

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 3 No. 140

Monday 1st May, 2023

Shawwal 11, 1444

**Alleged Breach
Of Contract:
Ajadi Demands
N50m Damages
From Dana Air**

Story on Page 2

**Group Demands Reward
For Police Officer
Who Refused Chinese
Officials N50m Bribe**

Story on Page 4



**Kaduna Electric Laments Alleged
Assault On Personnel By Soldiers**

*Says coy can't guarantee services
in unsafe environment

*Vow to seek redress

Story on Page 4

Plot To Foist Another Rubber Stamp Principal Officers On NASS Dangerous For Democracy - CNPP

■ Says Nigerians can't endure another 4 years of Executive
- Legislative connivance against citizens



The drug hidden in the imported car

**NDLEA Intercepts
Illicit Drug Hidden
In Imported Car,
Kenyan Bound
Travelling Bag
In Lagos**

Page 20

**Ex APC Publicity
Secretary Condemns
\$15bn Illegal Railway
MoU By NDDC's MD**

Story Page 20

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON
Conference Of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) has warned that attempts being made by interested party loyalists to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) to ensure the inauguration of another National Assembly with rubber stamp principal officers will be very dangerous for the survival of Nigerian democracy, insisting that Nigerians may not be able to endure another four years of Executive-Legislative connivance against the interests and well-being of the masses.

This was contained in a statement issued in Abuja yesterday by CNPP's Secretary General, Chief Willy Ezugwu. The umbrella body of all registered political parties and political associations in the country, noted that, "the handwriting can be clearly seen everywhere on the walls by discerning minds and we have uncovered the unholy plot. Hence all democratic forces should be on alert." According to the CNPP, "the basic elements of democracy, like the principles of separation of powers and oversights, will be further jeopardized in an event that such selfish

Continued on Page 4



Timi Frank

Plateau Governor-elect Salutes Tarok On Ilum O'tarok Cultural Festival

By: **BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos**

The Plateau State Governor-elect, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang has felicitated the Tarok Nation on the celebration of the 2023 edition of their annual cultural festival, "Ilum O'Tarok".

In a goodwill message on behalf of himself, the Deputy Governor-elect and associates, Mutfwang congratulated the Tarok people for staging the festival which showcases their rich cultural heritage but launches them into the farming season.

He prayed God to grant the Tarok Nation and all communities in the state, a very productive and safe farming season marked with bountiful harvests.

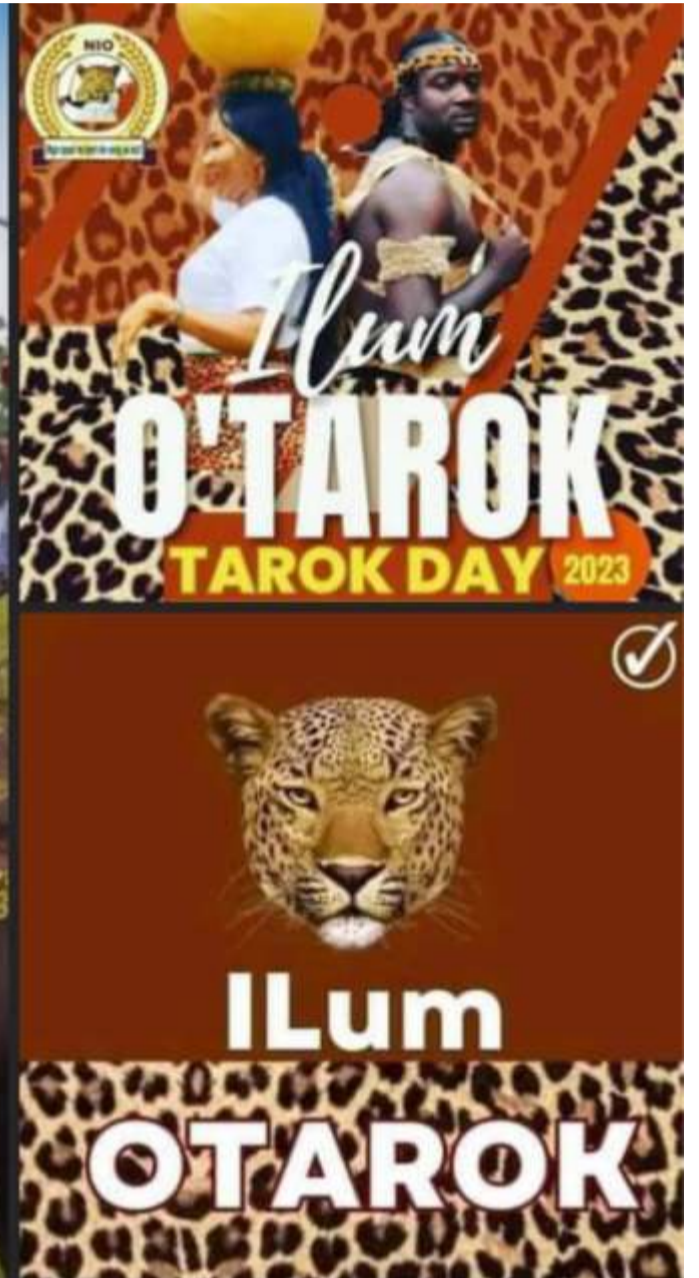
The governor-elect noted with satisfaction that the annual Ilum O'Tarok cultural festival has not only become a unifying platform where Tarok sons and daughters at home and in the diaspora come together to reflect on issues of common interest that deepen the bonds of unity, brotherhood and peace in Tarok land.

He commended the contributions of the Tarok ethnic nationality in strengthening peaceful and harmonious co-existence among the citizens in the state, saying this depicts their inherent cultural values which are worthy of emulation.

The incoming Governor of Plateau State also observed that the display of the cultural values over the years, coupled with the immense contributions of illustrious sons of Tarohland particularly the late Chief Solomon Dauship Lar, who he described as an amiable leader and emancipator, are responsible for the prevailing stability and unity in not only the state but the country as a whole.

He expressed hope that God will continue to empower the traditional institution, cultural associations and community leaders in Tarok nation with the desired wisdom to guide their decisive actions and provide the essential fiber that guarantees enduring peace on the Plateau.

He also wished the Tarok people a memorable and fruitful celebration.



Alleged Breach Of Contract: Ajadi Demands N50m Damages From Dana Air

By: **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The gubernatorial candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) for Ogun State in the last election, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi has threatened to sue Dana Airline for N50 million as damages over its alleged failure to carry out a scheduled flight from Abuja to Lagos last night.

Ambassador Ajadi alongside other

passengers were expected to be airlifted by Dana flight 356, via its aircraft 9J but the aircraft reportedly failed to arrive.

According to Ajadi, Dana Air has breached its duties under the Civil Aviation Act of 2006, Warsaw Convention of 1929 and Montreal Convention of 1999, which are all domesticated and applicable in Nigeria, saying, "this act of negligence and breach

of contract has made me unable to meet an important business meeting scheduled for Abeokuta".

The NNPP governorship candidate stressed that in addition to the business meeting, that his workforce who were waiting for briefing towards next day production, and entire household in Abeokuta were all

nerves throughout the night fearing the worst.

"We bought tickets well ahead of takeoff time and there was no information from Dana that there was no aircraft to airlift us. Some of us kept reassuring waiting clients and associates in Lagos and Abeokuta that we would soon join them not knowing that Dana's plea of extension by 50 minutes was a deceit", he said.

Ajadi added, "That was how we kept hoping until 12:00am, that they now informed us that there was no plane to convey us again. I have put my trust on Dana Air to fly to Lagos from Abuja to catch up a business appointment but they disappointed us".

"The Dana Air management not only failed to board us; we were left unattended to for hours, making us lose valuable meetings and keeping us out in the dark, stranded, no food, worse, causing someone to lose millions in contract. This is not acceptable".

Ambassador Ajadi stressed, "With this, it has breached its duties under the civil

aviation Act of 2006, Warsaw convention of 1929 and Montreal convention of 1999 which are all domesticated and applicable in Nigeria".

"I am demanding fifty million naira (N50,000,000.00) damages for making me miss the scheduled business meeting in Abeokuta. The cost of ticket may not be much but in this case, but the breach of contract is unquantifiable".

Wondering why such an airline could not keep its bargain and worse, just abandoning trusting passengers with all its attendant hazards, Ajadi called on the relevant authorities like the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to wade in and ensure the airlines live up to their contractual obligations.

"The bad maltreatment of Nigerians and other air passengers by these airlines should stop, and I am taking up the matter to serve as deterrent", he said.

New Nigerian gathered that the airline on Friday night did not provide the aircraft scheduled to convey passengers to Lagos, despite a 50 minutes extension from the earlier scheduled 9:30 pm departure time.



Kogi APC Guber Candidate, Ododo, Receives President-elect, Tinubu's Blessings, Set For Victory

By: ADO ADEBOYE, Akure

The President-elect of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, on Saturday, gave the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kogi State, Usman Ododo, his blessings, ahead of the November 2023 elections in the state.

Ododo, who emerged the Kogi APC governorship candidate through a direct primary election on April 14 and was ratified through a special Congress of the party on April 15, was presented to Tinubu by Governor Yahaya Bello in Abuja.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila; Chairman, Kogi APC, Abdullahi Bello; were among the party stakeholders who interacted with Ododo, the party's flagbearer in Kogi State, during his visit to the President-elect.

Tinubu, while congratulating the candidate, lifted his hand up as a show of acceptance and affirmation of his candidacy and expressed absolute confidence in the capacity of APC to win the November governorship election, landslide, in Kogi State.

Recall that Ododo had, on Friday, also received President Muhammadu Buhari's blessings as the party's flagbearer in the

November election.

While briefing State House Correspondents after he was presented to the President by Governor Yahaya Bello, he said he was committed to building on the unparalleled developmental strides of the Governor, which were achieved through inclusive governance, if elected in the forthcoming polls.

The Governorship Candidate said, with his wealth of experience in the private and public financial sectors, as well as the opportunity of learning from Bello, who he described as a great leader to Kogites, he was well equipped to steer the ship of the confluence state in the desired direction. He said specifically that he was confident of APC's victory in the November governorship election.

Governor Yahaya Bello had also



expressed delight in the capacity of the APC candidate to deliver even more wins for the party in the state and assured Kogi residents of continuity in the

infrastructure renewal master-plan, which his administration had embarked upon for more than seven years.

He reiterated that the APC in

Kogi State was one united family, noting that the party was very well positioned to win the next governorship election, landslide.

Ban On Illegal Health Colleges: NBTE Step, Good for Nigeria

By: AUWAL AHMED IBRAHIM (GORONYO)

Nigeria is seriously battling with fake medical practitioners here and there, causing more harm than good to the country.

Currently, there are thousands of illegal health institutions in Nigeria and fake medical professionalism is another tsunami for the country. Taking a decisive measure for better healthcare system in Nigeria at this crucial time, is most welcome and important.

In 2022, Kano State shutdown 26 illegal health institutions, due to absence of teaching curricular and hike in fees, while they institutions were not registered.

This problem is not peculiar to Kano State alone, but a dilemma that disturbs the nation, but taking of drastic measures by National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) to arrest illegal operators of health colleges, has come to save Nigerians' lives.

The domain of health sector in Nigeria is characterized not only by illegal institutions, but also unprofessionals and fake medical practitioners and the promise of NBTE to hunt violators is a progressive step to sanitize the health system in the country.

The Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education on 27th of April, 2023, said the board has partnered with Department of State Services (DSS) to expose and arrest violators during a meeting with proprietors of health colleges of Nigeria. For sure, the time to save lives and improve Nigerian health sector has come.

A research in 2006 shows that more than 400,000 people die every year in Nigeria and the maternal mortality figure in Nigeria last year, stood at 512 deaths per 100,000 live births and this casualty is connected to the number of quack nurses from illegal health colleges in the country.

The statement of Professor Idris M.

Bugaje is true that most of the illegal colleges don't have formal methods of teaching, they extort too much fees and swindle their students.

The commitment of NBTE will invigorate the Vision 2050 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the World Health Organization (WHO) towards better healthcare system in Nigeria and the perpetuation will stable and sanitize Nigerian healthcare sector.

The good effort to sanitize health colleges in Nigeria is a good move by the NBTE but that is not enough because there are many unregistered hospitals in Nigeria which connive with illegal and fake medical practitioners, killing people.

Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN), Medical Rehabilitation Therapist Board (MRTB) and other relevant unions and agencies,

should be up and doing to their tasks to augment the efforts of NBTE.

Another very important thing is that those illegal health colleges and hospitals exist in the rural and remote areas, hiding away from people but journalists can help in exposing the menace.

For NBTE, it has partnered with DSS to arrest operators of illegal health colleges, but government and other relevant agencies can partner with journalists and community leaders to address the issue and having a hotline or mailbox can help in tackling and exposing the rot in the Nigerian health sector.

For sure, NBTE has taken the best step to improve Nigeria's health sector and this demands commendation and reawakening.

Auwal Ahmed Ibrahim (Goronyo) is a lecturer of Mass Communication Department, Kaduna Polytechnic and can be reached via auwalahmed@kadunapolytechnic.edu.ng.

Group Demands Reward For Police Officer Who Refused Chinese Officials N50m Bribe



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A group, Anti-Corruption Crusaders Network based in Kaduna, has called on the Nigerian Police authorities to reward a police officer who refused a N50 million bribe from two Chinese officials.

The officer, Abdullahi Lawal, who was the former Sokoto State Zonal Head of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), was commended by the group for his patriotism and honesty.

The group's leader, Comrade Shehu Abubakar, praised Lawal during an interview with journalists in Kaduna shortly after the Court of Appeal sentenced the two Chinese officials to prison for their offenses.

Abubakar urged the highest police authorities to promote Lawal, a senior police officer, as a reward for his actions.

The Sokoto Division of the Court of Appeal had found Mr. Meng Wei Kun and Mr. Xu Kuai guilty of two of the three-count charges that included conspiracy, money laundering, and attempted

bribery to the tune of N50 Million brought against them by the EFCC.

Abdul Rahman Giwa, another member of the anti-corruption group, also commended the judiciary for upholding the truth by ensuring that the Chinese men were convicted.

Giwa emphasized the importance of recognizing officers like Abdullahi Lawal, who serve their country with dedication and patriotism.

The group believes that recognizing and rewarding officers like Lawal will serve as motivation to other junior-ranking officers to emulate him.

Furthermore, such recognition would demonstrate to the world that Nigerians were not corrupt and that there were citizens who were proud of their country.

The call for Lawal's promotion highlights the importance of integrity in law enforcement and the fight against corruption.

It also emphasizes the need to recognize and reward honest officers who perform their duties with dedication and patriotism.



Plot To Foist Another Rubber Stamp Principal Officers On NASS Dangerous For Democracy - CNPP

■ Says Nigerians can't endure another 4 years of Executive - Legislative connivance against citizens

and undemocratic clandestine moves towards foisting another rubber stamp legislative arm of government on the people succeed."

Giving insights into why governments at all levels have been unable to meet the expectations of the people, the CNPP maintained that "no society can make reasonable progress where the legislature and the judiciary pander to the whims and caprices of the executive arm of government.

"This has been the primary reason for the failure of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) to keep its campaign promises, particularly resulting to the

woeful failure the Federal Government to meet the primary duty of any government, which is to ensure security and welfare of the people.

"As a matter of fact, mutual respect for the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances among the arms of government is the basic foundation for good governance.

"But since 1999, healthy system of checks and balances have not been fully upheld in the interest of the Nigerian people.

"For the incoming administration to meet its basic duty of ensuring the security and welfare of the people, each branch of government should be

allowed to exercise its powers of oversight because the relevance of separation of powers and its implications for good governance cannot be overemphasised.

"Therefore, it will be in the best interest of the incoming administration to prioritise meeting the very many expectations of the people by upholding the doctrine of separation of powers and checks and balances as well as promoting inclusiveness, especially in compositions of the incoming cabinet.

"It will be detrimental to good governance to allow certain interests currently working to subjugate the National Assembly to the executive arm of government as witnessed

in the last four years, where the National Assembly was seen approving all loan requests of the President Muhammadu Buhari administration, leaving behind unprecedented debt-burden for generations unborn.

"To this end, the CNPP warns the executive, both the outgoing and the incoming, to allow the legislators to choose their principal officers based on merit without interference, or undue pressure, in the interest of the people.

"We urge the 11th National Assembly to stick to a government of inclusion in all federal appointments to deliberately promote unity and cohesion by adequately reflecting national diversity", the CNPP stated.

Kaduna Electric Laments Alleged Assault On Personnel By Soldiers

*Says coy can't guarantee services in unsafe environment
*Vow to seek redress

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

While lamenting the alleged assault of its personnel by uniformed men suspected to be soldiers of the Nigerian Army, Kaduna Electric Distribution Company has warned that it can't guarantee services in a hostile environment.

This was expressed in a statement signed by the Head, Corporate Communication, Abdulazeez Abdullahi, made available to newsmen in Kaduna yesterday.

"We condemn in strong terms the molestation of our staff by men of the Nigerian Army in Birnin Kebbi. The armed soldiers invaded our premises Saturday afternoon and unleashed mayhem on unsuspecting staff and customers alike. The hapless victims were beaten and subjected to humiliating treatment by the marauding soldiers for

no reason whatsoever.

"Such brazen act of impunity has no place in the civilised society we live in. Their action is all the more nauseating considering the fact that the military men have never lodged any complaint regarding our services or over any perceived grievance they may have had. In fact, several attempts by our Management team in Kebbi State requesting meetings where issues of interest were to be discussed were rebuffed," the statement said.

According to the statement titled, "Unwarranted Assault On Our Staff & Customers By Soldiers in Birnin Kebbi" the electricity distribution company stressed, "We wish to make clear that Kaduna Electric cannot guarantee its services in an unsafe environment. The



safety and well being of our staff is a priority."

They warned that they do not tolerate such intimidation and

molestation of their staff and shall act appropriately within the law to seek redress.

Kwara Engages Stakeholders, To Adopt Nigeria Startup Act

**Gov Abdulrazaq demonstrates commitment to youth empowerment, economic prosperity - Kolawole*

By; BILIQIS
OLAJUMOKE
ONAOLAPO, Ilorin

Kwara State Government has commenced the process of adopting the Nigeria Startup Act, which aims to provide support to startups and new businesses and boost economic prosperity in Nigeria and Africa.

This adoption comes at a time that the tech space in Nigeria and Africa is experiencing unprecedented growth, with many young and innovative tech talents emerging and attracting significant investments from local and international players.

Kwara State, with its large pool of young, tech-savvy talents, is uniquely positioned to benefit from the adoption of the Startup Act.

The Act will provide these young talents with the necessary tools to become tech-enabled, grow their businesses, and create jobs, ultimately positioning Kwara State as a hub for technology and innovation in Nigeria and Africa.

Stakeholders in Kwara State recently met to discuss the localization of the Startup Act, including government officials, startup founders, the academia, students, and the press/media.

Dignitaries at the Nigeria Startup Act Engagement event were Kwara State Commissioner for Finance Mrs. Olasumbo Oyeyemi; Executive Chairman of the Kwara State Internal Revenue Service (KWIRS) Mrs. Shade Omoniyi; and a representative of the Kwara State Commissioner for Business Innovation & Technology Alhaji Ibrahim Sanni. Also present were Kamaldeen Ibrahim, convener of Kwara State's largest tech community Kwarabuild, the Director of the Kwara State University



Centre for Digital Economy Hajia Hassanat Bello.

During the Stakeholder Ecosystem Engagement event in Ilorin, discussions were held on how to ensure the successful adoption of the act in the state.

The stakeholders said the Act will provide the necessary foundation for the state's young, tech-enabled entrepreneurs to grow their businesses and create jobs, and spur innovation in other sectors of the state's economy. Temi Kolawole, the Managing Director of the Ilorin Innovation Hub, emphasized the importance of the Startup Act in creating job opportunities for the youth in the state.

He said, "For our economy to grow, there needs to be more jobs. The Federal government has put together the Startup Act to encourage and support more startups all over the

country, and with the support of the NSA secretariat, states like Kwara can localize the act to work better in their locality. More startups with good support from the NSA means more jobs, and more jobs mean more wealth and prosperity for the society.

"The modern employment landscape has changed, and our entrepreneurs cannot continue with old ways of doing business. Part of the benefits of localizing the startup act is access to free training and capacity building for startup founders, a Startup Support Portal that allows all businesses labeled as startups to have all their business operations and complaints in one place, from business registration with the CAC, to compliance and taxes, to regulation of businesses in various industries and startup funding.

"Kwara State will also be

establishing a Council on Startup Entrepreneurship and Innovation/Technology to serve as the driving force in implementing the Kwara Startup Act and supporting startups in the state moving forward."

Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq has consistently demonstrated his commitment to providing opportunities for youth empowerment, job creation, and economic growth in Kwara State, according to stakeholders at the event.

The adoption of the Nigeria Startup Act is a significant step towards achieving this goal, and the government will work with all stakeholders to ensure its successful adoption within the next six months, said Kolawole.

He added: "In addition, the Ilorin Innovation Hub recently hosted an E-Government Hackathon, which was

planned to encourage young people to collaborate, build teams, and create innovative solutions and products that will enhance e-governance and service delivery in Kwara State. It is the first of many such events to come that will be expanded into other areas of technology like Artificial Intelligence, Fintech, Agritech, and many more. The hackathon brought together talented developers, designers, entrepreneurs, and tech enthusiasts based in Ilorin and around the country to build solutions that address key challenges faced by government agencies and the citizens of Kwara State.

"The government of Kwara State is grateful to all the stakeholders who have started the process of adopting the Nigeria Startup Act, and we look forward to working with all our partners."

Energy Crisis: Kaduna Artisans, Residents Groan Under Poor Electricity Supply

*Kaduna Electric blames TCN

By: IBRAHIMADAMU, Kaduna.

Residents of Kaduna metropolis have cried out over poor or complete lack of electricity supply, describing the development as disturbing and worrisome.

Worst-hit areas are the city centre known as commercial and business nerves of the state capital, Kurmin-Mashi, Tudun-Wada among others, whose residents are into a fourth day without electricity.

While residents with supply, hardly enjoy three straight hours of electricity, according to New Nigerian findings.

Kakuri, Barnawa, Sabo, Television, Rigasa, Ungwar Muazu among others are enjoying epileptic electricity supply of an average of three hours daily.

Our correspondent who went round some areas in the state capital, reports frustrations and helplessness of residents, particularly artisans who rely on public power supply to earn a living.

A welder, Bolaji Yusuf with a stand in part of the city where electricity was last supplied five days ago, decried the sad situation, saying he could barely feed his family since the blackout began.

"We have found ourselves in an unfortunate situation where we are left to our fate with nobody to run to for help to assuage the pathetic development.

"Most of us here solely depend on Kaduna Electric for electricity supply to run our trade but unfortunately we have not seen light for five straight days now," he lamented.

A business cafe owner in Tudun Wada district of the city who simply identified herself as Mama Sikiru said zero supply of electricity for straight five days had crippled commercial activities in the area, adding that most of her colleagues operating a similar venture had stopped

coming to open their shops for business.

"I spend an average of 2,500 naira everyday to power my generator since the total blackout began almost five days now.

"Expending on diesel has taken a chunk of what we make from this business.

"We are passionately appealing to Kaduna Electric to resolve the issue we learnt they're having with transmission companies so that we will have back power supplies," she pleaded.

A resident of Sabon Gari, Tudun Wada who preferred to speak on anonymity questioned the rationale of privatizing distribution of electricity to incapable hands with prior experience and financial muzzles to effectively provide stable power to Nigerians.

"Nigerians are yet to get value for their money since the privatization of the power sector, particularly the transmission and distribution arms.

"It has been frustrations upon frustrations due to inadequate power and sometimes zero supply with exorbitant charges with no corresponding service.

"We were assured we would be metered and charged based on energy consumed with robust and improved supply but the reverse is the case after over a decade of privatizing the energy sector.

"Urgent steps need to be taken before the situations deteriorates beyond redemption," he advised.

Alhaji Musa, a Frozen food operator said he had lost hundred of thousands of naira to purchasing diesel to power his generators since the total blackouts commenced, urging Kaduna Electric to urgently resolve her issue with TCN so that service would be reinstalled.

Head of corporate communication of Kaduna Electric in a statement explained



that the sad development was as a result of the action of market operators of Transportation Company of Nigeria of disconnecting some feeders of Discos from the National Grid.

"The Management of Kaduna Electric expresses great concern over the disconnection of some of our feeders from the power grid by the Market Operator.

"The affected feeders are; 33KV Abakpa, 33KV Doka and 33KV Mogadishu. Therefore, communities and neighborhoods feeding from these sources have been out of power supply since midnight when the disconnection was effected midnight on Tuesday, April 26th, 2023.

"This action by the Market Operator is as a result of poor remittance by Kaduna Electric and other defaulting players to the market.

"We seize this opportunity to restate that

as a company, we prioritize providing reliable and uninterrupted power supply to our customers. However, to maintain this level of service, we require timely payment for the energy consumed. Payment for electricity is essential to ensure the sustainability of our operations, and it is a responsibility that we all share.

"We apologise for the inconvenience this action by the Market Operator has caused and the impact it will have on your daily activities.

"We are working closely with all stakeholders to find a sustainable solution to the situation.

"Our goal is to restore power supply to all our customers as soon as possible.

"We appeal to all our customers to honor their payment obligations promptly to ensure continuous and uninterrupted power supply," the statement added.

Bodija Plank Market Inferno - Oyo Senator-elect Donates 50 Bundles Of Roofing Sheets To Victims

*Promises to do more

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Senator-elect for Oyo South Senatorial District and Maye Balogun Olubadan of Ibadanland Oloye Sharafadeen Alli on Friday delivered a 50 bundles of roofing sheets to victims of the Tuesday inferno at the market.

Oloye Alli while speaking through his media aide, Ayodele Adedokun, said the 50 bundles of roofing sheets was part of his promises to the plank sellers during his visit to commiserate with plank sellers at the burnt market.

"Oloye was here yesterday to commiserate with victims of fire incident at Bodija plank market and to look at level

of damage caused by the inferno", he said.

Adedokun added, " He promised palliatives during his visit and today, he sent us to deliver a 50 bundles of roofing sheets. We had handed over it to the market association as palliative for those suffered losses to the fire incident".

"He has also promised to do more. This is a first step to show his commitment towards the pledge".

The Chairman of Oyo State Plank Sellers Association in the market, Waliyu



Bodija Plank Market leaders offloading the donated roofing sheets

Aderoju commended the Senator-elect for his kind gesture to victims of the inferno.

"We received this palliative over

unfortunate fire incident that befell us. We pray we will not pay you back over unfortunate incident like this", he said. Aderoju added, " By the time we receive another gift from you, it would be for joyous reason and not for bad reason like this".

"God will give you peace of mind to succeed in your political sojourn and God will grant you all your heart desires including an ambition to become governor of Oyo State".

New Nigerian recalls that fire gutted popular Bodija Market, Plank Market section on Tuesday evening, razing over 120 shops.

Akwa Ibom Reaps Bounty Through Prudent Fiscal Management, Peace - AKIRS Boss

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Chairman of Akwa Ibom State Internal Revenue Service (AKIRS), Mr. Okon Okon has said that the prudent fiscal management and enduring peace have earned good for the state with a leap in its internally generated revenue within eight years. Okon expressed this during an inter-ministerial briefing organised by the State Ministry of Information and Strategy on Friday in Uyo, the state capital, tagged "Tracking the Promise" of governor Udom Emmanuel's led administration in eight years. According to Okon, the Akwa Ibom state internally generated revenue (IGR) has increased from N15.7 billion to N34.8 billion within the period. He explained that the leap in IGR was influenced by peace, prudent fiscal management and the introduction of technology in the operations of AKIRS. AKIRS Boss gave the breakdown of the IGR in eight years as N16 billion IGR in 2017, N24.2 billion in 2018, N30.6 billion in 2020, N31.4 billion in

2021 and N34.8 billion in 2022, adding that the COVID-19 period affected the IGR in 2019. "In 2019, during the COVID-19 period, Governor Udom Emmanuel out of his magnanimity granted tax exemptions and waivers in sectors of the economy so it would alleviate the pain and difficulties people experienced that time. That is taxation with human flesh, the Udom Emmanuel example. "He created an enabling environment. Without peace, there is no development; without peace, you cannot grow the economy; without peace, you cannot collect taxes. So the peace that Governor Udom Emmanuel brought about in Akwa Ibom state was one of the drivers of the IGR. "Akwa Ibom stands tall as one of the states in Nigeria, if not the very first that has created an environment for people to live, eat and relax and for the ease of doing business. "The next was to exercise prudent fiscal management, managing the funds in a manner that is transparent. This has attracted voluntary compliance from tax payers," he stated.

Projects: Ex Ebonyi Governor Commends Umahi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Barely a month to the end of his tenure, Governor David Umahi has embarked on massive commissioning of all completed rural and urban road projects across the senatorial zones of the state, with a former governor, Martin Elechi commending him for starting and completing several projects. The four-day scheduled commissioning event kicked off on Friday with five strategic roads across Ikwo, Abakaliki, Ohaukwu and Ishielu Local government areas of the State. The roads comprise the 34.5 km Ntezi - Agba (in Ishielu) - Isu (in Onicha) road and the Ezzangbo junction to Effium road which is a significant portion of the 198 km Abakaliki ring road. Others are five out of the 15 km Agubia- Oronga road, Enyibichiri - Ojon-Nwida roads both in Ikwo, and Obujia - Nwanwu road of 9.5 km in

Abakaliki LGA.

The commissioning tour which attracted former governors of the state, Chief Martin Elechi and Dr. Sam Egwu, among other major stakeholders, witnessed massive turnout of cheering villagers. Governor David Umahi while addressing the people in Ikwo, starting point of the tour, expressed gratitude to God for the achievements of his administration. He paid glowing tribute to his predecessor, Martin Elechi for his fatherly training which according to the governor, brought out the toughness in him. He expressed delight that the opposition parties and other detractors of his government are equally relishing the gains of infrastructural development in the State. Umahi expressed optimism that the incoming administration would complete some of the roads from where he stopped. He stated that the roads were built on 2mm concrete pavement, and

estimated the cost of the Ntezi - Agba - Isu road at the cost N7 billion.

Former governor, Elechi, while cutting the inauguration tape in some of the locations, applauded the governor whom he described as "my pikin."

He noted that such an avalanche of projects are not easy to come by in the midst of competing priorities in governance. "Nothing gives the people joy than having a good road transerving their community.

"Your Excellency you couldn't have done better. "I have been in government and knows how hard it is to source money for projects, let alone when there are many projects as you are doing.

"These roads will speed up economic activities in these areas.

"We are thankful to you, Your Excellency." In separate interviews, chairmen of Ikwo, Abakaliki, Ohaukwu and Ishielu local government areas, Sunday Nwankwo, Ebere Nwogba,

Ikechukwu Odon and Obinna Onwe, respectively, expressed their joy over the commissioned roads and other development projects of Governor Umahi in their areas.

They commended the governor for prudently managing the meagre resources of the state in producing maximum benefit to the people, describing the governor's infrastructural revolution as promises kept.

They pledged their continuous support to the governor in delivering democracy dividends to the people.

Others who cut the inauguration tapes for the projects, included the Governor-elect, Francis Nwifuru who inaugurated the Obujia - Nwanwu road and former Governor and Senator of Ebonyi North, Sam Ominyi Egwu who cut the tape for Ezzangbo junction - Effium road. Egwu was represented at the events by his wife, Eunice, who also appreciated the governor for touching lives of the people positively.



Sudan Crisis: About 7,000 Including Nigerians Stranded At Egyptian Border - Dabiri-Erewa

**Demands unfettered access to various destinations*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, (NIDCOM), Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa has alerted that about 7,000 nationals, including Nigerians are not being allowed to cross the border into

Egypt since their arrival late Thursday evening.

According to a statement on Friday by the Media, Public Relations and Protocols Unit, NIDCOM. Gabriel Odu, Hon Dabiri-Erewa has called on those concerned with passages and movement

of persons and services along contiguous borders of Sudan to create a humane condition for about 7000 Nationals, including Nigerians to have unfettered access to their various destinations.

Hon Dabiri-Erewa added that the Nigerian mission in Egypt has been working tirelessly on this as the Egyptian

authorities are insisting on visas by fellow Africans to transit back to their countries. She then appealed to the Egyptian authorities to kindly allow the already traumatised travellers to transit to their final destinations in various countries in Africa.



Stakeholders at the meeting

Wamakko Urges FG To Honour MAAUN Founder, Prof. Gwarzo

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

The Federal Government of Nigeria has been called upon to honour Prof. Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo, the Founder and Chairman Governing Council of Maryam Abacha American University conglomerate, with one of the country's top national honours in appreciation of his selfless service to humanity.

A staff of the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), Mahdi Aliyu Wamakko, made the call

on Wednesday April 26, 2023, while fielding questions from newsmen shortly after he visited the university, located at Hotoro GRA, Kano State. Wamakko, who is the son of a former governor of Sokoto State and Senator representing Sokoto North, Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko, described Prof. Gwarzo as an education liberator and pathfinder, who invested hugely to ensure that education is given the much needed attention it deserves.

He noted that Prof. Gwarzo deserves the honor in view of his commitment towards

eradicating ignorance in Northern Nigeria as well as his incredible effort towards empowering the youth and the less privileged in the society. According to Wamakko, honouring Prof. Gwarzo with a national award would stimulate and inspire other people to do more excellent work and meritorious services for the nation.

He advised well-to-do individuals in the society to take advantage of the new institution by taking their children to MAAUN so as to enable them secure quality education

and contribute their quota towards the development of the country.

"I'm happy to say that MAAUN is one of the best private University if not the best because of the state of the art facilities that are put in place. So, I advise parents especially in this part of the country to bring their children here to study instead of taking them outside the country.

"Prof. Gwarzo should be honored by the Federal Government as no individual in the country has made investment in the sector like him," he said.



Collaboration Of Relevant Govt Authorities, Public Can End Indiscriminate Waste Disposal - Oyo Commissioner

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Commissioner for Information, Culture and Tourism, Dr. Wasiu Olatubosun on Friday, advocated genuine collaboration between relevant government authorities and the public to tackle the menace of indiscriminate waste disposal.

Dr. Olatubosun made the call while speaking at a town hall meeting tagged, "Beautiful Ibadan City: The Waste Management Agenda", held in Ibadan, attended by key participants the commissioner pointed out that Oyo State Government, under Governor Seyi Makinde's leadership has done a lot in managing waste, adding that before 2019, the 4 dump sites in Ibadan were poorly managed and this gave room for communicable diseases in Awotan and other residential areas close to the dumpsites, until Makinde's government gave the dumpsite a face-lift.

Dr. Olatubosun emphasized that Oyo state government has laws on sanitation that must be enforced, to bring about the needed change in the State.

"There is a need for a change in people's attitude towards waste disposal. We have also approached residents with appeal, which we trust will bring changes in people's attitudes", he said.

Dr. Olatubosun added, "Our duty bearers, enforcement agencies must see to it that the laws are respected and enforced in the State". Chairperson, Oyo State Waste Management

Taskforce, Mrs. Adedayo Aderonke while speaking said "Waste management in Oyo State is a social enterprise" and that part of the ways of tackling poor waste management in the State, was the Government employing one Private Sector Participation, who has over the years built waste management business, in a way the Oyo State Government appreciates.

Mrs. Adedayo maintained that in pursuit of Sustainable waste management, the Waste management contractor, Mottainai Recycling Ltd. regulates the activities of about 121 Mottainai Accredited Franchisees, otherwise known as MAFs.

Lauding Mottainai for its efforts at ensuring proper waste collection and monitoring of waste dumping, she stressed that Community Policing is key to waste management, as a local problem requires local solutions, in this side of the country.

"Initially the state had about 235 waste collectors, some of them were not paying into the coffers of the government, and they did not have capacity either. This contributed largely to the poor management of waste in the State", she said.

Mrs Adebayo added, "We are getting it right in Oyo State because we have ensured proper control of the activities. The strength of waste management is based on monitoring of operations", she added.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Abdulwasiu Ajagbe appealed to residents of the state to join hands together in putting an end to solid waste problems.



President Buhari

Buhari Postpones 2023 National Census

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna.

President Muhammadu Buhari has approved postponement of National Population and Housing Census earlier scheduled to hold between May 3 to 7, 2023. The decision to put on hold the census exercise to a later date suitable for the incoming administration, was explained in a statement by Minister of Communication and Culture, Lai Mohammed. The minister pointed out that the decision was arrived at after a meeting with stakeholders, including; some members of Federal Executive Council, Chairman of National Population Commission and his team at the Villa on Friday April 28, 2023.

Lai Mohammed added that the meeting observed critical need for the conduct of a population and housing census 17 years after the last one to collect up-to-date data to

drive developmental goals of the country and improve living standard of Nigerian people.

He quoted the president to have noted progress made so far to include; completion of Enumeration Area Demarcation of the country, Conduct of first and second pretests, recruitment and training of ad-hoc workers, procurement of personal digital and ICT infrastructure among others, adding that massive deployment of technology would help in giving the nation a world-class and above all, laying a sustainable foundation for future censuses.

He said the president however, directed the commission to continue with preparations for the conduct of 2023 census in order to consolidate gains made on which basis the incoming administration would build on after choosing a convenient date for the exercise," he concluded.

Late Night Inferno Guts Ooni's Palace

**No casualties, injuries recorded,
*No cultural items lost, says Director,
Media and Public Affairs, Ooni's Palace*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A building apartment within the courtyard of the Palace of the Ooni of Ife was late Friday night, engulfed in a fire incident reportedly triggered by power surge which exploded through electrical appliances in the affected apartment.

According to a statement by the Director, Media and Public Affairs, Ooni's

Palace. Otunba Moses Olafare, the incident occurred at about 11:30pm. Otunba Olafare stressed in the statement that, "the inferno did not spread beyond the affected building located at a section of the palace premises as it was swiftly put off through the combined efforts of the Government Fire Service, OAU Fire Service and Palace Emergency Control Unit".

The Director, Media and Public Affairs, Ooni's Palace emphasized that, "no casualties, no injuries was recorded and no cultural items lost" in the inferno.

"A building apartment within the courtyard of the Palace Of The Ooni of Ife was at about 11:30pm yesterday engulfed in flames of fire incident triggered by power surge which exploded through electrical appliances in the

affected apartment.

"The inferno did not spread beyond the affected building located at a section of the palace premises as it was swiftly put off through the combined efforts of the Government Fire Service, OAU Fire Service & Palace Emergency Control Unit.

"No casualties, no injuries recorded, no cultural items lost, thanks to the Almighty Olodumare."



Building affected by inferno

Imbibe Culture Of Inclusiveness To Deepen Democracy - Prof Suleiman

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Director General of Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) and a former Minister of National Planning, Prof. Abubakar O. Suleiman has opined that for Nigeria to sustain and deepen democracy, it must imbibe the culture of political inclusion.

Speaking on Thursday in Abuja during the public presentation of a research report on inclusive practices of political parties in Nigeria organized by the Institute

for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) in conjunction with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), he observed that fake news, ethnic and religious sentiments, upsurge in politics of bitterness and animosity as threats to the existence of the country's democracy.

He opined that there is casting of dark shadow over the significant achievements in the last two decades following some perennial challenges to the country's democracy have

continued to manifest.

According to him, "An essential requirement for sustainable democracy is political inclusion, especially for minorities and marginalised groups. Indeed, the very notion of democratic governance is premised on the notion of equal participation by all citizens."

He lamented that women, young people, and people with disabilities need equal and meaningful participation and representation in all facets of the electoral process, stressing that women and youth constitute more than half of Nigeria's

population, yet their participation in governance processes where decisions are made remains peripheral.

Joseph Achie Abu, the National Organising Secretary of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), who spoke on behalf of all the political parties in the country, noted that the level of youths, women, and People With Disabilities, their participation in the electoral process has been low despite efforts to accommodate them through little or no charges for expression of interest and nomination forms.



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Jos North Suspends Business Activities Following Tanker Tragedy

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

The Executive Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Shehu Bala Usman has suspended business activities at Bauchi Junction Ring Road as a result of the tanker inferno that claimed several lives, leaving many others injured.

The chairman who led a high-powered delegation from the local government

council to ascertain the extent of damage which involved a tanker conveying Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), lamented that the incident led to the loss of lives and property.

The chairman who was accompanied by some security agencies, took time to inspect the affected places, explaining that his administration will ensure the protection of lives and property of

citizens.

While sympathizing with the affected families who lost their loved ones, Usman said the incident happened when people were at the peak of their normal businesses.

The council chairman said his administration is working round the clock to evacuate debris of all the cars parked by

the road side.

He assured that he will set up a committee to investigate the root cause of the accident, with a view to averting future occurrences.

The unfortunate accident caused traffic gridlock around Bauchi road at the time of filing this report.



Court Bars FG From Proceeding With Concession Of Ajaokuta Steel, Itakpe Iron Ore Mining Companies

By; ADO ADEBOYE, Akure

A Kogi State High Court sitting in Lokoja, the state capital, has ordered the Federal Government to desist from proceeding with the concession of the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL) and the National Iron Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO) at Itakpe.

The court also barred the government from conducting its planned virtual pre-qualification conference interview slated for May 4, 2023, pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice.

The Federal Government had commenced concession process for the two companies which are located in Kogi State, and had placed an advertisement to that effect.

However, the Attorney General of Kogi State, on behalf of the government and people of the state, approached the court with a suit marked HCL/211M/2023 and sought for enrolment order of the court stopping the government from continuing with the concession process.

While the Attorney General of Kogi State is the Claimant/Applicant, the Attorney General of the Federation, Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL) and National Iron Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO) are the Defendants/Respondents in the

motion numbered 211M/2003 and brought pursuant to Order 11, Rules 7 of the Kogi State High Court (Civil Procedure Rules) 2006.

Leading seven other lawyers, M. Y. Abdullahi, SAN, Applicant's Counsel, drew the attention of the court to the affidavit of urgency deposed to in the application while seeking the enrolment order.

The two orders prayed by the Kogi State Attorney General included: "An order for interim injunction restraining the Defendants/Respondents, their agents, representatives, officials and whosoever acting for them, or through them, or on their behalf, from proceeding with the concession of the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL) and the National Iron Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO) and or from doing anything whatsoever connected or incidental thereto, pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice.

"An order for interim injunction restraining the Defendants/Respondents from carrying out any of the itemized functions/activities as contained in their publication, 'Request for the Qualification for the Concession of the National Iron Ore Mining Company Solicited PPP Process' and 'Request for Qualification for the Concession of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited Solicited PPP Process' published on Friday, 21st April, 2023 in the Daily Trust Newspaper of Friday, 21st April, 2023" to wit: Submission of

Request for Qualification (RFQ), Submission of Request for Proposal (RFP), virtual pre-application conference interview slated for May 4th, 2023; pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice."

Delivering his ruling, Hon. Justice Josiah Majebi, the Chief Judge of the

state and presiding judge of the High Court I, found substance in the motion and granted the two prayers of the applicant.

He said the affidavit of urgency deposed to by the claimant clearly established that he "has a prima facie case on a claim of right to the 5th and 6th defendants (ASCL and NIOMCO) and that except the court intervenes at this stage to prevent the defendants from proceeding with their plan on concession of the companies, their action will foist a state of helplessness and hopelessness." He said it would also lead to the "loss of his (Applicant's) cause of action leading to his right and interest extinguished completely (and) that the defendants would have completed the process of the concession in less than 30 days which is before the period of 30 days allowed by the rule of court for the defendants to file their defence."

Consequently, Majebi ruled: "In



the circumstance, I hold that the grant of order of interim injunction is appropriate and necessary to preserve the rest in this case as a matter of urgency and to prevent a situation of irreparable damage to the applicant as one having interest in the 5th and 6th defendants pending the determination of the motion on notice."

The orders given by Majebi on Thursday, April 27, 2023, against the six defendants read in full, "It is ordered as follows: The Defendants/Respondents, their agents, representatives, officials and whosoever acting for them, or through them, or on their behalf, are hereby restrained from proceeding with the concession of the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL) and the National Iron Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO) and or from doing anything whatsoever connected or incidental thereto, pending the hearing and determination of the

Motion on Notice.

"The Defendants/Respondents are hereby restrained from carrying out any of the itemized functions/activities as contained in their publication, 'Request for the Qualification for the Concession of the National Iron Ore Mining Company Solicited PPP Process' and 'Request for Qualification for the Concession of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited Solicited PPP Process' published on Friday, 21st April, 2023 in the Daily Trust Newspaper of Friday, 21st April, 2023' to wit: Submission of Request for Qualification (RFQ), Submission of Request for Proposal (RFP), virtual pre-application conference interview slated for May 4th, 2023; pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice. The Motion on Notice shall be heard on 4th day of May, 2023."

Sudan: 637 Nigerian Evacuees Safe At Egypt Borders - FG

**Says undergoing necessary documentation, clearance, secondary batch expected*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Federal Government on Saturday, said 637 Nigerian evacuees have arrived safe borders at Aswan in Egypt undergoing necessary documentation and clearance.

This was contained in a statement jointly signed by Ambassador Janet Olisa, and Dr. Nasir Sani-Gwarzo, Director Overseeing the Office of the Permanent Secretary and Permanent Secretary, MFA FMHADMSD.

According to the statement, the movement of the second batch of 29 buses will commence today Saturday, 29th April, 2023 and that the evacuees are advised to be at the designated locations with only one luggage.

The statement stressed that while the Federal Government empathizes with affected Nigerians, it pointed out that,

"maintaining order amidst the desperate situation remains crucial to getting all interested Nigerians out of the war zone in record time before the expiration of the ceasefire, which has been extended by 72 hours".

"The first batch of 13 buses conveying six hundred and thirty seven (637) evacuees had arrived the identified safe borders at Aswan, Egypt and are undergoing necessary documentation and clearance before admission into the Egyptian territory for their eventual evacuation to Nigeria.

"The movement of the second batch of 29 buses will commence on Saturday, 29th April, 2023", it said.

The statement added, "contrary to insinuations on the social media, Embassy staff are very much on ground in Khartoum to coordinate the evacuation exercise to the very end. The students and

other Nigerians awaiting evacuation from Khartoum, Sudan are therefore, advised to cooperate with them in order to ensure orderliness and proper documentation while embarking on the buses.

"This will go a long way in speeding up the process and avoiding unnecessary delays with documentation and clearance upon arrival at the Aswan, Egypt".

The statement stressed that "the general public is also advised to discountenance unverified information being circulated on the social media as some of the mare either due to ignorance or sheer mischief. According to the statement, "the outcry over the negotiated sum of \$1.2 million for the buses hired for the exercise, is uncalled for. The amount in question, was negotiated in a condition of war and where there are competing demands for same bus services by other countries also trying to evacuate their citizens"

It maintained, "therefore, the cooperation and understanding of all and sundry is required to complement ongoing efforts aimed at ensuring the safe return of every Nigerian trapped in Sudan", adding, "the Federal Government of Nigeria seizes this opportunity to extend appreciation to friendly countries who have in one way or the other assisted in bringing succour to Nigerians fleeing the war in Sudan.

"Particularly, Nigeria acknowledges the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for graciously assisting with the evacuation of eight Nigerians from Sudan to safety in its territory, from where they would be airlifted back to Nigeria. In the time being, the first batch of Nigerian evacuees who have arrived Aswan are expected to be airlifted to Nigeria in the coming hours by the Nigerian Air Force and Air Peace airline, who have been on standby for the operations."

el-Rufai Receives Report On Urban Gangsterism, 98 Hoodlums Arrested For Homicide, Phone Snatching

**19 charged to court, 61 undergoing investigation at various divisions
18 transferred to SCID for further investigation ahead of prosecution

By; FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna
Worried by the increase in urban gangsterism perpetrated by criminals popularly known as 'Sara-Suka' in Kaduna Metropolis, Governor Nasir el-Rufai who demanded for an aggressive action against the criminals, has received a progress report from the Kaduna State Police Command. According to a statement signed by the Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Kaduna State, Samuel Aruwan, made available to newsmen on Saturday April 29, 2023, the criminals had been attacking citizens and snatching their mobile phones and other belongings, a situation which resulted in

loss of several lives and severe injuries inflicted on innocent citizens. According to the report, which was accompanied with pictorial evidence, a total of 98 suspects were arrested between the 26th and 28th of April, 2023, of which 19 have been charged to court, while 61 are still under investigation at various Divisions within the Kaduna Metropolis. Eighteen (18) of those arrested have been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department for further investigation ahead of prosecution. The report further revealed that several exhibits were recovered from the suspects which include snatched mobile phones, sharp knives, sharp scissors, cudgels,

dried leaves suspected to be Indian Hemp, assorted hard drugs and accessories to aid their consumption, masters keys and other valuables. The Governor tasked the Command to ensure due diligence in prosecution without compromise, and directed that the manhunt for those at large should be intensified until they are all brought to justice. He also condoled families that lost their loved ones and wished the injured speedy recovery. He further allayed their fears of any possible compromise of the cases, stating that the Kaduna State Government has an effective mechanism in place through the

Ministry of Justice to ensure a thorough and scrupulous process. Finally, the Governor called on members of communities such as Rigasa, Kawo, Ungwan Muazu, Badarawa, Kwaru, Rigachikun, Barnawa, Ungwan Rimi, Trikania, Nasarawa, Makera, Sabon Tasha, Narayi, Rafin Guza, Tudun Wada and other locations, to provide the names of suspected gang members in their localities for follow-up action by security agencies. Relevant information may be forwarded to the Security Operations Room on the phone lines 09034000060 and 08170189999.



How DAMMF Foundation, Fitila Movement Organised Memorable Iftar

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Iftar is the main meal of the fasting day, which occurs at sunset every day of Ramadan, and is more rewarding when celebrated as Get Together in the spirit of friendship and selflessness.

In a spirit of friendship, Detola Abike Mogaji Memorial Foundation (DAMMF) and Hon. Oluwaseun Adekunmi in (HOA) collaboration with Fitila Movement organised breaking of fast get together, which was part of their collective goal of bringing together and showing love and appreciation to the local community especially for their support during the just concluded general elections where all All Progressives Congress (APC) came out victorious. The foundations offered free iftar meals to residents, especially the non-indigenes in Efiyan, Odo and Ayiepe communities of Odogbolu Local Government Area, Ogun State.

The convener of Fitila Movement, who is also the Executive Chairman of Odogbolu Local Government, Hon Ladejobi Shuaib said, "as we look forward to the democratic dispensation where Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu will be sown in as the

President of Federal Republic of Nigeria and our Governor in Ogun State, Prince Dapo Abiodun, we pray for unity, understanding and tolerance among citizens."

He also prayed for love and compassion, forgiveness for our departed souls in whose honour the iftar was organised.

Hon. Oluwaseun Oguntade said, "we are so excited as we celebrate Ramadan iftar especially with the non indigenes at Efiyan, Odo and Ayiepe communities of Odogbolu Local Government, Ogun State and gave to each other a sense of the spirit of Ramadan.

"It's always exciting in engaging with the beneficiaries and sensitizing them on the need and importance of showing kindness/empathy in all their daily endeavours", Mogaji Olatunde, promoter of Detola Abike Mogaji Memorial Foundation said.

"Those who attended, enjoyed themselves and it was evident by the smiles and positive feedback received during and after the event which only serves as encouragement," Mogaji added.



Mr. Mogaji Olatunde of Detola Abike Mogaji Memorial Foundation (DAMMF), Hon. Oluwaseun Oguntade of Hon. Oguntade Adekunmi (HOA) Foundation offering Iftar meal to residents of Odogbolu community as part of its grassroots support movement during the 2023 Ramadan

A'Ibom CP Tasks Corps Members On Ethical Standards

By PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Commissioner of Police, Akwa Ibom State Command, CP Olatoye Durosinni has warned the Batch 'A' Stream 2 Corps Members deployed to the state to shun the vices of drug abuse and cultism during their service year since becoming endemic to these will only lead to bad endings.

The Command Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Odiko Macdon in a statement made to available to journalists in Uyo on Friday, stated that the CP Durosinni gave the warning during their swearing-in ceremony at the NYSC Orientation Camp in Nsit Atai Local Government Area of the state.

Macdon added that the Commissioner

rather has advised Corp members to make and sustain good relationship while identifying areas they can take advantage of to make decent living after service year. CP Durosinni who congratulated the new t Members for their deployment and successful swearing-in ceremony, assured them of police security while in Akwa Ibom State.

"For information and security concerns, NYSC and other members of the public can contact, the Police Commissioner dropped the following number

Control Hotline- 08039273071

Police Public Complaint Bureau Hotline- 09169839213

Information Hotline (WhatsApp & Text only): 09050282806," it added.



Akwa Ibom CP Durosinni during the swearing-in ceremony of Corp members at NYSC camp, Nsit Atai

		Unaudited		Audited
		3 Months to 31-Mar-23	3 Months to 31-Mar-22	December 2022
		N'000	N'000	N'000
CAPITAL HOTELS PLC				
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH, 2023				
	Notes			
Turnover	5.11	991,270	1,251,825	5,332,322
Cost of sales	5.11	(636,200)	(1,077,103)	(5,833,681)
Gross Profit/(loss)		355,070	174,722	(501,359)
Other operating income	20		12,170	(19,637)
Administration expenses	22	277,568	(178,486)	(426,168)
Operating Profit/(Loss)		77,502	8,406	(947,164)
Finance income	21	3,825	4,988	138,883
Profit/(Loss) before tax		81,327	13,394	(808,281)
Tax expense	16	(26,025)	(4,286)	648,377
Profit/Loss for the Period		55,302	9,108	(159,904)
Other comprehensive income:				
Revaluation (Net Tax)		-	-	-
Judgement debt expenses		-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period		55,302	9,108	(159,904)
Earning per share:				
- Basic (Kobo)	5.15	1.75	0.59	(0.07)
- Diluted		1.75	0.59	(0.07)

The accompanying notes on pages 7 to 31 form an integral part of these financial statements.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Alex Ugwuanyi, Esq.
FRC No. FRC/2017/NBA/00000016473
For: Ifebunandu & Co.
Company Secretary
28 April 2023.

Many Feared Injured As 2-Storey Building Collapses In Calabar

By: Vitalis Ugoh, Calabar

Many residents of a two-storey building in Calabar, capital of Cross River State are feared seriously injured as it collapsed over the weekend.

The affected victims were rushed to various hospitals to give them treatment.

The exact number of residents occupying the building was not known as at the time of filing this report.

Following the ugly incident, the state government has noted with great concern, the unfortunate occurrence of the two-storey building that collapsed at Nta Eke Street, along EFIO-Ette axis of Ikot Ishie in Calabar Municipality of the state.

To register his concern, His Excellency, the state governor, Senator Ben Ayade immediately directed the deployment of relevant ministries and agencies



officials to coordinate rescue efforts as well as provide medical support to the injured and security in and around the vicinity of the collapse two-

storey building.

Meanwhile, he directed preliminary investigations into the incident, indicating that the cause of the building collapse is

not unconnected to negligence and use of sub-standard building materials, which had earlier attracted the attention of the state's Ministry of Urban Renewal to issue the builder an advisory "Stop Work Notice".

Our investigations revealed that the notice was ignored by the builder.

Already, a number of persons trapped in the collapsed building have been rescued and have been taken to

hospital for proper treatment, according officials of government.

"Government hereby notes and appreciates the quick

intervention of the member-elect for Calabar Municipality, Mr Stanley Nsemo for providing the excavator and emergency relief materials as well as collaborating with the Ministry of Health to ensure that ambulances were on ground to convey affected persons to the hospital.

"Government hereby assures residents that full investigation shall be carried out on the incident to checkmate a recurrence in the future, while at same time, guaranteeing the safety of lives and property in the state.

"Accordingly, government hereby urges all residents to continue to go on with their normal businesses in and around the area of the collapsed building and the state as a whole," Mr. Eric Iso Anderson, Commissioner for Information and Orientations advised.

Guber Poll: Can NNPP Spring Surprise In Kogi

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

With the general election over, all eyes are now being shifted to Kogi, Bayelsa and Imo states, whose governorship polls are expected respectively to come up later this year.

In Kogi State, the storm is already gathering and there are serious levels of scheming, permutations and manipulation on who will succeed Governor Yahaya Bello whose second term will officially terminate by Jan 14, 2024.

With the conclusion of parties primaries in Kogi State ahead of the November 11 gubernatorial election, political actors are already warming up for what is expected to be fiercely contested gubernatorial poll.

Although several of the political parties are still lodged in internal wrangling and disputes emanating from the conduct of their gubernatorial primaries, however, the gubernatorial candidates are already preparing for the launch of campaigns in the state, which is expected to begin in July, in line with the 2022 amended Electoral Act.

For many, this year's gubernatorial poll in Kogi would be keenly contested and a departure from the past where, only the candidates of the two dominant political parties in the country, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC) where competitive.

Observers say that the birth of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) and the growing popularity of the party in Northern Nigeria is healthy for democracy, while offering an alternative platform for Kogites.

In recent months, the NNPP has been building structures across Kogi State, especially in Kogi East.

Political analysts say the NNPP has become a third force of some sort that could spring surprise in the gubernatorial poll, if right decisions are taken by its leaders, while also putting its house in order ahead of the November poll.

For many the gubernatorial election this time around would not be an easy ride for the APC.

In the last eight years, Governor Bello's administration has received knocks for poor performance; many indigenes of the state say he has failed to fulfil his campaign promises and performed below expectations despite the resources of the state.

In the last eight years, the APC, the state and the governor appear to have accumulated varied reputations, all of which were unified by the presumed desire for economic growth yet limited by the disconnections between the people's expectations and the democratic dividends delivered.

Although Bello has successfully chosen his successor, Usman Ododo who hails from the same Kogi Central with him, but

there are criticisms that other zones should have been given a chance to rule the state instead.

Governor Bello was hell-bent in producing his successor within the rank of his cabinet members and his trusted aides who will carry on with his projects.

This may not have been a serious issue to contend with within the fold of the ruling party but for the fact that Governor Bello's rigid insistence that his successor will not only come out from his cabinet but also from his own central senatorial district.

This stance, it is gathered, has caused a serious stir within the APC in the state which has now been fragmented and divided into different factions with each working at crossroads.

Before the 2015 governorship election in the state, there were cries of marginalisation and injustice on the part of other senatorial districts, the Kogi west who are mainly the Okun-Youruba speaking tribes and the Kogi East mainly the Igala.

This it was gathered was why the Kogi West axis of the APC teamed up in 2015 in the party primary to support Yahaya Bello who is an Ebira man and who was seen as the youngest and most energetic among the aspirants, a development that made him to be the runner up to Abubakar Audu.

In recent years there have been increased agitations from Kogi East, that they should be given a chance to rule the state, which is seen in mostly all the political parties choosing their gubernatorial candidates from the zone.

Many people say that Kogi State has made little progress in the last eight years and is not where it should be, such that there is increased yearning among Kogites for change of narrative and new direction for the state going forward.

However, the general feeling among some sections of indigenes in the state, is that the NNPP could offer that alternative platform that can take Kogi to its desired position if given the opportunity to rule the state.

The optimism is born out of the fact that the NNPP is one of the fastest growing political parties in Nigeria, especially in the North West, where it won the gubernatorial election in Kano State, while also winning national and state legislatures seats in other states in the North.

Perhaps, a major factor that may work in favour of the party is the emergence of its gubernatorial candidate from Kogi East, with the possibility of a deputy from Kogi West.

Observers say what can boost the chances of the NNPP gubernatorial candidate, Mubarak Abucho Musa would be if he can work with other party leaders across the state to run a robust campaign that can help increase the popularity of the NNPP and wide acceptance.

Some have suggested that since Mubarak hails from Kogi

east, his running mate should be chosen from Kogi West, to boost his chances because of the clamour for rotational government in the state.

Although the task before NNPP may not look easy knowing that the two dominant parties, the PDP and APC are well established in the state, especially with the APC with incumbency power and state resources at its disposal.

Ladipo Jhonson, spokesperson for the Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso presidential campaign for the 2023 poll, says the large number of people who showed interest in becoming the party's gubernatorial candidate is a clear testimony of the growing popularity of the NNPP in Kogi State.

Ladipo said the party had mapped out strategies and plans to aid its victory in the Kogi gubernatorial poll, stressing that the APC's failure in the state in the last eight years was an opportunity for other parties to capitalize on.

"Kwankwaso has a decent structure in Kogi State, for the fact that you had eleven people contesting for the gubernatorial ticket means they party is on ground.

"But I can assure you that the NNPP has a good chance now that the governor brought someone from his senatorial district and Igala.

"Kwankwaso has a descent structure in Kogi, but we have mapped out what plans to aid our candidate victory.

"The immediate task for us now; is to unite everyone after the primary and work collectively. We are happy that everyone have decided to come together and work for the party after the primary without much bitterness", Jhonson said.

Similarly, Mustapha Akeem, a chieftain of the NNPP in Kogi State, said the last eight years of the Bello's administration had taken the state backward, stressing that the people are yearning for change.

He said the party's gubernatorial candidate, Mubarak, had the capacity to transform the state and fight poverty if given the chance to rule by indigenes.

According to him, "We are hopeful that this election would not be like the previous ones, because our people have suffered so much in the last eight years, and can't wait to see this administration come to and end.

"There is nothing on ground across Kogi, there is poverty and hunger in the land, go round and see. But it is an opportunity for us to correct the wrongs when we come in.

"I am sure with the conclusion of the gubernatorial primary, we would put our house in order before the campaigns begin and prepare to win this election.

"Bello's decision to take APC's candidate from his constituency would be his greatest undoing, and we would capitalize on that".

Anti-graft War: DSS, ICPC, FRSC Laud EFCC Over Professionalism, Public Enlightenment

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Department of State Services (DSS), Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), as well as Kaduna State Traffic Law Enforcement Agency (KASTLEA), have all commended the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), for its professionalism and enhanced public

enlightenment in the fight against corruption and economic and financial crimes. The EFCC received the commendations during familiarization visits by the acting Zonal Commander of the EFCC, Kaduna, ACE II Aisha Abubakar, to the heads of these agencies, recently. Speaking during the separate visits, Abubakar acknowledged the tremendous support the Commission had enjoyed from the agencies in its fight against

corruption and economic and financial crimes. Abubakar, who reiterated that the fight against corruption requires the concerted efforts of the citizenry, urged the agencies to continue to assist the Commission with their professional inputs where necessary. Responding, the respective heads of the agencies rated the EFCC highly in its commitment to its mandate, in spite of the seeming apathy by some members of the

society, among other challenges. The agencies' heads, individually, expressed satisfaction with the Commission over its enlightenment and re-orientation activities geared towards ensuring that the citizens also take ownership of the war against corruption. This, it was disclosed, had afforded them a better understanding of the patriotic activities of the Commission. They also lauded the

Commission for changing the narrative about the war against corruption, particularly because of its improved conviction record since the appointment of its Executive Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa. Also, they described as "encouraging" the intervention by the Commission to prevent electoral malpractices during the just-concluded general elections in Nigeria.



Akpabio, Jibrin Best For Senate Leadership, APC Forum Writes Tinubu, Adamu

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A prominent support group of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Concerned APC Members Forum, has endorsed the candidacy of Senator Barau I. Jibrin for the position of Deputy Senate President in the 10th National Assembly leadership.

The APC chieftains said it will communicate the decision to the President-elect, Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the national chairman of the party, Senator Abdullahi Adamu through an official letter on Monday morning.

Addressing a press conference on Saturday in Abuja, national convener of the forum, Comrade Okpokwu Ogenyi, demanded adherence to the Federal Character principle, adding that every geo-political zone should be given a sense of belonging.

The APC forum noted that the South-west and North-east have since produced President-elect and Vice – President respectively, the group urged the APC National Working Committee and the Progressives Governors Forum to consider zoning of President of the Senate and Deputy Senate President to the South-south and North-west.

Ogenyi said both zones contributed massive votes to the victory of the ruling party in the last February election and should be adequately rewarded.

The forum further maintained that the duo of Senator Godswill Akpabio, (Akwa-Ibom North West) and Senator Barau Jibrin, (Kano North) being ranking Senators from

both zones should be considered for the exalted seats.

He said: "We believe that the party's role in the National Assembly Leadership is to ensure the emergence of a competent senator who has distinguished himself over the years, devoid of religious and tribal sentiment, a pan-Nigerian who has been tested and trusted, proven worthy of integrity, character and prudent management.

"As believers in the Nigerian project, our appeal to the party is to consider the federal character in the zoning of the 10th senate leadership bearing in mind, competence and credibility with an understanding that Nigeria is a circular state with multi-faith and six geo-political zones.

"We wish to remind you the leadership of our party that, the President-elect is from the South West, and the Vice President-elect is from the North East, as such, the Senate President should be zoned to the South-South and the Deputy Senate President to the North West while the speaker of the House of Representatives and deputy should be accommodated by the other zones in view of competence and credibility of Honourable members.

"The President-elect needs highly competent senators with vast knowledge of legislative business to complement him in delivering dividends of democracy to Nigerians. To this end, we have gone ahead in shopping for highly competent, ranking Senators who shall work assiduously with the President-elect and members of the



National Assembly to ensure stability and prudent financial appropriation and law-making for the overall interest of the country as the President and Deputy President of the 10th Senate.

"Although, we have watched with keen interest, the agitations from the various geo-political zones clamouring to produce the Senate President. We have also studied their request and concluded that APC as a national party should consider federal character considering the six geo-political zones and the circular nature of the country for even distribution of key government positions.

"We are aware that zoning is not done in a vacuum, so we highly recommend H.E Senator Godswill Akpabio for the position of Senate President and Senator Barau I. Jibrin as Deputy Senate President respectively. This will go a long way in building the confidence of APC members across the country in preparation for the future of our great party, the APC.

"It is pertinent to note that, in the South, South-South contributed the second highest votes after South-West which houses the President-elect. The North-West gave the party the highest votes in the North with Kano state consistently giving APC the highest vote per state in every election since the formation of the APC.

"More so, our submission is based on their legislative experience, prudent financial management, fair disposition towards national peace and unity, care for the less privileged, competence, reward for hard

work, electoral value, and diplomatic relations.

"In the National Assembly, Senator Akpabio is the most ranking senator from the South-South under the platform of the APC while Senator Barau I. Jibrin is the most ranking senator from the North West.

"We sincerely appeal to the National Chairman of our great Party, H.E. Sen Abdullahi Adamu CON, and his National Working Committee members to zone the Senate Presidency seat to the South-South and the Deputy Senate President to the North West, preferably micro-zoned to Akwa Ibom State and Deputy Senate President to Kano State to pave way for the most ranking Senators, Godswill Akpabio and Barau I. Jibrin to emerge as the Senate President and Deputy Senate President of the 10th Senate respectively.

"We unequivocally call on the President-elect Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Progressives Governor's Forum (PGF) and the State chairmen of our party to implement a government of National competence by supporting the zoning of the Senate Presidency to the South-South and Deputy to the North West.

"To this end, this organisation is publicly making this appeal to our leaders while official letters will be sent to our party's National Chairman and the President-elect respectively in this regard.

We shall continue to advocate for good governance in promoting the ideology of our great party, APC."

Cuba: We Did Not Come to Africa to Steal Your Resources

By Jibrin Ibrahim

Yesterday, the Cuban Embassy held a briefing session on their recently held elections which took place in March. Cuba, with a population of just over 11 million has a National Assembly of 470, with each member representing just about 30,000 people. This means constituents actually know their representatives. Their National Assembly is not full time, members remain on their work posts and run their normal life and simply go to parliament when it is in session.

“Way back in 1960, when France was trying to destroy Guinea because the people said no to colonialism, Castro and the Cuban Government were providing support. By 1963, Cuba was providing medical assistance to Algeria. In the Liberation struggles of Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Guinea Bissau, Cuba was with the people and many of their people died in the struggles. Their friendship with Africa has remained deep and sincere.”

While the National Assembly is directly elected by the people, the President is elected indirectly, that is, by the National Assembly. The high level of participation in the elections, 75%, in a context deep economic crisis provoked by the American blockade was widely seen by both pro- and anti-government groups as a litmus test to gauge support for the Cuban leadership at this time. Once again, the message seems to be the legendary resilience of both the people and government of Cuba remains strong. No wonder the Cuban President, Miguel Diaz-Canel, hailed the vote as a “victory” for the Cuban people.

Cuba's electoral system does not allow for opposition parties, so most parliamentary candidates are members of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC). Nonetheless, candidates still must receive 50 percent of votes to be elected. Opposition groups, primarily outside of Cuba, had encouraged voters to stay home in protest, saying the election had no meaning in a one-party system with no formal opposition or international oversight. The people, apparently, did not listen to the advice. Top of Form.

Bottom of Form

Cuba is largely defined by the Castro legacy. He ran Cuba from 1959 to 2008 and died at the ripe age of 90 years surviving 634 assassination attempts on his life by American intelligence. That is why he is a legend when compared with the mere legendary cat with only nine lives. A combination of God, Marx and the people protected him and ensured he died a natural death due to old age. This is an edifying story but it is not really what the Fidel Castro Legacy is about.

The first element of the Castro legacy is to believe in a set of principles and remain dogged in its pursuit in spite of massive threats to his life and his country. He

called it simply the imperative of defending the revolution. The second element of the legacy is commitment to improving the lives on the people, not with ideology, but by developing science and technology to lift the level of people's lives. The third element of the legacy is international solidarity with particular commitment to Africa.

Way back in 1960, when France was trying to destroy Guinea because the people said no to colonialism, Castro and the Cuban Government were providing support. By 1963, Cuba was providing medical assistance to Algeria. In the Liberation struggles of Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Guinea Bissau, Cuba was with the people and many of their people died in the struggles. Their friendship with Africa has remained deep and sincere.

“Over the past two decades, billions of dollars have been invested by the West through the Global Fund, the Bill Gates Foundation and other agencies in the war against malaria. However, since 1995, the West has taken the decision that Africa must not eliminate malaria; it should only try to control it through insecticide treated nets and anti-malaria drugs. Everybody knows that this approach can only reduce the problem and never solve it. The big question is why is the West so obstinately against the elimination of malaria and why is the United Nations system keeping quiet? Why can't Africans dream about, but more importantly, work towards the complete elimination of malaria?”

Cuba has survived permanent trade embargo by the United States since 1960. Donald Trump raised the embargo to complete economic blockade when he was President and President Biden has so far not lifted it. Cuba's friends over the decades such as the defunct Soviet Union and left governments in Latin America rose and fell but Cuba remained resilient and, on its feet, in spite of the reality of the economic impact of the measures taken against the country.

One of the most important elements of Cuba's achievements is the long and illustrious history of the country in biotechnology and medical sciences. The country has the highest doctor to population ratio in the world of 8 per one thousand. It produces its vaccines, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment itself and sends doctors all over the world on technical assistance missions. Way back in January 2013, I published on this column an article entitled: “Lenin, the Cubans, Revolutionary Strategy and the Mosquito.” It was about a Cuban project to wipe out malaria throughout West Africa. The method is simple, the Cubans have invented a system of biolarvicides that will simply eat up the mosquito eggs and their Venezuelan comrades had proposed to fund the whole project as the last gift of Hugo Chavez to Africa before his death.

Each year, malaria kills 800,000 African children. Millions of working hours are lost to the disease each year and our medical facilities are inundated with those suffering from this preventable disease. Malaria is a central factor in the vicious cycle of the reproduction of poverty on the continent and it is for this reason that Cuba, working with ECOWAS and the 15 countries in the region, took up the issue of eliminating the vector that causes this devastating disease in our region.

“The West, Bill Gates and the Global Fund are however resolutely against the strategy of elimination of the mosquito. It was Vladimir Lenin who explained that there are no morals in politics, there is only experience. The African experience over the past two decades is that the West is committed to reducing malaria but does not want it eliminated. ECOWAS therefore took the decision to listen to the Cubans and the Venezuelans offered to build production factories that will supply the agents. Then the Venezuelan economy was crashed and the project died.”

In the areas in the West that suffered from mosquito infestation and malaria, the policy adopted was to eliminate the mosquitoes through the use of chemical insecticides such as DDT. These substances had negative impact on the environment but the decision taken was that in spite of the negative impact, it was strategically in the interest of the countries concerned to eliminate the disease at whatever cost. The outcome is that today, malaria is a major problem only in the poorest areas in Africa and Asia.

Over the past two decades, billions of dollars have been invested by the West through the Global Fund, the Bill Gates Foundation and other agencies in the war against malaria. However, since 1995, the West has taken the decision that Africa must not eliminate malaria; it should only try to control it through insecticide treated nets and anti-malaria drugs. Everybody knows that this approach can only reduce the problem and never solve it. The big question is why is the West so obstinately against the elimination of malaria and why is the United Nations system keeping quiet? Why can't Africans dream about, but more importantly, work towards the complete elimination of malaria?

What is revealing about the present context is that science has developed to a stage where the technical capacity to eliminate malaria through the use of chemical larvicides is available. It was in



Jibrin Ibrahim

this context that the Cubans intervened to develop effective and safe biolarvicides that can protect the environment and eliminate malaria. This technique has been successfully used to control malaria in Vietnam. In addition, microbial larvicides can be safely added to drinking water and in environmentally sensitive areas, as they do not persist or accumulate in the environment or in body tissues and are not toxic to animals and crops according to WHO.

The West, Bill Gates and the Global Fund are however resolutely against the strategy of elimination of the mosquito. It was Vladimir Lenin who explained that there are no morals in politics, there is only experience. The African experience over the past two decades is that the West is committed to reducing malaria but does not want it eliminated. ECOWAS therefore took the decision to listen to the Cubans and the Venezuelans offered to build production factories that will supply the agents. Then the Venezuelan economy was crashed and the project died.

My view is that Nigeria should have risen to the challenge and supplied the resources. Looking back, had the Cuban project been implemented starting from 2013, malaria would have been eliminated throughout West Africa by 2020. This is one of the challenges we need to place before the in-coming Nigerian President. It is imperative that this revolution succeeds especially now that the World Health Organisation has accepted that the application of biolarvicides is ecologically sound, sustainable, safe and indeed recommended. Let us allow the Cubans shame the West in Africa.

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

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

CORPORATE OFFICE:
AHMADU BELLO WAY
KADUNA

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

ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

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

TECHNICAL DATA

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Like Mamu, Like Abdulsalami And The Billion Naira Firefighter

By: HASSAN GIMBA

In a move normally seen in Hollywood spy thrillers, Tukur Mamu, publisher of Kaduna-based Desert Herald and an aide to Sheikh Ahmad Gumi, a popular Islamic cleric, was arrested in September last year at the Cairo International Airport on his way to Saudi Arabia for lesser Hajj, and detained for 24 hours before he was repatriated back to Nigeria.

Perhaps Mamu's arrest was not because of negotiations for the release of the passengers abducted during the attack on a Kaduna-bound train in March 2022. Perhaps. The Department of State Services (DSS) which described the outcome of its investigation on him as "mind-boggling" said he "betrayed" the federal government during negotiations for the release of the abductees. The department alleged that the kidnappers did not demand ransom at first, but that Mamu "put money issue" into the negotiation.

Well, he now faces a 10-count charge bordering on terrorism financing and others before Justice Inyang Ekwo of a Federal High Court in Abuja.

Mamu was accused of receiving \$120,000 ransom payments from families of hostages on behalf of the Boko Haram terrorist group. The federal government said the offence contravenes section 21 (3) (a) of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022.

The attorney general also alleged that Mamu, sometime in 2022 in Kaduna, received ransom payments of N500,000 on behalf of Boko Haram from families of victims of the Abuja-Kaduna train attack. Mark the words on behalf.

But just two Fridays ago or so, four girls - Bilha Musa, Faiza Ahmed, Rahma Abdullahi and Hafsa Murtala - out of the remaining 11 schoolgirls of Federal Government College, Birnin Yauri, in Kebbi State, abducted by the bandits on June 17, 2021, were released.

The bandits did not release the four girls out of magnanimity, or because they had "served their due". No, it was because of what Tukur Mamu was arrested and arraigned in court for - negotiations and fundraising to get the abductees released.

"It took six days of negotiations in the forest before four of the girls were released to us," Salim Kaoje told pressmen after their release. The sum of ₦80m was also said to have been given to the bandits out of the ₦105m they demanded. They held the remaining seven back until the balance was made available to them.

It is common knowledge that former head of state, Abdulsalami Abubakar; Attorney General Abubakar Malami, SAN; Senator for Kebbi Central, Senator

Adamu Aleiro and others raised the sum of ₦105m demanded by the bandits for the release of the students of the Federal Government College (FGC), Birnin Yauri. The bandits even gave the condition that the money must be in the new currency.

General Abdulsalami Abubakar, Attorney General Malami, General Aminu Bande (ret'd), who is also the Kebbi State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) gubernatorial candidate, Senator Adamu Aleiro and Malamawan Kebbi were said to have contributed millions while Col Dangiwa Umar went round the country to get the rest.

This group donated and got some from the abducted girls' relatives and good Samaritans, including organisations, to convey such to the abductors who, in turn, released their captives. Is this not exactly what Tukur Mamu did which was termed "financing terrorism?" But, maybe, the key difference can be found in the word "betrayed", not in the words "on behalf".

But people like Mamu and the parents took it upon themselves to negotiate with and give bandits money sourced for the release of kidnapped victims because there is a vacuum; those whose responsibility it is to secure citizens seem overwhelmed, but when non-state actors fill that vacuum, then there is a problem.

However, more worrisome is when a retired general and one-time commander-in-chief of the Nigerian armed forces, a one-time military governor and senior officials of a serving government team up with other respected citizens to pool resources and deliver the proceeds to brigands to release their prisoners. It makes one cry for Nigeria.

That ₦1.2 billion Firefighting Truck.

Early this month, we were hit with the news that ten firefighting trucks had been bought by the Ministry of Aviation for our airports at the cost of ₦12 billion. This translates to one truck at the cost of ₦1.2 billion. The honourable minister posted on his official Twitter page: "Just commissioned 10 firefighting trucks, total cost of over 12bn Naira. More to come in due course. Safety has been Buhari's focus in Aviation, since 2015. Hitherto FAAN had not bought new trucks in 15 years."

The vehicles are said to be the Lion Volkan 6x6 Brand, Major Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles (MFFV), can carry 14,000 litres of water, 1,700 litres of foam, 250kg powder capacity each, and have a discharge rate of between 6,000 litres to 10,000 litres per minute.

The trucks, to be deployed to the Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos, Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, and Malam Aminu Kano International

Airport, Kano, have an acceleration rate of 0-80 km per hour in 30 seconds and possess a limitless capacity to discharge while in motion. They are also equipped with under-chassis nozzles to tackle running fuel fires. But from the grapevine, it is said that apart from all these, the vehicles

run on water and not fuel, do not use engine oil and are self-repairable. They can bring out multi hands to rescue victims, can sniff fire fifty kilometres away and can zoom off towards it even without a driver. And depending on the terrain, they can fly to the scene, and like a ship glide on water or climb mountains to reach the scene. That's why each costs ₦1.2 billion, which is even a 75 per cent discount because the contractor is held in high esteem by the fire-fighting trucks' manufacturers.

The source swore that what he said was the truth, and looking at me straight in the eye, he said anyone who does not believe him can go to court!

Lest I Forget.

Sudan has been embroiled in a war called "The Generals' War". The two main opposing actors are General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (a.k.a. Hemeti), leader of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan of the Sudanese Armed Forces. The conflict is threatening to snowball into a full civil war and so far, hundreds of people have been killed, as residents in the capital Khartoum grapple with blackouts and water shortages.

I am not writing about the Sudanese conflict with its attendant repercussions that may affect us as a nation, maybe in a much worse dimension than that of Libya.



Hassan Gimba

*Monday
Column*

Even though arguably, Sudan has the largest concentration of Nigerians in the diaspora and a serious conflict may see them trying to return to their roots.

Since when Islam arrived in this part of the world, long before Nigeria was born, Muslims have gone on the annual pilgrimage to Makkah on foot. From the open fields of Sokoto down to Fika, the land of the undulating plains, pilgrims have trekked to the Holy Land to perform the Umrah. Many settled along the corridor, married, farmed, gave birth and moved on.

Some have set up villages and settlements that still exist. Many of these dot the landscape of Sudan, being strategically placed on the route. There is a village in Sudan named Fika, for instance, with the people speaking a smattering of Bole, the language of the Bolewa people.

I am also not talking about the 4,000 or so students. No. What I want to talk about is, why the disappointment in evacuating our students despite the federal government budgeting a humongous amount of money to do so. \$1.2 million can buy outright more than the 40 buses said to have been hired to evacuate the students.

It will be a sad narrative if Nigerians see the government and its officials as vultures waiting for disaster to happen to make illicit gain out of it.

Hassan Gimba is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Neptune Prime.

Ex APC Publicity Secretary Condemns \$15bn Illegal Railway MoU By NDDC's MD

**Urges EFCC, ICPC to wade in*

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, on Sunday, strongly condemned a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a \$15billion Trans-Niger Delta Railway Project entered into by the Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Samuel Ogbuku, with Atlantic Global Resources Inc.

Frank in a statement in Abuja described the action of the NDDC's MD as illegal and a Yahoo Yahoo abracadabra, that is fraudulently laced with deceitful intentions aimed at siphoning the resources of the commission.

He called on any of the anti-graft agencies, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (and Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission, to urgently wade in, arrest, investigate and prosecute Ogbuku and his co-conspirators for attempted fraud and misappropriation.

He noted that only the Chairman of the Governing Board of the NDDC is vested with powers to enter into contracts with other firms by the act establishing the agency.

He said, "It is worthy to note, that as part of the responsibility of the Governing Board of the NDDC, as empowered by its establishment Act No 6, 2000, only the Chairman is vested with the sole power to sign contracts or MoUs with any firm or organization.

"It is curious therefore, as to how only the Managing Director and a selected few in conivance with the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs would proceed to sign an MoU without the prior knowledge of the Chairman, but rather justifying an ultra vires action.

"The position of the NDDC management in its reaction affirming that the \$15billion Railway MoU was signed for the preliminary process for a railway network and not an award of contract, suggests that ongoing talks with this company is another calculated attempt to defraud the Niger Delta people in the guise of 'Preliminary Studies' for a Trans-Niger Delta Railway.

"This shady MoU without due consultation with the board, carried out by the MD of NDDC, Samuel Ogbuku, with Atlantic Global Resources Inc, to build a railway network connecting the nine Niger Delta states can only be described as crass carelessness and outrightly insensitive at this time.

"Mr Ogbuku must be reminded that the struggle for the attainment of a better Niger Delta was a battle fought by many and thus as stakeholders in this struggle, we're mandated to serve the people relentlessly rather than engaging in the same setbacks of the past."

He added: "In the light of the above therefore, it is clear that the MD and his partners are clearly toeing the same path as the pre-forensic audit of the commission.



Timi Frank

"Besides, in pursuit of a better Niger Delta, we're poised to applaud laudable projects and disapprove of white elephant projects in this regard.

"It is sad that whilst we continue to hope for overall growth and development of the region, we're still confronted with weighty and dubious setbacks detrimental to the positive advancement of the zone.

"It will be foolhardy to jump on a Trans-Niger Delta Railway network's feasibility, when the Federal Executive Council (FEC) had only recently in 2021 awarded a \$11.7 Railway contract that would connect states in the entire region from Lagos.

"It is therefore shocking that an agency of government will seek to override the prior approval of FEC and initiate another MoU on behalf of the NDDC and the Federal Government for the same project in 2023 without due process nor approval by FEC in the twilight of President Muhammadu Buhari's administration.

"The FEC must make its position clear as regards this recent MoU duplicating the project even as the completion of the East/West Road has since become a mirage with little or nothing done all these years."

He called on the National Assembly, Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, the nine Niger Delta States' Governors (Advisory Board of NDDC), and all other stakeholders to outrightly reject the flawed MoU as it is of no immediate significance save for personal aggrandizement.

He said: "Any form of support in aiding the commission to secure loans for the purpose of this purported 'Preliminary Studies' for the railway construction must be rejected and resisted.

"The Niger Delta people are desirous of more sustainable programmes that positively affect daily living rather than any phantom project.

"The NDDC must focus on the implementation of its original masterplan, which no board has achieved since inception and concentrate more on Human Resource Development programmes, including training of youths, provision of better healthcare, education, etc., and cease from being used as a conduit in impoverishing the people."

NDLEA Intercepts Illicit Drug Hidden In Imported Car, Kenyan Bound Travelling Bag In Lagos

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have intercepted suspected illicit drug suspected to be Cannabis Loud at the Tincan Island Port and the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos, New Nigerian Newspaper has learnt.

It was gathered that 126 parcels of the substance, a synthetic strain of cannabis, weighing 63 kilogrammes, concealed in a used Toyota Corolla car imported from Toronto, Canada, was seized at the Tincan port in Lagos State.

This was just as an attempt by a freight agent, Mordi Chukwuemeka Samuel, to export 900 grammes of the same substance, Loud,

Similarly, 900 grammes of same substance, hidden inside walls of a travelling bag containing food items, meant to be exported to Kenya by a freight agent Chukwuemeka was intercepted by narcotics officers at the SAHCO export shed of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos on Saturday, April 29.

The Director of Media and Advocacy of the Agency, Femi Babafemi, in a statement on Sunday, April 30, said that when Mordi presented the bag, which he claimed contained food items for export, operatives noticed that in the course of searching the consignment, the side walls of the bag were unevenly bloated, after which they dismantled the false packings and recovered the illicit substance.

Babafemi, who also disclosed other breakthroughs recorded by the Agency stated that on the previous day, Friday, April 28, "NDLEA operatives at the Tincan Port, intercepted 63kg Canadian Loud packed in bags in the boot of one of the five used vehicles in a container marked, TLLU4840762 coming from Toronto via Montreal, during a joint examination with other stakeholders at the port.

"Similarly, men of the Agency's

Directorate of Operations and Investigation (DOGI), attached to courier firms, also on Thursday, April 27, intercepted 1.53kg skunk concealed in old hard drives meant for export to Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

"In Benue, NDLEA operatives recovered 859 bottles of Codeine-based syrup weighing 117.3kg abandoned by a suspected dealer about two kilometres away from NDLEA checkpoint along Enugu-Otukpo road on Wednesday, April 26, while two suspects – Kabiru Muhammed, 35, and Isah Muhammed, 28, – were arrested with 20 blocks of cannabis weighing 11.2kg, concealed in a bag of cassava flakes (garri) along Zaria-Kano road, Kano on Friday April 28.

"No fewer than seven bags of cannabis with a gross weight of 74.5kg were recovered when operatives raided an uncompleted building located in a bush in Ala town, Akure area of Ondo state, just as 60kg of the same substance concealed among footwears in two jumbo sacks was recovered from one Aminu Mohammed along Ibadan-Oyo road, Oyo State, while waiting to board a vehicle to Kebbi State.

"In Adamawa State, NDLEA operatives on Saturday, April 29, raided a clandestine factory in Mubi, where a new psychoactive substance, Akuskura, was being produced in large quantity and distributed to Chad, Cameroon and Niger Republic.

"It was also learnt that at the time of the raid, production activities were ongoing in the premises.

"Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd), has commended the officers and men of MMIA, Tincan, DOGI, Kano, Ondo, Oyo, Benue and Adamawa Commands of the Agency for their vigilance and professionalism in the discharge of their responsibilities.

"He charged them and their colleagues across the country not to rest on their oars";



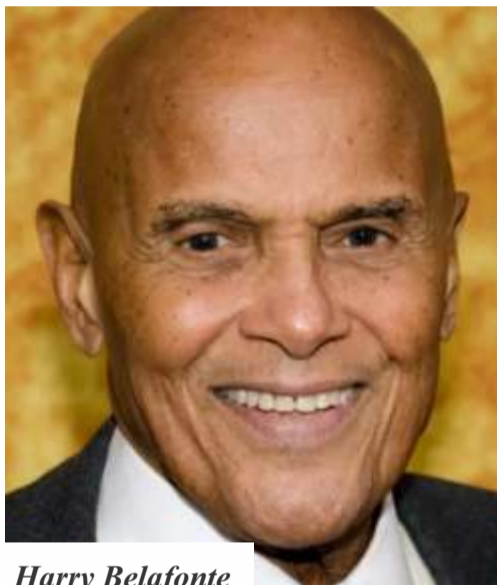
The drug hidden in the imported car

Harry Belafonte: Unconquerable Warrior Marches On

By Owei Lakemfa

“He was a mentor to many across the world, including the famous Miriam Makeba. He was one of the best singers ever, churning out enchanting music and winning all the major awards available, including the Emmy, Grammy and Oscar.”

HARRY Belafonte did not seek social justice; social justice sought him out. When they met, he was ready for a life-long struggle to bring justice to the United States, or more correctly, to bring the United States to justice even when he knew this might cost him his lucrative career, if not his life.
Harry Belafonte.



Harry Belafonte

At first, he was contented writing cheques and funding the campaigns of the civil rights movement, but in 1964 he said Black Americans and a lot of the conscientious White Americans had gotten to the point they could no longer tolerate more lynching, beating of Black people and the 'Whites-Only' signs on public places.

He had fame and fortune by the time he was 31 with his 1956 album 'Calypso' selling over a million records, the first long playing record by a single artist to hit that mark. But fame and fortune meant nothing to him; what did was to ensure the Black man, the Indian were treated in the US and elsewhere like a human being.

“Belafonte's leadership of the American anti-war movement was much more biting not just for its effectiveness, but also for the fact that while Du Bois had been an intellectual, Belafonte had been in the US Navy serving during the Second World War.”

Reflecting on his life of struggles, he wrote in his 2011 memoirs, *My Song: A memoir of Art, Race and Defiance*: “I was born into poverty, grew up in poverty, and for a long time poverty was all I thought I'd known.” When he started out, he had a role model: Paul Robeson, a famous actor, singer and activist. But Robeson had from the late 1940s been deliberately and openly destroyed by the US government. Employing state agencies like the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the American government had forced the entertainment agencies from hiring him. Realising that Robeson was a famous entertainer that could earn a living abroad, the US government seized his passport so he couldn't travel outside the country. Belafonte said he learnt from this and was ever ready for a likely backlash from the government.

Another piece of injustice which galvanised him into battle was the crude

attempt by the government to send the respected African American intellectual, Professor W.E.B. Du Bois, to prison. In 1950, Du Bois at 82, had ran for US Senate from the New York District on the ticket of the American Labour Party. Surprisingly, despite brazen racism and state campaigns against him, he had garnered some 200,000 votes. This led to a backlash by the state. Du Bois had gone on to call for the outlawing of atomic weapons. The US had in 1945 dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the establishment declared a campaign against atomic weapons as a USSR propaganda. It asked Du Bois and members of his Peace Information Centre to register under the 1940 Smith Act as “agents of a foreign principal”.

“As part of his anti-war campaign, Belafonte on February 15, 2003 told a rally that President Bush was leading the US into a fraudulent war in Iraq as his predecessors had done in the conflicts in Vietnam, Grenada, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba. He concluded by saying: “Dr. King once said that ... if mankind does not put an end to war, war will put an end to mankind.” As it turned out, Belafonte was absolutely right about the senseless war in Iraq in which about one million died in the first five years.”

The Act criminalised any attempts to “advocate, abet, advice or teach” the violent overthrow of the US government. Essentially, the government wanted them to sign admitting that they are spies. When Du Bois refused, he was put on trial. Belafonte said: “On the opening day of the trial, those of us who came to show our support were stunned to see the elderly Du Bois pulled roughly from a paddy wagon in handcuffs, ankle cuffs and chains like a prisoner on a southern chain gang.” The photographs of Du Bois arriving for trial, sent shock waves around the world and intellectuals like



Albert Einstein protested. Unable to withstand the international pressures, America let Du Bois go.

In 1963, Du Bois at the age of 93 left US to join the Pan Africanist President of emergent Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, to build a new nation and new Africa. He changed citizenship and died two years later as a Ghanaian.

Belafonte continued the Du Bois anti-war activism, but where the latter had merely denounced the nuclear race, Belafonte developed the movement into a full one not just rejecting war but also taking a stand against the US fighting wars across the globe such as its illegal invasion of Iraq under dubious excuses.

Belafonte's leadership of the American anti-war movement was much more biting not just for its effectiveness, but also for the fact that while Du Bois had been an intellectual, Belafonte had been in the US Navy serving during the Second World War.

As part of his anti-war campaign, Belafonte on February 15, 2003 told a rally that President Bush was leading the US into a fraudulent war in Iraq as his predecessors had done in the conflicts in Vietnam, Grenada, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba. He concluded by saying: “Dr. King once said that ... if mankind does not put an end to war, war will put an end to mankind.” As it turned out, Belafonte was absolutely right about the senseless war in Iraq in which about one million died in the first five years.

“But his life's work was for social justice, and this was the least reported. Belafonte continued his fight for social justice until April 25, 2023 when our ancestors on the other side of the river, invited him to paddle over.”

Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans from August 23-31, 2005 killing 1,392 persons. The people felt abandoned by the American government, but when Venezuela offered massive aid, President

Bush rejected it ostensibly because the country was socialist.

Belafonte went to Venezuela the following year to thank the Venezuelans for their gesture, and, standing beside President Hugo Chávez, made one of his fieriest speeches: “No matter what the greatest tyrant in the world, the greatest terrorist in the world, George W. Bush, says, we're here to tell you: Not hundreds, not thousands, but millions of the American people – millions – support your revolution, support your ideas, and, yes, expressing our solidarity with you.”

He was also angry with those he considered the Uncle Toms of the Bush team for pushing the war agenda and working “in the service of our (Black) oppression and those who create new ways in which to oppress us... And that is my argument with General Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice. I expect, as do others, that their history should have prepared them for a much better articulation about how to treat people globally.” Belafonte was a major funder of the Civil Rights and Student movements in the US and was quite close to Martin Luther King Jr.

So, when King's wife, Coretta Scott King, died in 2006, Belafonte was invited to speak at her funeral. However, when George W. Bush announced he was attending the funeral, Belafonte's invitation was withdrawn. That, however, did not deter him.

He was a mentor to many across the world, including the famous Miriam Makeba. He was one of the best singers ever, churning out enchanting music and winning all the major awards available, including the Emmy, Grammy and Oscar. But his life's work was for social justice, and this was the least reported. Belafonte continued his fight for social justice until April 25, 2023 when our ancestors on the other side of the river, invited him to paddle over.

Making A Case For Buhari As Leader In 10th National Assembly

By: SOLOMON AROGUNDADE

Intrigues, power play and hightech politics are presently being deployed by interested individuals as the search for the new leadership of the National Assembly gets underway.

And with talks hitting the front burner of public discourse ahead of the inauguration of the returning and elected senators on June 13 this year, it remains to be seen those who will lead other Senators as Nigerians yearn for better governance under the impending administration of the new president, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

For some political consideration, the leadership of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) with 59 Senators of the 109-Senate membership, has started meeting with the President-Elect, with a view of fine-tuning workable zoning formula that would put the party in a good stead ahead of May 29 inauguration date of the new president.

Prior to the arrival of Tinubu from his foreign vacation recently, interested returning senators have been holding meetings with their colleagues in Abuja, the seat of power with the sole purpose of securing their buy-in as potential Senate President and other juicy positions at stake.

According to the senate rules, legislative returnees are the ones properly positioned to vie for presiding officers' spots. Pundits say the convention is utilitarian by helping to eliminate rancour generated by aspirations for legislative leadership positions. When the rule is added to the deliberate zoning decision, the leadership selection becomes much more streamlined and much less acrimonious.

For instance, Order 3 (2) of the Senate Standing Orders 2015 as amended on election of presiding and other officers, states inter alia: "Nomination of Senators to serve as Presiding Officers and appointments of Principal Officers and other Officers of the Senate or on any Parliamentary delegations shall be in accordance with the ranking of Senators. In determining ranking, the following order shall apply- (i) Senators returning based on number of times re-elected; (ii) Senators who had been members of the House of Representatives; (iii) Senators elected as Senators for the first time...."

Notable four of such ranking Senators who have been returned to the Senate ahead of June inauguration are the incumbent Senate President, Ahmed Lawan; Senator Alli Ndume; Senator Danjuma Goje and Senator Fatai Buhari, respectively.

Against this backdrop, of the four ranking federal lawmakers, Senator Abdulfatai Omotayo Buhari (APC-Oyo North), a

Southerner of the foursome also has his name, daily ringing true amongst the returnee Senators, their newly elected colleagues and from within the camp of the President-elect and leadership of the party at the national, Zonal and state levels.

And reasons are not far-fetched. Apart from satisfying the Senate rule as a third-term elected Senator (2015-2027), Buhari, a pious Muslim was a one time member of the House of Representatives (2003-2007) and well-loved for his resourcefulness, diligence and trustworthiness, all of which qualifies him for the Senate's number one leadership position but for the simple reason that the new President who will soon take oath of office is a Southerner like him.

In his Southwest geopolitical zone, the APC produced 15 Senators in the recently concluded 2023 General Election. Buhari is the only third term Senator of these legislators, a development that has positioned him as the primus inter pares when consideration is being made to pick a ranking Senator for the leadership of National Assembly.

Highly distinguished and armed with a doctorate degree, Buhari mixes freely with all Senators from across political divides and tribal configuration. He is a well experienced politician who has risen from across the ladder, serving at both the executive and legislative arms of government over the years.

In his home State of Oyo, Buhari had variously occupied Special Adviser and Commissioner positions and headed a number of House and Senate Committees where his integrity has never been called to question.

A polyglot and pan-Nigerian to the core, Buhari speaks Hausa, Yoruba and English fluently with a fair understanding of Igbo dialect and culture.

On his primary assignment of lawmaking business, Buhari is a top shot after lawmaker, with vast experience and had to his credit, scores of motions and 14 bills he sponsored with three already passed; one at the Committee stage and others at the first reading stages.

According to a legislative Advocacy group, 'OrderPaper' in its recent mid-term National Assembly Report Card, Buhari featured prominently as one of the top 10 Senators by Bill's Progression (Productivity Index).



Senator Buhari

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Oyo State Council had recently overwhelmingly voted him as the best Senator in the history of those representing the State at the National Assembly.

He was adjudged as the best for his robust contribution to debates on the floor of the red chamber and very many mouth-watering empowerment tools and attraction of federal government projects, including facilitation of scores of indigenes of the State to secure federal government jobs.

Just last week, Buhari whose regular and timely empowerment projects were second to none, again provided constituents who are the beneficiaries of his 'Thank You for Re-Electing me package' with tangible items and cash support to improve their social-economic conditions.

Buhari had tagged the empowerment "Thank You Mini Empowerment Programme."

The items distributed to the lucky constituents included 100 motorcycles, 150 sewing machines, 170 grinding machines, 70 power generating sets, 60 freezers, 150 vulcanizing machines, and cash support for 30 people.

Buhari who also made a brief speech at the event said that "This empowerment is my little way of saying thank you to the great people of Oyo North for voting for me overwhelmingly for a third term in the just concluded 2023 general election.

"This is just the tip of an iceberg in the dividends of democracy that will be provided for our people with this new mandate," he had said.

With his rising profile and popularity, Senator Buhari is inching towards making another history as the next Senate Leader at the National Assembly as Oyo State which gave the President-Elect unprecedented votes in the comity of other Southwest States earnestly yearn for federal patronage to assuage for its political capital in the impending Tinubu administration.

This becomes more desirable because the APC is not in power in the State and would therefore be a great accomplishment for the party to once again, have one of its own as the Senate Leader, many years after such a feat was last achieved.

Arogundade, an Ekiti State-born public affairs analyst writes from Apo Quarters Abuja

Upturning Of IMC Decision Of Three Points Deduction From Remo Stars And Wikki Tourist

By; VINCENT AKINBAMI

The disciplinary committee of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has started on a bad note in what seems like an assigned assignment in their changing of the decision of three points deduction from Remo Stars and Wikki Tourists, with unsubstantiated fact and twisting of English in reasons forwarded to give back three points to Wikki Tourists and Remo Stars. I am highly disappointed in their first assignment, it means we can't trust them. In the case of Wikki, how can match officials who claimed they were attacked now come up with a different story of

not being attacked in front of the NFF disciplinary committee.

We have seen cases in the past where referees will be beaten, but after money exchanges hands, they will deny being beaten. In the case of Remo Stars, assault was the reason why three points was deducted, common threat is an assault, the disciplinary committee agreed that Honourable Ekene Abubakar Adams tapped a referee on the chest, but did not beat the referee. Is tapping on the chest not an assault? They want to see more referees being tapped on the chest? Stakeholders should rise and not allow these shady characters of the disciplinary committee.



We want a better organized Nigerian league. Vincent Akinbami, is the

convener, Association for better organized Nigeria league and Professionally Managed Teams.

Yari Best For Senate Presidency -Northwest Group



By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Following agitations for the zoning of Senate Presidency to the North West geopolitical zone of Nigeria, a group Northwest Progressives Forum (NPF), at the weekend, said former Zamfara State Governor, Abdulaziz Yari, is the best for the job.

Addressing a press conference in Kaduna, the group noted that Yari is eminently competent for the job, following his experience, proven integrity and honesty. According to convener of the group, Nasir Dambatta, "at the risk of overstating the issue, we are convinced that among all the people rooting for the Senate presidency from the North-West, only Yari possesses the proven integrity, honesty and experience necessary for such a position.

"We feel obligated, after considering so many factors, to suggest that when eventually the slot is micro-zoned to the Northwest, the person that is eminently competent for the job is former Zamfara State Governor, AbdulAziz Yari.

"This and other groups, after critically examining the credentials of all the candidates being presented for the job, particularly from the North-West have come to the conclusion that. Yari is most suitable to be the next President of the Nigerian Senate."

The group noted that the North has been tested and trusted with power making the region eminently eligible for the Senate Presidency to stabilize and balance power. "The North-West also has the record of giving the APC ticket the most volume of votes, which positions the region as the natural and legitimate claimant to Senate Presidency.

"The rule of fairness, justice and ordinary decency demands in this circumstance, the North-West, and not any other zone, deserves to be rewarded for its commitment to the APC and the Asiwaju ideals which it. "We therefore, join the call for the APC and the president-elect to act justly and fairly by zoning the position of the Senate President to the region that gave him more than 30 percent of his winning votes.

"We call attention to the standard northern tradition of never compromising national unity whenever given the opportunity and cannot afford the residing of Executive, Legislative and Judiciary Powers in one region."

The group therefore, endorsed Yari, for the President of the 10th Senate, saying "we join other groups in categorically endorsing AbdulAziz Yari as the most competent for the job and call on stakeholders in the zone to do same

"We specifically call on Asiwaju to wade in and ensure the zoning of the Senate presidency to the Northwest and to move in favour of Yari."

Champions Emerge From Maiden Abuja International Marathon



By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Abuja International Marathon on Saturday, produced its first set of champions as Kenya's Emmanuel Naibet and Bahrain runner, Ruth Jebet emerged as the winners of the men's and women's categories respectively.

Despite the myriad challenges that beset organizing the first edition of the Abuja International Marathon, the heavens were kind to the historic race held on Saturday at the Federal Capital Territory.

Usually in April, the beautiful city of

Abuja is synonymous with torrential rainfall but on Saturday 29 April, the city provided perfect weather that aided Kenya's Emmanuel Naibet emerge champion of the first Abuja International Marathon with a time of 2:13:45.

The winning time is the best ever recorded in any first edition of Marathon races in Nigeria

This is the second time Naibet is winning a marathon in Nigeria having also won the 2021 edition of the Access Bank Lagos City Marathon.

Finishing in second position was

Benard Sang 2:13:49 while Ezekiel Koech ensured it was a complete sweep for Kenya in the men's category with a time of 2:13:51.

In the women's category Ruth Jebet from Bahrain stole the show as she won with a time of 2:36:08 while Kenya's Mercy Kwambai was second with a time of 2:38:17 Dida Negasa from Ethiopia with 2:40:16 settled for third spot.

There were also keen competitions for prizes in the 10km and 5km races which were dominated by fun runners and students from across the Abuja metropolis

**Champions Emerge
From Maiden
Abuja International
Marathon**

Story on Page 23

Kogi 2023: Senator Adeyemi, Kinsley Fanwo Trade Words Over APC Candidature

**Fanwo says Senator inciting Kogi West*

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Kogi State and the Commissioner for Information and Communications, Mr Kingsley Fanwo has lamented Senator Smart Adeyemi's assessment of the last governorship primary of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kogi State as a political outburst that is uncommon to a game loser.

Fielding questions from journalists on Saturday, the commissioner said that the APC Governorship primary remains one of the most transparent of elections in the state.

"It is right for the media to give space to all to air their views. When we have such platforms, we must be responsible enough not to abuse it and dangerously misinform the general public", the commissioner said.

"The world saw the primary on television and on other media platforms. The primary didn't only hold, it was free, fair and credible.

According to him, what Senator

Adeyemi knows best as true definition of election is when an election favours him not minding the support given to him.

The counter attack by the commissioner was informed by Senator Adeyemi's observation that the governor to field a brother for the number one seat of the state was the height of injustice

"We have always been here with Senator Smart Adeyemi and with all due respect, his own definition of credible election is one won

"To set the records straight, Alh. Usman Ododo doesn't share the same family with the governor. They are not from the same ward and they even belong to different state constituencies. Assuming but not conceding to the fact that he shares the same ward with the governor, does that render him legally incapable of vying for the ticket of the party?"

"What Senator Smart Adeyemi is trying to do is to incite the Kogi West people against the governor and the APC leadership after

reaping what others sowed into the party.

"He is an unfair leader pretending to be fighting for equity and justice. Okun is a sophisticated society that can't be hoodwinked into his crocodile tears.

"The same Smart Adeyemi had told the world the laudable projects of the Governor in Kogi West.

Why is he turning around now to accuse the governor of ethnic bias?"

Fanwo said the party is not losing sleep over the "frivolous petition



Senator Adeyemi

before the court", insisting that "Our party has a constitution and the party moving on to it was followed in the entire consolidate ahead of the process", he said. November 11 poll.

Demands: NARD Issues 2 Weeks Ultimatum To Govt

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) has resolved to issue a two-week ultimatum to government beginning 29th April 2023, to resolve all their demands.

This was contained in a communique issued at the end of its Extra Ordinary NEC Meeting, signed by the President, Dr. Emeka Orji Innocent, Secretary Gen, Dr. Chikezie Kelechi and Publicity and Social Secretary, Dr. Umar Musa held at the Telemedicine Hall, Federal Medical Centre Abeokuta, Ogun State on Saturday, stressing that after the expiration of the ultimatum on May 13, 2023, it may not be able to guarantee industrial harmony in the sector nationwide.

Also the NEC Meeting demands the immediate implementation of

CONMESS, Domestication of MRTA, and review of hazard allowance by all the state Governments as well as Private Tertiary Health Institutions where any form of Residency Training is done.

It also demands an immediate commencement of payment of all salary arrears owed to its members by the various state governments, notorious amongst which is the Abia State Government.

The communique demanded for an immediate massive recruitment of clinical staff in the hospitals and complete abolishment of bureaucratic limitations to the immediate replacement of Doctors who leave the system.

"NEC demands immediate infrastructural development in our various hospitals without further delay and insists on at least 15% budgetary allocation to health subsequently".

The meeting have resolved for an immediate increment in the CONMESS salary structure to the tune of 200% of the current gross salary of Doctors in addition to the new allowances included in the letter written by NARD to the Honorable Minister of Health on the 7th of July 2022 for the review of CONMESS.

They also demanded for an immediate withdrawal and jettisoning of the ill-conceived bill by Honorable Ganiyu Johnson on the enslavement of young doctors in Nigeria.

"While the NEC demands for the immediate payment of the 2023 Medical Residency Training Fund (MRTF) in line with the agreements reached at the stakeholders' meeting convened by the Federal Ministry of Health at the Honourable Minister of State for Health's conference room. It's also demands the

commencement of payment of all salary arrears owed to its members, including 2014, 2015, and 2016 salary arrears as well as areas of the consequential adjustment of the minimum wage," it said.

The extra ordinary meeting observed that despite several engagements by NARD with the government on the need to upwardly review the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS) which was last reviewed over ten years ago, government has neither called NARD the negotiation table nor taken any tangible step in addressing the issue. "This is against the background of the dwindling economic situation in the country, the serial abysmal decline in the value of the naira, the imminent removal of fuel subsidy, and the consequent damaging effect on the cost of living in the country".