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■ **NWC Appoints Amb. Damagum acting national chairman**



L-R: Kwara State Deputy Governor Mr Kayode Alabi; State APC Chairman Prince Sunday Fagbemi; Mutawalli of Ilorin Dr Alimi Abdulrazaq; First Lady Amb. Olufolake Abdulrazaq; Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; and National Electoral Commissioner in Charge of Kogi, Kwara, and Niger State Prof. Sanni Muhammed Adam SAN; during the presentation of certificate of return to the governor, his deputy, and Kwara State House of Assembly members-elect, in Ilorin, on Tuesday.

I'll Remain Responsive, Empathetic, AbdulRazaq Tells Kwarans

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**Gov, Dep Gov, HoA members-elect get certificates of return*

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan & IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna**

What has been a raging battle between the Governor Nyesom Wike-led G-5 yesterday climaxed to the advantage of the aggrieved governors of the main opposition, People's Democratic Party (PDP), as the National Working Committee (NWC) announced the party's Deputy National Chairman (North), Amb.

Umar Ililya Damagum as the acting National Chairman.

This followed a prolonged battle of superiority between the G-5 and the national chairman of the party, following the outcome of the party's presidential primary, which saw former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar emerge as its presidential candidate ahead of the 2023 general elections,

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Fire Guts Popular Balogun Market Again



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RAMADAN

DAY 7

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
Ogbomoshosho	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

Kidnappers Demand N50m Ransom, Family Of Abducted INEC Ad-hoc Staff In Kogi Says

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The kidnappers who abducted six ad-hoc Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) officials in Kogi State have demanded N50 million for the release of their kidnapped victims.

The victims were said to be returning from Kupa North and South under Lokoja Local Government Area in Kogi State before they were attacked by armed hoodlums.

However, the Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO) in Kogi State, SP William Ovyeye Aya in a statement issued to journalists concerning the incident, said 96 persons were rescued by the Police, three were injured and two victims were yet to be accounted for.

However, addressing a press conference on Monday on behalf of the families of the kidnapped victims in Lokoja, an Assistant Presiding Officer II, (APO II) in the March 18th Kogi House of Assembly election identified as Babalola Oluwatobi Peter said his sister was part of those who are still held in

captivity.

Peter, who is a brother to one of the victims therefore faulted the claim from the Nigeria Police Force that all the kidnapped victims have been rescued.

According to him Muhammed Maimunat and Abdulrahman Raji, who are two serving Corps members are still being held captive.

INEC Ad-Hoc staff who are still in captivity according to Peter are Oyaniran Atinuke Ruth, Florence Shayo Ajayi, Opara Tina and Blessing.

Narrating the ugly incident, Peter said "We were coming from Kupa North and South for the Kogi State House of Assembly election. I worked in the North, so we left the North some minutes past six and we got to the South at 8:03 PM when we were asked to move to Lokoja by our SPOs.

He said that he resisted the temptation of going to Lokoja that night just like Corps members who supported his position but the SPO south said he wanted to move.

"When we got to Obajana, the armed robbers attacked us. We had six

vehicles and our car happened to be the second one" he said.

While the second vehicle mistakenly rammed into a culvert and could not move, the third vehicle hit us from the back he said.

According to him, of the three police officers, only one was armed When the armed robbers attacked us, the armed Police officer was the one who instructed us to pull off our white and run for our dear life.

"The incident happened between 1 am-2 am. Those people that were kidnapped were directly from our bus. We told the security agency including INEC that we are still looking for six people including my sister. They said we should not worry that we would find them", he said.

Much to his chagrin, he expressed his shocked when he read in some dailies that the kidnapped victims have been rescued.

"Nothing of such. They contacted us recently, demanding N50 Million" Peter claimed.

"The kidnappers keep calling us with different numbers. You cannot call them, but they can only

call you. They even told us to send them a recharge card which we did just because we don't want them to hurt my sister and every other victim in their custody.

He, however, called on the Government and security agencies to work towards the release of the abducted victims.

The husband of one of the victims, Olawafemi Olakanmi said he last spoke to his wife (Florence Shayo Ajayi) around midnight before the incident occurred. "I have not slept since my wife was kidnapped on 19th March 2023. I only call on God to set my wife free" he stated.

All efforts to speak with the Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO) in Kogi State SP William Ovyeye Aya proved abortive as at the time of filing this report on Monday. He failed to pick up calls or respond to text messages sent to his phone lines.

It would be recalled that some ad-hoc INEC staff were abducted in Obajana early on Sunday, 19th March 2023 during the Kogi State House of Assembly election.

TMC Holds 23rd Annual Ramadan Lecture In Ile Ife, Tasks Muslims On Nation Building

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

One of the leading Islamic organizations in Nigeria, The Muslim Congress (TMC) Ile Ife branch has held her 23rd Annual Ramadan Lecture.

The Ramadan Lecture which was held at Enuwa Central Mosque on Sunday in Ile Ife was attended by scores of dignitaries across the nation.

The lecture, which was tagged 'Nation Building: Prophetic Method' was delivered by Imam Sherifdeen Ibrahim, Naibul Amir Dawah Affairs, TMC National Headquarters.

According to Imam Sherifdeen Ibrahim, he urged Nigerian Muslims to always think of ways to contribute their quota to the development of the Country, irrespective of their socio-

economic background.

He stressed that there is need for the Nigerian Muslims to cooperate among themselves, avoid tribalism and to enhance their spiritual life in view to promoting nation building.

The TMC Naibul Amir Dawah Affairs also stressed the need for the faithful to get interested in politics and acquire necessary knowledge needed for the nation building as well as to cultivate the habit of empowerment and giving.

The cleric charged well-meaning Nigerian Muslims to do more in the area of empowerment with which they can help to shift many away from the poverty line and debar depressive tendency's leading to suicides.

He also speaks on the importance of tolerance and neighborliness.

Corroborating, the Chief Imam of

Ife, Alhaji AbdulHammed AbdulSemiu said it is time that Nigerian Muslims should do away with ethnic and Ideological differences but rather join hands in building a united nation to attract more development to the country.

He challenged Nigerian Muslims to arise, do what is right at all times and depart from all menace that had seriously affected the nation and embrace the word of Allah.

Speaking earlier, the Waali (Coordinator) of TMC, Ile Ife branch, Mr. Oyediran Asimiyu said the purpose of doing this program this year is to encourage the Nigerian Muslims on the need to promote nation building.

He urged the Muslims to get involved in policy making, stressing that leaving political office holders alone would spell doom for the ordinary people.

I'll Remain Responsive, Empathetic, AbdulRazaq Tells Kwarans

**Gov, Dep Gov, HoA members-elect get certificates of return*

By **BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO, Ilorin**

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq yesterday, received his certificate of return, following his resounding victory at the March 18 gubernatorial polls, assuring Kwarans that he would remain just as responsive and empathetic to the yearnings of the citizens as he has always been.

The Governor received his certificate of return alongside Deputy Governor, Kayode Alabi, Speaker of the House of Assembly Rt. Hon Yakubu Salihu Danladi, and other members-elect.

Governor AbdulRazaq was accompanied to the ceremony by his wife Ambassador Olufolake; cabinet members; Mutawali of Ilorin Dr. Alimi AbdulRazaq; APC Chairman Prince Sunday

Fagbemi and other members of the party executives; Baba AbdulRazaq; and other top government officials. The event was also attended by security commanders, including Police Commissioner Paul Odama.

"This certificate represents the collective decision of our people to push forward our agenda for sustainable development in Kwara State. It symbolizes their trust in our efforts to build a state in which everyone has equal stakes. I do not take this trust for granted," he said in a brief acceptance speech.

"I am reassuring our people that our government will continue to be empathetic, inclusive, and responsive as our resources permit.

"In the next four years, we plan to see through our legacy projects and reforms across different

sectors.

"Beyond building physical infrastructure, I believe that Kwara requires a new thinking that not only protects the dignity of the human person but also guarantees sustainable growth. We need everyone to make this happen, irrespective of where we stand in politics or faith.

"I thank everyone for their roles in making today a reality. I am grateful to our traditional and religious institutions, civil servants, party leaders and members, artisans and professionals, students, security agencies, electoral umpire, and indeed the general public. This mandate represents your trust in our ability to do much more.

"Ultimately, I give all the glory to and seek the help of the Almighty God who directs all affairs."

IN EC N A T I O N A L

Commissioner in Charge of Kogi, Kwara and Niger State, Prof. Sanni Muhammed Adam SAN, said the last general elections will go down in history as one of the finest elections ever conducted in Nigeria, describing the exercise as peaceful, especially in Kwara State. He congratulated the Governor and other elected officials on their victories.

"The elections that brought about this success will go down in history as one of the finest elections ever conducted in Nigeria. We are proud to say so unequivocally because it was not only successful but very peaceful," he said.

"I congratulate the reelected Governor of Kwara state, his deputy, and all the House of Assembly members-elect present today for their victories.



The affected building

Fire Guts Popular Balogun Market Again

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

In less than two months, another section of the popular Balogun market in Lagos has been gutted by fire.

It affected the topmost floor of a five storey building where ladies shoes are warehoused.

Property estimated to the tune of millions of Naira were said to have been destroyed by the inferno.

The fire reportedly broke out at No 32 Balogun Plaza, a section renowned for the storage of ladies shoes at about 8.00am.

However, no casualty was recorded during the fire incident due to the early arrival of emergency responders.

As the inferno lasted, there were fears of further escalation as balls of fire billowed, thick smoke

took over sky, causing panic I'm the area.

As at press time, the cause of the incident could not be ascertained. But some witness attributed it to spark of electric power surge.

Operatives of the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, the Police, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) and a couple of other agencies were on ground to cordoned off the area for rescue operation.

The Director Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, Margaret Adeseye confirmed the incident when contacted.

She said the fire outbreak affected only the topmost floor of the five storey building, adding that it was brought under control as at 10.30am.



L-R: Kwara State Deputy Governor Mr Kayode Alabi; State APC Chairman Prince Sunday Fagbemi; Mutawali of Ilorin Dr Alimi Abdulrazaq; First Lady Amb. Olufolake Abdulrazaq; Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; and National Electoral Commissioner in Charge of Kogi, Kwara, and Niger State Prof. Sanni Muhammed Adam SAN; during the presentation of certificate of return to the governor, his deputy, and Kwara State House of Assembly members-elect, in Ilorin, on Tuesday.

Police Neutralises Bandit, Recovers 22 Live Ammunition, Firearm In Katsina

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The ranks of bandits in Katsina state have been reduced by police operatives following the killing of one of them in a shootout. Following a distress call, the police operatives were said to have engaged a group of suspected terrorists, who were shooting sporadically along Yantumka road in Danmusa Council area of the state on Tuesday, 27th March, 2023 at 2.30pm. The Command Police Spokesperson SP Gambo Isah in a statement made available to journalists said the Divisional Police Officer Danmusa Division, led a team of Policemen to the area, engaged the hoodlums in a gun duel and successfully repelled them. It reads, "On 27/03/2023 at about 1430hrs, a distress call was received that terrorists in their numbers, shooting sporadically with AK 47 rifles, blocked Danmusa – Yantumaki Road, Danmusa LGA of Katsina state. Consequently, DPO Danmusa Division, led a team of Policemen to the

area, engaged the hoodlums in a gun duel and successfully repelled them.

"In the course of scanning the scene, one of the terrorists-bandits was neutralized and his dead body recovered. Additionally, one AK 47 rifle with twenty-two (22) rounds of 7.62mm live ammunition of AK 47 rifle was also recovered at the scene.

" Many of the terrorists were reasonably believed to have been neutralized and/or escaped the scene with gunshot wounds.

" Search parties are combing the nearest bushes with a view of arresting them and/or recovering their dead bodies.

" The Command is appealing to members of the communities around the area to report to the nearest police station any person found or seen with a suspected injury.

" The Command appreciates the efforts of the Police for the display of uncommon courage, gallantry and professionalism in dealing with the hoodlums, please".

Wike-led G-5 Triumph, As PDP Chairman, Ayu Steps Down

**NWC Appoints Amb. Damagum acting national chairman*

which was won by the ruling party's Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, following infighting from the main opposition.

According to a statement signed by the party's National Publicity Secretary, Hon. Debo Ologunagba, the PDP NWC at an emergency yesterday, March 28, 2023 acknowledging the Order of a Benue State High Court, dated March 27, 2023 with regards to its Chairmanship position

"After a careful consideration of the Court Order and in line with Section 45 (2) of the Constitution of the PDP (as amended in 2017), the NWC resolved that the Deputy National Chairman (North) His Excellency, Amb. Umar Ililya Damagum assumes the National Chairmanship of our Party in acting capacity with effect from today, Tuesday, March 28, 2023", it said.

The statement added, "the NWC charges all leaders, critical stakeholders, teeming members and supporters of our great Party to remain calm and



united at this critical time".

The court order came barely a day after Ayu was said to have been suspended under controversial circumstances from his home state, Benue, where Governor Samuel Ortom, a staunch Wike ally and a member of the G-5 holds sway.

The emergence and open anti party activities of the G-5, many believe, may have cost PDP a chance of

reclaiming the presidency, lost in 2015 to the All Progressives Congress (APC).

This is even as many were of the opinion that the APC in its eight-year rule, performed abysmally, with the economy suffering down turn, alongside pockets of insecurity prevalent in several parts of the country.

The G-5 were aggrieved that Alhaji Atiku Abubakar emerged PDP

presidential candidate, arguing that power ought to have returned to the South, after President Muhammadu Buhari's eight years in office.

The alleged anti party activities, may have cost Governor Ortom and his Abia counterpart, Senator Okezie Ikpeazu their senatorial ambitions, with Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, capitalising on it to coast to victory for a second term.

Tinubu Presidency Symbolises Renewed Hope For The Hopeless Nigerians, Africans - Senator Folarin

**Congratulates him on 71st birthday*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

All Progressives Congress (APC) governorship candidate in Oyo State in the March 18 polls, Senator Teslim Folarin has declared that Asiwaju Bola Tinubu Presidency symbolises renewed hope for the hopeless Nigerians and Africans.

Senator Folarin stated this in a congratulatory message to Asiwaju Tinubu on his 71st birthday, personally signed by him and made available to journalists in Ibadan.

The APC governorship candidate stressed that the tasks ahead of Asiwaju Tinubu as Nigeria's next President are herculean, adding, "therefore I pray

for divine wisdom, courage, good health and long life required for him to execute his Renewed Hope Agenda.

"Asiwaju's Presidency symbolises renewed hope for the hopeless Nigerians and Africans. The tasks ahead of Asiwaju are herculean, therefore I pray for Divine Wisdom, courage, good health and long life required for him to execute his Renewed Hope Agenda", he said.

Senator Folarin added, "as a brand new world leader, I urge him to be committed to transforming the image of Nigeria, strengthening its sovereignty and its defence capability, protecting its national interests".

"I also call on religious groups across the country

to pray for Asiwaju's long life and good health as he assumes the mantle of leadership of our dear country. My most sincerest congratulations and best wishes for our father, leader and President-elect Asiwaju Akanbi Omo Olodo Ide. May you succeed as Nigeria's President".

Senator Folarin maintained further that as the President elect, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu is now a world leader, adding that Asiwaju Tinubu achieved his national leader status when he was the face of the main opposition party in Nigeria and also helped enthrone Buhari Presidency in 2015 and that the status has changed from national leader to a

world leader.

"I thank Almighty God for his Divine Grace in Asiwaju Tinubu's life in over seven decades. God Helped him through life-threatening battles until he achieved national leader status as the then face of the main opposition party in Nigeria and also helped enthrone Buhari Presidency in 2015".

He noted, "as fate would have it, he achieved what the superheroes from the Southwestern Nigeria could not. With his victory as the country's President from May 29, 2023, the status has changed from a national leader to a world leader. Hence, the need for Mr. President-elect to think globally and act locally for the benefits of the downtrodden masses".



The slain bandit

Kaduna Moves To Ensure 100% Immunisation Of Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers



By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe has stressed the need for pregnant women and nursing mothers to ensure their children are fully immunised from polio and other preventable child killer diseases. Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe stated this at the Annual Ramadan Tafsir organised by

the Federation of Muslim Women Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN) held at Sultan Bello Mosque.

Dr Balarabe explained that children not fully immunised from polio pose great danger to other children in the community stating that “if one child contact the polio virus about 20 children are susceptible to contract the disease from him/her in the community”.

The Deputy Governor described as false the claim that polio vaccine prevents pregnancy saying since 1989 when the vaccine came and has been in use, there is no evidence showing that it causes infertility”.

She also emphasised the need for hygiene and regular cleaning of the environment as key in preventing the spread of diseases.

Dr. Hadiza Balarabe urged them to inculcate the habit of visiting hospitals for routine checkups during and after pregnancy.

“In Kaduna State, out of 100 children only 62% are fully immunised and we need between 85-90% immunization cover for the children population to protect all children from polio virus”, she said.

She added that, “we still experience outbreak of measles in some communities. This is due to low immunization

coverage because children that have not taken the vaccines put other children in danger”

The Deputy Governor expressed worries over the low skill birth attendance by women in the state, saying out of every 100 women who attended antenatal only 10 % give birth in health facilities, a situation she said is responsible for the high rate of infant mortality in Kaduna State.



Ramadan: Zenith Pathfinders Organizes Free Medical Screening For Muslim Community In Ogun

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As part of the moves to ensure that Muslims are medically fit to observe Ramadan fasting, the Zenith Pathfinders on Sunday, organised a free medical screening, consultations and counselling for over 200 Muslim men, women and children in Adiyani Muslim Community, Agbodo Oja in Ogun state.

It was learnt that the free medical screening which was held at 296, Orodu Road at Illese Bus Stop, Adiyani in Agbodo Oja was aimed at making the Muslims in the community to be medical fit for Ramadan fasting.

It was further learnt that the healthcare package that were given to the Adiyani Muslim Community included, free check of blood pressure, sugar test, as well as specialist consultation giving required prescriptions and drugs to people.

In a bid to also alleviate the

suffering of the less privileged, the Zenith Pathfinders also donated household item, shoes and cloths among other items to the Muslims.

Hajiah Aminah Yahya, who is the founder of the Zenith Pathfinders in an interview with Journalists, expressed joy seeing the smiles on the faces of people who benefited from the medical outreach and household items.

Hajiah Yahya said the purpose of the medical screening is to encourage the Muslims to know their medical status before fasting so that can be able to have a hitch-free Ramadan.

She said, "We are at the Adiyani Muslim community where we are holding our second edition of Pre-Ramadan Medical Screening. We started last year with over 300 participants but for this year we have over 200 participants. The essence of having this program before

Ramadan is to encourage our people to know their medical status before Ramadan comes in. They have to know their health status so that they can take care of themselves before Ramadan so that they can have a hitch-free Ramadan. We also gave free household items like cloth materials, fans, freezer and others to over 150 Muslims." Speaking, Dr. Alabi Olarenwaju Usman from Nigeria Navy Reference Hospital, Ojo Lagos, who is the special consultant that attended to the Muslims at the medical outreach said that majority of the Muslims that participated in the medical services are medical fit to fast in the month of Ramadan.

He said, "We are here for humanitarian services for Adiyani Muslim Community. We attended to over 200 Muslims in the community. Out of the cases that I saw here is hypertension, diabetes and malaria. We have give them necessary

assistance and most of them are eligible for Ramadan fasting."

Some of the beneficiaries, who commended the Zenith Pathfinders for the gesture, urged the government to do more in making health services affordable.

Ustadh Usman AbdulRaheem, Imam of Ajumoni Central Mosque, Mutta Three, said, "This is good and we sincerely thank the organizers. They conducted medical screening for us without collecting a dime. We are so grateful."

Also speaking, Mrs Rasidatu Bello, who also thanked the organisers, urged the government across levels to make health services affordable to the common man.

Another beneficiary, Mr. Yunus Salaudeen, who also commended the organisers for the gesture, said that the test carried out on him would have cost him a huge some in the hospital.

52 Die Of Cerebrospinal Meningitis In 21 States - NCDC

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), has said that 52 persons were killed by Cerebrospinal Meningitis (CSM) in 21 states in the country between 2022 and March 5, 2023.

A situation report released on Monday, explained that as at March 5, a total of 628 suspected cases including 52 deaths (CFR 8.3%) were reported from 21 states in 2022/2023 CSM seasons.

According to the report, Abia, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Borno, Ebonyi, Gombe, Imo, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Nasarawa, Niger, Oyo, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe and Zamfara were some of the states that reported the suspected CSM cases in 2022/2023.

The report explained that

91% of all cumulative cases were from four (4) states of Jigawa (509 cases), Bauchi (23 cases), Zamfara (22 cases) and Oyo (14 cases).

The report gave 62% for males of the cases while 38% were females.

The report explained, "Ten LGAs across five states, Jigawa (7), Bauchi (1), Oyo (1), Plateau (1) and Zamfara (1), reported more than 5 cases each this CSM seasons 2022/2023." According to NCDC, the number of new suspected cases in epidemiological week nine decreased by 84% compared with epidemiological week nine.

Continued monitor of Cerebrospinal Meningitis response across states would be done by the national multi-sectoral Cerebrospinal Meningitis Technical Working Group (TWG).

71st Birthday: Tinubu Rock Of Nigeria's Democracy - APC Chieftain, Olaosebikan

**Says he will provide a new Nigeria*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Alhaji Kehinde Olaosebikan yesterday, said the President elect, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu will provide a new Nigeria.

Alhaji Olaosebikan in a tribute to commemorate Asiwaju Tinubu's 71st birthday, described the president-elect, as "the rock of Nigerian democracy" who will give Nigerians a new country. The APC Chieftain stressed that in his tribute to Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu on his 70th birthday, exactly one year ago, he asserted that he would celebrate his next birthday, the 71st as the president-elect of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"I concluded, despite the prevailing political situation then and irrespective of the strength of the opposition, sundry challenges, landmines, and obstacles on his path,

that the former Governor of Lagos State would win the contest and succeed President Muhammadu Buhari in office", he said.

Alhaji Olaosebikan added, "Relying on the exceptional wisdom, knowledge, understanding, courage, exposure, connections and resources that have fortified him, coupled with an uncommon ability to perform extraordinarily, resist and conquer as he did as the governor of Lagos State, I posited that Tinubu possessed all the credentials, ingredients and instruments required to triumph in the presidential race."

The APC Chieftain noted that as a journalist and aide of the late former governor of Oyo State, Alhaji Lamidi Onaolapo Adesina, he had learnt a lot about the political and managerial prowess of the president-elect before and when he was governor of Lagos State, adding that the late Lam Adesina also admired these qualities in Tinubu.

"Today, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu is celebrating his 71st birthday as the president-elect of the Federal Republic of Nigeria against all odds, characterised by the challenges, intrigues and unfathomable obstacles put in his way. From the Emilokan episode in Abeokuta to the Muslim-Muslim ticket that almost ruined the aspiration, Tinubu's preparedness and ability to manage the crisis turned negatives into positives, resulting in his huge victory at the All Progressives Congress Presidential Primary on the 8th of June, 2022.

"Bola Tinubu has continued to nurture our democracy and develop new leaders capable of achieving greatness for our dear country. As the Rock of Democracy in Nigeria, Bola Tinubu's contributions to the evolution of democracy is unmatched by any living Nigerian".

He stressed "Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu is today

the symbol of stability, permanence, strength, dependability, steadfastness and growth of our democracy. Within eight years, Tinubu revolutionised governance, leadership, politics and revenue generation in the most complex state in Nigeria, Lagos; he preserved continuity through purposeful, meaningful and pragmatic leadership and eventually made Lagos the model for the remaining 35 states in Nigeria on development. "In what now appears as a source of pain to some people, Tinubu, the fulfilled maker of governors, ministers and presidents, will be magnificently inaugurated as the 16th President of Nigeria on 29th May. Subsequently, by this time next year, when he will be marking his 72nd birthday, we shall be glad to celebrate him as the president we are all proud of. He will surely give us a new Nigeria."



Wike's Assertion Of Victory Over Amaechi Hubristic, Trashy - APC Chieftain

**Says victory of evil over good is temporary*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Erstwhile National Publicity Secretary of the defunct New People's Democratic Party (nPDP) and chieftain of the All Progressives Congress, Chief Eze Chukwuemeka Eze has called on Rivers Governor, Nyesom Wike to consider and ruminate extensively on the fact that the victory of evil over good is always temporary and does not stand the heat of justice and in a matter of time the law will make a public show of it.

In a statement made available to media houses in Port Harcourt which he personally signed, Eze said Wike has remained cocooned in a potpourri of extravagant self-glory, bragging about the declaration of his candidates winners of the March 28 Governorship and State Assembly Elections in Rivers State even when the process fell short of every standard that could qualify it as anything close to an election in a society of men. The party chief hinted that a compromised team of INEC ad hoc staff, corrupt men of the Police force and other security agencies deployed for the elections in Rivers State took bribes in dollars and backed Wike and PDP to work against the interest of Rivers people. That satanic connivance gave Wike the temporary victory he brags about today and it is unfortunate.

"I watched and listened with dismay the recent outbursts of my friend and brother, Governor

Nyesom Wike of Rivers State as he boasted of his political feats and electoral victory over his boss, benefactor and predecessor, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, erstwhile Governor of Rivers State and immediate past Minister of Transportation. As one of the authorities in the politics of Rivers State it has become imperative to highlight that Governor Wike has never won any election in Rivers State under any conducive electoral environment and cannot therefore claim to have defeated Amaechi and Rivers people in any such elections."

Eze reminded the public that it was Amaechi and Odili that imposed Wike as Chairman of Obio-Akpor Local Government Area against the plea and wishes of the elders and people of the area who vehemently rejected and pleaded that such a character should not be allowed to oversee their Council. But Amaechi, in his poor judgement of human beings prevailed and got Wike elected as the Chairman of ObioAkpor and went further to influence his election as the Chairman of Local Government Councils Chairmen in Nigeria.

During the 2015 general elections, it is widely reported how Wike turned Rivers State into Rivers of blood with hundreds of Rivers State people sacrificing their lives because of the sole ambition of a single man. With the connivance of Dr. Jonathan, his wife and Security Agencies and militants, Amaechi and the people of Rivers State were subdued,

paving the way for Wike to be Governor of the State. He was never elected.

He was sacked by the Tribunal who frowned at the illegality and fraud perpetrated in his favour by election officials and security men, but with the help of some powerful individuals in society, some men at the Supreme Court overturned the will of Rivers State and reinstated him as Governor of Rivers State from an election conducted under a hostile environment inimical to the practice of democracy so he can't claim to have defeated Amaechi or anybody in that matter.

In 2019, Wike connived with powers in Lagos and those in Rivers State to deny APC participation in the 2019. So how can he in his right senses claim to have defeated anybody in an election the party wasn't allowed to participate in?

Notwithstanding APC's non-participation, the party adopted the governorship candidate of the AAC, Engr. Biokpomabo Awara, three days to the election. Awara was coasting to victory with over 17 out of 23 local government results and all of a sudden INEC suspended announcement of results. For close to a month nobody heard anything about election results in Rivers State and after a long hiatus, the compromised electoral umpire resumed with a totally different result and commenced announcement afresh with all the votes allocated to Wike. That order to suspend, rewrite results and announce Wike winner was



given by a powerful force in Aso Rock. That was how Wike managed to return in 2019.

The election of 2023 was characterised by massive rigging, bribing, pocketing of both INEC officials, Security Agencies etc, intimidation, killing and more. Today Rivers State is now known all over the world as a haven of electoral fraud.

"If these instances depict electoral victories to Wike and his misguided cohorts then their future will tell us how victorious they are" Eze noted.

Eze noted that it is not yet uhuru for Wike and the PDP in Rivers State as the APC has a floodgate of facts that will help the court correct the heinous errors of March 18.

"Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi who by the time he assumed office ensured that the militants that were causing havoc in the State were subdued cannot because of the election go back to recruit killers just to

match Wike and his violent nature of politics. That is not in his nature and he will not do that. He is not a desperado.

"People can compare the so called victory of Wike and his stooge in Rivers State where people are mourning with that of Abia State where the people are celebrating and rejoicing over a victory that has given them liberty from the cage of Senator Orji Uzor-Kalu and his gang and understand how Wike is rated in the politics of Rivers State.

"I pray that one of these days the people of Rivers State will join Abians and others to celebrate their freedom from the worst administration ever in the annals of politics and governance in Rivers State," he said.

Eze expressed confidence that Nigerians will one day celebrate the man of ideas, Rt. Hon. Rotimi Amaechi, an embodiment of humanity, vision and peace. It is a matter of time.

Lagos Assembly Says 2023 Election Free, Credible

**Congratulates Tinubu, Sanwo-Olu, Obasa*

**Condemns hate speeches, ethnicity, tribalism, religious sentiment*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly on Monday congratulated Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Kashim Shettima for winning what lawmakers described as a free and credible 2023 presidential election.

According to a statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Eromosele Ebhomele the House also congratulated Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat while calling Speaker Obasa a 'record breaker' for being re-elected a sixth time to represent Agege Constituency 1 at the House.

The lawmakers further resolved to send congratulatory messages to the President-elect, the Governor of Lagos State, and the elected members of the National Assembly,

while the House would send a commendation letter each to President Muhammadu Buhari, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the security agencies for their roles at ensuring a peaceful general election, especially in Lagos State. While commending the electorate for voting during the exercise, the House further admitted that the election has become an opportunity for elected official to learn some lessons going forward.

"I think this is an opportunity for our political scientists to x-ray the situation. This was an election where some sitting governors lost to opposition.

"The election has come and gone but there is a need to look again at ourselves to see what we have left undone and what we need to sustain, how we can manage the social contract we have with the people," he said.

Dr. Obasa noted that even the United States that is considered a leading democracy still conducts elections that some candidates challenge as not perfect.

"I am saying this to those who have been beating drums of war and anger. We must learnt to endure and accept the outcomes of election but that does not mean we cannot legally challenge the outcome. We need to be more patriotic, we have a nation that we must protect, we have had an election and it is worthy," he said.

"We need to call everyone to order that the process of election is what everyone must comply with.

The Muslim-Muslim ticket was a bold one and had those who favoured it and those who were against it, but at the end, the election has happened. "It was a good election and it was successful."

For those sponsoring inciting comments on social media, Obasa

urged for caution reminding them to understand that freedom of expression also has limitations.

"We must give kudos to President Buhari for being upright during the election and also commend INEC and the people who voted.

"For us at the Lagos Assembly, the election went well as we had 38 and we hope that the remaining two will join us after exploring legal means to recover their victories. Lagos also got 20 elected House of Representatives members and the three senators.

"It shows that the people of Lagos love us and support what we are doing right," he said as he thanked Agege people for returning him to the House.

Earlier, the lawmakers who took turns to speak about the election, expressed optimism that the administration of Asiwaju Tinubu would liberate citizens from the shackles of poverty, divisive

tendencies and youth restiveness.

Leader of the House, Hon Sanai Agunbiade, moving a motion under 'Matter of Urgent Public Importance', observed that despite the peaceful nature of the elections, there had been lots of dust that needs to be addressed.

According to him, "We need to conscientise ourselves, not to enable the haters and those who are peddling rumours to incite members of the public. Elections are over but national healing is necessary. We should encourage members of the public not to join in hot arguments."

Other lawmakers including Yinka Ogundimu, Bisi Yusuff, Setonji David, Adedamola Kasunmu and Victor Akande, congratulated Obasa for his victory noting that his leadership of the House produced a Senator and Rep member-elect.

The lawmakers also expressed confidence in him saying they would love him to lead the House in the 10th Assembly.

Nigeria College Of Taxation, Fiscal Studies Bill Passes Second Reading

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A bill for an Act to establish the Nigeria College of Taxation and Fiscal Studies passed its Second Reading last week at the Senate.

The presentation of the Bill was made by Senator Abdullahi Aliyu Sabi CON on the floor of the Senate Tuesday last week, where he noted that the institution, if established would provide professional and academic training as well as certification for tax administrators, tax practitioners and tax professionals across the country.

In his presentation, Senator Sabi, who represents Niger North Senatorial District of Niger State stated that the College had become necessary given the important role that taxation is playing in the nation's economy, and that this institution would help formulate and draft tax policy for the country while addressing human capital gaps in the country's tax industry.

"It is becoming increasingly clear that diversifying the sources of government revenue to focus on sustainable sources is inevitable. This diversification puts taxation at the centre of the revenue mobilization discussion; the attainment of this laudable objective would require tax experts who have been properly and adequately schooled to formulate tax policy, draft and interpret tax legislation, carry on private tax practice, and administer taxation in the modern era.

"In view of the constant shift in the social, technological and business environment, with direct impact on the tax system, it is important to have skills,



competence, and adaptable personnel to man the tax system. There must be a conscious development of the field of taxation and fiscal policies in Nigeria to awake the society on the importance of taxation as a sine qua non to our development.

"Nigeria must go beyond the mere inclusion of taxation in the curriculum of educational institutions; instead the country must establish a modern system that facilitates the study of taxation via a well laid out academic curriculum, guided and focused by practical realities of Nigerian taxation and the revenue ecosystem," he noted.

Senator Sabi further emphasised that the College would help in tackling the issue of lack of sufficient capacity of tax officers, which he noted has led to "the delegation of powers of revenue authorities to

third parties, creating complications, multiplicity and uncertainty in the tax system," and that it would correct "aggressive and orthodox methods for tax collection" while also carrying out a "regular review of obsolete tax laws that do not reflect modern realities."

He noted that all these would help the country address its fiscal and revenue challenges and achieve the objectives of the National Tax Policy.

In his presentation, the distinguished Senator representing Niger North also cited that countries such as Kenya, Japan, India, Australia, Austria, Singapore, and Malaysia have established similar institutions for developing capacity in taxation, excise duty and customs and fiscal matters, and that this has impacted positively on their economy through significantly high tax-to-GDP ratios.

This College is expected to provide training for tax officials, including officers of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Nigeria Customs, sub-national revenue authorities, and even the general public. It is to consist of a main campus and 12 regional centres.

The Bill proposes that the College would be funded chiefly by the extant yearly subvention of the FIRS for training thus requiring no direct impact on government spending. Senator Adamu Aliero representing Kebbi Central District, Kebbi State, commenting on the Bill noted that the only sustainable source of revenue for the Federation was taxation, and that the proposed College would train tax officials who would be instrumental to widening the country's tax net.

He also added that there is currently no institution in Nigeria that offers specialised training in taxation.

State Of Nation: Stakeholders Blame Parents, Call For Proper Children's Upbringing

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Parents and teachers across Nigeria have been called upon to make the upbringing of their children a priority in order to secure a better future for them.

A Non-Governmental Organization, GuidedSouls Initiative stated this on Sunday during her annual Parents/Teachers Forum held at NULGE House, Ilesa Garage in Osogbo.

In his welcome address, the Chief Executive Officer of the initiative, Mr. Busari Afees Ademola, said the forum was called to educate the parents and teachers on the need to properly nurture their children for the betterment of the society.

He lamented on the present challenging state of the nation on poor children upbringing by many parents and teachers in the country.

He said, "We started this initiative in 2018 with the sole aim of ensuring the children are productive and morally sound. We have been doing it over the years. But this year, we felt the need to have a talk with the parents and teachers on their children upbringing. Our society is not in good shape. The reflection of the family is what is being witnessed in the society and by extension the country. We felt the need to talk to the parents and teachers on the Islamic ways of upbringing the children in order to have a better society."

While delivering his lecture at the forum which was tagged 'Parenting Amidst Social Economic Chaos: The Role of Muslim Parents/Teachers, the Director of the Rawdotu-t-Tanzeel Tahfeez and Arabic School, Ustadh Mutiu Uthman called on Muslim parents to always guide their wards in the right direction so that they can grow up as useful members of the society.

According to him, it is the responsibility of Muslim parents to train their children and wards in the Islamic way as a matter of their right and necessity, adding that Sharia makes

it mandatory for parents to look after the children.

He noted that the responsibility of every parent who desire to have children is higher when it comes to training of the children.

"It's easier to bear children because they are gift from Allah and He bestows it on whomsoever He wishes. But the responsibility of taking care of them rests with individual parents. "Once Allah gives us a child, then we have the responsibility to take care of them in the way of God, and the way of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

He noted that Muslims should not allow the society to be used as standard for moral and spiritual training of the children to guide against perverted influences which may derail their goal in life.

He said the effect of improper training of the children has led to political thugery and cultism among others.

"To have a pious society and just society we all crave for, the work starts from the home and parents, not the government alone. Parents must not leave the training of the child to the system, they should take responsibility', he submitted.

Corroborating, the Chief Imam, Gbesinniyin Central Mosque, Osogbo, Sheikh Qomorudeen Ballo while delivering his lecture urged the teachers to always discharge and fulfil the trust that are entrusted to them by the parents in upbringing the children.

While speaking with newsmen, one of the parents that was at the forum, Alh. Wasiu Bakare appreciated the initiative for organizing the program, saying that the forum has exposed him to many things that he can use to educate his children for the development of the society.

GuidedSouls Initiative is a Non-Governmental Organization that comprises of GuidedSouls Montessori Schools and BaytulQur'aan Lita'leem Wa Tahfeeth.

"It is becoming increasingly clear that diversifying the sources of government revenue to focus on sustainable sources is inevitable. This diversification puts taxation at the centre of the revenue mobilization discussion; the attainment of this laudable objective would require tax experts who have been properly and adequately schooled to formulate tax policy, draft and interpret tax legislation, carry on private tax practice, and administer taxation in the modern era."

APC-IG Remains Committed To Good Governance In Nigeria - Tsoken

The National President of the APC Initiative for Good Governance (APC-IG), one of the most formidable support groups of the All Progressives Congress, (APC), Ambassador Musa Muhammed Tsoken assured that his organisation is working selflessly to enable Nigerians enjoys good governance in every sector. In an interview with our correspondent, **JABIRU A HASSAN in Kano**, he explained that good governance would promote peace and unity in Nigeria like what would be enjoyed under Tinubu/Shettima administration.

Excerpts:

Can you give us more about APC-IG and its reasons for its formation?

APC initiative for good governance was established by some well-meaning citizens in order to promote All Progressive Congress at both wards, local government, states and the national levels so as to ensure continuity in governance for the betterment of this great country. Similarly, our objective is to work selflessly towards the development of our fatherland without bias, this is one of the main reasons we formed APC-IG and duly registered with the national body of the All Progressives Congress as its support group.

Who are the members of your organisation?

We have members from every nooks and crannies of this country and we have national executive's officers, we have zonal coordinators across our geo-political zones, we have local government and wards leaders and we have members from all professions, with which we pride ourselves as the most populated support group in Nigeria today.

You have narrated how you formed APC-IG, how did you cope with your party's campaigns and other activities before the general elections?

This is another interesting question and we have done a lot by making various consultation with other relevant stakeholders, advocacy visits and public enlightenment about the need to vote for continuity in Nigeria and at states levels. Similarly, we were successful in making some reconciliation between our party members who felt

offended in one way or the other and we toured all the states in the federation, campaigning for APC without bias, that is why we succeeded in our mission that is to promote continuity in Nigeria.

What can you say about Tinubu/Shettima led administration under the continuity slogan?

We have told Nigerians that Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu is a trusted person who is always ready to ensure that peace and unity reigns in this country. He is a national figure who took things step by step as a great politician. He supported the incumbent president two times and assist him in so many ways, that is why we agreed that he would serve us well. He knows most of our problems and how to

solve most of them if given the maximum cooperation. Therefore, continuity from Muhammadu Buhari to Bola Tinubu would lead Nigeria to

higher level in the globe.

The 2023 general elections have been conducted though there are some controversies in some states and parties,

what is your stand on this issue?

I am of the opinion that all would be well in the near future as majority have gone through with their election. I am appealing to the general public to continue to be law abiding citizens because there is livelihood after elections. Election tribunals would work seriously to ensure that all forms of election matters are settled without obstacles.



Tsoken

“We have told Nigerians that Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu is a trusted person who is always ready to ensure that peace and unity reigns in this country. He is a national figure who took things step by step as a great politician. He supported the incumbent president two times and assist him in so many ways, that is why we agreed that he would serve us well.”

Kogi Vs EFCC: Court Adjourns Ruling On Asset Forfeiture To April 20

By: ADO ADEBOYE, Akure

A Federal High Court sitting in Lagos yesterday, fixed April 20, 2023, to rule on a Kogi State application seeking to vacate an interim order of court freezing 14 properties linked to Kogi State governor.

Justice Nicholas Oweibo fixed the date after taking submissions from the Governor's counsel, Mr Abdulwahab Mohammed SAN and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Counsel, Mr Rotimi Oyedopo SAN.

The court had on February 22, made an interim forfeiture order following an ex parte motion to confiscate 14 properties and firms in Lagos, Abuja, and the United Arab Emirates as well as N400m, recovered from one Aminu Falala.

When the matter came up on Tuesday, the Kogi state counsel told the court that he had an application dated March 9, 2023 seeking to vacate the order of the court made on February 22.

Mohammed, while moving the application stated that about the third quarter of 2021, EFCC approached the court to freeze Kogi State's N20bn salary bail out loan that was allegedly hidden in Sterling bank.

He said that when the Kogi State government called Sterling Bank, the bank denied that such account existed, and that they challenged the freezing order made by Justice Tijjani Ringim that the order was obtained illegally.

Mohammed further stated that EFCC instead of apologizing, sent a press release that the money had been returned to the Central Bank of Nigeria.

According to him, the Kogi State Government approached the state High court, presided over by the present Chief judge justice Majebi who granted an order restraining the EFCC from having anything to do with Kogi State until the substantive matter was determined.

He argued that the order of the Kogi State High Court restraining EFCC from taking any step against Kogi State Government was still subsisting.

"The EFCC in flagrant disregard of the said Order of the Kogi State High Court and her pending appeal at the Court of Appeal Abuja Judicial Division, arrested one Ali Bello Nephew of the Applicant herein, who is

an associate of the Kogi State Government on the 29th of November, 2022.

"That the EFCC in flagrant disobedience of the subsisting Order of the High Court of Kogi State, interrogated the said Ali Bello and coerced him to oblige them information pertaining to most of the properties listed in the Order of this Honourable

Court made on the 22nd of February, 2023.

"That the said Ali Bello aggrieved by his illegal arrest and forced interrogation, filed a fundamental rights enforcement application at the High Court of Kogi State, Lokoja Judicial Division against the EFCC in Suit No: HCL/696"/2022: Ali Bello V. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) & Anor.

"That the High Court of Kogi State in a Judgement delivered on the 12" of January, 2023 granted all the reliefs sought by the Applicant and made an Order declaring his arrest, detention and interrogation illegal and unconstitutional and further Order of perpetual injunction restraining the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, their agents, servants, privies or howsoever called from further arrest, detention, harassment and intimidation of the said Ali Bello, nephew of the Applicant herein. The Judgement of the High Court of Kogi State delivered on the 12 of January,

2022 is herewith attached and marked "EXHIBIT D".

"That the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in continuous disobedience of the extant Orders of Court barring it from inviting or doing anything with respect to the affairs of the Kogi State Government and its officials, brought the instant application for preservation order of properties they alleged are reasonably suspected to have been derived from unlawful activity stemming from the purported misappropriation of funds belong to Kogi State Government.

"That the Application filed by the EFCC on the 20" of February, 2023 upon which this Honourable Court made the order dated 22 February, 2023, sought to be vacated herein, is a continuous disobedience of subsisting Orders of Courts of coordinate jurisdiction, that had restrained the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission from doing anything with respect to the affairs of the Applicant including the employees, appointees or associates of Kogi State Government," he said.

Oyedepo in his response said that the applicant had brought nothing before the court to convince the court to vacate the order.

He urged the court to dismiss the application of the applicant seeking to vacate the order earlier made by the court.



Stakeholders at a one-day public hearing and the general public organized by House of Representatives Committee on Basic Education and Services in Abuja, yesterday. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

Plateau: Tribunal Grants Nentawe Permission To Inspect Materials Used For Governorship Election

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

The Plateau State All Progressives Congress (APC) governorship candidate, Dr Nentawe Yilwatda on Monday morning, got the tribunal's nod to inspect materials used for the

governorship election.

The governorship election petition tribunal sitting in Jos, gave the ruling after hearing the two applications moved by Nentawe's counsel, Jim Gotom.

In a motion exparte and motion on notice, Gotom

hinted the tribunal that his motion is supported by a six paragraph affidavit and that he was placing reliance on all of them.

He further hinted that a written address was attached to the affidavit with legal arguments and decided cases to back his application.

The applicant's lawyer applied for leave and order of the tribunal to permit Nentawe, his counsel and agents to inspect the election materials, such as tendered vote list, electoral material receipt, ballot paper account and verification statement.



Insecurity: Women Protest, One Feared Dead, Vehicles Destroyed In Ebonyi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Following the incessant herdsmen attack that led to the killing of one person at Ishiagu in Ivo Local Government Area, women embarked on protest, blocked major roads, burnt tyres, and destroyed vehicles in the area.

According to the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mrs Onome Onovewakpoyeya, the incident was reported on Sunday around 11:00am, when the women embarked on protest which was planned to last for seven days because of the alleged herdsmen killings in the area.

She stated that the women blocked major roads and went to their traditional rulers house, commissioner for information and council chairman and destroyed louvers, vehicles, flowers,



CP Faleye Olaleye

amongst others to express their grievances.

She noted that the people that sponsored the protest have been identified and will soon be invited by the police.

"The protest was carried out by women and it was

intended for seven days, and it has to do with herdsmen killing in the place that somebody died recently and the women were not happy and had to come out and blocked some of the roads, burnt

tyres. Then, they went to the residence of the traditional ruler there; then commissioner for Information is from the place too and the council chairman.

"They didn't burn their houses, they destroyed windscreen of vehicles that were packed there; destroyed flowers; destroyed louvers, but they didn't burn any house there until police tactical team was deployed and they were asked to eschew violence and those who actually spearheaded the protest, have been identified for invitation by the police.

"They said they have hunters that were attacked by the herdsmen in the bush. Our attention was called about the protest yesterday around 11:00am," she said.

Electorate In Oyo State Expressing Preference For Us Come 2027 - Adelabu *Says, "in 2027, Awa lokan"

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Accord governorship candidate in Oyo State in the March 18 elections, Chief Adebayo Adelabu on Saturday, said electorate in the state are already expressing preference for him and his team come 2027.

Chief Adelabu who dropped this hint in a statement, declared that come 2027, electorates in Oyo State will surely be ready to vote for him.

In the statement, the former Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), stressed that the party "must continue to remain as one in unity and progress as this is the only way our team will remain formidable".

According to him, regarding the way forward, "discussions will soon start among our leaders immediately after Ramadan on the modalities of managing our party, Accord and possibility of a return to APC.

"Our consolation lies in the fact that Oyo State people have seen the quality of the candidates we displayed at all levels of the election, except that the political circumstances didn't favour us as a third force party. It is however, heartwarming that the electorate are already expressing preference for us come 2027 and will surely be ready to vote for us", he said.

Chief Adelabu added, "I will also not hesitate to let you know that it is not automatic as we must be ready and prepared to work towards it by remaining relevant in the political space till the next election".

"We ran the best and most organised issue-based campaign and achieved

the widest reach in our consultations, house to house, rally and road shows during the campaign period. We have cause to be grateful to the Almighty Allah for his untainted protection over the team during our various tours across the state".

Chief Adelabu stressed, "I implore you all not to be dejected or depressed in any form as we have moved further in this project and we are surely getting closer", adding, "Politics is a marathon and we must be resilient to ensure we get to the very end. 2027 will be the year we get to our destination, InshaAllah."

"We must continue to remain as one in Unity and Progress as this is the only way our team will remain formidable. We all know that the results of the election is not a true reflection of the strength of our team. A lot happened towards the tail end of the election period leading to cracks in our team and quite a number of our members waived and it's quite unfortunate". Emphasizing that it's a known fact that betrayal, backstabbing and inconsistencies are part of politics and must continue to be assimilated and managed when they occurred, Chief Adelabu said, "God knows best and will surely do his will in our lives at his appointed time. When the time comes, everything will work for our good"

"I want to round up by thanking the good people of Oyo state for their support and acceptance at all levels. I pray for God's protection over our lives by granting us good health and long life to witness our eventual victory and success at the next polls. In 2027, Awa lokan!!! Amen."



Adelabu

Osun Guber Tussle: Reconsider Decision To Challenge Appeal Court Judgement, PDP Chieftain Urges Oyetola

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

A Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chieftain and the immediate past PDP Deputy National Publicity Secretary, Prince Diran Odeyemi has urged former governor of Osun State, Alhaji Gboyega Oyetola not to challenge the recent Appeal Court judgment on the Osun state governorship election.

The PDP Chieftain in an open letter to Alhaji Oyetola on Sunday, made available to newsmen, maintained that challenging the outcome of the election and the recent Appeal judgment will give a wrong impression about his personality to the generality of Nigerians who are keen observers of the happenings in Osun.

Prince Odeyemi stressed in the open letter that "the rejection of APC in Osun state is confirmed", and that "the recently concluded elections were messages; they are indeed some unspoken words of wisdom meant for you to decode.

"My honest advice is for you as a major stakeholder in Osun is to rally support for the governor-elect so that Osun State can move forward. I am not one of the people who believe that you are not appreciated in Osun state. To garner 375,027 votes is a good show only that the majority of 403,371 preferred your successor, Sen Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke", he said. The PDP Chieftain added, "Your Excellency, though the final decision is yours but my advise to you will be to stop further court process and allow sanity to prevail in our polity. Apart from the waste of time and money on either side that the exercise would entail, the mounting hostility, unwarranted apprehension and insidious tension it is causing the people you love are beyond imagination".

"Should you be the one to heat-up the polity? No, not at all. You are too gentle and pious not to accept the will of Allah as occasion and circumstances would have dictated. You have been blessed above thousands of your contemporaries and have been a blessing to humanity.

Prince Odeyemi said "the history of Osun State would be incomplete without your tenure and persona occupying a whole chapter, to say the least. In Nigeria politics, and at the Federal level, some roles still beckon. In the much-vaunted axiom of our elders: He who carries on his head a whole elephant must not be seen to be scathing the ground for crickets. In Osun State, having done your best, it is about time to leave the rest and indeed time to rest your case'.

"My honest advice is for you as a major stakeholder in Osun is to rally support for the governor-elect so that Osun State can move forward", saying, "to insist that their wish must be wished away through "technicality" or back door arrangements, using extra-presidential power is wrong, ungodly and totally unacceptable"

"You will remain an hero if after reading this letter you put a call through to your brother, Sen Adeleke and congratulate him. You may wish to sample opinions, he is making you proud; success without a good successor is a failure.

President Goodluck Jonathan is much younger than you in age and wisdom. He did the uncommon thing by congratulating President Buhari to teach an inherent lesson ensconced in the spirit of sportsmanship. You win today, you lose tomorrow, it is never the end of life, it continues.

"We know the respect accorded Jonathan globally for displaying maturity and respect for the wish of the electorate as is known in a functional democracy. Your Excellency, kindly replicate this good gesture in Osun and have your name recorded in history as our hero that deserves a resounding ovation.

He stressed, "I am compelled to write this open letter to you when I got the hint that you wanted to proceed to the Supreme Court as an aftermath of the Court of Appeal judgment which has upheld Sen Ademola Adeleke as the governor of Osun State. Before going further, let me first express my knowledge of Yoruba culture lest cynics who may chose to read this open letter upside down accuse me of teaching an 'elder and a leader' what is right.

"In Yoruba culture, elders do not make mistakes. Their words are considered to be full dose of wisdom and adequate knowledge. Even in the event that what an elder does is the direct opposite of what is right, in Yorubaland, you still do not say it is a wrong. I am sure Your Excellency will agree with me that no man is an encyclopaedia of knowledge in the present day, and that is especially true in politics. The best advice, nay counselling, can come from anybody or the least expected quarters, hence this open letter from me to you.

Chief Burki Calls On Spirited Individuals To Assist School For Deaf

**Chides Plateau Govt for not doing enough*

By: BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

The Executive Director, Beautiful Gate Handicap Peoples Center, Chief Ayuba Burki Gufwan has called on public spirited individuals to come to the aide of students of the School for the Deaf, Bassa LGA.

He made this appeal during a visit to the school on Saturday March 25, 2023, to donate food items provided by the Beautiful Gate Handicap Peoples Center, in conjunction with the Honourable Minister for Women Affairs, Her Excellency, Dame Pauline Tallen.

According to Chief Burki, the intervention of the Beautiful Gate Handicap Peoples Center and the Honourable Minister for Women Affairs, became

necessary, following his visit to the school, where he discovered that the students who were preparing for exams were complaining of shortage food supply and hunger.

Chief Burki then reached out to the Honourable Minister for Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, who within 24 hours, collaborated with himself and the Beautiful Gate

Handicap Peoples Center to provide 10 bags of beans, two bags of sugar, five bags of rice, 20 bags of garri, 20 bags of guinea corn, 30 bags of maize, nine cartons of seasoning, five bags of salt, five units of 25 liter of palm oil, a deep freezer, a grinding machine, a sowing machine and cutlasses.

Chief Burki chided the Plateau State Government

for not doing enough to ameliorate the plight of students of the School for the Deaf within the last eight years.

He urged the incoming administration to prioritize the schools of persons living with special needs, especially the School for the Deaf.

He used the opportunity to call on public spirited individuals to adopt at least one student of the School for the Def in order to ensure that their welfare is properly taken care of.

Speaking at the event where the items were presented to the school, representative of the Principal of the School for the Deaf, Mr Tasong Goma, appreciated the kindness of both the Beautiful Gate Handicap Peoples Center and the Honourable Minister for

Women Affairs who have shown their compassion for humanity.

Joy Sunday and Zumnan Usaini, Head Girl and Head Boy of the school respectively, too turns to also appreciate the gesture and prayed that God will replenish those who have given to their welfare.

The Bassa Area Director of the Ministry of Education, Mrs Esther Selbol Nandang said that the ministry has always been supportive of donations to support their ongoing efforts in providing a conducive learning environment for the students to excell in their academic pursuits.

The students were physically excited and grateful for he kindness of Chief Burki and Her Excellency Dame Pauline Tallen. They offered prayers for them both.



Ramadan: Yari Distributes 240 Trucks Of Assorted Grains To Less Privileged, Others

By ; I M R A N A ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Former Governor of Zamfara State, Abdul Aziz Yari Abubakar has distributed 240 trucks of assorted grains to the people of the state for Ramadan fast. The items distributed included rice, guinea corn, maize, millet and sugar. Addressing thousands of All Progressives Congress (APC) supporters during the distribution exercise in Talata-Mafara, Yari said, each of the 14 local government areas would get 10 trucks of the commodity.

He further explained that, the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) will get 32 trucks, orphans 12 trucks, while other organizations would get 10 trucks. Yari stated that, the aim of the package was to enable the people of the state particularly the less privileged to perform the Ramadan fast with ease. He called on those who were entrusted with the distribution of the items to fear God and give the groups the number of bags allocated to them. "I am appealing to the leaders who will distribute the items to please fear

God and give everyone his own share". He assured that he would continue to assist his supporters and the less privileged as long as he has the ability to do so. He maintained that he distributed over 170 trucks of assorted grains in last year's Ramadan fast. Yari called on APC supporters to continue to be law-abiding and respect the rule of law. He also called on wealthy individuals in the society to donate to the needy in this month of Ramadan, concluding that, "Allah is

happy with those who assist the needy". Speaking at the occasion, the APC national vice chairman Northeast, Salihu Mustafa who represented the APC chairman commended former Governor Yari for his giant efforts in assisting the party supporters and the less privileged in the society. He particularly commended Yari for what he has been doing to the Internally Displaced Persons who abandoned their homes due to banditry activities.



Yari flagging off the grains distribution

Kano Governor-elect Invites Citizens To Witness Presentation Of Certificate Of Return

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kano State Governor-elect, Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf, popularly known as Abba Gida Gida is inviting his teeming supporters, members and senior stakeholders of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) to the presentation of certificate of return to all candidates who won election at the Saturday 18th polls. The invitation was contained in a statement signed by the Spokesperson to the Kano State Governor-elect, Sanusi Bature Dawakin-Tofa made available yesterday.

It said, "The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Kano has scheduled today March 29, 2023 by 10am at the INEC secretariat to issue the certificate of return to governor-elect, his deputy and state assembly members elect." The spokesperson to the Kano State Governor-elect, in the statement, said the occasion will be held at the INEC's Conference Hall at 10:00am prompt. He urged the NNPP supporters and all invitees, known for peace-loving and law-abiding, to conduct themselves in an orderly manner during and after the occasion, wishing all a safe journey.



Kano Governor elect, Abba

Sanwo-Olu Congratulates President-Elect, Tinubu At 71

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has congratulated the President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, on his 71st birthday.

He described Asiwaju Tinubu, who turns 71 on Wednesday, March 29 as a "visionary, consistent, loyal and enigmatic master strategist" whose democratic credentials are scholarly materials for study in political economy.

Governor Sanwo-Olu in a congratulatory message issued on Tuesday by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Gboyega Akosile, said Nigeria is blessed to have Tinubu as her next democratically elected president from May 29, given his intellect, development-focused and detribalised disposition towards governance.

Governor Sanwo-Olu added that not many leaders in contemporary Nigeria are as detribalised as Asiwaju Tinubu, saying his heart accommodates every section of the country.

He noted that Asiwaju Tinubu's large heart, accommodating and listening nature endeared him to millions of Nigerians who filed out to vote for him in the February 25 presidential poll.

He said: "On behalf of my darling wife, Ibijoke, and the good people of Lagos State, as well as leaders and members of the All Progressives Congress (APC), I wish the nation's President-Elect, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, happy 71st birthday.

"At 71, Asiwaju has attained the age, that what matters most is the legacy to bequeath to people after him and God has blessed him with a

great opportunity to take the mantle of leadership of Nigeria, and chart the right path of progress for the people of Nigeria.

"Asiwaju Tinubu has donated the greater part of his adult life for service to humanity, Lagos State and Nigeria. His many contributions to democracy and good governance have helped the political and democratic trajectory of Nigeria since 1999. It is also on record that he stood firmly on the side of the Nigerian people, even at the risk of losing his life and personal belongings during the dark days of the military junta.

"He fought tirelessly with other progressives and pro-democracy activists during the annulment of the June 12 struggle to end the military interregnum and enthroned democracy, which we all enjoy today.

"In the political history of Nigeria, Asiwaju will forever be a reference point. He has made and redefined the socio-political history of Nigeria by contributing his quota to the survival of democracy and uninterrupted civilian administration in Nigeria for 24 years. His emergence as President-Elect is a reward for his hard work and contributions to the country based on his political astuteness, courage, and sagacity.

"As he is celebrating 71st birthday, we wish him all the love and care in the world and pray that God will give him wisdom, knowledge, sound health and good things that he will use to steer the ship of the country and navigate Nigeria's development to the desired place as he becomes Nigeria's President from May 29, 2023."

16 Bags Of Items Belonging To Victims Of Kaduna-Abuja Train Attack Remain Unclaimed - Kaduna Govt

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Exactly one year ago, on the 28th of March 2022, a horrendous attack was launched by terrorists on the Kaduna-bound train from Abuja.

The terrorists derailed the train at around 7pm by setting off an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) to blow up a section of the track.

They then opened fire on the coaches, and kidnapped scores of passengers from the train. In the heat of the confusion, a terrified passenger finally alerted the Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs on the exact location of the train, which was traced to Kasarami-Audujongom general area of Chikun LGA.

According to a statement signed by the Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Kaduna State, Samuel yesterday March 28, 2023, immediately, Major General K. Mukhtar, the then GOC 1 Division and Brigadier General UT Upuene, then Garrison Commander, moved with their brave troops to secure the train and rescue the remaining passengers.

Subsequent developments confirmed that nine passengers were killed in the attack, with over 60 kidnapped and more than 20 injured.

Passengers injured were successfully evacuated by the troops, staff of Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency and other humanitarian volunteers, along with the remains of the slain passengers. After the search and rescue, troops carefully secured passengers' luggage and thereafter, handed them over to the Kaduna State Government on March 31, 2022.

Also supplied, was a detailed inventory of over 100 items of luggage and several loose belongings carefully labelled.

Records confirmed that nine victims had already collected their belongings directly from the 1 Division Headquarters.

Consequently, the Kaduna State Government can now report that between 3rd April and 17th November 2022, 62 persons (victims of the attack or their relatives) came forward to claim 94 items of luggage containing a range of personal items.

Other loose belongings identified and retrieved from the Kaduna State Government by

their owners include certificates, documents, passports, car and house keys, cash, ATM cards, mobile phones, tablets, laptops and their accessories, books, perfumes, as well as clothing and jewellery items.

As of the time of this update, 16 bags remain unclaimed, along with an assortment of loose belongings including prayer mats, books and clothing items.

"The Kaduna State Government will continue to maintain detailed records of all items collected, including the contact details of victims or their representatives.

"One year on, the Kaduna State Government again offers its heartfelt commiserations to all victims of the tragedy, and their families. The efforts of all security agencies in responding to the attack to secure the lives of many passengers are recognized and deeply appreciated.

"The window is still open for the collection of the remaining items at the Ministry.

"The Government appreciates the 1 Division, Nigerian Army for the brave efforts of its officers and men, and diligent collaboration with the Kaduna State Government following the attack. The Government

similarly appreciates the 453 Base Services Group (Nigerian Air Force), the Department of State Services, the Kaduna State Police Command, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, and the Kaduna State Vigilance Service. Gratitude also goes to the Borno State Government for valuable collaboration towards solutions to common problems.

"The Government pays special recognition to Major-General TA Lagbaja, the GOC 1 Division, Nigerian Army, who also doubles as the Force Commander, Operation Whirl Punch, as well as the officers and men of both land and air components; the Commander, 453 Base Services Group, Air Commodore AA Adedoyin; the Commandant, Nigerian Navy School of Armament Technology Kachia, Commodore ME Ejumabone; the Director of the Department of State Services, Abdul Eneche; the Commander, 402 Special Forces Brigade, Brigadier General EU Effiong and his Commanding Officers; the Commander Sector 7 Operation Safe Haven, Brigadier General TM Oporum; the Commissioner of Police,

Yekini Ayoku, the State Commandant, NSCDC, CC Idris Adah, and all other heads of security agencies engaged in the battle against terrorism. Gratitude also goes to the vast network of intelligence sources.

"The Government thanks doctors, health workers, support staff and civil society groups that have helped provide aid to persons injured in the attack, and psycho-social support in its aftermath.

"Close and improved collaboration will be sustained with all security agencies for prompt response and effective counter-terrorism efforts in the state.

"Finally, the military and other security agencies have done and achieved a lot in the campaign against terrorism in the State since this unfortunate incident. Some of these inroads will be highlighted in the 2022 Annual Security Report and the First Quarter Report for 2023, soon to be presented to the public.

"As this administration winds up, it will continue to support and partner with security agencies and critical stakeholders towards security and safety of the citizenry," it said.



Abba K. Yusuf: A New Wave of Hope

By; BASHIR A. MUZAKKARI

The just concluded Kano State gubernatorial elections have brought about a new era of hope for the people of Kano State.

Abba Kabir Yusuf (Abba Gida-Gida) emerged as the winner of the keenly contested elections, under the platform of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), and his victory has sparked a new wave of hope and optimism among the people of Kano State, who believe that he is capable of restoring the lost glory of the state.

Come May 29, 2023, I wish him the best in his new position as governor of Kano State, and I sincerely hope that he will work assiduously to effect positive change in the state.

Abba Kabir Yusuf's victory is a clear indication of the people's confidence in his ability to restore the lost glory of Kano State. His experience and track record in public service have earned him the respect and trust of the people, and they believe that he has what it takes to lead the state towards a brighter future.

The people of Kano State have high expectations of Abba Kabir Yusuf, and they believe in his capacity to govern the state.

The state has been facing several challenges in recent years, including a decline in the education system, a lack of adequate healthcare, a struggling economy, and high levels of unemployment.

These challenges have negatively affected the quality of life of the people of Kano State, and they are looking to Abba Kabir Yusuf to provide solutions to these problems.

The people of Kano State are hopeful that Abba will prioritize the development of the state by investing in critical sectors such as education, healthcare, and



Abba

infrastructure.

The state's education sector has been in decline for some time, with a shortage of teachers, inadequate infrastructure, and limited resources. Kano State has the highest number of out-of-school children in the country, and this is a major concern.

Abba Kabir Yusuf has pledged to revamp the education system in Kano State by investing in infrastructure, training and recruiting more teachers, and providing the necessary resources for learning to ensure that every child receives a quality education.

The healthcare system in Kano State is also in need of urgent attention. The state has

a high rate of maternal and child mortality, and there is a shortage of healthcare facilities and personnel.

His Excellency, Abba K. Yusuf, has promised to invest

Abba Kabir Yusuf's victory is a clear indication of the people's confidence in his ability to restore the lost glory of Kano State. His experience and track record in public service have earned him the respect and trust of the people, and they believe that he has what it takes to lead the state towards a brighter future.

in the healthcare system by improving infrastructure, recruiting and training healthcare professionals, and providing the necessary equipment and resources for effective healthcare delivery.

The economy of Kano State is struggling, with high levels of poverty and unemployment. The state has a high potential for agricultural production, but this potential has not been fully harnessed.

I am confident that Abba's victory will offer an opportunity for investments in agriculture and other sectors of the economy to create jobs, reduce poverty, and improve the standard of living for the people of Kano State.

I am confident that His

Excellency, Abba K. Yusuf, will prioritize the development of education, healthcare, the economy, and job creation in the state to ensure that every citizen has access to basic amenities and opportunities for growth and development.

I wish him all the best in his new role as governor of Kano State come May 29, 2023, and I hope that he will work tirelessly to bring about positive change in the state.

The people of Kano State have high expectations of him, and I am optimistic he will deliver on his promises to improve the standard of living of the people of Kano State.

Bashir A. Muzakkari, Ph.D. is an ICT Expert and a University Lecturer

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

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- All adverts are expected to be prepaid in cash or bank draft in favour of New Nigerian Newspaper's Limited.
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- COPY DATE:** for all the Title Heads is two working days for the North and three working days for the South.
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- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
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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

Stopping the elites from replacing Nigeria

By Owei Lakemfa.

Owei Lakemfa published this piece exactly two years today.

I leapt for joy last week. News about Nigeria is usually depressing. But this one was elating. I had in my column titled: 'A country led by the blind and deaf' highlighted the case of 14-year-old Habiba Gwaram, a student of Government Girls Secondary School, Jangebe, Zamfara State. On February 26, 2021 she had been kidnapped by bandits along with 316 schoolmates. But when the captives got to the kidnappers den, Habiba met her father, Mallam Iliya Gwaram who, along with her sister, had been kidnapped three months earlier.

The father had the presence of mind to quickly tell his daughter not to identify either him or her sister as they may be killed. The child did as told, but had to endure seeing him tortured. Four days later, she was freed with her mates. But she did not forget her father. When the freed girls met the state Governor, Bello Matawalle, she told him about her father and the fact that he and other victims were being held in the same place she and her colleagues were held. Her initiative paid off as the governor took steps to resume dialogue with the bandits leading to the release last Monday night of Gwaram and nine others.

The newly released were made up of three men, four women and three children. This was the reason I leapt for joy. Hopefully, Gwaram's nightmare would have come to an end with his rescue, but the experience will always replay in his mind. He gave a first-hand account of the abducted girls: "I have been in captivity with these other people for more than three months when on that Friday morning, I saw the school girls being brought into where we were camped by our abductors. At first, I didn't know who they were or where they were coming from, until I saw the face of my scared daughter looking at me...I never cried in the whole

of my life like I cried the day the girls were taken back because I felt it was the last time I would see my daughter."

I had wondered how the 14-year-old Habiba was processing the whole nightmare of having her family kidnapped, she suffering the same fate three months later, enduring the movement through forests and darkness to the kidnappers den, finding her father and sister at the den, being unable to do anything, and leaving them there in the hands of conscienceless killers. The nightmare will not go away quickly, but had she lost her father and sister to the kidnappers, I am not sure she would never have recovered from the trauma.

Tragically for Nigerians, despite vows by President Muhammadu Buhari and his security chiefs that the abduction of school children will end, the trauma continues. Just last Thursday March 11, 2021, another batch of female students were abducted, this time from the Federal College of Forestry and Agriculture Mechanization, Mando, Kaduna. While the recent mass abduction of school children had been mainly in rural or semi urban areas, this one is right in a busy city which was the capital of Northern Nigeria. The school is close to the Nigeria Defence Academy and is in the same area we have the Kaduna International Airport and the Air Force Base.

The media reported the bandits shooting for hours and rounding up the students without any arm of the security services responding. Yet, we have all sorts of security agencies and chiefs marching around with stars and peeps peeping from their uniforms. I have thought a number of times that if we have a serious government, it should send home a service chief or head of security agency each time school children are abducted en-mass. But this is wishful thinking as even those chiefs who had extended their stay in the military and overstayed their welcome, were eventually sent forth with

ambassadorial postings as if the Nigerian foreign relations terrain is a place to reinforce failure. As for the Police Force, expecting it to meet the expectations of the citizenry is like Waiting for Godot; even the Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Abubakar Adamu, going by the provisions of the 2020 Nigeria Police Act, is not a policeman.

The bandits seem to perceive that there is a lack of will to protect school children. That must be the reason why between December 11, 2020 and March 11, 2021; a three-month period, about 800 school children have been kidnapped in Katsina, Kankara, Kagara, Jengebe and Kaduna. These victims are part of the children in school; there are some 13 million out of school children who are simply abandoned to their fate.

A few months ago, as I drove towards the Veritas University, Bwari-Abuja, I noticed a crowd at the Bwari-Veritas junction. I slowed down trying to make out what was amiss. I noticed no sign of commotion as motorists on both sides drove freely. I slowed down at the intersection only to discover that these were street children newly off-loaded on Abuja. Some were already 'empowered' with begging bowls, many were yet to be so

enriched. I slowed down and began to count. When I got to 36 which is three dozens, I stopped. These children are all over Abuja; obviously far from home, out of parental care, unlettered, unskilled but determined to survive. They are now so many and competition amongst them so strong that some have invented new means of begging an increasingly impoverished populace. Somebody told me of an experience in Kubwa, one of the largest satellite towns in Abuja. There was a knock on an office door which was in a gated premises. The manager and some of his clients involuntarily stood up as some homeless children walked in with their begging bowls. They calmed down when they realised it was not an invasion; just hungry children leaving the streets to press for alms. I have no doubt

that in the next few years, such visits by the street children would not just be to beg, but to demand with threats.

Tragically, our political elites who as coup plotters, beneficiaries of military regimes and conscienceless administrations, led the country to its present quagmire, do not seem to have woken up to reality. They are still having a ball and 'privatising' the country's resources. I had analysed this parasitic class long ago and thought the best thing is to replace them, but today, I find myself and many patriots struggling to ensure that these political elites do not replace the country.

Left to them, rather than fix Nigeria, they will prefer to sell it to the highest bidder, preferably in foreign currency as they have so bastardised the Naira that they no longer find it useful.





Morocco 2023: How Guinea Edge Out Olympic Eagles from U-23 AFCON

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Nigeria's Olympic Eagles have come short of making it to this year's U-23 Africa Cup of Nations after losing 2-0 to Guinea in the second leg of their final qualifying fixture in Rabat, Morocco

yesterday. After a 0-0 draw in the first leg in Abuja on Wednesday last week, the Eagles had the opportunity of more training sessions together to take the game to the Guineans on neutral ground, as Guinea does not have a venue approved

in their country for international football. Both teams fought hard on the turf of the Prince Heritier Moulay Al Hassan for one hour, before Guinea took the lead, and then added a second 15 minutes later to the consternation of the

Nigeria squad and their head coach Salisu Yusuf. Defeat was a bitter pill to swallow, for a team that emerged champions of the Africa U-23 Cup of Nations in Senegal in 2015 and reached the finals staged in Egypt four years ago.



Falode Unveils FIFA Women's World Cup Trophy In Abuja



NFF Executive Committee member, Aisha Falode

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) Executive Committee member, Aisha Falode, was on duty in Abuja, where she helped unveil the FIFA Women's World Cup trophy for the 2023 edition, at the NICON Hilton Hotel, Abuja, in the presence of the NFF president, Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau, board member Margaret Incheen and the Super Falcons players already preparing for the 2023 World Cup. The Super Falcons of Nigeria will be playing in Group B alongside;

Canada, Ireland and Australia. The Falcons will play their World Cup opener in Group B on July 21 against Canada in Melbourne, Second game on July 27 against host Australia in Brisbane and last group game on July 31st against Ireland in Brisbane. The 2023 Women's Worlds of Soccer will play out at ten host stadiums in nine cities across Australia and New Zealand. The tournament will kick off at Eden Park in Auckland and conclude with the Championship Final at Stadium Australia in Sydney.

“The 2023 Women's Worlds of Soccer will play out at ten host stadiums in nine cities across Australia and New Zealand. The tournament will kick off at Eden Park in Auckland and conclude with the Championship Final at Stadium Australia in Sydney.”

AFCON 2023 Race: Eagles Pip Wild Dogs, Climb Back To The Top Of Qualification Group

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Nigeria moved back to the top of their 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying pool after Moses Simon's 30th minute penalty condemned hosts Guinea Bissau to a one-goal defeat on Monday. The Eagles, just as it happened in the first leg in Abuja, created opportunity after good opportunity but failed to get behind goalkeeper Jonas Mendes.

Victor Osimhen and Samuel Chukwueze could not convert chances in the first half, before Moses Simon made good from six yards to put Nigeria in front for the first time in the fixture.

The Djurtus looked dangerous as they did in the first leg in Abuja but failed to unscramble the new Kenneth Omeruo/Semi Ajayi equation in the centre of Nigeria's defence, even as Bright Osayi-Samuel again showed plenty of evidence that he has come to stay at the Super Eagles' right back.

Osimhen was denied by the upright in the 59th minute when



Super Eagles celebrating their goal

he flashed a shot past Mendes, and four minutes later, the Napoli man simply blew it skywards after being put through by Samuel Chukwueze. In the 69th minute, Osimhen was again foiled by the alertness

and diligence of Mendes after Simon sliced one from the left flank. Two minutes later, substitute Joe Aribo was also cracking his knuckles after Mendes got a strong hand to push over his fierce shot from

just outside the box.

Victory meant the Eagles returned to the top with nine points, with Guinea Bissau second on seven and Sierra Leone, who spanked Sao Tome and Principe on Wednesday,

third on five points.

The next round of the qualifiers will be in June, when Nigeria travel away to Sierra Leone and Guinea Bissau take on bottom-placed Sao Tome and Principe.

Oyo YSFON Congratulates Makinde Over Re-Election, Urges Him To Do More For Grassroots Sports

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The executive management of Youths Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON) Oyo State Chapter has congratulated Oyo State Governor, Engineer Seyi Makinde on his re-election as the Governor of Oyo State, thanking him for his efforts on sports infrastructural development in the state.

A statement signed on behalf of the body by its Chairman, Alabi Abayomi, popularly known as Oluaye described Governor Makinde's re-election as a fulfillment of the will of God and also a confirmation that people of Oyo State are appreciative of his commitment towards leading the state to greater heights.

The sports body however, expressed appreciation for the good efforts of the governor in the area of sports infrastructural development during his first term, which saw Lekan Salami Sports Complex transformed into a world class stadium, and other stadia and community



playing grounds around the state renovated.

Other stadia renovated include, the Olubadan Stadium, pitches in Ikolaba High School, Bishop Phillips Academy, Army Day Secondary School and Agugu High School in Ibadan. The Durbar Stadium, Oyo, Soun Stadium, Ogbomoso, Saki Stadium in Saki, Igboora and Iseyin Stadium also witnessed positive turnaround by the Makinde's government.

Oyo YSFON however, urged the governor to do more for grassroots sports, especially football, that is the most popular among the teeming youth of the state, by supporting other football clubs in the state with annual grants, saying past governments in the state used to support them with annual subventions.

"It is important that you allow yourself to be guided by the fact that your re-election is an act of God and a result of your outstanding achievements, as well as unmatched love expressed towards sports people during your first term in office as the Governor of Oyo State. We therefore, advise that you intensify efforts to surpass your previous achievements", Abayomi, Oyo YSFON boss said.

Ogun Guber Candidate Hails Tribunal For Granting NNPP Request

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The gubernatorial candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in Ogun State, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo yesterday, hailed the state election petition tribunal for granting the party's request to inspect all Bi-modal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) machines and other sensitive materials used for the March 18 2023 polls.

Ambassador Oguntoyinbo in a statement personally signed by him, praised the tribunal for granting the party's prayers over omission of the party's name on the ballot during the gubernatorial and House of Assembly elections in Ogun State.

According to him, NNPP complained that INEC did not print the name of the party on the governorship ballot papers, as prescribed by the Electoral Act.

Ambassador Oguntoyinbo stressed that omitting the name of the party on the ballot paper was a ploy to rob him and the party the victory in the just conducted gubernatorial and state Assembly elections.

The NNPP governorship candidate then called for the rerun of the election in

Ogun state so that the party's name will be properly inscribe on the ballot paper.

New Nigerian recalls that the Ogun state election petition tribunal granted all the prayers of the NNPP in the motion ex-parte filed on Friday to challenge the omission of its name on the ballot paper in the state.

The party headed for the tribunal on the ground that this act has disenfranchised its members, loyalists, supporters and the masses from voting for the party during the guber and state Assembly elections.

NNPP in the motion ex-parte supported it with an eight-paragraph affidavit deposed by the State Chairman of the party, Olaposi Oginni asked the tribunal to allow it make photocopies, scan and record all sensitive materials used by INEC in the March 18 governorship election, ahead of its petition and that it would seek the nullification of the governorship election in Ogun due to the omission of its name on the ballot papers.

Granting the party's prayers, the Chairman of the tribunal, justice Argum Ashom agreed with the NNPP on the prayers, "in that effect the reliefs are granted as prayed."



Ambassador Olufemi Oguntoyinbo

Fake LASTMA Officer To Spend 2 Years Behind Bars

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE

A fake traffic officer impersonating an operative of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has been sentenced to two years imprisonment in Lagos.

Identified as Omotutu Bamidele, he was convicted by the Lagos State Special Offences (Mobile) Court sitting at Bolade, Oshodi on Monday, 27th of March, 2023 having been found guilty of impersonation and extorting money from motorists across Lagos.

The convicted fake LASTMA Officer was arraigned by the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority

(LASTMA) on a 2-Count charges of "Did impersonate as a public officer by representing as staff of Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (S.78 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2015)" and "Did obtain by fraudulent trick (Sec. 323 of the Criminal Law, Lagos State)" before the court.

In a press statement, the Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of (LASTMA) Mr. Adebayo Taofiq quoted that Magistrate Kehinde Ogundare sentenced Omotutu Bamidele to a



The fake LASTMA officer

2-year jail term without any option of fine after he pleaded 'Guilty' to the 2-count charged levied against him.

Magistrate Ogundare emphasized that the convict should serve the jail term without any option of fine due to the gravity of the offences committed.

The Court Prosecutor Barr. Olufemi Adekunle stated that both offences levied against the convict contravened Criminal Law of Lagos State (2015).

In his reaction to the judgement, the General Manager of the Lagos State Traffic Management

Authority (LASTMA) Mr Bolaji Oreagba said the judgement was a welcome development as it would serve as deterrent to others who are still extorting money from innocent members of public under false pretence. According to Mr. Oreagba "Our Monitoring and Surveillance Unit which has now been fully restructured would continue to hunt for other bad elements disturbing the peace of the society"

The General Manager however, urged motorists particularly commercial bus operators to adhere strictly to the dictates of the Lagos State Transport Sector Reform Law 2018 and avoid attacking Officers of the Agency.