11 petitions emanated from the House of Representatives and four

petitions from the Senate.

The secretary also disclosed that two motions filed by YPP for inspection of election materials and the motions have been granted by the tribunal.

He said: "Similarly, application by the All Progressives Congress in respect of governorship election for inspection of election materials was received and petition granted. We are in the process of effecting service of the petitions and respondents."

According to him, the Senatorial petitions received were from Akwa Ibom North East and Akwa Ibom South Senatorial Districts, while no petition was received from Akwa Ibom North West, where Chief Godswill Akpabio, the Senator-elect from the zone hails from, explaining that "the Electoral Act allows 21 days for the petitioner to file petition from the date of declaration and 21 days for the respondents to file their responds after receiving."

## Elevation: CRAN' Felicitates Ag AIG Alabi, CPs Ali, Mba, DCP Disu



By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria, (CRAN) has congratulated Acting Assistant Inspector General of Police, Sylvester Alabi, Commissioners of Police, Ari Mohammed Ali and Frank Mba for their promotion to the rank of substantive Assistant Inspector General of Police by the Police Service Commission.

It also joined well-wishers to felicitate the Commander, Intelligence Response Team, IRT, DCP Tunji Disu, on his elevation to the rank of Commissioner of Police.

This was contained in a

statement by its General Secretary Niran Odufayo issued on Thursday.

It stated that, "Having followed the trajectory of these fine senior police officers as an association, their inclusion in the list of officers promoted, as announced by the Police Service Commission, could not have come at a better time than now, when their professionalism and expertise are needed to fill the vacant positions orchestrated by the recent retirement of some senior police officers.

"AIG Alabi has over the years demonstrated a rare professionalism and dedication to the Nigeria Police Force.

"Fo the Delta State Police

Commissioner, CP Ali, now AIG, his operational maneuvers brought the reign of various robbery and kidnap gangs to an end, with the arrest of hundreds of suspects and recovery of several arms, ammunition and other exhibits to show for his operational dexterity.

"In the same vein, the antecedents of the former Force Spokesman, Frank Mba, who was recently deployed to the Ogun State Police Command as the Commissioner of Police, are also there to speak for him. His feats in less than two months of his stay in Ogun are startlingly beyond expectations.

"Though the promotion of

the Commander IRT, CP Disu, is long overdue, it is imperative to note that this erudite, operational and sagacious cop has never failed to police with a human face.

"These attributes have not only enhanced the team's intelligence gathering, it has also helped to project the Nigeria Police in a positive light.

"To whom much is given, much is expected, thus, CRAN hereby urges these senior officers to see their elevation to the next ranks as a call for more professionalism and commitment towards aligning the paths of their subordinates for democratic values, human rights and the rule of law".

## OID Congratulates Makinde On Re-election Victory, Commends Citizens

By; ADO ADEBOYE, Akure

Following Oyo State Governor, Engr. Seyi Makinde's collection of his Certificate of Return for his second term, Omituntun Initiative in the Diaspora (OID) a group of Nigerian professionals in the Diaspora supporting the Governor Seyi Makinde-led government, has congratulated Governor Makinde on his well-deserved landslide victory in the just-concluded gubernatorial election in the state.

In a congratulatory message signed and made available to newsmen by OID convener, Mr Moses Eledan, he described Governor Makinde's resounding win as a testimonial to the confidence and trust that the good people of Oyo State have in his stewardship and vision to continue with his giant strides for good governance.

He added that the election results reflected the wishes of the people of Oyo State as the majority of the voters have overwhelmingly voted to re-elect the people's governor, who represents the government of the people for the common good of all as against some power

grabbers that place selfish interest above citizens' welfare.

Mr Eledan emphasised that Governor Makinde ran an impressive campaign with his progressive values of fairness, equity, justice, and honesty based on his vision for the citizens as outlined in his manifesto, Omituntun 2.0.

"The governor's victory is an inspiration

to everyone, especially the younger generations, and the outcome of the election demonstrated people's will, hope, freedom, and a true democracy in action," he added.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Eledan said: "Governor Makinde is a progressive leader and a promise keeper who promises what he will do and does beyond what he promises. We commend

the effort and support of all members of OID, SMV, and GSM Network for their selfless services and contribution towards making the victory of Governor Seyi Makinde's re-election a reality."

The group also applauded

the good people of Oyo State for re-electing the people's Governor Makinde for a second term in office to serve and consolidate on his numerous achievements that have touched the lives of the citizens tremendously.

Mr Eledan also appreciated God the Father for the victory and stated that the group is proud to be associated with Governor Makinde who is the Founder and Visionary Leader of Omituntun.

"Governor Makinde has inspired optimism through proven achievements that under his stewardship, the state will continue to experience growth, stability, and sustainable development in all areas of governance".

"Once again, we sincerely congratulate His Excellency, Governor Seyi Makinde for the overwhelming victory for his re-election. We will continue to support and engage the government with innovative ideas aimed at advancing societal upliftment for the development of Oyo State. We pray that God will grant him good health, strength and wisdom for more innovative accomplishments as he renders the service of good governance to take Oyo State to imitable heights," he added.



Gov Makinde



# Woman Gives Birth In Bandits Den, Baby Killed, Bleeding Mum Freed

*\*Madaki of Janjala says community under siege*

By: MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

An abducted housewife, Mrs Shamsiya Mustapha, has delivered a baby boy in a bandits' den in Kagarko LGA of Kaduna State.

It was gathered that the woman, her husband and her 16-year-old daughter, Mahapuza Mustapha, were abducted in their residence in Janjala community in

Kagarko LGA on February 5, 2023.

Sources said that the bandits later freed the husband, Mustapha, after they collected N2m ransom, including a brand new motorcycle and foodstuff, and held on to his pregnant wife and the daughter, demanding another N2m ransom before they would be set free.

Confirming the incident on Tuesday, a relation of the victim,

Yakubu Dati, said the woman delivered the baby on Sunday, but that the bandits killed the baby and freed the woman who was still bleeding.

He said the bandits were still holding on to the daughter, demanding N1.5m for her freedom.

He explained that, "The woman was over seven months pregnant when she was abducted. On Sunday, the bandits' leader

called the family that they should come and pick the woman as she had delivered.

He said when the family tried to find out about her condition and her newborn baby, the bandits' leader said they had killed the baby and buried it.

He further said, "So, all the family did was to go and pick up the woman at a location they dropped her. She is on treatment in a private hospital in Kagarko

town."

The Madaki of Janjala, Samaila Babangida, who also confirmed the development through telephone to our reporter, said, "We are under siege here in Janjala due to the activities of bandits who sometimes come to houses in broad daylight and whisk away people."

There was no response from the spokesman of the Kaduna State Police Command over the development at the time of filing this report.

# COVID -19 Benefits Scam: EFCC Arraigns 36-yr Old Club Owner For Allegedly Defrauding American Government

*\*Remanded in Agodi Correctional facility*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Ibadan Zonal Command has dragged a 36-year old man to court over his alleged involvement in cybercrime and obtaining money for COVID-19 and unemployment benefits from the United States of America Government, EFCC arraigned the 36 years old owner of Ibadan-based De Rock Club, Adepoju Olawale Sunday on Wednesday, before Justice Uche Agomoh of the Federal High Court sitting in Ibadan, Oyo State on two separate charges for his alleged involvement in cybercrime and obtaining money under false pretence to the tune of N31, 821, 000.00 (Thirty One Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty One Thousand Naira).

The first charge, contained 8 counts, bordering on identity theft, obtaining COVID-19 and unemployment benefits from the United States of America Government, while the other 19-count charge is premised on transfer of proceeds of crime to one Owoade Emmanuel David. One of the eight-counts read, "That you, Adepoju Olawale Sunday (aka SSG), Tope Ogunruku (aka DLA Frd Husband) at large, Owoade Emmanuel David (aka UK CEO Ace Lounge) at large, Desmond (aka Stanf line 2 2022) at large and Blessing (aka Ghost) at large, sometime in 2022 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court conspired to commit an illegal act to wit; Identity Theft contrary to Sections 27(1)(b) and 22(2) (b) (ii) of the Cyber Crimes

(Prohibition, Prevention Etc.) Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22(2) (b) of the same Act."

Count two reads: "That you, Adepoju Olawale Sunday (aka SSG), Tope Ogunruku (aka DLA Frd Husband) at large, Owoade Emmanuel David (aka UK CEO Ace Lounge) at large, Desmond (aka Stanf line 2 2022) at large and Blessing (aka Ghost) at large, sometime in 2022 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court conspired to commit an illegal act to wit; Obtaining COVID-19 benefits from the United States of America Government by falsely representing that you are one Joel Richard Carlson and thereby committed an offence contrary to Sections 8 and 1(1)(a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

Count one of the 19-counts read: "That you, Adepoju Olawale Sunday aka SSG on or about the 21st day of September, 2020 did transfer the sum of N3, 108, 000.00 (Three Million, One Hundred and Eight Thousand Naira) from your bank account domiciled at Guaranty Trust Bank with account number: 0050174721 to one Owoade Emmanuel David (aka UK CEO Ace Lounge) through his bank account domiciled at First City Monument Bank account number: 2875316012, which money you reasonably ought to have known forms part of the proceed of an unlawful act thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 15(2) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 (As

Amended) and punishable under Section 15(3) of the same Act."

He however pleaded 'not guilty' when the charges were read to him and upon this the prosecution counsel, Mabas Mabur asked the court for a trial date and remand the defendant pending the determination of the case.

Counsel to the defendant, Olaniyi George informed the court that he has filed two separate bail applications on behalf of his client and prayed the court to grant the defendant bail, while the prosecution counsel Mabur told the court to reject the applications on the grounds that the defendant is a flight risk who has pending charges against him in other law courts.

Justice Agomoh however adjourned the matter till April 18, 2023 for ruling and ordered that the defendant be remanded in the Agodi Correctional facility.

It was learnt that the defendant was arrested on August 31, 2022, alongside 21 other

suspected internet fraudsters, in an intelligence-driven operation carried out by the operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Command of the EFCC.

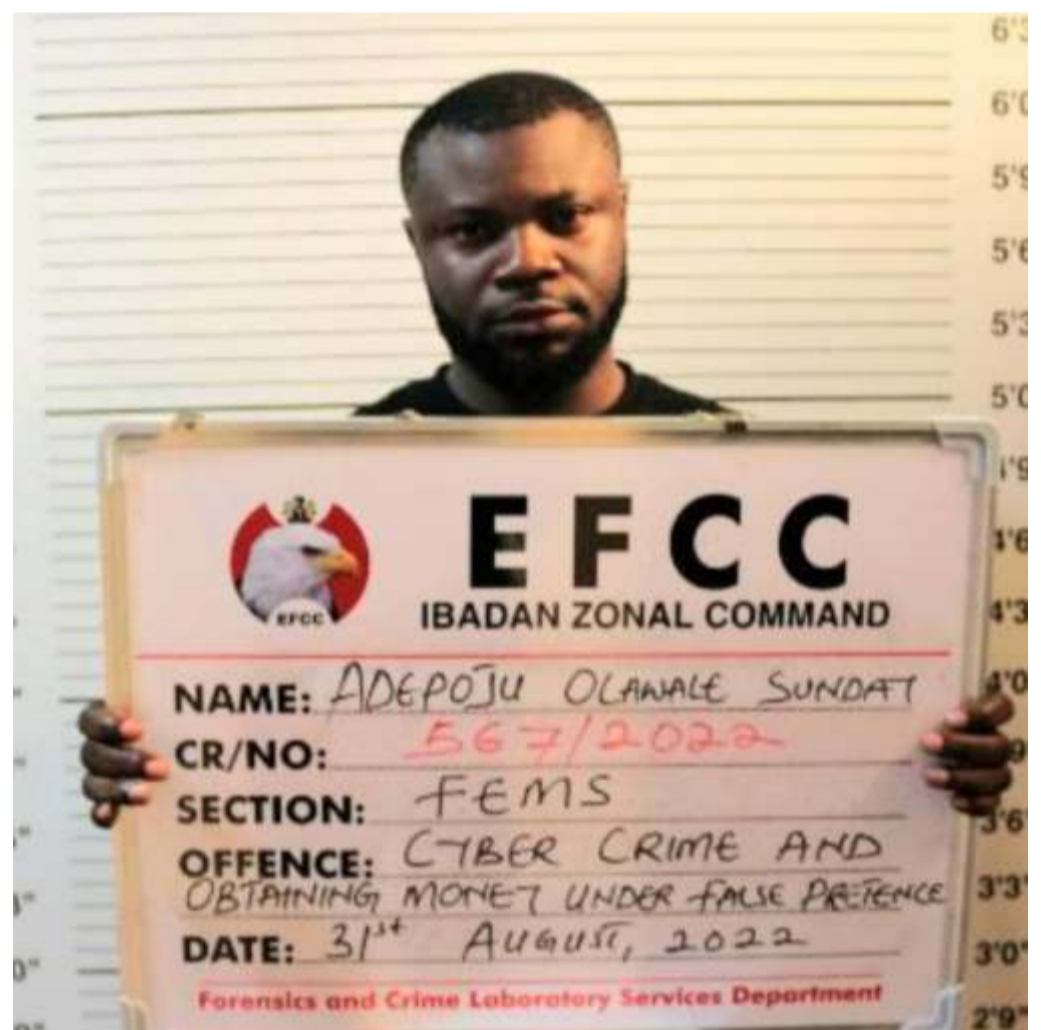
Investigations revealed that Adepoju, 36, who claimed to be a graduate of Industrial Chemistry of the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye, Osun State had, during the COVID-19 pandemic swindled American government and unsuspecting American citizens thousands of dollars.

He allegedly stole identities of the American citizens eligible for the tax refund programme

across the U.S and filed the stolen information to claim the benefits.

Investigations also showed that Adepoju through the US Small Business Administration (SBA), a programme established in New York City during Covid-19 to help Americans build resilient businesses, stole personal identifying information of American citizens which he deployed in filing false benefits claims.

He was arrested with a 2020 Range Rover HSE Sports Utility Vehicle, an iPhone 13 Pro Max and Hp laptop, among others.





# Envoy Unveils China's Higher-Level Dev Vision, Path To Realization

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The acting Consul General of Republic of China in Nigeria, Jin Mingyu has revealed the country's higher-level development vision and the path to its realization.

He has also pledged to build a bridge between the Chinese and Nigerian people, for mutual learning and making progress.

To better implement Chinese modernization, Mingyu disclosed that the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (NCCPC) which was held last year, has drawn up a grand blueprint to comprehensively promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through Chinese-style modernization.

The envoy asserted that Nigeria is the largest economy and the most populous country in Africa, and shares similar conditions with China.

As a sincere friend of the Nigerian people, Mingyu said he felt obliged to introduce to his Nigerian friends China's higher-level development vision and the path to its realization.

In a write up personally signed by him, made available to Journalists International Forum For Migration (JIFORM) said he felt the vigor and vitality of the Nigeria, infected by the endless energy and passionate eyes of its people in their pursuit of a better life.

He posited that the pursuit of goodness and excellence is an inexhaustible drive for human progress.

The envoy states " It has been more than one and half years since I worked in Nigeria, and every day I feel the vigor and vitality of the nation, infected by the endless energy and passionate eyes of its people in their pursuit of a better life. The pursuit of goodness and excellence is an inexhaustible drive for human progress.

" Nigeria is the largest economy and the most populous country in Africa, and shares similar conditions with China. As a sincere friend of the Nigerian people, I feel it is obliged to introduce to my Nigerian friends China's higher-level development vision and the path to its realization. I hope to build a bridge between the Chinese and Nigerian people, for mutual learning and making progress.

" To better implement Chinese modernization, The 20th National Congress of the

Communist Party of China (NCCPC) which was held last year, has drawn up a grand blueprint to comprehensively promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through Chinese-style modernization.

" In early spring, March, the Two Sessions, also known as the annual meetings of China's National People's Congress (CNPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), were held in Beijing, capital of China, to make arrangements for building China into a modern socialist country in all respects.

" For any country, its modernization must not only follow the general rules of modernization, but also be in line with its own reality and conditions, and accordingly have its own characteristics.

" The report to the 20th NCCPC clearly outlines the five characteristics of Chinese modernization: it is the modernization of a huge population, of common prosperity for all, of material and cultural-ethical advancement, of harmony between humanity and nature, and of peaceful development.

" Chinese modernization is not only about economic development but also about people's living environment and social values. In promoting modernization, the Chinese government formulates long-term plans, listens to the voice of its people and focuses on harmonious development. In the midst of this process, the CPC is playing a strong and firm leading role and has introduced a series of policy initiatives which are very important for China to meet its challenges and achieve long-term development.

" China, with a population of more than 1.4 billion, must move towards modernization as a whole. This is unprecedented in the history of mankind, and will have a huge worldwide impact and make a greater contribution to the cause of human progress.

" In the past decade, China has achieved success in the fight against poverty, lifting nearly 100 million people out of poverty according to the current poverty standard, creating a miracle in the history of human poverty reduction. 2022 China's per capita GDP, which grew by 3% in real terms over the previous year, reached \$12,741, remaining above \$12,000 for the

second consecutive year. China's institutional advantages and material foundation for achieving Chinese-style modernization have been further consolidated.

" China's remarkable achievements in reducing poverty, and remarkably improving the living standards of people in less developed regions, demonstrate the success of the Chinese-style modernization path.

" We need not only to make the "cake" bigger, but also to share it well. China consciously and proactively solves the problems of regional, urban-rural and income disparities, promotes common prosperity and prevents polarization, so that all people can share the fruits of modernization.

" Ranging from the Chinese New Year, dragon and lion dance, to Beijing opera, Chinese calligraphy, etc, China is inheriting and promoting those excellent traditional cultures, and adhering to core socialist values, promoting the spirit of patriotism, collectivism and heroism. China is striving to achieve people's comprehensive development, achieving prosperity both materially and spiritually.

" China focuses on promoting economic development and ecological civilization simultaneously, seeking a new development path through which the development will be resource-efficient, environment-friendly, green and low-carbon. China will actively respond to global climate change, strive to achieve carbon peaking by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060, and make a positive contribution to all of humanity.

" China has always taken mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence as the basic principles in handling international relations. It has sustained a tradition of adhering to multilateralism, opposed hegemonism and unilateralism, and actively promoted the building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind.

" China brings many opportunities to the world. In Africa, many countries have



Mingyu

benefited from the infrastructure projects built by China.

" During China's Two Sessions, an engineer from Africa observed that, "China insists on peaceful development and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. China is helping us build factories, hotels and supermarkets. This is a true reflection of China's promotion of global development in the course of its modernization."

" The Lagos Blue Line Rail, the Lekki Deep Sea Port and the booming Free Trade Zone, as well as countless industrial parks of various kinds built by Chinese enterprises, have played great roles in upgrading Nigeria's infrastructure and logistics, increasing local employment and improving people's livelihood. These efforts have further created a mutually beneficial and win-win situation for China and Nigeria, with far-reaching significance and impact.

" A Nigerian observer wrote that China's unique political process

is never to mechanically copy the modernization model of any other countries, but insists that any country can interrogate its own unique history and reality to extract a unique path to development and modernization. African countries' historic trajectory to a good life for its people has encountered difficulties and challenges, not because of a lack of bold vision.

" That is right. African countries, Nigeria included, need to find a path of modernization that meets their own reality and the interests of their own people, rather than copying the systems of any other countries.

" China, as a true friend of developing countries, is willing to share its modernization achievements and experiences on a platform of exchange, and is also willing to provide help and support to other countries, but it will never be a high-handed "preacher". China will only tell its own story on the basis of equality and mutual respect".



# APC National Youth Leader, Hon. Dayo Israel Celebrates Nigeria President-elect, Tinubu On 71st Birthday

By; HON DAYO ISREAL

For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life."

Proverbs 9:11.

Your Excellency Sir, Daddy, It gladdens my heart to felicitate with you on the auspicious day of your 71st birth anniversary.

It is a special opportunity for me and the entire APC youth wing across the world to celebrate a sagacious pathfinder, astute mentor, born leader and role model to many people aspiring greatness.

It gladdens my heart once more that you have remained a strong pillar to the sustainability of Democracy, reliable and dependable leader of uncommon breed to the nation. You have remain focus and determined to the progress of youths and development of the nation.

Over the years, your experience as a Senator, Governor and national leader have reshaped the country in building bridges across religions, tribes and ethnicity which has paved ways for you to

become President-elect.

Truly, you have demonstrated yourself as a visionary and progressive leader worthy of emulation by young and old.

On this auspicious day Sir, I join millions of friends, family and well-wishers to thank Almighty God for His protection, guidance and blessings over you in the past 71 years of existence on earth.

As you begin another journey on earth today with bigger responsibilities, it is my prayer that Almighty God in his infinite Mercy continues to shield you against all obstacles, grant you wisdom, knowledge and a healthy life to lead Nigeria to the right path that will surely Renewed Hope for a greater Nigeria.

Once again, Congratulations Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu my Daddy! President-Elect for the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

HEARTY CHEERS  
QM̩OLÓDÓ IDẸ  
*Hon. Dayo Isreal is the APC National Youth Leader Federal Republic of Nigeria*



Tinubu



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

### TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

### TECHNICAL DATA

#### 6 COLUMNS

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

### POLITICAL RATE

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

### LOOSE INSERTS

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

### CLASSIFIEDS

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

### SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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



# 2023 Election And The Consequences Of 'Obidience'

By: ABDULHALEEM ISHAQ RINGIM

The 2023 presidential election served as a test not only for Nigeria's democratic credentials but also as a conduit for certain political figures and their supporters to rekindle deep rooted prejudices and sentiments.

The political atmosphere was shrouded in sturdy fabrics of ethno-religious and regional schisms that weaponized our diversity and prevented many from adequately contemplating the consequences of such divisive inclinations with respect to our politics and democracy.

For proper context, Nigeria's current political landscape is predominantly controlled by two major parties; APC and PDP. This two-party dynamics has been prevalent since 1999 when Nigeria adopted democracy. Political contests in the country has always been between a ruling party, a major opposition party (or at most two) and other minor opposition parties in the background. Until 2015 when the marriage between CPC and ACN was consummated, major opposition parties were largely representative of regional voting blocs.

The 2015 merger was borne out of the realization that Nigeria's presidency cannot be won by the sole or combined agencies of popularity, resource strength and sectarian influence. It could only be won by a concerted effort at forging alliances and establishing demographic balances that can assure transnational political cooperation. The APC achieved that in 2015 and was resultantly able to displace the political hegemony that PDP represented at that time.

Contrastingly, 2023 election was defined by the direct opposite of the events of 2015. Instead of consolidating the strength of the PDP which is Nigeria's major opposition party, it was instead hit by a wave of fragmentations as seen with the emergence of Kwankwaso's New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) and Peter Obi's Labour Party (LP). These supposed third forces went ahead to seize political influence from the grip of the PDP in some of their strongholds and cost the party tremendous political capital.

The rise to prominence of Labour Party constitutes the biggest misfortune for not only PDP, but all Nigerian opposition parties. Peter Obi, who was Atiku Abubakar's running mate in the PDP in 2019 defected from the party in protest against the party's refusal to zone the presidential ticket to the South. Some reports suggest that Obi also got an early signal that Atiku would not be picking him again as his running mate. These, reports suggest, were his major reasons for defecting to Labour Party.

Obi's candidature started as a representation of the general agitation for good governance in Nigeria. His Labour Party provided a political platform for Nigeria's huge population of angry and aggrieved youth, especially those with affiliations (both active and passive) to the leaderless #EndSARS Movement through which mass protests against the government were held in Southern States and some North Central ones in 2020. Obi sparked a consensus among these young people who formed the 'Obidient Movement' and became the driving force for his campaign.

The second agitation that Obi symbolized is that of a Southern presidency. There's this widely held assumption that Nigeria's presidency is subject to a nationally-binding power rotation arrangement. Hence, after eight years of Buhari's administration, the people that hold this assumption expected a seamless rotation of power to the South, particularly to a Christian southerner. Although this assumption is flawed because zoning is strictly subject to the peculiar political dynamics of individual political parties in Nigeria, APC's zoning arrangement favored the South.

As a result, agitation for the PDP to also zone their presidential ticket to the South became louder. But the party's zoning arrangement did not favor a southern presidency. This is because for the 16 years of PDP rule, 13 years were administered by a Southern presidency while only 3 years by the North. Jonathan by contesting in 2011 and 2015 (even though he lost) sought to fulfill another 8 uninterrupted years of a Southern presidency. Hence, it was only fair that a Northerner also contests for two consecutive elections (whether he wins or loses).

The APC eventually settled for a Muslim from the South West and the PDP, a Muslim from the North East. Peter Obi of the Labour Party was seen to be the only hope of achieving a power shift to a Christian southerner and he became a symbol for this agitation which he proudly embodied and radiated.

The third symbolism that Peter Obi's candidacy represented is that of a politico-religious crusade. Although PDP's ticket had Atiku, a Muslim from the North East and Okowa, Christian from the South South; his candidacy was still invalidated by the agitators of a Southern presidency. Unfortunately for them, the APC decided to settle for a ticket that had a presidential

candidate that is a Southern Muslim (which in itself is less preferred by this group of agitators) and a running mate that is also Muslim from the North East. This Muslim-Muslim configuration was strictly borne out of APC's desire to attain unmatched political advantage in relation to the demographic factors that define Nigeria's politics. This was considered politically blasphemous and became the final recipe needed to start a political war against all Muslim candidates irrespective of the faiths of their running mates like Atiku.

Resultantly, the ethnic and religious aspects of the factors that strengthened Peter Obi's candidacy relegated that of advocacy for good governance to the rear and he became a symbol for multi-dimensional identity politics that was successful in polarizing the country's politics along ethnic cleavages and religious schisms.

From the outset, the impossibility of fulfilling the constitutional requirement of securing not less than 25% of votes cast in at least 24 states including the FCT was glaringly obvious for Peter Obi, not to talk of securing the highest number votes. He knew he could only go as far as securing the states in the South East, some states in the South South, one or two states in the South West and North Central and some fraction of votes from Christian-dominated constituencies of the core North. Notwithstanding, the Obidient Movement-backed "Ellu P" jettisoned traditional political structure-based mode of political mobilization that is usually deeply penetrative in favor of radical media approaches. And he chose to deliberately and unapologetically ride on ethno-religious sentiments at the expense of fostering trans-national politicking.

Regrettably, the idea of politics as a game of consensus and compromises and an exercise in trans-demographic consensus building, which is critical in Nigeria's democratic context, was noticeably suppressed in favor of politically motivated ethno-religious sectarianism. This portended profound political ramifications with severe potential repercussions for Nigeria's quest for national unity and cohesion.

A man whose performance as governor of Anambra State was mediocre at best; who was a beneficiary and product of the supposed "evil political status quo" as a former member and vice presidential candidate of the PDP; who was fingered in the Pandora papers for operating secret overseas companies in tax havens in a manner that violated Nigeria's laws; who was overly simplistic in his articulation of the solutions to the myriad of problems facing Nigeria and who is popularly known for his rendition of incorrect statistics and incongruous analogies of development stories; was elevated to political sainthood in a short period of time solely because he represented certain sentiments. It was as though there was an epidemic of selective amnesia!

Social media platforms became tools for political mob actions against supporters of other candidates and political parties by the members of the Obidient movement. One had to either join them in embodying their bandwagonist tendencies or risk being vilified and tagged an enemy of development. A section of Nigeria's media incessantly portrayed him as a political messiah who had all the solutions to Nigeria's problems and painted all other candidates as Nigeria's major problems and impediments to progress and development.

But even with all these factors conspiring in his favor, he lost as expected, polling third with 6.1 million votes and securing 25% votes cast in just 16 states. This expected loss is not without dire consequences for Peter Obi as a person and the constituencies whose interests he was seen to be representing. Specifically, he has been tagged as an agent of a politico-religious crusade that was blatantly furthered by the church and would never be trusted by Nigeria's Muslim population without whose votes he can never smell the scent of Aso Rock. As I inferred in another article, "the religious and ethnic colourations of the factors that influenced his relative prominence and gave him a comparative advantage in this election would be same that would mar his chances in future elections. Hardly would he ever get the chance to command protest votes like he did this time around because of APC's Muslim-Muslim ticket. He is basically done".

Secondly, his candidacy and eventual loss at the polls did as much harm to his political career as it did to the general Igbo presidency agitation. Unlike the PDP where a South Eastern presidency was possible in 4-8 years especially with Atiku who promised to personally lead this charge, APC's South western Presidency with Tinubu which is likely to run for 8 years assures a rotation back to the North for another 8 years in



Obi

line with the party's zoning arrangement. This makes it 16 years of South western and Northern exclusive presidency. All courtesy of Peter Obi, the South East has been rendered incapacitated in the quest to securing the presidency for the next 16 years unless a significant disruption of the status quo is experienced which is not expected due to the lost opportunity that was not utilized in the 2023 election.

Thirdly, the parochial tendencies of the members of the Obidient movement (especially the Igbos) as deeply embedded in the manner through which their campaigns (of self-righteousness and entitlement) were fostered have widened ethnic intolerance and further compromised the possibility of a sustainable sociocultural handshake between Igbos and Hausas as well as the Yorubas. This seems to be further exacerbated by the subsisting manner in which some Igbo supporters of Peter Obi have continued to stereotype the Hausa/Fulani by tagging them as terrorists and Yorubas as rascals even after the elections. Interestingly, same set of people have started to complain of victimhood (what they like to term 'Igbophobia') which most consider self-inflicted — what a juvenile attempt at ad hominem!

As overbearing as the implications of Obidience to Nigeria's political and sociocultural prospects may seem, it still presents us with an opportunity to learn significant lessons which are essential for the rectification of the fault lines that have been further emboldened by their misadventure. As stated in the opening paragraphs of this article, it is now clear that Nigeria's presidency can never be won by the sole or combined agencies of popularity, resource strength and sectarian influence. Neither can it ever be won through political mobilization methods that are entirely fueled by sentiments and emotions irrespective of the strength of the media power behind their propagation.

Winning presidential elections in Nigeria requires building bridges across the nation's demography and evoking transnational consensus on the need to stand on a candidate's mandate. Expression of excessive entitlement and self-righteousness in the quest for securing power by a people only breeds resentment and isolation. Dexterity in political bargaining and deliberateness in playing this game of consensus and compromises is what is required in order to succeed in this exercise in fostering transnational alliances.

As for political parties, the events of the 2023 presidential elections have further proven the fallacy of the third force in Nigeria. As posited in my article titled 2023 Elections: Nigeria and the Third Force Fallacy, "the formation of APC in 2014 has greatly stalled chances for the emergence of any other strong coalition or third force movement" that is capable of dislodging a ruling party. Unless APC disintegrates, it will take a strong alliance of opposition parties just as the ACN, CPC and a section of APGA and ANPP did in 2013 to end the reign of the ruling party.

In the end, 'Obidience' has proven to be a lost cause with great long term consequences on our political and sociocultural fabric. We must never allow for such misadventure to befall us again.

*Abdulhaleem Ishaq Ringim is a political and public affairs analyst. He writes from Zaria and can be reached via haleemabdul1999@gmail.com*



# Seyi Tinubu, The Man Who Waters Others

By: ALIYAHAYA

You see the smile and laughter that radiate from that image with so much fancy that tickles the heart? one is tempted to interpret the picture from a point of believe that a star is being lifted in appreciation of a win, this is not it, it is a reflection of the tutoring, coaching and upbringing of the actors in the pictures.

Let me try by identifying the personalities in the picture without getting to cut short once curiosities to reading through this short piece.

You see the young man been lifted, I refer to him as Abdul don jazi, I see the innocence in his face, very humble, his ability to light every were he goes, humble presentation when ever he is in the mist of those whose social stratification is below his..I watch him with keen interest on how he judiciously carry his LUNGU LUNGU campaign train for ASIWAJU to every part of Bauchi.

I am so pleased with his fast understanding of the Asiwaju school of humanity with the way he goes about helping the needy..Iam not surprised at how fast he understood the intricacies of the Asiwaju school of thought, as it is evident in this picture. Ones associate and friends says alot about him.

Guess who lifted Abdul Don Jazi,

I got arguing with a friend who has never been a fan of this great young man on the need to see him and his parents as the best thing that ll ever happen to us as youths in Nigeria, I told him, look, this guy is his father personified, in hausa we refer to him as Dan halal, in Igala we refer to people like that as Oma Attah..No Nigerian with a right thinking cap that doesn't know his father's (Ahmed Bola Tinubu) tendencies and maximum propensity to build people from various part of the country with no boundaries.

With due respect, Seyi's DNA is so endowed with such traits than he got from his dad but i must say he is not like the usual rich kid with no feelings for the common man. They say the joy of every parent is the presence of a worthy successor..I have been watching with kin interest on how Seyi Tinubu is building the best Nationalist relationship across Nigeria than his father has ever done. Seyi Tinubu no doubt is the country's youngest bridge builder across different ethnics, bridging the gap between the rich and less privilege raising enough hope among informal and formal line that helps to maintain the country's critical human resources.

A philanthropist in his own right, who is undoubtedly a symbol of the aftermath of previous social democratic molding, born between the finest guild of a no nonsense african mother (Oluremi Tinubu) and Father's (Nigeria's Next president) social evolutions, yet he lives in the humility of an average Nigerians full of hopes, thirst for everyone's advancement, independence, development and prosperity. It baffles me how easily Seyi does care for people so easily despite having everything. He is nothing like other kids with economic power, should he decide any day to seek national support for anything in this life, i shall be on ground to support that cause any day any time with no apologies.

The man's strides to making people grow along with him



is evidence in this picture, the act of lifting people up to stardom and greatness is Seyi Tinubu greatest assets. If by nightfall I am still breathing. I shall lead a dua for him and Abdul Don Jazi That beyond this ephemeral cosmos, You guys enjoy

aljanat Firdaus as eternal home. God bless you both.

*Ali Yahaya writes fom Kaduna and can be reached via; [blinksaliyu@yahoo.com](mailto:blinksaliyu@yahoo.com) and 08036979262*



# Standing the World on its Head

By Owei Lakemfa

SOME years ago, as Secretary General of the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), I had diplomatic immunity provided directly by my host, Ghana, my country, Nigeria and the African Union, which extended to me the privilege of its diplomatic passport. With the AU passport, I entered and exited countless African countries without visa and with ease. My hubs were Accra, Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Johannesburg.

I travelled so frequently through South Africa that one day, as I transited from Gabs (Gaborone) in a moment of forgetfulness; I walked towards the exit rather than the transit. I had a flight to connect, but it was too late to walk back. I simply sprinted to the diplomatic section, got my passport stamped to enter the country, walked to the departure and got stamped out, all within some minutes that enabled me catch my flight.

The USA rested its giant frame on a tiny African country, Cape Verde, threatening to suffocate it unless it violates the Vienna Convention and fundamental human rights by seizing and extraditing to it Venezuelan Special Envoy, Alex Saab, who was transiting through it. The American establishment in its avowed mission to ruin Venezuela and starve its people, had unilaterally imposed sanctions on that country forbidding it from buying its basic needs including food, petroleum products and medicines from any part of the world.

Those are some of the privileges of having a diplomatic passport which also goes with having immunity including from prosecution, even for spying or murder. All a host country can do, is expel the suspect.

All these are contained in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) which provides for the inviolability of mission premises; protection for the diplomat and his or her family from any form of arrest or detention; protection of all forms of diplomatic communication; the basic principle of exemption from taxation; immunity from civil and administrative jurisdiction, but states that diplomats must respect the laws of the host state.

This has worked well for international relations, promoted multilateralism and protected the representative of any country or recognised international institution, from harassment by security agencies and governments of host countries.

It is these basic convention and principles the United States of America (USA), a big single tree that sees itself as constituting a forest, chose to attack in a manner bordering on terrorism.

The USA rested its giant frame on a tiny African country, Cape Verde, threatening to suffocate it unless it violates the Vienna Convention and fundamental human

rights by seizing and extraditing to it Venezuelan Special Envoy, Alex Saab, who was transiting through it. The American establishment in its avowed mission to ruin Venezuela and starve its people, had unilaterally imposed sanctions on that country forbidding it from buying its basic needs including food, petroleum products and medicines from any part of the world.

With Venezuela facing starvation, Saab had undertaken a humanitarian Special Mission to purchase food and medicines from Iran. The Americans claimed that the funds the diplomat was moving from Venezuela to Iran for the basic purchases amounted to money laundering and ordered hapless Cape Verde to seize him on June 13, 2020 when the aircraft he was travelling in made a stopover to refuel.

But America, even under President Joe Biden, who, compared to his predecessor, Donald Trump, looks like an angel, has no respect for international conventions, or compunction that it is trying to starve 27.95 million Venezuelans. The sin of Venezuela is that it had a radical President Hugo Chavez who stopped oil transnational corporations from exploiting Venezuelan oil and gas, redistributed wealth to the poor and was a friend to Fidel Castro of Cuba whom America saw as mortal enemy.

Ambassador Saab has been held since then; a hostage of American impunity. This is despite the fact that Switzerland whose UBS Bank America claimed Saab used for the alleged money laundering, had thrown out the case. The Geneva Public Prosecutor had declared that: "...there is no additional element to continue the investigation on the count of Money Laundering..."

Cape Verde was an easy target for the American bullies. It is a tiny territory of 4,033 square kilometres and a 2019 population of 549,935. At independence from Portugal on July 5, 1975, it was part of the larger Guinea Bissau. In fact, it was Cape Verde that produced Amilcar Cabral, one of the most intelligent, resourceful, knowledgeable and committed Black leaders in history. It was Cabral who mobilised and led the armed struggle against colonialism that led to the independence of Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde. Today, it is classified as a poor country importing 82 per cent of its food needs.

So Cape Verde knows the implication of food shortages and would not ordinarily seek to block another country from buying food. But given lack of support or protection from other countries including the AU, and being quite vulnerable, when America told it to jump, it leapt up like a leopard to snatch Saab, who apart from having diplomatic immunity, also has his mission covered by the United Nations Special Missions Convention of 1969.

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But America refused to let go Cape Verde's throat, so the choking country has agreed to violate the ECOWAS judicial decision and the conventions of the AU and United Nations by extraditing the hostage to the USA. To show the political nature of the case and further compound its bizarre nature, there is even no bilateral treaty between America and Cape Verde to validate the request for the extradition.

After Chavez passed on March 5, 2013, Venezuelans in the eyes of America compounded their sins by electing a Chavez protégée, Nicholas Maduro, to continue the Chavez tradition. More annoying is the fact that Maduro continues to win undisputable elections. America, before resorting to starvation as a weapon against Venezuela, tried on January 23, 2013, to impose then Venezuelan Speaker, Juan Guaido, as the country's 'Interim President' then sent warships in a failed attempt to prevent Iran selling oil to Venezuela.

Ambassador Saab, who is also Venezuela's Alternate Permanent Representative to the African Union, said while in in detention in Cape Verde: "they tortured me and pressured me to sign a declaration of voluntary extradition and make false statements against my government."

Through the Nigerian international



Ambassador Alex Saab

lawyer and former President of the West African Bar Association, Mr Femi Falana, he approached the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to which Cape Verde belongs, "for the enforcement of his human rights to dignity, liberty, fair hearing and freedom of movement guaranteed by Articles 5, 6, 7 and 12 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights respectively."

On March 15, 2021, the ECOWAS Court ruled Ambassador Saab's detention illegal as there was not even an INTERPOL Red Notice or an arrest warrant before his arrest. It also ordered the extradition process initiated at the request of the USA be terminated immediately. It further ordered Cape Verde to pay him US\$200,000 in compensation.

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Apart from the USA trying to turn the world on its head and running international relations as a terrorist enterprise, the Alex Saab case shows that America sees Africa as a hostage continent it can water board at will.



# Absent From Duty

By Owei Lakemfa

AT the weekend, after my ear drums had been continuously assaulted for few weeks about how well the government has done, especially on security, my mind went back to one of its 'success' stories.

The Tanko Salihu Islamic School is in Tegna, a densely populated town in Rafi Local Government Area of Niger State. It runs a nursery, primary and junior secondary school. It also has Islamiyya and Hadda "The testimony" classes in the evenings and at weekends.

On Sunday, May 30, 2021, bandits entered Tegna. In a guerrilla-style operation, they attacked the police station and went round the town shooting into the air. In the ensuing pandemonium, they headed for what apparently was their target, the Islamic school where pupils, as young as three, were learning.

They rounded up 148 of the pupils and about 50 others, including the teachers, and marched them away from the Zungeru Junction school premises into the forest. The children who were taken through paths, bushes and forests must have walked for hundreds of kilometres before they were located in Kebbi State.

One of the older boys, Musa, gave an idea of the torturous journey: "We trekked for days without food and water. We only rested a little when the bandits noticed that we were tired and afterward continued. And it was so difficult since we had to carry the little ones on the back as they could no longer walk because they were weak and tired before we finally got to the hideouts of the bandits in the forest."

The school and parents organised themselves to seek the release of their children from the bandits who initially demanded a ransom of N300 million which they scaled down to N100 million. They were frustrated for they were mainly peasant farmers who could not on their own raise 10 per cent of the ransom. Their frustration was further heightened when after one week of their wards abduction, and, despite the wide publicity the case attracted, neither the state government nor the Federal Government visited the school or the town to even make an assessment or liaise with them. Only the Local Government Chairman showed visible concern. The people were abandoned to their own devices, including negotiating ransom and raising funds.

The headmaster of the school, Abubakar Garba Alhassan, who had evolved into the coordinator of the school and parents platform, cried to the press: "None of the state government officials either came to us or contacted us, apart from the Rafi Local Government Chairman who is

always here to sympathise with us."

When confronted with these claims, the state government, through the Deputy Governor, Ahmed Mohammed Ketso, responded thus: "It is strategic for us not to have visited the families and people of Tegna, but we are making frantic efforts."

Incredible! What strategy was it abandoning a populous town at a period the residents were most traumatised?

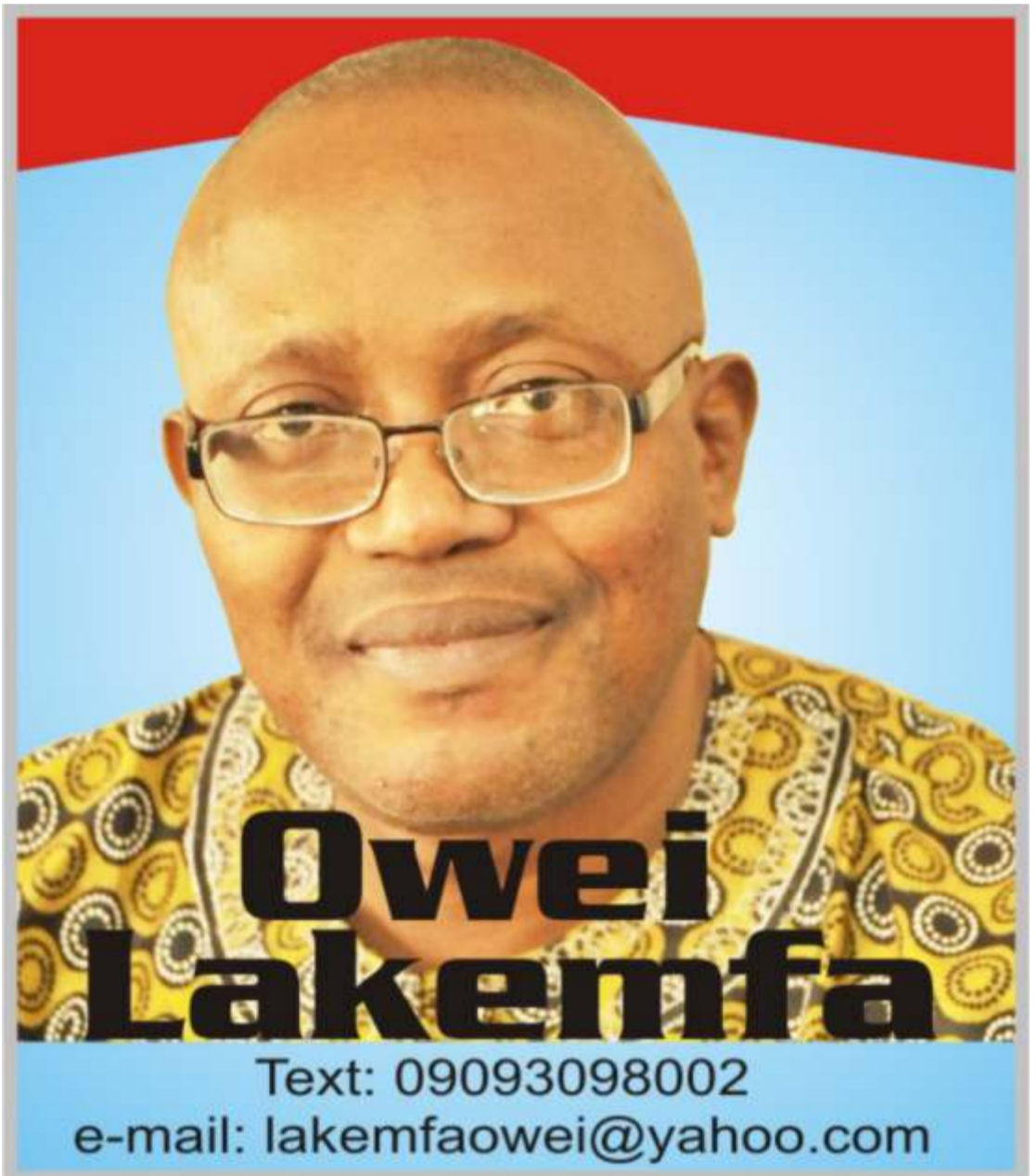
The Presidency also responded with a bland statement that: "President Muhammadu Buhari has charged the nation's security and intelligence agencies to expedite efforts towards the recovery of the 200 children kidnapped from an Islamic school in Niger State."

The parents and school sourced for funds from various sources, including selling their valuables to pay the ransom.

Meanwhile, the pupils were going through a nightmare. One of the bigger boys, Musa said: "We went through hell. We were beaten and they even threatened to kill us if our parents did not pay the ransom they demanded... We told them we were poor and that our parents were mere farmers. But they neither listened nor cared about us, even though we were speaking the same language."

One of the abducted pupils, Furera Isah, recalled: "They would call us out in the night and beat us. We were never comfortable... They called us to beat us every day, but they allowed us to say our prayers. Sleeping was also another problem. We slept in a shabby place under the rain and the sun. Since we got kidnapped, we never took our bath. We were fed with small amount of noodles or beans on our hands. Some days, we stayed hungry as there was nothing to eat. We were kept together in one small room in the forest. Sometimes, we were beaten if we try to complain of hunger or ask questions."

Finally, after 88 days in captivity, the children were released. But not all returned. On the pupils release, Alhasan, the co-ordinator of the negotiations, told the media: "I am feeling comfortable now that they are back. Only one died but we thank God that we got them (others) back alive. The child who died is my child. We are not closing down the school, we will continue with it. If we do close the school, the generation that we are protecting will



feel bad. I believe it is my child's destiny to die that day because if he was at home with me, he could have died that same day as well. So I thank God for everything."

There had been mass kidnap of students before the Tegna one. In February 2018, a total of 107 students of Government Girls Science and Technical College, Dapchi, Yobe State, were kidnapped. After ransom payment, they were released, except Leah Sharibu, a girl who refused to renounce her faith. She has now spent five years, one month and three days in captivity.

On Friday, December 11, 2020, over 300 students of the Government Science Secondary School, Kankara, Katsina State were abducted. On February 17, 2021, bandits attacked the Government Science School, Kagara, Niger State abducting 27 students, three staff and 12 of their relatives.

Government Girls Science Secondary School, Jangebe, Zamfara State was attacked on February 26, 2021 and 279 female students aged between 10 and 17 were abducted. The Federal College of Forestry Mechanisation, Afaka, Kaduna

State was attacked in March 2021 and about 30 students abducted. They spent over 50 days in captivity.

After the Islamiya School incident, more schools were attacked and students abducted. These include the July 5, 2021 kidnap of over 120 students of the Bethel Baptist High School, Damishi, Kaduna State. At least one of the abducted students remain with the bandits; the 20th month in captivity.

In June 2021, bandits invaded the Federal Government College, Birnin Yauri, Kebbi State, kidnapping over 90 students and teachers. Twenty-nine of those students are still held by the bandits having spent one year, nine months in captivity.

All these occurred and are happening in a country with a Commander-in-Chief who says he has done marvellously well on security and deserves medals. I do not doubt that the C-in-C reports for duty which may be why the budgetary provision is being expended, but why does he seem to be perpetually absent from duty?

*Culled from National Record.*



## U-17: We're Working Hard To Raise Team That Will Do Nigeria Proud – Ugbade

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Head Coach Nduka Ugbade has said that the Nigeria U-17 technical team of which he is the head, is working quietly but diligently and assiduously to raise a squad capable of doing Nigeria proud at the Africa U-17 Cup of Nations in Algeria.

Ugbade, who has assisted a couple of coaches to win the FIFA U-17 World Cup for Nigeria, is in charge this time, and has shepherd his wards to the African finals after winning the WAFU B Championship in Ghana last summer.

The Africa U-17 Cup of Nations will take place from April 29 to May 19 in Algeria, with five-time world champions, Nigeria drawn alongside Morocco, South Africa and Zambia in a potentially-explosive Group B, with venue in Constantine.

"We know that some work still has to be done within the next few weeks to put the team in great form. I



Nduka Ugbade

am happy with the level of work we have done and the kind of playing personnel at our disposal. "I believe everything will come together beautifully and we will have a team that will do the country proud at the tournament," said Ugbade, who captained Nigeria's U-16 squad to win the inaugural FIFA tourney in China 38 years ago," he said. A fortnight ago, the Golden Eaglets returned

to camp in Abuja for the final phase of their preparations for the U-17 AFCON, and three days ago, hammered Mahanaim FC 4-2 in a friendly match at the NFF/FIFA Goal Project within the Moshood Abiola National Stadium complex.

Mahanaim stunned the Eaglets with a goal against the run of play, but the Nigerian cadets responded quickly with a

well-taken free-kick to end the first half 1-1. In the second half, the Eaglets dominated with three more goals while Mahanaim was only able to score once.

The Eaglets will have a final camping programme in Europe before flying to Algeria for the continental finals, where the four top-placed teams will qualify to represent Africa at this year's FIFA U-17 World Cup in Peru.

## Wikki Tourists Coach Upbeat Despite 2-0 Loss To Tornadoes

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Chief Coach of Wikki Tourists of Bauchi, Abdullahi Adamu has described his boys loss 2-0 to Niger Tornadoes in one of the week 11 matches of the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) that he is Satisfied with what his boys played,

According to him while fielding questions from newsmen, "I am satisfied with what the boys played today. We have new players and that must have been the reason for today's loss. We are building a team, we had some new boys during the mid season break. The main thing for us is to build the team, surely they will start jelling from next week".

On whether the team can escape relegation, looking at their current position, he said the team will remain in the Premier League no doubt.

On constant movement of

players from one club to another, he said it depends on what is making the players to move, but called on the League Management Committee (LMC), to ensure that the

players are getting a copy of contract papers they entered with the clubs so that they can have bargaining power if issues come up and when a body needs to stand for them.

Abdullahi Adamu joined the team during the break, replacing Coach Kabiru Dogo.

He had coached Green Beret of Zaria and Katsina United in the past.



## Sports: A'Ibom Will Continue To Partner Valuable Private Institutions

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Private institutions with value added to the development and growth of the people in any sector of the economy, will continue to enjoy partnership and support from Akwa Ibom State Government.

The Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Comrade Ini Ememobong stated this yesterday, in Uyo, during the 2023 Annual Inter-House Sports Competition of Monef Kiddies School, Uyo, held at the schools' premises, Ikot Ebom Itam.

Comrade Ememobong said, as an all inclusive government, private educational institutions with positive contributions to the educational and sporting needs of the state will be embraced and collaborated with for mutually beneficial relationship and gains.

The State Information helmsman who was represented by the Director of Public Relations in the Ministry, Mrs Grace Akpan, said for over a decade, Monef Schools has proved to be a dependable ally in the development of the education sector of the state.

He commended the Director and Proprietor of the Schools, Dr. Fabian Eshiet, for the excellence academic performance which has placed Akwa Ibom children on top of educational scorecard nationally and internationally.

Ememobong urged the school to interface with the Ministry of Youth and Sports so that the budding athletes and sportsmen groomed by the school can be harnessed and put out for national, international and World games in the nearest future, noting that, Akwa Ibomites are excelling at international sporting competitions and returning home to the State with laurels.

He expressed appreciation to the organisers of the Inter-House Sports competition for the well-planned event, the participating schools for the spirit of sportsmanship exhibited in the competition and the parents for inspiring and motivating their children by turning-up and also engaging in some parts of the games during the Inter-House competition.

"The management of the school, the visiting and participating schools, the parents and indeed all the students and pupils of Monef Schools have done very well. I have watched with keen interest and I must say, I am very impressed with what I am seeing here today. I will relay all to the Honourable Commissioner and I am sure, he will send in a magnificent support", Mrs. Grace Akpan concluded.

Responding, the Director and Proprietor of Monef Schools, Uyo, Dr. Fabian Eshiet, extended appreciation to the Honourable Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Comrade Ini Ememobong for his kind gesture in sending a representative who he described as "very capable" to stand-in for him and also extended appreciation to the representative of His Excellency the Deputy Governor, Mr. Ikemesit Ayara for standing-in for him.

Dr. Fabian Eshiet extolled the management and staff of Monef Schools for the magical touch with which they have given to the inter-house competition and thanked them for always standing Monef Schools tall in all activities and competitions because of their excellent performance.

The Inter-House Sports competition featured matchpast by the 6 different houses, Gala shows and various field and track events, such as: egg and spoon race, filling the bottle, searching the treasure, shuttle picking, relay race, 100meters race, 200meters race as well as 4 × 100 relay race boys/girls.

Highpoints of the event were the presentation of trophies to the winners of the event in the Monef High School category by the representative of the Deputy Governor and those in the Monef Kiddies category by the representative of the Honourable Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Comrade Ini Ememobong.

The event which was graced by parents and state government officials and school community, saw the Yellow House emerging as the Overall best from Monef Kiddies School and the Purple House emerging the Overall Best from the Monef High school.



**U-17: We're Working Hard  
To Raise Team That Will  
Do Nigeria Proud – Ugbade**

Story on Page 23

## Kano Governor-elect Makes First Appointment, Names Veteran Journalist, Sanusi Bature Chief Press Secretary

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kano State Governor-elect H.E. Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf has announced Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa as his Chief Press Secretary for the transition period.

In a letter signed by the Chairman of the Gubernatorial Transition Committee on behalf of the Governor-Elect, His Excellency described Mr. Bature's appointment as well deserved as it was based on his competence, loyalty, commitment and hard work which he exhibited since 2019.

Sanusi is a seasoned PR guru, development communication and stakeholder engagement expert with 19 years working experience in both international development, private sector and the Media in Nigeria.

He is a winner of the Cambridge education award on investigative journalism in 2008, Bature has worked at different capacities in various national, International and Bilateral organizations such as the British Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), the United States Agency for Internal Development (USAID), Bill and

Melinda Gates Foundation, Save the Children International, Discovery Learning Alliance and the Rockefeller Foundation. He held several positions which include General Manager Corporate Services at Dantata Foods and Allied Products Limited (DFAP), Director Stakeholder Engagement at YieldWise Project, Country Program Manager at Girl Rising (ENGAGE) Project funded by the US Government, State Project

Coordinator for MNCH Campaign Project of the BMGF, Deputy Director Operations at Discovery Learning Alliance,

State Program Officer, Policy Advocacy and Media Development, Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist among other positions.

Graduated with a Bachelor's degree (B.A. Hons.) in Mass Communication from University of Maiduguri, Sanusi holds a National Diploma in Mass communication from Kaduna Polytechnic, a Higher National Diploma (HND) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health Education and Promotion.

He also bagged MSc. in Social

Work with specialization in Community Development from Ladoko Akintola University of Technology, (LAUTECH) Ogbomoso, Oyo State and another master's degree in Public Relations (MPR) from the prestigious Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria. He participated in MSc program on Project Management at Robert Kennedy College, Zurich, Switzerland.

Until his appointment, Sanusi Bature served as the Vice President, Nigeria operations for a UK based firm, Kingston Organic PLC.



Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf displaying his certificate of return issued by INEC

## APC National Youth Leader Organises Iftar, Dinner To Mark Tinubu's 71st Birthday

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Office of the National Youth Leader (NYL), of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Dayo Israel has concluded plans to mark the 71st birthday of Nigeria's President-elect,

Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu in grand style.

Our correspondent gathered that the epoch making event is billed to take place in Abuja on Saturday April 1, 2023 at the prestigious Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Congress Hall.

Tagged, "Progressive

Young Wing Iftar Party" it is also expected to serve as an occasion for breaking of fast in the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Organisers informed that the dress code for the anticipated event is "Black tie or traditional attire".

Red carpet for the event is billed for 5pm at the entrance of the Congress

Hall.

When contacted on phone to confirm the event, APC NYL, Comrade Dayo Israel said that it is "a celebratory meal to break the fast."

He also informed that progressive youth from all over the country and Abuja will be attending the event.

## 10th Assembly: Youth suggest zoning Senate Presidency To North West

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Youth Movement for Good Governance (YMGG), has opined that the Senate President of the 10th Assembly be zoned to the Northwest region following its contribution and commitment to the success of the APC in the presidential election.

The Convener of the movement, Aminu Haruna Maipampo, in a statement, noted that there are agitations and arguments that the South-East be favoured for the Senate Presidency in the interest of fairness, equity and justice, saying, "the North West would be marginalized if not given the leadership of the upper chamber, despite its contribution and commitment to the success of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the just concluded Presidential election."

He called on the leadership of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) to zone the position of the Senate President of the 10th Assembly to the North West zone of the country, stressing that the region has been a major

player in ensuring the party emerges the winner of the 2023 general elections in the country.

According to him, "the movement maintained that the North West deserved the nation's Senate Presidency in the interest of fairness, equity and justice in the country." Since the ruling party took over power in 2015, he explained that the North West zone has been a major player in the success and vigour of maintaining the party wins elections at all levels in the country.

According to him, the Zone has never produced the president nor deputy president of the Senate in the past despite its role in maintaining stability in the red chamber, stressing it is only proper that the zone be allowed to produce the next Senate President in the 10th National Assembly.

He believes that the North West being the largest zone in the country in terms of population, has suffered the worst form of insecurity and poverty, pointing out that it may not be unconnected it lacked adequate representation in the nation's legislative hierarchy.