

Nigeria May Lose \$10bn Foreign Direct Investment Due To Political Tension - IMF

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**Recovers drugs, weapons, 57 bags of Indian Hemp
Sustains manhunt on criminals, raids black spots



Kaduna: Massive Protest Rocks Zango Kataf LGA, Demanding End To Killings In Atyap Land

- Insists Operation Safe Haven taking sides
- LG Boss sues for calm

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Atyap people in Zango Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State have appealed to the federal and Kaduna State governments to take proactive measures towards ending the incessant killings and destruction of property in the area.

In a peaceful protest yesterday to Zonkwa, the headquarters of Zango

Kataf Local Government Area, the protesters carried placards with the inscriptions, "stop the genocide, ethnic cleansing in Atyap land", "Brig. General Timothy Oporum Operation Safe Haven is complacent, lacks the will to end the killings", "Brig. General Timothy Oporum Operation Safe Haven has taken side with the killers", "Under Brig. General Timothy Oporum, Operation Safe Haven has compromised", "Support

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World Press Freedom Day: Group Advocates Protection, Safety Of Journalists



By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

Head of World International Press Freedom Day today, the Network of Peace Journalists on the Community Initiatives to Promote Peace (CIPP), a programme with coordination from Interfaith Mediation Centre (IMC), and Conflict Mitigation and Management Regional Council (CMMRC), has kicked in totality against all forms of intimidation, molestation, torture, or imprisonment of journalists around the world.

The Team lead of the group, Ibrahim Yakubu on Sunday, made the statement available to newsmen to mark this year's world International Press Freedom Day in Kaduna.

According to him, promoting the safety of journalists and combatting impunity for those who attack them are central actions within Network of Peace Journalists support for press freedom and freedom of expression worldwide.

He said that in order to protect journalists, the network has suggested that there should be 24/7

hotlines, safe houses, safety fund, safety equipment, legal assistance, emergency assistance, etc for journalists by their unions.

While stressing that there should be continuous training in risk analysis and threat mitigating, first aid, secure communications, conflict sensitive journalism, media laws and code of conduct.

He noted that journalists should be resilient, build support groups, raise alarm when threatened or intimidated, report incidents of attacks and seek legal redress for any violation of their individual and professional rights.

This year's International Press Freedom Day comes amidst Russia/Ukraine War and Sudan crisis claiming lives and property, rising cases of banditry, kidnapping and terrorism in Nigeria and some parts of the world.

He equally advocated taking into account, the specific risks female journalists face, hence the need for media owners and other stakeholders to support in raising awareness on the need for the protection of female journalists around the world.

He suggested that, there should be A global agreement between governments and media owners to guard journalists' safety.

"Safety of journalists is the ability for journalists and media professionals to receive, produce and share information without facing physical or moral threats.

"67 journalists were killed in 2022, a sharp increase from 2021. Report says a total of 67 journalists died around the world in 2022. A watchdog group said, largely driven by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and civil unrest following the assassination of Haiti's president on January 25, 2023.

In a media report, it was revealed that since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, at least 19 journalists have been killed, mostly in questionable circumstances. He said, "Journalists around the world are increasingly being targeted, molested, intimidated or killed for their work. But one thing to know is journalism is not a crime."

"The group was created to strengthen commitments and to raise awareness on the responsibility of pen-

guys to ensure a safe and enabling environment for Journalists and other media actors to work without undue interference or intimidation.

"As part of our work to support the building of national safety mechanisms for journalists with buy-in from local, national and international partners when possible, our approach to safety for journalists combines specialist safety training with practical safety measures and advocacy for safer media working environment.

"Among the training we dish out to journalists include early signs and early warning to mitigate conflicts."

Meanwhile, The Network of Peace Journalists called on Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) to ensure that all the privately owned media organizations are paying journalists monthly salaries.

The organization also kicked against the recruitment of unskilled personnel in broadcast houses in order to avert recruiting quacks in media organizations.

Jema'a LG Boss Salutes Nigerian Workers On International Day

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Executive Chairman of Jema'a Local Government Area of Kaduna state, Comrade Yunana Markus Barde has congratulated workers in the state and the country in general over their invaluable sacrifices towards the promotion of peace and nation building. The council chairman in a statement issued to journalists in Kafanchan, also commended the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and its various affiliated organs for the unflinching support and loyalty to governments at all levels.

The executive chairman who was a former National Publicity Secretary of the Union Bank Association of Senior Staff (UBASS), while expressing

satisfaction over the level of support accorded Jema'a Local Government Council by all categories of workers in the area, however, enjoined workers in Kaduna State to rally round and support the incoming All Progressives Congress (APC) administration in Kaduna State and Nigeria. Comrade Yunana Markus Barde further solicited the cooperation of the Nigeria workers with a view to guaranteeing a robust industrial harmony, capable of sustaining and consolidating on the existing gains and socioeconomic prosperity being championed by the APC administration in Kaduna State.

The Jema'a Local Government Council chairman further wished the Nigerian workers a fruitful and eventful 2023 Workers Day celebration.

Zangon Kataf Killings: Council Chairman Appeals Assistance

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Council chairman, Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Mr Francis Sani Zimbo, has appealed to the federal and Kaduna State governments to come to the aid of the people being affected by the attacks leading to the loss of lives and property in the area.

He also appealed to the

international community to come to the aid of the affected, towards restoring sanity in the area that has for some years, been engulfed with crisis, leading to the loss of lives, maiming and destruction of property.

Speaking at Samaru, Zangon Kataf local Government Area, he said, "There are so many people that have been affected with the crisis, some are in need of medical treatment,

while others have had their houses burnt and presently have no place to put their heads. I am making a passionate appeal to the federal and Kaduna State governments to kindly assist these categories of people in order to start life afresh."

He stated that the aid could be in the form of paying for the medical bills of those seriously

wounded following the attacks and building materials to those whose houses were completely razed down.

He explained that the people have no place to run to, saying that they have suffered enough hardship, following the various attacks that led to loss of lives, with others wounded, while others had their houses burnt down by the attackers.



Jema'a LGA Boss

We Are Still Challenging Gov Abiodun's Election At Ogun Tribunal - NNPP Insists

**Disowns purported withdrawal notice*

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The National leadership of New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), has debunked the planned withdrawal of the petition against the Ogun State Governor-elect, Dapo Abiodun, the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

NNPP is presently challenging Gov Abiodun re election before the Ogun State Governorship and State Houses of Assembly Election Petition Tribunal Abeokuta, over the omission of the name of the party on the ballot paper used in conducting the 2023 governorship election in the state.

Debunking the said withdrawal, the party sent a letter dated April 27th, 2023 titled, "NOTIFICATION OF UNAUTHORIZED WITHDRAWAL OF PETITION NO: EPT/OG/GOV/01/2023 PENDING BEFORE THE OGUN STATE GOVERNORSHIP/STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY ELECTION TRIBUNAL HOLDEN AT ABEOKUTA" to the Tribunal Secretary in Abeokuta, Ogun State by the National Legal Adviser of NNPP, Robert Hon (Esq).

The letter reads, "The attention of the National Working Committee (NWC) of our great party, the NNPP has been drawn to the fact that a Notice has filed to withdraw the above captured suit on behalf of the party.

"We wish to state unequivocally that we do not authorised anybody or group of people nor the counsel on record PETER I. OGAH ESQ to withdraw the suit pending before the Honourable Tribunal and we do not consent to such withdrawal.

"By the provisions of the Constitution of New Nigeria People's Party, 2022, particularly Article 27.18 (iii), (v) and (vi); it is only the National Legal Adviser of the Party that

can engage the services of an external solicitor where desirable subject to the approval by the National Working Committee (NWC)", NNPP said.

It added, "Article 27.18 (v) is hereby reproduced for your ease of reference: "The National Legal Adviser shall: (iii) attend to litigations and legal defence on behalf of the party at all levels including its organs, officials and assets (iv) Coordinate the activities of Legal Advisers at all levels on legal matters affecting the party including but not limited to the terms of engagement external Solicitors.

"(v) Be responsible for engaging external retainers, where desirable, and counsel to handle all litigations involving the party at all levels, with the approval of the National Working Committee. A copy of the said Constitution is hereby attached for your ease of reference".

NNPP stressed further in the letter that, "The purported notice of withdrawal of the said petition is not part of the terms of engagement of the external counsel and therefore violates the tenets of our Constitution which we hold very dear as a party.

"We most humbly urge on the Honourable Tribunal to discountenance the said notice of withdrawal as the Petitioner NNPP is desirous of prosecuting the Petition before your noble lords to its logical conclusion. We therefore urge the members of our great party and the general public not to allow the confidence they reposted on the party to be perforated by any person or group of persons".

New Nigerian recalls that the Ogun State Chairman of the party, Olaposi Oginni on Sunday, said the party is withdrawing the petition against Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State before the Ogun State Election Petition Tribunal, saying, the political calendar of Ogun State would be disrupted should the petition succeeds.

Group Tasks Federal Govt On Safe Return Of Nigerians In Sudan

**Beckons on FG for fulfillment of financial obligations to bus drivers*

By; **M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki**

As a result of the ongoing political crisis and instability in Sudan which has affected so many lives and property, a group popularly known as the National Association of Nigeria Comrades (NANC) has called on the federal government of Nigeria to ensure the safe return of Nigerians in Sudan back home.

In a press release issued in Abakaliki recently, by the National President of the Association, Comrade Ogbonnaya Chinwendu Emmanuel, the group tasked the federal government of Nigeria to take urgent steps to ensuring the safe return of Nigerians in Sudan to avoid further lose of lives and properties.

Comrade Emmanuel further alleged that because of the inability of the federal government to fulfill its part of the financial obligations to bus drivers who are conveying Nigerians back, most of the drivers dropped their passengers halfway in the desert, thereby, exposing them to danger, calling on federal government and well meaning Nigerians to come to the rescue of our people.

"The ongoing disruption

of public peace in the country of Sudan had left Nigerians disturbed regarding the safety of its citizens resident in Sudan. The fall outs between two owned security outfits in Sudan resulted to its current misunderstanding which has claimed lives and properties of innocent residence.

"The National Association of Nigerian Comrades (NANC), had earlier called on the Nigerian government to convey its citizens back home which the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari need to consider as a matter of urgency to safeguard lives and property by making available buses with financial support to convey Nigerians back home to reunite with their loved ones.

"As a follow-up to the actions of the Federal Government of Nigeria to ensuring, the full implementation of its promises, the NANC has noticed with dismay, the regrettable and unfortunate acts of the bus drivers conveying the affected Persons. A reliable source and videos trending on social media had it that, the buses dropped half way around an area believed to be a desert with reasons of not being paid fully by the federal government for the



services thereby, endangering the lives of its passengers.

The NANC President further beckoned on the federal government to listen to the yearnings of the bus drivers and fulfill its financial obligations as believed to have entered with their employees (bus drivers).

Comrade Ogbonnaya also

wondered why the drivers could display such unprofessional act capable of wasting the lives of the passengers under their watch, asking them to endeavour to return them home and get their full payment based on the agreement with government as lives are more important than the financial gravitation.

Family Rendered Homeless By Rainstorm In A'Ibom

By; **PATRICK TITUS, Uyo**

Family of Ifiok Monday Udo is in anguish as rainstorm destroyed the mud house that accommodated the family at Inen Ikot Offiong, OrukAnam Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

It was gathered that the tragedy occurred on Saturday in the community while the entire family was in the farm.

Narrating the incident to our correspondent in tears, Mr Ifiok Monday Udo who is a father of seven children, said the rain which was accompanied by wild storm and thunder uprooted a coconut tree beside the house and destroyed the entire mud house leaving them

homeless.

"The rainstorm was very severe that it blew down the coconut tree standing near my small hut that shelters me and my entire household of seven children.

"If the incident had occurred in the night, we would have been wiped away as the coconut just fell on top of the middle of the roof destroying the entire house.

"But thank God! We were in the farm. Even now that we survive, where do we put our heads? He cried.

Ifiok, an average man who always work in people's farm for wages said he has no hope of building another mud house as he can not afford bamboo and mats to build

another hut for the family.

"Since the incident happened yesterday, we survived through the mercy of neighbours who gave us food because all our utensils and small foodstuffs we kept in the house have been destroyed.

"Is it how I will survive with my family? I don't know where to start now. Last night we slept in church and today after service, the owner of the church ask us not to come back this night as there is a programme.

"Even our clothes and other valuables have been submerged in ruins of the fallen mud house. Not even clothes to wear except the one I wore while in the farm. Please help me." He lamented.

Governor Sule Approves Sale Of Govt Quarters To Civil Servants

**Lifts ban on in-service training for civil servants.*

By: SAMSON YAKI, Lafia

Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State has approved the sales of state government's quarters to civil servants.

The governor announced the development while addressing workers at the 2023 Workers' Day celebration in Lafia on Monday.

Speaking at the event, Emmanuel Agbada Akabe, the deputy governor who represented the governor, said the allocation of the government houses would be on an owners-occupiers basis.

He noted that the process would commence in June, adding that the government also had employed 3,000 new staff in state-owned higher institutions of learning since 2015.

Akabe said the government has also lifted the ban placed on in-service training for the state's civil servants.

"Because of the importance we attach to civil service to drive our government, we constituted a powerful committee for restructuring of the civil service on the assumption of office four years ago," he said.

"The recommendations of the committee brought about streamlining of ministries and introduction of innovations, implementation of outstanding promotions, engagement of over 2,000 teachers, and employment of more than 3,000 new ones.

"Employment of over 3,000 teaching and non-teaching staff in the state's owned tertiary institutions and regularisation of over 500 casual staff in various ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) among others.

"We have implemented outstanding promotions up to 2018 and already working towards implementing promotions from 2018-date for deserving workers to avoid accumulation.

"Arrangement has reached an advanced stage and by June, workers living in government's quarters will start paying for the houses and own them after payment."

Kaduna: Massive Protest Rocks Zango Kataf LGA, Demanding End To Killings In Atyap Land

■ Insists Operation Safe Haven taking sides
■ LG Boss sues for calm

Agwatyap peace initiatives to stop the killings in Zango Kataf". The crowd of peaceful protesters all dressed in black attires, carried other placards with various inscriptions, demanding an end to the killings in Atyap land, and withdrawal of soldiers whom they alleged have taken sides with their killers, marched from Samaru Kataf to the Local Government Secretariat in Zonkwa, Zango Kataf

Local Government Area to present their demands to the local government council chairman, Francis Sani Zimbo.

A statement issued by the Special Assistant (Media) to the Chairman, Yabo Chris Ephraim explained that the protesters took turns to deliver their messages to the local government council chairman, saying that their aim is to draw the attention of the world, the federal and State

government to the genocide going on in their ancestral lands.

They appealed to the federal and Kaduna State governments to be sensitive to their plight, alleging that they have been left to the mercy of their killers whom they said have been on killing spree with the support of the military.

The Council Chairman of Zango Kataf Local Government Council, Francis A. Sani, who was

on ground to address the protesters, sued for peace and calm, assuring the protesters that all legal means are being exploited to bring an end to the killings in parts of the Local Government Area.

He assured the protesters that their message is loud and clear and would get to Governor Nasir el-Rufai for appropriate measures to be taken towards ensuring peaceful coexistence in the area.



Holding Africa Fashion Week in Brazil A Great Initiative - Consulate General

**Says fashion, textile industry in Africa growing, spreading round World*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Consulate General of Brazil in Lagos, H.E. Ministro André Veras Guimarães has declared that fashion and textile industry in Africa is growing and spreading around the world remarkably.

Guimarães made this known at a press conference he co hosted with Olori Ronke Ademiluyi Ogunwusi who doubles as Founder/CEO of the African Fashion Week London and Nigeria

held on the introduction of The African Fashion Week Brazil at the Brazilian Embassy in Lagos.

According to the Consulate General of Brazil in Lagos, as at November, 2022, the sub-saharan Africa apparel sector was reported to have an estimated worth of \$31billion which indicates that African textiles and fashion are spreading around the world remarkably.

The Consulate General of Brazil in Lagos, pointed out that "the fabrics and prints mostly derived from natural fibres, cottons and various colour dyes featured African cultural symbols".

"Fashion and clothing matter to the economy, society and individuals. The industry generates activities in trade, it creates employment opportunities," he said.

Guimarães added, "We have to make the African fashion known in Brazil and because we have a large, not only black population, but Yoruba population, we have the status here as I said, that is a state where if any of you go

to, you will feel at home. You will fit in because of the clothes, the music and traditions we have."

Speaking on the similarities between Nigeria and Brazil, he said

"the initiative is very important, to bring societies together as the two countries are similar in many ways"

The Consulate General of Brazil in Lagos maintained that holding the Africa Fashion Week in Brazil is a great initiative that will be greatly harnessed to the good of both countries, saying, "And like I told Her Majesty Olori Ronke Ogunwusi, that we can go deeper after this Africa Fashion Week".

"We will offer scholarships. We can send people to study fashion in Brazil, and they will have the immigrant status. They have a free scholarship, all they need to do is just apply, to be selected. Of course there is a selection process but we can explore these educational paths. We need to bring our societies to be closer. So I believe this partnership with Africa Fashion Week and Brazil will grow great fruits in future."

Speaking at the Press conference, Olori Ronke Ademiluyi Ogunwusi, said the Africa Fashion Week started in 2011 in London, was created as a platform to bridge the gap between Africa designers, black designers and the general public.

"When we started over a decade ago, there wasn't a platform that brought together African designers and the

global audience. Most of the platforms were mainstream platforms and a lot of people then shy away from Africa fashion. So African fashion was considered then as more traditional. People were not proud to wear Africa fashion especially in the diaspora", she said.

Olori Ogunwusi added, "There was an urgent need to create a platform that showcased the great creativity of Africa designers. This gave birth to Africa Fashion Week, London. In 2014, we created a sister brand called 'Africa Fashion Week, Nigeria,'"

"I grew up in London, I was born there. I knew we did not have that exposure to African fashion like we do now where we have amazing, phenomenon African designers both in Nigeria and abroad that are doing so many wonderful things with our textiles and our fabrics.

Olori Ogunwusi pointed out that the reason why she created the Africa Fashion Week Nigeria was to enable her and her team to reach out to talented designers within Nigeria and Africa who could not afford the logistics of travelling during the international show, adding, "it is going to be our 9th year this year and Africa Fashion Week, London is going to be our 13th year this year".

Emphasizing that Africa Fashion Week, Brazil will boost economic ties and deepen presence of Africa fashion on a global map, she said.

the Nigerian fashion industry is worth trillions of naira, that we just have to look inwards to know how we can make it work.

TY Buratai Foundation Salutes Nigerian Workers

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The management of TY Buratai Humanity Care Foundation has saluted Nigerians Workers as they mark Workers Day on May 1.

This was contained in a statement signed by its National Coordinator, Ibrahim Dahiru Danfulani (Sadaukin Garkuwan Keffi) and made available to the press on Monday, May 1, 2023.

"On behalf of the TY Buratai Humanity Care Foundation, We wish to extend warm greetings to everyone on this occasion of Workers' Day. This day is a of celebration of the hard work and sacrifices of workers all over the world, and it is an opportunity to reflect on the importance of their contributions to the growth and development of our society.

"As we celebrate this day, it is important to recognize the challenges that workers face, particularly in Nigeria. Many workers in our country are faced with low wages, poor working conditions, and limited access to social protection. These challenges have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic,

which has had a significant impact on the global economy and has disproportionately affected workers in low-income countries like Nigeria," it said.

Dabfulani said that at the *TY Buratai Humanity Care Foundation, they are committed to supporting workers and their families, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

"We believe that access to quality healthcare, education, and social protection is essential for all workers, regardless of their sector or employment status," the statement said.

The foundation therefore, called on employers, government officials, and civil society organizations to work together to address the challenges facing workers in our country.

"We urge all stakeholders to prioritize the welfare and well-being of workers, and to take concrete steps to improve their working conditions, reduce poverty, and promote social inclusion.

"Once again, we wish all workers a happy Workers' Day, and we pledge our continued support for their welfare and empowerment," the statement concluded.

Sudan: Four Airlines On Standby In Egypt To Evaluate Stranded Nigerians

**637 await clearance at Aswan border*



By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

No fewer than four aircrafts are now on standby in Egypt awaiting the evacuation of Nigerians stranded in Sudan.

It was gathered that the four airlines included three Nigerian Air Force C-130 aircrafts and one Air Peace aircraft.

Some of the Nigerian evacuees from Sudan including students, were said to still be stuck at the border and have been refused entry into Egypt.

It would be recalled that Federal Government on Saturday, hinted that 637 Nigerian evacuees from Sudan have arrived safe borders at Aswan in Egypt, undergoing necessary documentation and clearance.

The Federal Government 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 added that the movement of the second batch of 29 buses

commenced on Saturday, 29th April, 2023 and that the evacuees were 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.

It 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"

FG 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."

At Last, Police Arrests Controversial Adamawa INEC REC, Begins Investigation

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The controversial Adamawa State Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) in the just concluded Gubernatorial Election, Barr. Hudu Yunusa-Ari has been arrested by the police authority.

He was arrested by the Police Election Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Team in Abuja yesterday and is being grilled to ascertain the motives and motivations behind his alleged improper actions during the supplementary elections in Adamawa State.

The Force Public Relations Officer CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi made the disclosure in a statement yesterday.

He hinted that other officials and

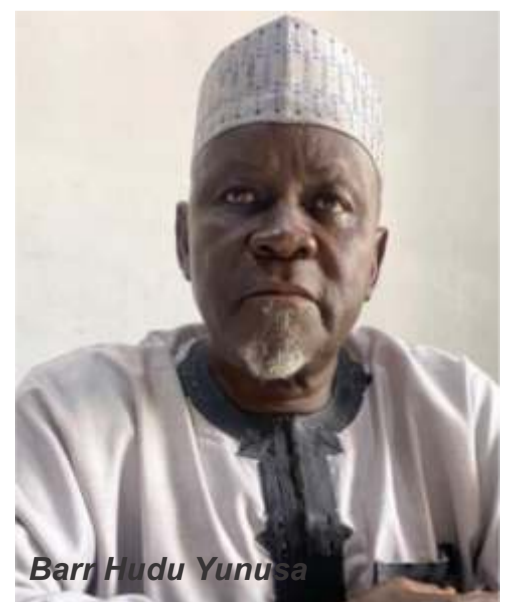
individuals culpable in the saga are also being interrogated by the team.

It reads, "The Nigeria Police Force hereby confirms the arrest of Barr. Hudu Yunusa-Ari, the Adamawa State Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), who was alleged to have announced the candidate of the All Progressives Congress winner of the gubernatorial elections during the recently concluded supplementary elections following calls for his arrest and investigation by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the basis of alleged impropriety in the course of supplementary gubernatorial polls in the State.

"Barrister Ari, who was arrested by the Police Election Planning, Monitoring,

and Evaluation Team in Abuja on Tuesday 2nd May, 2023, is currently in Police custody and is being grilled to ascertain the motives and motivations behind his alleged improper actions during the supplementary elections in Adamawa State. In addition, other officials and individuals culpable in the saga are being interrogated by the team.

"The Inspector-General of Police has given clear assurance that every individual involved/indicted in the matter will be apprehended and investigated in line with the provisions of the law for possible prosecution. The Inspector-General of Police has assured of the commitment of the Force to ensuring that justice is served in this case and that all guilty parties are brought to justice".



Barr Hudu Yunusa

Plateau Governor-elect Visits Victims Of Attacks/Scene Of Jos Tanker Explosion

**Commiserates bereaved families, survivors*

By: BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

The Plateau State Governor-elect, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang has decried the renewed attacks on rural communities of Barkin-Ladi, Jos South, Mangu and Bokkos local government areas of the state recently, where several lives were lost and property destroyed.

Barr. Mutfwang, who was heartbroken over the loss of innocent lives as a result of bandits activities, called on security agencies to fish out the perpetrators of such dastardly acts and bring them to justice.

The incoming governor, made his feelings known through the Deputy Governor-elect, Hon. Josephine Piyo, when she led a delegation on a sympathy visit to Turu, Jos South Local Government and Heipang, Barkin Ladi Local Government Area.

He was accompanied by the member representing Barkin-Ladi/Riyom Federal Constituency and Senator-elect for Plateau North, Dr. Simon Mwakwong, the Speaker of Plateau State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Abok Nuhu Ayuba, member representing Jos South Constituency.

Others are, Hon. Gwattson Fom Dalyop and Senior Special Assistant on Special Duties, Mr. Moses Nwan, mni among other party stalwarts.

The deputy governor-elect, conveyed the condolences of Barr. Mutfwang to Farin-Lamba Community in Turu District of Jos South Local Government Area over the bloody attack that led to the loss of artisan miners.

Hon. Piyo, who was at the Palace of Gwom Turu, Da Ezekiel James Dalyop, said the governor-elect of Plateau State is deeply pained by the news of the attack on the community.

"We are here on behalf of His Excellency, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang to commiserate with the good people of Turu over the ugly incident that led to the loss of lives at a mining site.

The death is not only a loss to the people of Turu, but the entire Jos South Local Government Area and Nigeria at large. Our hearts are with you and may God Almighty comfort you all."

Hon. Piyo was also at the residence of Mrs. Laitu David to commiserate with her over the demise of her husband, late Engr. Dalyop David Sabo in Turu and prayed for God's comfort over the entire family.

The Gwom Turu, Da Ezekiel James Dalyop who received the Deputy Governor-elect and her team said the people of Turu are comforted by the visit, which he said will go along away in healing the wounds created by the unfortunate incident.

He expressed delight that the administration of Barr. Caleb Mutfwang will take proactive steps when sworn-in into office to address the resurgence of bloody attacks and provide a peaceful atmosphere for farmers as well as other law abiding citizens in the state to carry out their business activities without hindrance.

In the same vein, the Deputy Governor-elect, was at Tatu and Chil villages of Haipang District of Barkin-Ladi, where bandits laid ambush on the communities leading to the loss of lives.



She sympathised with the people, particularly the surviving widows, orphans and relatives and asked God to comfort them and avert a repeat of such sad and ugly occurrence. The acting Gwom of Tatu Da. Danjuma Chollom and Gwom Chil, Da. Gyang Dalyop in their separate remarks, expressed gratitude for the visit and said the entire communities are encouraged and comforted by the kind gesture.

At the Palace of Gwom Rwei of Haipang, the Deputy Governor-elect commiserated with the traditional ruler and the entire people of Barkin-Ladi over the unfortunate loss of lives and prayed for God's intervention to end the attacks.

Receiving the delegation, the Gwom Rwei of Haipang, Da. Paul Tadi Tok assured the

incoming administration of the support of his people in addressing issues of insecurity in order to pave the way for progress and development.

He encouraged communities in the state to take early warning signs very serious and report to security agencies, any strange movements around their localities for swift intervention. The Deputy Governor-elect was similarly at the scene of tanker explosion at Bauchi Road in Jos North Local Government Area where innocent persons perished in the tragic inferno.

She commiserated with residents of the area and assured them of the support of the incoming administration in reorganising the city centre to curb such incidents and ensure free flow of traffic for healthy business transactions.

On his part, member representing Barkin-Ladi/Riyom Federal Constituency and Senator-elect for Plateau North, Hon. Simon Mwakwong assured the residents of "people oriented" legislations that will impact positively on citizens.

Hon. Mwakwong noted that he would lobby to get legislative backing for the dualization of the Bauchi road to improve the living condition of the people.

Residents of the area including PDP Chairman, Jos North Local Government Area and a community leader, Alh. Sadis Mohammad among several stakeholders who were on ground to receive the delegation expressed gratitude for the visit and described it as timely in healing the broken-hearted as a result of the incident.

Youth For Change Gives Reasons Why Akpabio Should Be Senate President

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A non governmental organisation, Youth For Change Enlightenment and Empowerment Foundation has forwarded reasons, why Senator God's will Akpabio should be adopted as consensus candidate as the Senate President of the 10th National Assembly.

They expressed this at a press conference, after an emergency meeting held in Kaduna on Monday May 1, 2023.

Speaking on behalf of the group, it's chairman, Ahmad Muhammad said that for the sake of unity and national cohesion, the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), and Senators-elect were urged to look no further in search of the next Senate President, but should rally support for Senator Akpabio.

"We are all aware of the track records of Senator Godswill Akpabio. He was a two-term governor of Akwa Ibom State where his landmark achievements remain visible for all to see.

"Nigerians must also be reminded that when he served as



Minister of Niger Delta, the country recorded the lowest rate of pipeline vandalism and disruption of oil exploration, as a result of respect he commands in the South South.

"He was also a minority whip of the Senate, where his experience was further boosted as a lawmaker," he said.

Also speaking, Secretary of the group, A.E. Adole (Esq.) described Senator Akpabio as a detribalised Nigerian, who does not discriminate between Christians or Muslims, nor regional or ethnic divides.

"In the best interest of our country and the urgent need to carry all from different demographic, social and religious strata to further unite our diverse people, we should all support Akpabio for the Senate Presidency," he declared.

They also implored President Muhammadu Buhari and President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu to consider endorsing Akpabio for the Senate Presidency.

Police Gruesome Murder: Suspected IPOB Chief Priest, Commander, 7 Others Nabbed In Imo State

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Sequel to the gruesome murder of four policemen in Imo State by suspected hoodlums, an onslaught by police detectives in the state has led to the arrest of nine suspects in connection with the incident. The hoodlums were suspected to be members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its militia affiliate, Eastern Security Network (ESN).

Assorted firearms which include one cut to size AK 47 rifle, two cut to size double barrel guns, one locally fabricated Berretta, one AK 47 riffle, three pump action guns, two single barrel locally made guns, one locally made pistol, one cut to size gun were recovered from them.

Other exhibits said to have been recovered also include 50 rounds of 7.66mm live ammunition, thirty eight (38) rounds of live cartridges, two AK 47 magazines, two locally made explosive devices, one Iphone, One H-mobile phone, Walkie-Talkie, three cow horns painted with Biafran Insignia, two Biafran Jewish caps, Jewish Flag, large quantity of weeds suspected to be Cannabis Sativa and other fetish objects.

Our correspondent learnt that they were arrested by a detachment of the Command's tactical team following credible intelligence at two separate hideouts, which also serve as their shrines.

One of the suspects identified as Mathew Chuwkuma, 48, of Mpam Ahaizu Mbaise LGA, according to report, confessed to be the Sector Commander of the dreadful IPOB/ESN syndicate in Mbaise, while one Obali Paul, 70, of Itu Ezinihitte Mbaise LGA of Imo State, is said to be the Chief Priest of the Criminal Syndicate.

It would be recalled that the four police officers attached to Ngor-Okpala/Mbaise Area Command at Ngor-Okpala, Imo State were slain by suspected hoodlums on 21st April, 2023 while on patrol. The spokesperson of Imo State Police Command ASP Henry Okoye gave details of the arrest in a release on Sunday.

It reads, "Sequel to the attack of Police Officers on patrol attached to Ngor-Okpala/Mbaise Area Command at Ngor-Okpala, Imo State on 21/04/2023 by hoodlums suspected to be members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its militia affiliate, Eastern Security Network (ESN) where



The arrested suspects paraded by police

four gallant police officers lost their lives, the indefatigable Commissioner of Police, Imo state, CP Mohammed Ahmed Barde PSC(+) after on the spot assessment of the incident, directed the Command's tactical teams to commence detailed investigation and manhunt to unravel the perpetrators of the dastardly act.

"Acting on the CP's directives, a detachment of the Command's tactical team on 24/04/2023 at about 1730hrs after diligent gathering of credible intelligence, arrested one Mathew Chuwkuma 48yrs 'm' of Mpam Ahaizu Mbaise LGA, Imo State, in his hideout at Umuahia, Abia State.

"He confessed to be the Sector Commander of a dreadful IPOB/ESN syndicate in Mbaise and assisted the curious operatives in arresting three (3) of his syndicate namely; Ojoko Ikechukwu 53yrs 'm' of Umugwa, Chilaka Charles 44yrs 'm' of Umuezu, and Anthony Iwu 50yrs 'm' of Umugwa all in Umuokiria, Ahaizu Mbaise LGA of Imo State in their Criminal hideout while others escaped.

"On searching the suspects and their hideout the following incriminating items were recovered; One cut to size AK 47

rifle, One hundred and Ninety rounds of live 7.62 mm Ammunition, Two AK 47 magazines, two cut to size double barrel guns, one locally fabricated Berretta pistol were recovered from the Terrorist hideout.

"In the course of investigation, the suspects all confessed to be members of the a dreadful

"Our correspondent learnt that they were arrested by a detachment of the Command's tactical team following credible intelligence at two separate hideouts, which also serve as their shrines."

IPOB/ESN syndicate terrorizing the good people of Imo State and had a hand in the recent killing of four (4) Police officers and two(2) civilians at Ngor Okpala. "They volunteered crucial information that assisted the determined operatives on 27/04/2023 at about 1240hrs, in raiding their second hideout/shrine in Itu, Ezinitte Mbaise LGA Imo State which led to the arrest of four (4) other notorious IPOB/ESN suspects famous on the command's wanted list due to their nefarious activities.

"On sighting the Operatives, the notorious criminal syndicate engaged them in a fierce gun duel but were over powered by super fire power of the combat ready tactical squad which forced them to disarray and resulted to the arrest of four other suspects namely; 1. Ibe Demian 50yrs 'm', 2. Iwuala Simon 31 yrs 'm' both of Neme Mpam Ahaizu Mbaise LGA of Imo State, 3. Nwabueze Ahiwe 47 yrs 'm' of Onicha Ezinitte Mbaise LGA of Imo State and 4. Obali Paul 70 yrs 'm' of Itu Ezinihitte Mbaise LGA of Imo State, who is the Chief Priest of the Criminal Syndicate while others escaped with various degrees of bullet injuries.

"On searching their second

hideout which also serves as shrine where the perform fetish rituals, one AK 47 riffle, three (3) pump action guns, two single barrel locally made guns, one locally made pistol, one cut to size gun, 50 rounds of 7.66mm live ammunition, thirty eight (38) rounds of live cartridges, two (2) AK 47 magazines, two (2) locally made explosive devices, one Iphone, One H-mobile, Walkie-Talkie, Three (3) cow horns painted with Biafran Insignia, two (2) Biafran Jewish caps, Jewish Flag, large quantity of weeds suspected to be Cannabis Sativa other fetish object were recovered.

"Frantic investigating efforts is on top gear to arrest other syndicate members at large and make them face the full wrath of the law.

"The CP while commending the operatives for a job well done, stressed the fact that policing is collective responsibility. He then appealed to Imolites to joined hands with the Police and other sister security agencies in the crusade against Terrorism and to report any suspicious activity or person(s) seen with or treating gunshot injury to the nearest Police Station or call the Command's emergency lines 08034773700, 08098880197".

Arewa Concerned Citizens Endorses Jaji For Reps Speaker

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A group, the Arewa Concerned Citizens, has called on the President-elect, Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the All Progressive Congress (APC) leadership to as a matter of justice, good working relation between legislature and executive in the incoming administration in the country.

Briefing newsmen in Kaduna on Sunday, the group's chairman, Salis Muhammad Moriki, he said, "We call on the President elect, Alh. Ahmed Bola Tinubu and APC leadership to, as a matter of justice, good working relation between Legislature and Executive, and to have a person with the capacity to translate vision into reality to support the candidature of Hon. Aminu Sani Jaji." The group noted that zoning the 10th House of Representatives leadership to North West is best suitable to Aminu Sani Jaji.

He further explained, "We

are ardently following the issue of the current political dispensation in the country, especially the zoning of key positions to the various geopolitical zones in the country in order to reflect equal representation among the six geopolitical zones in the country.

"As we are all aware that the President has emerged from the South West and Vice President from the North East. And it is expected that the Senate President would emerge from the South South or South East while the Speaker, House of Representatives would emerge from the North West."

In view of the above, he said the group is calling on the President elect, and APC Leadership in general to support the candidature of Aminu Sani Jaji as the Speaker, House of Representatives who hails from Zamfara state as speaker with capacity, sincere support and understanding.

"In order not to repeat the mistakes of the past where the executive and

Legislature were at logger heads, there's need to have a Speaker that has been with the president and understood each other even before President elect, Ahmed Bola Tinubu was nominated as APC presidential flag bearer. Hon. Aminu Sani Jaji has been with president elect and works with him even before now," the group explained.

The group said that Aminu Jaji hails from Zamfara state, being the State that hasn't ever produced a speaker in the zone since 1999. There is need for the state to have a speaker of the House of Representatives for equity and justice, especially now that the state produces a person with integrity and capacity.

According to him, Aminu Sani Jaji has worked tirelessly with his personal resources to actual the Presidency of Alh. Ahmed Bola Tinubu in this, being the chairman of contact and mobilisation committee of the Presidential campaign Committee, adding that Aminu Sani Jaji has been

one of the pillars of the APC in Zamfara and North West in general.

He added that Aminu Sani Jaji is one of the few people in Zamfara with grassroots support and sponsorship of the party in the state, saying that he influenced the success of Bola Tinubu.

He explained that Aminu Sani Jaji served as director contact and mobilisation committee of North West for presidential campaign committee Committee and gave in all for the success of the President elect, Alh. Ahmed Bola Tinubu in 2023 presidential election. He assured that the need for the incoming government to include youth in governance, Aminu Sani Jaji is a youth that understands it all associates himself with them and urged the President elect and APC leadership to ignore those deforming his character, especially some section of APC leadership in the state who are jealous of his popularity and unmatched achievements.

Jigawa Youth Ready To Support Umar Namadi's Administration - Basiru Kafin Hausa



By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Dutse

Jigawa State youth would continue to support the administration of Malam Umar Namadi Dan Modi to implement its blueprint for the rapid development of the state in every sector. This was expressed by Malam Basiru Optimistic Kafin Hausa in a chat with New Nigerian In Dutse, where he assured that Dan Modi's government would continue from where Governor Badaru Abubakar would stop in order to ensure continuity.

He said that Jigawa State has a teaming patriotic youth who are always ready to promote peace and

unity in the state and it is clear that the support being rendered to Badaru administration would also be enjoyed in the incoming administration.

Basiru Optimistic Kafin Hausa opined that youth remain the pillars of change and development, therefore Jigawa youth would give more contribution towards the success of incoming government with optimum results.

He thanked the good people of Jigawa State for their support and cooperation during campaigns and elections, where Umar Namadi emerged winner of the state's gubernatorial elections in a hitch-free manner.



Arewa Concerned Citizens addressing newsmen in Kaduna on Sunday, where they backing Aminu Sani Jaji as Speaker, House of Representatives

Repent Or Be Smoked Out, Police Warns Criminals In Kaduna, Arrests 350

**Recovers drugs, weapons, 57 bags of Indian Hemp
Sustains manhunt on criminals, raids black spots

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

While assuring that manhunt for suspected criminal elements and raiding of black spots would be sustained, the Kaduna Police Command had paraded 350 suspects arrested in connection with various criminal activities in the state.

The acting Commissioner of Police, DCP Maiman B. Giwa disclosed this at a press conference at the command's headquarters yesterday in Kaduna.

Represented by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Mohammed Jalige, the acting CP said that the arrests were made following relentless efforts to rid the state of crime and criminal activities.

"On behalf of officers and men of the Kaduna State Police Command, I welcome you all to this important press briefing as it has become expedient that we update you on the successes recorded in the continuous fight against all forms of criminality in the state during the period under review.

"The Command has been relentless in its efforts to sustaining a serious manhunt on bandits and other perpetrators of crimes within the Command in line with the directives of the Inspector General of Police IGP Usman Alkali Baba psc(+), NPM, fdc NEAPS, CFR.

"The Command has launched a serious manhunt on the criminals hibernating in some identified black spots within Kaduna Metropolis and its environs following the Public Out-Cry on the nefarious activities of these criminal elements otherwise known as "Sara Suka" operating within the city center, the Command has organized constant raids on the hideout of these hoodlums with a view to having a crime free society where law abiding citizen would be allowed to go about their lawful business without fear of been molested or intimidated from any coater," he said.

According to him, the gallant determination of their personnel yielded a positive result with the arrest of the 350 suspects and the recovery of the following:-

- i. Illicit Drugs,
- ii. 57 Bags of Dried Leaves suspected to be Indian hemp equivalent to 1710kg,
- iii. Snatched GSM Phone,
- iv. Sharp Knives,
- v. Scissors,
- vi. Cudgels
- vii. Master Keys,
- viii. Vehicles and
- ix. Motorcycles of different brand.

He informed that some suspects have been charged to court, while others are undergoing discreet investigation upon completion, which will also be charged to a court of competent jurisdiction.

It is worthy to mention that miscreant who has adopted a new modus operandi

in disposing law abiding citizens of their valuables by spraying a substance suspected to be acid on their victims especially in Malali and Badarawa general area, have equally been arrested and currently undergoing investigation.

"The Command reiterates its commitment towards ensuring the security and safety of the good people of the state.

"He strongly warns that criminals will have no hiding place in Kaduna State. They are advised to either repent or leave the state completely," he warned.

He thanked residents of the state for their untiring support without which the success and achievement wouldn't have been recorded and also urged them not to relent as security is everybody business.

"Therefore, all incidents must be reported to the nearest Police Station, and avoid taking laws into their hands. As rigorous patrols, raids of criminal hideouts and black spots will be carried out unabatedly," he assured.



Maternal Mortality Rate Now Lower In SW Nigeria - Dr Bewaji

**Over 500 pregnant women benefits from ICH 2023 bi-annual Health Initiative*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Medical Director of Ibadan Central Hospital, (ICH), Dr Muyiwa Bewaji has disclosed that maternal mortality rate is now lower in the Southwest part of Nigeria. Dr Bewaji said this in Ibadan on Monday, while speaking at the ICH 2023 bi-annual health initiative tagged: "Health Gathering" during which over 500 pregnant women from across Oyo state benefited.

According to Dr Bewaji, the reduction in the maternal mortality rate might not be unconnected with sensitisation of pregnant women and focused anti-natal healthcare programmes "We sensitize them on importance of anti-natal

care, what to expect during pregnancy and for them to know how to take care of their child after delivery," he said.

Dr Bewaji added, "We also give them gift inform of raffle draw, this year's event is special because it coincide with our 25th anniversary, we are having another section for children that were born in this hospital over a decade ago by next week, we are taking care of mothers this week."

Speaking on the activities marking the 25th anniversary of the hospital, Dr Bewaji said the purpose of the event was to celebrate, appreciate and sensitize pregnant women in the state, particularly in Ibadan and its environs on importance of anti-natal and what to expect during

pregnancy.

Dr Bewaji pointed out that pregnant women were basically chosen for the programme upon realizing the role of mothers in the society as well as importance of maternal healthcare.

General Manager of the hospital, Olajumoke Caxton-Martins while speaking described the event as way of giving back to the society considering that maternal mortality is still high in Nigeria, hence the need to educate expectant mother's on what know.

According to her, some women still prefer to give birth at home or in Mission Homes, and that it has become imperative to educate them on what to know whenever their health is been threatened.

"They need to know what

is normal and abnormal, this our own way of giving back to the society, educating them on what they need to pay attention to, we bring together pregnant women twice every year, we feed them, entertain and sensitise them", she said.

Dr Caxton-Martins added, "Women are important to homes because they take care of the children and family, which is the bedrock to any society, we teach them how to have these children and how to take care of them after delivery."

The General Manager lamented that brain drain is also affecting private hospitals because doctors are in high demand everywhere in Nigeria and this is affecting the society but her hospital still manage to handle the situation.



Pregnant women at the ICH sensitization programme

Unknown Gunmen Abduct Ex-NULGE Chairman, Kill One In Nasarawa

By; SAMSONYAKI, Lafia

Unknown gunmen suspected to be kidnappers have abducted a former Chairman of the Nigerian Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), in Nasarawa State, Alhaji Ismaila Konga, on Monday in Akwanga.

Konga was said to have been kidnapped alongside two others on his way from Akwanga town, the headquarters of Akwanga Local Government Area to his country home Andaha, where he resides with his family.

Andaha Town, 20 kilometres away from Akwanga, the headquarters of Akwanga

LG, is one of the suburbs that has become kidnappers' den in recent times. A family source said that the kidnappers mounted road block on the Akwanga-Jos federal highway, between Ningo village and Andaha, where they got their victims.

"They mounted road block and opened fire on travellers, then our brother ran into them and they whisked him away alongside Mallam Sule Coach, who is working with Primary Health Care Department, one other person and killed a Hilux driver who also ran into them.

"The kidnappers had contacted us

(family) around 4am today (Tuesday) and gave our brother phone to speak with us. He was trying to tell us that they are demanding 2 million naira, but we overheard his abductors at the background saying, they will not collect 2 million naira," he said.

Meanwhile, ghe spokesman of the Nasarawa State Police Command, DSP Ranham Nansel, has confirmed the development, pledging to swing into action with immediate effect.

"I don't have these details, I will revert immediately I get it," Nansel however added.

Nigeria Needs True Federalism, Better Fiscal Arrangements To Attain Greater Nation - Prof Osuntokun

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Professor of History, Professor Jide Osuntokun, (OON) on Monday, said Nigeria need true federalism and better fiscal arrangements to attain greater nation Prof Osuntokun said this in Ibadan, at the 28th Annual Distinguished Lecture and Luncheon organised by the House of Lords, Nigeria.

In his lecture titled, 'How to keep Nigeria Together', Prof Osuntokun stressed that the incoming administration of Bola Tinubu must convene a constitutional conference early in its term.

According to him, the conference must allow the discussion of issues bordering on federalism and fiscal arrangements to guarantee resources ownership as well as ensure that each state or group in the country contribute to the running of a loose federation.

"Let us design a system where political activities and competition will be state located, domiciled and collective. Cooperative governance will be at the centre while states enjoy large measure of autonomy and consequent development", he said Prof Osuntokun added, "We must bring back this system in which people have confidence that their government will have their backs, protect their culture including their language, religion and their future group rights".

"In the First Republic, each region had its own constitution, independent judiciary and control over the affairs of the lives of its

people.

He maintained that the present states in the country are just too weak and too many to defend the rights as well as resources of their people and that we must find politically realistic solution to a knotty problem instead of losing our country to the forces of disunity and political fission arising from elections.

Emphasizing that the people can only enjoy democracy when they are living in peace, Prof Osuntokun said there can't be absolute rights in an explosive situation where lives and society itself are threatened, calling for a realistic solution out of the political quagmire.

"These have become recurring decimal since 1959, 1964, 1979, 1983, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015, 2019 and now 2023. It's better to find realistic solution out of this political quagmire."

Leader of the House of Lords, Prof Ayodele Desalu (CON) said the annual May Day lecture by the non-political group was part of its demonstration of its passionate about development and growth of Nigeria.

Prof Desalu tasked the incoming Tinubu administration to ensure steady power supply and functional refineries in the country, saying, no country can experience growth and development without stable power supply, urging the administration to encourage each state to generate power for its people.

Stressing that such would open windows of employment

opportunities and boost economic growth as well as reducing insecurity in the country, Prof Desalu said that all these and some other policies aimed at boosting economic growth and reducing unemployment rate, would no doubt reduce youth unrest in the country.



Prof Akinjide Osuntokun at the lecture

Motorists drive through flooded Oshodi-Abeokuta expressway, at Ladipo bus stop, in Lagos

Photos: AKINOLA ARIYO



Kaduna NLC Reiterates Commitment Towards Strengthening Organizational Capacity



By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Kaduna State Council has reiterated its commitment towards continuous engagement of its members via capacity building programmes to strengthen the organizational capacity of the leadership of its branches across the state. The NLC chairperson, Comrade Ayuba Magaji Suleiman stated this on Saturday, during the 2023 NLC/TUC Pre-May Day symposium with the theme, "Workers Rights and Socio-economic Justice in Kaduna. Comrade Ayuba Magaji explained that training and retraining of local leadership of NLC branches across the state is key to having enlightened and vibrant unions that are capable of promoting the interest of workers for improved performance and productivity. "To kick-start this year's

activities, permit me to refresh our memories and share with you some highlights in form of overview of the theme in perspective. In a simple terms, workers rights are social, economic, legal and human rights, relating to freedom an employee or employees deserves and earned at work place and within the framework of working relationship with their employers. "The legal aspect of workers' right entails all the laws, guidelines, regulations, conventions, treaties and memorandum understanding which are provided to advance or promote as well as protect the discharge and dispensation of the freedom of workers at work and within the working circumstances." According to him, the legal framework are well documented and are available in the various country's organization conventions/recommendations, and to get more elaborate details of

Workers' Right and get simple instants, one can considered reading the 190 International Labour Organization's conventions and the 206 recommendations which encompasses provisions to promote and protects the right of workers. "As we are here today to take the Symposium, permit me to reiterate our commitment as a state council of the congress, to the principles of our founding fathers in trade unionism; promoting and defending the interest of our members. "To further take pro-active measures to discharge this honorable responsibility, we are determine to improve and strengthen the organizing capacity of all our affiliates through providing training and retraining programs and opportunities in our second term in office." He said. While congratulating workers for another May Day, the NLC chairperson lamented the current

economic realities ranging from inflation, unemployment high cost, and low standard of living alongside insecurity which according to him had eroded the value of the minimum wage. He called on governments not to remove subsidy, but revive the existing refineries for them to refine the nation's crude to enable citizens have access to fuel at a cheaper rate to boost local production and development of the oil sector. In a presentation on Workers Rights and Socio-economic Justice, a labour consultant, Mr. Kekere Solomon explained that justice is a bargaining factor and stressed the need for government to give workers their rights and privileges, and to ensure extant rules and regulations were followed to the later to promote welfare and socio-economic wellbeing of workers.



Planning, Sensitization Will Reduce Effect Of Pandemic Unions Strike In Education Sector -- ABU VC

By; SANI ALIYU, Zaria

The Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Prof. Kabiru Bala has said that there must be good planning and sensitization in order to avert the effect of pandemic and unions strike in the Nigerian education sector. He stated this at the 61st Meeting of the Committee of Provost and Deans of Postgraduate Colleges and Nigerian Universities (CPDPGCS) held at the ABU Postgraduate Auditorium at the weekend.

He said, there must be a serious synergy between the industries in order to exploit means of research on energy.

According to him, "whatever we can do from government and industries, we have to do a very good research in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the research."

Professor Bala maintained that research and postgraduate studies are going hand in hand which make them very important in the area of educational development.

In her welcome address, the President of the association, Prof. Philomina Ebokwe said

that the meeting is aimed at building a strong network between provosts and deans of postgraduate schools in respect of postgraduate studies, which can be used by colleges and postgraduate schools for studies.

The president charged participants to think on how to move forward and how to move forward in Nigeria.

According to her, the 21st Century is characterised by many challenges of technological advances and globalization that make them to compete with world class Universities because we can remain in one place.

She said the theme of the meeting is, " Paradigm shift in the delivery of Postgraduate studies and research is Nigeria".

In his remarks, the Dean Postgraduate School Ahmadu Bello University, Prof.Sani Abdullahi said the meeting is aimed at finding a lasting solutions of issues that is hindering postgraduate students programmes when there is strike and pandemic.

Prof. Abdullahi said, the theme of the meeting is apt, considering the compositions of scholars assembled to deliver papers whom he said they will do justice to it.



Group Kicks Against Appointment Of FRIN DG

**Ask President Buhari to reverse his appointment before leaving on May 29*

By; **BAYO AKAMO,**
Ibadan

A human rights body, Concerned Group' has asked President Muhammadu Buhari to reverse the alleged appointment of a new Director-General for the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), Ibadan before his final exit from office on May 28 this year.

The body made the call in a petition addressed to President Buhari signed by Comrades Kelvin Onaolapo and Wasiu Olatiregun, the President and Secretary respectively, copied to the National Assembly (Senate and House of Representatives), Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Commission (ICPC), the Department of State Security (DSS), Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and the Media. In the petition, titled 'Criminal Subversion of Due Process in the Appointment of New Director-General for Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), Ibadan, the Human

Rights body kicked against the purported appointment describing it as a back-door appointment, saying it failed anything that could be described as "moral, just and fair".

It alleged that, "as the President's tenure winds down, it is very sad to note that some of your aides are so obsessed with their selfish and parochial interest that they care less about your highly cherished value of integrity and discipline with their reckless and unconscionable last minute actions that would woefully fail any form of credibility scrutiny".

The body alleging the ambush of the appointment process put in place by the management of the Institute in which "all the efforts consigned to the waste bin with the acclaimed back-door appointment of Dr. Zacharia Buba Yaduma as the new FRIN DG".

According to the group, the said appointment was "in flagrant violation of the extant law and any known principle of

decency, integrity, discipline and morality", alleging, "Here is a man, who is not a research scientist and there's no record of his application for the post during the window of application not to talk of being shortlisted for interview and no interview was conducted anywhere. What a criminal subversion of due process and what a lopsided, reckless and impudent appointment"?

The group stressed, by the appointment, "caution was thrown to the winds and due process served to the dogs on the altar of impunity and lack of consideration for the feelings of fellow beings, recalling that President Buhari's administration was reputed to have made history in the Institute with the provision of the legal framework through the 2018 FRIN Establishment Act.

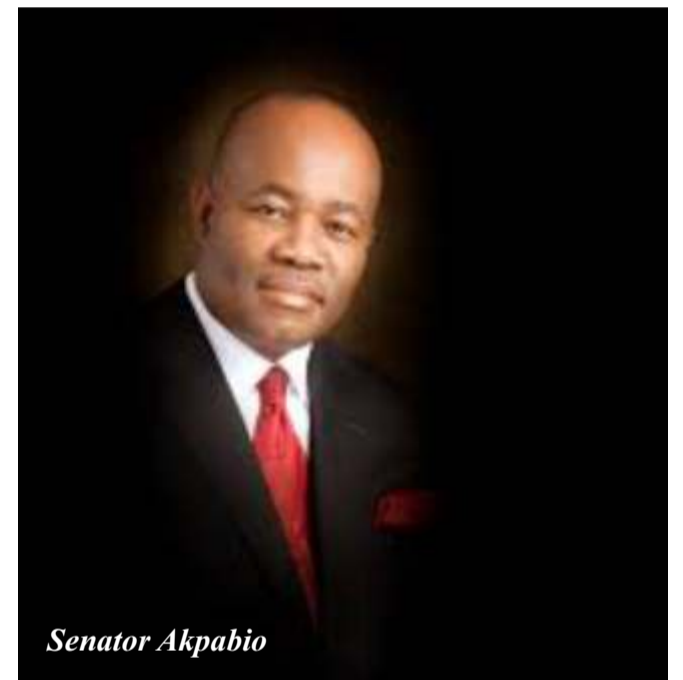
The Act, according to the group "enables research scientists of the Institute to adopt Professorial Cadre and since the coming into being of the Act in 2018, no fewer than six Research Scientists had

been promoted to the Professorial Cadre and many Associate Research Scientist Professors produced. Section 6 (2) of the same Act stipulates that the Institute should be headed by a Research Scientist Professor.

"A layman interpretation of the law quoted above is that a non-scientist researcher has no business aspiring to lead the Institute just as Professors from the Universities are also excluded. And with in-house six Research Scientist Professors and many Associate Research Scientist Professors, FRIN has no dearth of qualified and legally sanctioned personnel to lead the place", the group noted further.

The body then asked Mr. President to do an urgent reversal of what was described as illegal and criminal act and allow the appointment process already set in motion to be completed, the group maintained that "it is only by that that morale would not be killed, hard work would not be discouraged and industrial unrest would not be incubate", adding, "a stitch in time saves nine".

Senate Presidency: Coalition Backs Akpabio, Lobbies Tinubu



Senator Akpabio

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

A coalition of civil society organisations Nigeria Civil Society Advocacy Group (NiCAG) have called on the President-Elect, Bola Tinubu to give his total and unalloyed support for Senator Godswill Akpabio to emerge as the Senate President in the 10th National Assembly.

The group through its spokesman, Pastor Shedrach Oka explained that the incoming President would definitely need the support of the Senate for him to implement his policies.

"Only Senator Akpabio has that charisma, zeal and zest to galvanise the rest of Senators to support the incoming President.

"Do not forget, that the 10th National Assembly is very diverse and in the upper House, the APC does not have an absolute majority to push through with the policies of the incoming administration,

as such, a strong willed, tactical and dolomitic Senator is needed to marshal the progressives and others at the Upper House to give the needed impetus.

The group further stressed that in the interest of unity, equity and inclusiveness, Godswill Akpabio who is from the South South geopolitical zone should become the next Senate President.

"If you take a look at the Presidency, Asiwaju Ahmad Bola Tinubu is from the South West, he is the President, Shettima is from the North East, he is the Vice President, apart from region, religion is also a factor that cannot be overlooked.

"The emergence of Akpabio from the South South would go a long way to assuage the feelings of the Christians and the South South and it would therefore, bring about the much needed unity and inclusivity that the administration so needs.

Nigeria May Lose \$10bn Foreign Direct Investment Due To Political Tension - IMF

By; **PETER NOSAKHARE,**
Kaduna

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that Nigeria could lose an estimated 10 billion dollars of foreign direct investment and official development assistance inflows to geo-political tensions.

The IMF in its country focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, released on Monday, said the figure is about a half per cent of the nation's annual Gross Domestic Product.

The Washington-based lender said, "The losses could be compounded if capital flows between trade blocs were cut-off because of geo-political tensions. The region could lose an estimated \$10bn of foreign direct investments and official development assistance inflow is about half a percent of GDP a year based on an average 2017-19 estimate). The reduction in FDI, in the long run, could also hinder much-needed technology transfer." IMF further said that if geopolitical tensions were to escalate, countries could be hit by higher import prices or even lose access to key export markets.

It added that about half of Sub-Saharan Africa's value of global trade could be impacted.

The Washington-based lender also said that Sub-Saharan Africa could stand to lose the most if the world split into two isolated trading blocs centered on China or the United States and the European Union.

The IMF added the region's economy could experience a permanent decline of up to four percent of its gross domestic product after 10 years.

"Sub-Saharan Africa could stand to lose the most if the world were to split into two isolated trading blocs centered around China or the United States and the European Union. In this severe scenario, sub-Saharan African economies could experience a permanent decline of up to four per cent of the real Gross Domestic Product after 10 years. According to our estimates, these are losses larger than what most countries experienced during the global financial crisis.

"According to the report, economic trade alliances have also made countries reliant on imports of food and energy more susceptible to global shocks, including disruptions from the surge in trade restrictions following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It added, "For countries looking to restructure their debt, deepening

geo-economic fragmentation could also worsen coordination problems among creditors. The region would fare better if only the US/EU cut ties with Russia and sub-Saharan African countries continue to trade freely. In this scenario trade flows would be diverted towards the rest of the world, creating opportunities for new partnerships, and possibly boosting intra-regional trade."

However, IMF said that because some African countries benefit from access to new export markets and cheaper imports, the region would not incur a GDP loss.

It added that oil exporters supplying energy to Europe could even gain. IMF called for strengthening the African Continental Free Trade Area to better manage these shocks properly.

It added, "To better manage shocks, countries need to build resilience. This can be done by strengthening the ongoing regional trade integration under the African Continental Free Trade Area, which will require reducing tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, strengthening efficiency in customs, leveraging digitalization, and closing the infrastructure gaps

I Have Fulfilled My Pact With Plateau Workers -Lalong

By: BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

Plateau State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has said that he has fulfilled his pact with workers in the state and is leaving behind a good legacy of improved welfare and a professionalised workforce, even as the workers are in a sharp disagreement.

Lalong was speaking at the Workers Day Celebration held at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium Jos with the theme, "Workers' Rights and Socioeconomic Justice".

Being his last appearance for May Day as Governor of Plateau State, Lalong said the event presents him another opportunity to not only bid them farewell, but also reflect on the great relationship he has shared with the workers in the past eight years.

"I want to specially thank you my dear comrades for standing up to be counted in the task of rescuing Plateau from clutches of underdevelopment and despondency. Looking back at where we took over in 2015, it is clear that a lot of difference has been made not only in the civil service, but the entire sectors of the economy.

"You will recall that on coming into office, I assured you that the era of salary arrears will be a thing of the past. We immediately paid 5 months withheld wages under no-work-no-pay policy and cleared inherited salary arrears of 8 months from the past administration. The same story

applied to pension arrears of over 10 months which we equally cleared" he said.

He said little wonder, the comrades of Plateau State gave him the title of "Governor Alert" which was affirmed and endorsed by the NLC under the leadership of immediate past president, Comrade Ayuba Wabba.

Lalong recalled that his administration was among the first in the country to begin the implementation of the thirty thousand Naira minimum wage and consequential adjustments.

"This administration in collaboration with the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria also provided home renovation loan to over 2,500 civil servants in the approximate sum of three million naira each across Ministries, Departments and Agencies to ease housing challenges they face.

"This is in addition to the assistance by Government to the Nigeria Labour Congress in the purchase of the land for the NLC Housing Project in Jebbu



Miango, which I understand some blocks have been completed and will be commissioned before I leave office".

According to the governor, his administration was and still remains among the first and few in the country to grant financial autonomy to the local government areas, the judiciary, as well as legislature.

He said these achievements and

more would not have been possible without the remarkable cooperation of the Organised Labour and the synergy that has continued to grow between the various unions and government.

"We are highly appreciative of our workers and shall continue to ensure a harmonious government-labour relationship despite the attempt by some politicians and vested interests to come between us and use the

labour to antagonise the government with a view to discrediting it," he said.

Lalong said as he prepares to hand over to the incoming administration, he prays that they will give them the kind of support and cooperation he was given.

NLC Chairman Plateau State, Comrade Eugene Manji and his TUC counterpart Comrade Kenneth Shammah said the workers in Plateau are highly appreciative of the love and care shown to them by Governor Simon Lalong in the past eight years.

They said the governor apart from clearing all the inherited backlog of salaries, has remained consistent in ensuring that workers are paid despite the economic challenges.

However, they enumerated many issues including pending promotions, the implementation of harmonised retirement age for teachers among others which need to be addressed.

Head of Service Plateau State, Engr. Sunday Hyat thanked the workers for remaining steadfast and supporting the government to carry out its mandate.

He said Governor Lalong stands out for his compassion and love for workers by giving approvals for salaries despite several economic challenges.

Guest Speaker, Prof. Dung Pam Sha bemoaned the disparity between the workers and elites, saying there is injustice in earnings in the country, which must be addressed without further delays.

Plateau Governor-elect Salutes Workers, Admonishes Them To Remain Firm, Resolute For Development

By: BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos.

Plateau State Governor-elect, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang has congratulated workers in Plateau State on the occasion of the 2023 Workers Day, and urged them to remain committed, resilient and productive for the advancement of the state.

Barr. Mutfwang in a goodwill

message, commended workers in Plateau for their hard work, diligence, selfless sacrifice and perseverance, despite unfavorable working conditions prevailing in the country.

The governor-elect, who described workers as the key drivers of development, assured them of his determination to prioritize their welfare and improve their working

conditions when he comes into office.

"I specially wish to congratulate you today as you celebrate the 2023 Workers Day which is coming at a period of transition. I commend you for your hard work, dedication and diligence to duty. Your primary responsibility is to shoulder the day to day activities of government diligently, giving

genuine advices and executing lawful command of government.

"Your task also is to join hands with government to formulate policies that are beneficial to the state and help in improving the economy. You will be engaged to carry out your tasks as we demonstrate real grasp of modern economic ideas to make the civil service and Plateau

State function."

He said he will forge synergy with workers in the state to run a transparent and responsive government that will improve every sector of the economy for the benefit of the people of Plateau State.

The governor-elect wished Nigerian workers a peaceful and successful May Day celebration.

Photo news by AKINOLA ARIYO

NUJ Lagos Council, during 2023 May Day rally at Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan, Lagos. May 1, 2023.



Lagos State Deputy Governor waving to workers, during 2023 May Day rally at Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan, Lagos.



Lagos workers applauding the governor's representative, during 2023 May Day rally at Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan, Lagos. May first, 2023.

Senate Presidency: Another Case For Abdulazeez Yari

By: NASIR DAMBATTA

With the ongoing race to choose who leads the National Assembly in preparation for the inauguration of the 10th National Assembly, comes also the need to jettison ranking and throw the contest open to include first timers who have shown capacity, track record in performance and ability to build bridges across members from different parties.

In the 10th Senate, Nigerians would want to see a Senate Presidency that will be vibrant, which will balance the national political equilibrium and geopolitical tripod.

In this regard, the North-West naturally and legitimately deserves the most consideration having provided more than 30 per cent of the votes that gave the All Progressives Congress(APC) victory in the February presidential election and comfortable majority in the Legislative elections in states and at the federal level.

In zoning considerations, the North-west is a major stakeholder and critical component of the three major parts of the Nigerian tripod, which, since independence, has always stood on the tripod of North, East and West.

I choose to make a case for Abdul'aziz Abubakar Yari not because I know him personally, but because if Nigerians want to hear the truth, they should be told that democracy will never thrive well without a vibrant, strong and focused legislature which has not been sufficiently in stock since the return to civil rule in 1999.

It is also because the 10th Senate must shy away from the "rubber-stamp" mentality that has been the perception of the public, a vibrant, constructive and interrogative Senate President in the class of Abdul'aziz Yari is needed to serve the interest of the people more, than one that answers to all requests from the executive arm of government.

The next Senate President must be result-driven, idealistic, utility-driven, and must understand the expectations of

the people and help to propel the executive arm of government to be alive to its statutory responsibility.

It is for these reasons that I think Abdul'aziz Yari whom I find as quintessential representative who always put the needs of his constituents first and was never shy of taking responsibility whenever the need arose, is eminently competent for the job of the Senate President.

As governor of Zamfara State, Yari has had excellent cooperation and working relationship with the Legislative Arm of government.

He therefore has indepth knowledge of the workings of the legislature as well as intergovernmental relations.

It has always been clear on whose side Yari stands when he contributes to debates on national issues – always relentlessly committed to defending the interest of the whole of Nigeria.

The country needs a federal legislature with more committed and competent parliamentarians like Senator Yari, whose selflessness and democratic ideals are imperative, especially at a time when the entire world is grappling with a global health and economic crisis.

Alhaji Abdul'aziz Abubakar Yari is a seasoned politician, a quintessential democrat and excellent parliamentarian who played key roles in the development of our democracy.

Knowledgeable and forward thinking, humble but tactful, loyal, yet decisive – Yari has built an illustrious and result-laden career in private and public service.

A bridge builder, a brilliant parliamentarian and a dependable ally to his colleagues, Yari was elected Governor of Zamfara State in the 26 April 2011 national elections, running on the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) platform.

Following the merger of the ANPP and several other opposition parties into the now-governing APC, Yari



became a member of the All Progressives Congress.

Yari began his political career in 1999 when he served as the Secretary of the then All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) between 1999 and 2003.

He was elected Chairman of ANPP Zamfara State in 2003 and later rose to the position of ANPP National Financial Secretary and served in this position till 2007 when he was elected as Member representing Anka/Talata Mafara Federal Constituency from 2007 to 2011.

Again, in the 2015 gubernatorial elections, he was re-elected as Governor under the platform of the All

Progressive Congress (APC).

On May 18, 2015, Hon. Yari's colleagues in the Nigeria Governors' Forum unanimously elected him as their Chairman, succeeding Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi.

In addition, when Zamfara State Governor Mahmud Shinkafi defected to the PDP in January 2009, taking the ANPP's state executive committee with him, the ANPP's National Headquarters in Abuja was forced to create a Caretaker Committee headed by Yari. The committee's tenure was repeatedly extended.

As his term of office as

governor of Zamfara State drew to a close Yari ran for the Zamfara West senate seat and won with a very wide margin on the platform of the ruling APC.

But, his election and other APC candidates in the 2019 general election in Zamfara State were nullified by the Supreme Court on the ground that they were not validly nominated through party primaries. Be that as it may, it should not be difficult to see that Yari will make all the difference between a proactive senate leadership and the much-despised rubber stamp.

Nasir Dambatta is the editor@politicstoday.ng

Seyi Tinubu, The First Oracle Child In The Presidency

By: ALIYAHAYA

Walking through the sun's warm rays, as I walk along life's way, confidence and purpose, keep me hoping each new day not without obstacles that I'll have to overcome to see Seyi Tinubu (the life changer), amidst this tall eight years dream, I have come to understand that Seyi's fulfilment lies in the impact he creates on people.

While some regular rich kids derive pleasure in building walls against the common man, Seyi Tinubu's fierce drive and assiduous effort for perfection pushes him constantly in to sociopolitical move geared towards bridge building, a tool he uses for inclusiveness irrespective of ones social class. His work ethic is second to none, his infectious kind heart is evident in the way he interacts with everyone around him, regardless of their status or background. This can't be far from an attribute of a man without a broken smile at home. Let me digress a little. Who is home? Layal Tinubu, a lady with a heart of gold, strong-willed, bold spirited and a complete supportive pillar standing firm for the sole progression of her loving husband. Layal Tinubu is a woman of virtue, she commands respect, with every step, she leaves a lasting effect on those fortunate to come her way, a philanthropist whose love for kids and entrepreneurship keeps her husband's business and dealing basking in grace. She is without doubt a stabilising factor that keeps Seyi moving to the top, making sure he faces every challenge with precision, confidence and trust in God.

Layal's determination and unwavering Is what makes her husband's smile contagious in public space. A good wife at home says a lot about a man when he is outside.

She is a goal getter and never lets obstacles dim the light of her shining household. Let me live Layal prowess stories for another day and get back to the topic.



Seyi Tinubu

Seyi Tinubu is with no doubt going to be the finest compassionate son of Nigeria's first family to have graced the Aso Rock Villa and he will be a poster boy in the presidency for both the Northern and the Southern part of Nigeria. This is premised on his antecedent and the sociopolitical environment he operates.

He operates a decent posh life with no controversy, rather with the zeal to keep working progressively for the betterment and building of his own network across the country through human capital development, a trait not too far from his dad, though he is a self made man away from his father's shadow. With a moral bank full of democratically consolidate idea,

he operates a multi faceted team with a composition of every competent Nigerian privileged enough to work with him, irrespective of tribe and religious affiliation in his drive to fix people from different parts of the country.

Making friends and associate not only at the top, has become an obsession. No doubt, I have been an admirer of this young man for ages because of his calm and precise disposition to respecting others below his social status (a difficult character to find among men of his caliber these days).

I cant remember seeing any super politician's child actively involved in campaigning for their parent, except Seyi Tinubu. It shows how clean and free the

political ideology of his excellent dad is, as no one will allow his child into a toxic environment.

This goes a long way to tell what this dude is made of. He is not like the regular rich kids who stays indoors with less impact on their parents, relatives and non relatives. While he is busy building bridges, no one is asking questions or acknowledging his street prowess and credibility on the common man now, but should he be presented later on for something greater, wailers who are only seen every four years will start wailing in jealousy, anger and ethnocentrism, forgetting how much sacrifices he has made to climax through the ladder of leadership. He is

with no doubt a worthy successor of the Asiwaju political school.

Seyi's upbringing in a politically active family, has undoubtedly contributed to his interest in sociopolitical movements. However, his passion for creating positive change is entirely his own choice.

He is not content with merely being connected to the political elite, he wants to make a tangible difference in people's lives. With his strong sense of purpose and unwavering commitment to excellence, Seyi Tinubu is a shining example of what it means to be a role model and a leader I look forward to, his accomplishments serve as proof that with hard work and dedication, anything is possible. It will be a big fortune in Aso Rock Villa come 29th May 2023 to have such an exceptional individual in its midst, and the future looks bright for Seyi Tinubu. May Allah's blessings continue to be him. Amen.

Seyi Tinubu, a hope of a dream come true, a vision and imagination of the type of first son of Nigeria's first family I have always hoped for in my mind, a man with a future so bright and shining from his personal efforts away from his parents'.

My heart is full of excitement, as I keep hoping my dreams of meeting Seyi Tinubu the oracle child comes into view.

So I hold on to my hope, as I cherish my dreams for they are the fuel that drive me and the source of my inner beams hoping to be one of Seyi Tinubu's dependable ally across the North.

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

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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

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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

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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

Kauran Bauchi; A Compressed Glance Of Achievements In Multifaceted Sectors

By; YUSUF MAKARFI

As the historic and epochal events of May 29th 2023 approach, the need for sober reflection on the noble achievements of the Kauran Bauchi His Excellency Senator Bala A. Muhammad must be critically and dispassionately highlighted. No doubt the governor has relatively covered various sectors that are critical to the state:

Sectors such as education, health care development delivery, upgrading of security, creation of social safety net for the disadvantage, critical infrastructure and so much more.

All these have become the pivotal pedestal he diligently initiated and covered in his rare and foresighted political, personal and progressive attributes, which was why the equally emancipated and progressive citizens of the state overwhelmingly delivered the historic winning votes that constitutionally accorded him second term in office in order to continue from where he rested not stopped.

GOVERNOR BALA MUHAMMAD EGALITARIAN PROJECTION OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS CONTINUITY FROM 29TH MAY 2023 TO 2027

For a man or leader like Kauran Bauchi who is passionately, strongly desirous of seeing an egalitarian society, he is not only positioned, but exceptionally poised to continue building strongly upon his existing policies which border on germane milestone in development, injecting fresh ideas with improved positive impact on the good people of Bauchi State; the impulse was majorly driven by appreciating the people for believing in him.

Also, to actualize his progressive ideals on placing Bauchi State on the great path of projects development while carry people along irrespective of sentiment inclination.

In global developmental economies, the indices for measuring government successes relies majorly on the achievements of the universal development index which are carefully drawn as follows;

- Security- which provides conducive and safe environment for various investments national and international.

- Educational development- this was propounded for the emancipation and research purposes within the framework of the government manifests.

- Health Care Delivery services- this cardinal aspects can not be overemphasized; for the Governor is well vast in knowledge that healthy people generate sound community which inadvertently produces potential workforce.

- Clean drinking water- as it stands today, the world focus is now geared towards ensuring the provision of clean water for the people, communities society and the generality of population without clean drinking water, the health status will be



Bala Mohammed

compromise.

- Employments- with the global recession and loss of jobs, the Government of Bauchi state under Senator Bala Muhammad has strategically mapped out sustainable ways of engaging the youths with various ways of job creation for self Reliance which will ultimately take them off the streets and translate them into collective productive instruments.

- Agriculture- agricultural development; knowing the full well that a nation or a state can measure its independence by the capacity to feed itself.

Likely so, food sufficiency is the land mark of the government of Bauchi state in its next policies and strategic food reserve which when finally achieved, the people will be free from hunger and misery. To the Governor, supporting Agriculture is the mirror which reflects the humanity of his government.

- Critical Infrastructural development: this is expressed by the ideals of the Governor for effective and smooth performance of critical tasks especially in areas of roads constructions/rehabilitation, hospitals rehabilitation and reconstructions, Markets and

business centers were also pertinent to his agenda as the construction and expansion has been given a top drawer attention. Moving forward, roads dualisation and bridges construction are also critical to his administration.

- Human Development Intervention - creation of Small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) and provision of soft loans would be initiated and various interest groups and Association gained access to these loans.

This piece was Contributed by- Yusuf Makarfi and can be reached @nubiasy@gmail.com or 08037430792

May Day: Ebonyi Workers Demand Better Welfare, Implementation Of Minimum Wage

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The workers in Ebonyi State have advocated for a better welfare package and implementation of minimum wage to ensure a favourable working condition, saying that the current minimum wage is only on paper as it does not reflect on their salaries, while things are very expensive in the market.

They made their feelings known during the Workers Day celebration which took place at Pa--Ngele Oruta Township stadium, Abakaliki.

Speaking to newsmen on the welfare of workers, Mrs. Sussan Ugomma Egwu said that they came to celebrate Workers Day and to ensure that government improves their welfare, knowing fully well that workers are facing a lot of challenges.

"We came to celebrate Workers Day and also to ensure that Nigeria government supports workers welfare.

"Yes, the condition of workers in Nigeria is not palatable because if you go to the market, things are very expensive; fuel is expensive and when you go to the bank, you find it difficult to withdraw money.

"I am calling on our leaders to increase our salary for a better working condition. The issue of minimum wage is only in paper but has not reflected in our salary. I want to urge our leaders to do everything possible to implement the minimum wage

because things are difficult," she stressed.

Also speaking, Mr. Emmanuel Uchenna explained that the day is set aside to reflect on the working conditions of workers as well as their welfare, calling on government to put more efforts to improving the welfare of workers, since what they are paying can not meet up with the current demands in the society.

"Today we are celebrating Workers Day, it is a day set aside for workers in Nigeria. We want workers welfare to be put into consideration by government. The condition of workers is not all that good because a lot of things have changed in our country.

"Things are expensive in the market and what they are paying workers are not enough to meet up with the current demand in the society. Nigerian government should do something about our working condition," he appealed.

On his part, the chairman of Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) in Ebonyi State University, Prof. Ikechukwu Igwenyi said one of the reasons why Workers Day is being celebrated, is for the whole world to hear their voice and also remember the dead ones who sacrificed a lot for workers freedom and better working environment.

He further noted that Workers Day is an avenue to let government know the areas they have performed well and where



they did not and what is expected of them.

"We are celebrating Workers Day for the world to hear our voice. We are equally using today to remember the dead ones and also called on our leaders to ensure our welfare.

"We are going to let government know the areas they have done well, and where they have shortcomings, as well as what we are expecting from them. We want the governor elect to hear our voices and we are expecting them to do better than what they have done," he said.

The chairman of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) in Ebonyi State, Prof. Ogugua Egwu while addressing workers, stated that there is no Nigerian worker that is comfortable with the take

home pay, saying that lack of concern by the ruling class is another issue that is affecting workers.

Prof. Ogugua therefore, called on government to do everything possible to increase workers salary and improve on their working condition for better output.

"The truth of the matter remains that there is no typical Nigerian worker that can beat his chest and say, he or she is comfortable with his take home pay. There is no Nigerian worker that can stand and say, I am free, and free to express disappointment over the affairs of workers, over the lack of concern by the ruling class."

Responding, the Governor of Ebonyi State, Engr. David

Umahi applauded the efforts of workers in the state, saying that they have sacrificed a lot for the growth and development of the state and also apologized for the weaknesses of government on the areas of workers welfare, pledging to take urgent action for the welfare and well-being of workers in the state.

The governor who was represented by his deputy, Dr. Eric Kelechi Igwe, also said that government is already working to ensure that the labour of workers is not in vain.

He urged them not to be discouraged by the present state of the economy, assuring that things will soon be back to normal.

One Dies, 3 Kidnappers Nabbed With Gun Shot Injuries In Delta

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The superior fire power of the police in Delta has led to the death of a suspected kidnapper and arrest of three others.

One AK 47 rifle, 18 rounds of 7.6mm ammunition, one double barrel locally made gun and a suspected stolen Benz car were recovered from the bandits.

Our correspondent gathered that the suspects had engaged the detectives who trailed them to their hideouts in a gun duel, leading to the casualty.

Following credible intelligence, the DPO Ovwian Aladja division, CSP Aliyu Shaba had mobilized and led detectives to

an hotel in Agbarho of the state, where the suspects were hibernating.

They were alleged to be members of a notorious gang that snatched one AK47 rifle from a police officer and also allegedly kidnapped and murdered one Godspower Emmanuel after collecting N400,000 ransom.

The Delta State Police Command image maker DSP Bright Edefe made the disclosure in a statement yesterday.

He disclosed that 11 Android phones, two bottom phones, one long knife, one suspected stolen white coloured GLK Mercedes Benz with reg. no YAB 733 BK, two bottles of codeine, among

others were also recovered from them.

His words, "Following reports of kidnapping and armed robbery operations in Ughelli, Warri and environs, the Deputy Commissioner of Police operations, DCP Johnson Adenola mandated all divisional police officers in the Command to gather intelligence and ensure that this ugly trend is nipped in the bud.

"In compliance with this directive, on 30/04/2023 at about 1300hrs, acting on information received via intelligence gathered on an armed robbery gang that snatched one AK47 rifle from a

police officer and also allegedly kidnapped and murdered one Godspower Emmanuel 'm' after collecting four hundred thousand naira (#400,000) ransom were sited at an hotel in Agbarho, the DPO Ovwian Aladja division, CSP Aliyu Shaba mobilized and led detectives to the area in search of them.

"While the search was ongoing, the suspects sighted the policemen from hiding and opened fire, which the police equally responded.

"During the gun duel, one Felix A.K.A "OBJ" was shot and later confirmed dead at the hospital, while three other suspects

namely Stephen Precious 'm' 19yrs old, Godstime Sunday 'm' 28yrs old, and Apene Prince 'm' 28yrs old, were arrested with various degrees of bullet injuries.

"One AK 47 rifle with breech no. 19617, eighteen (18) rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, one English double barrel gun, eleven (11) Android phones, two bottom phones, one long knife, one suspected stolen white coloured GLK Mercedes Benz with reg. no YAB 733 BK, two bottles of codeine, two wraps of weed suspected to be Indian hemp were recovered. Investigation is ongoing".

Kano Emirates Created For More Development, Would Continue To Exist - Ganduje

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The new emirates created in Kano State have come to stay because they were created to bring more progress and development in the state's traditional institutions.

This was announced by Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, in his speech at the Worker's Day celebration, where he

opined that from the creation of additional four emirates, Kano State has witnessed rapid development in every sector and their existence would make the state greater.

"We have created additional emirates not to put pains in the hearts of our people, but to bring more progress to our state in the traditional institutions and I am

certain that everybody remains a witness that there is good development in Kano State," Ganduje said.

He thanked the entire people of the state, especially workers whose contributions are fully recognised.

He maintained that his administration has done well in the prompt payment of salaries and maintained discipline in

the state's civil service.

Most of the civil servants that spoke to our correspondent at the venue, disclosed that the governor has tried his best in transforming the state and called on the new government to continue from where he would stop, to actualize more progress.

Workers' Day: Let's Keep Hope Alive, Sen Balogun Urges

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Sports and Youth Development and Senator representing Oyo South Senatorial District, Senator Kola Balogun on Monday, tasked Nigerian workers to keep hope alive in the country.

Senator Balogun in a message congratulating Nigerian workers on the 2023 Workers' Day celebration, said despite the prevailing daunting challenges and stifling socio-economic conditions, there is still hope for Nigeria.

He emphasized that the day, "is a reminder of the important roles by workers in ensuring the growth and development of the country."

"On this occasion of Workers' Day celebration, I want you to celebrate with the mindset of keeping hope alive. I want you to remain firm in your believe in the lessons of May Day namely, always seeking for improved working conditions for you all", he said.

Senator Balogun added, "You must not relent in your fervent conviction that well-motivated workers, with better pay and good working condition is synonymous with a steady national development".

"Given their importance, both in the public and private sector, it is of utmost importance to celebrate this special day as a reminder of the

workers in national development. It is a day workers in this country, may globally gather together to reflect on their achievements, in the face of challenges and stifling socio-economic conditions".

The Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Sports and Youth Development maintained that "May 1 was first declared a public holiday in the Second Republic.

According to Senator Balogun, "It was a former governor of the old Kano State, the late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, who first declared May 1 as a public holiday during the Second Republic. It was thereafter recognised and subsequently declared as a national public holiday by the Federal Government of Nigeria," he said.

Congratulating workers in Oyo State and across the country and that better days are ahead, Senator Balogun urged them to hold on to their commitment and contributions to ensuring a steady growth and development of the state, may the entire country.

"I will always acknowledge the critical role being played by you all in ensuring the growth and development of our dear state and Nigeria. Your patriotic and unwavering commitment and dedication to your duty cannot go unnoticed. You are, indeed, one of the strong pillars holding our country together."



The Consulate General of Brazil in Lagos, H.E. Ministro André Veras Guimarães (left) with Olori Ronke Ademiluyi-Ogunwusi.

Lagos Govt Demolishes Shanties Under High Tension Cables, Lekki Coastal Road

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

All structures constituting shanties along the Lekki Coastal Road and under high tension of cables have been demolished by operatives of the Lagos State Taskforce.

This is in line with the mandate of the agency to maintain and sustain a serene and habitable environment, free from security incidents and occurrences.

The demolition exercise, which took on Monday, also extended to the environs of the coastal road, which are areas mapped out by the State Government to serve as an alternate route to

motorists along that axis when completed.

Led by the Chairman of the Agency, CSP Shola Jjeloye, the exercise took place after an eviction noticed was served to the illegal occupants who had constructed makeshift buildings, some of which were constructed right under high tension cables running through the area. Jjeloye pointed out that the shanties not only constitute health and safety risks to residents in the area but also serves as a haven for criminals who make use of such locations as a hideout.

"This is the third major enforcement we are carrying out in this very location as we were two years ago and even last

year. Some of the kiosks are built under the high tension cable which is very dangerous"

According to a release by Gbadeyan Abdulraheem Director, Press & Public Affairs

of the Agency, the chairman also disclosed that the shanties which were built with wood caught fire some weeks ago and led to the partial burning of a building across the fence where the shanties are located.

"It would have been a more serious incident if not the quick intervention of the Lagos State Fire Service who put out the fire which started off from the shanties. Gross disregard for safety precautions would always

give room unsafe conditions, that is why we have come to put an end to it today".

The Chairman assured Lagosians and residents of Lekki Coastal axis to be rest assured that the shanties will never be allowed to be spring back up again, promising that he would station men from the Agency to monitor the axis forthwith.

CSP Jjeloye further appealed to residents and CDAs of the area to collaborate with each other and come up with sustainable plans like employing private security men to monitor the axis in order to prevent any unscrupulous individuals erecting such makeshift structures.

OAU Lauds Staff On Workers' Day

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The management of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, on Monday, lauded staff of the Institution for their doggedness and institutional spirit in moving the University forward.

Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire gave the commendation in a statement to commemorate this year's Workers' Day.

Prof Bamire charged the workers to educate their colleagues on the need to commemorate always place the University above personal interest to ensure its continuous growth.

The Vice Chancellor tasked OAU staff to use the occasion to think more about how to make contributions that can further increase the visibility of the University. Prof Bamire then prayed that God to grant them peace and sound health till retirement and thereafter.

Nigeria, Africa's Giant Advancing Backward

By Owei Lakemfa

CENSUS is very serious business as it requires the general mobilisation of the populace. In many cases, the nation is placed under an emergency. One of the earliest accounts of census was given by Dr Luke in his Gospel in which he wrote that Emperor Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the Roman world, including colonised Israel (Luke 2:1-5).

This general mobilisation required everyone to go to his own city to be counted. This was why Joseph and Mary, his betrothed wife, went up from Galilee to Bethlehem. It was during that obviously stressful journey, Mary had cramps, and because populations were on the move, the inns were overcrowded and the couple had to rest in a manger where Jesus was born. So, Jesus was counted as part of the important statistics required to run the Roman Empire.

“We know palliatives, at least in Nigeria, have not improved the lives of the populace. For instance, President Muhammadu Buhari claims to have spent over N2 trillion on Social Investment Programmes (SIP), yet the state of the poor Nigerian has become worse. One of the testimonials on this failure is this same World Bank, which in its Poverty and Prosperity Report for last year, stated that Nigeria contributed three million people to global extreme poverty, and that every minute, over six Nigerians enter the extreme poverty bracket.”

This account serves to illustrate the fact that census is serious business as, theoretically, it provides vital data, especially demographic, social, economic, migration and immigration. It also provides the basis to plan employment, school enrolment, services and social protection programmes. These programmes include the palliatives the Buhari government is so much in love with perhaps because the figures never tally and its documents

can easily go up in flames.

Census is ordinarily a reliable method of count compared to the estimate method that, today, puts our population at 220 million. I like the sound of that figure; that means when we pound the ground, the world will know Nigeria is the true Giant of Africa, and that contrary to the claims of our enemies, we are not a sleeping giant.

Just as Luke showed, census is general mobilisation, although in our case, we necessarily do not need to be counted in our villages and clans. Therefore, when this government joked with the idea of holding a census from this Wednesday, May 3, 2023, it was obvious there are unstated underlining reasons. There had been quite inadequate mass enlightenment and awareness. In any case, real census was impossible in the season of general elections which itself is a weapon of mass distraction, and can also be quite divisive.

So, what was government thinking before fixing the census date; a date some three weeks to its welcome exit?

Could it have been for the records, for fame or fortune, especially when the hangers-on would soon become financial orphans?

It was clear that government was not prepared for the census. So Nigerians were not surprised when last Friday, April 28, 2023, that is five days before the scheduled census take-off, Buhari postponed it.

If the exercise is postponed, can Nigerians be obliged the census of the huge sums of money so far expended or will this go into voice mail?

If the in-coming administration were to conduct a proper and reliable census, its motives must be clear and pure. They should not be like the colonial 1953 census rigged by the British colonialists; the unreliable and disputed 1962/63 census or the orphaned 1973 census which even its parents disowned, leading to it being officially scrapped.

Also, the Buhari government rescinded its decision to collect an \$800 million loan from the World Bank to provide palliatives for its fuel subsidy removal. The regime's Minister of Finance, Budget and National

Planning, Mrs Zainab Ahmed, had claimed the largesse would be distributed to 50 million Nigerians representing 10 million households.

First, if it is true that trillions of naira would be saved by stopping the subsidies, why not expend part of it on the so-called palliatives rather than take another loan from the World Bank shylocks?

Secondly, what is the sense in the World Bank and Finance Ministry agreeing to spend about \$53 million of the \$800 loan on hiring staff, office administration, committee overheads and other logistics such as training and workshop?

Thirdly, we know palliatives, at least in Nigeria, have not improved the lives of the populace. For instance, President Muhammadu Buhari claims to have spent over N2 trillion on Social Investment Programmes (SIP), yet the state of the poor Nigerian has become worse. One of the testimonials on this failure is this same World Bank, which in its Poverty and Prosperity Report for last year, stated that Nigeria contributed three million people to global extreme poverty, and that every minute, over six Nigerians enter the extreme poverty bracket.

Fourthly, simple economics and accounting, common sense and logic dictate that if the payments of subsidies are stopped, that should reduce, not increase our debt burden.

“This government after eight



years has been unable to deliver on its promises to provide basic electricity; in fact, it is incapable of even distributing the 4000MW its “clueless” predecessor distributed. Consequently, many households rely on the use of PMS-powered generators. So, increases in fuel prices, among other things, automatically lead to higher prices, reduced economic activity and higher inflation which is already over 22 per cent.”

Fifth, it is illogical seeking foreign loan to pay unsustainable sums allegedly to cushion the effects of subsidy removal rather than seek funds to either repair the refineries or build new ones.

Sixth, the reason for the so-called subsidy is clear: the failure of this government, after eight years in office, to refine petroleum products locally despite the abundance of crude oil in the country.

Seven, the slave-like acceptance of the World Bank policy that assigns to underdeveloped countries like Nigeria the role of raw material providers, and the West, that of manufacturers of finished products.

Eight, this government that claims to have fed school children when they were actually on lock-down at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has clearly shown it can neither manage nor be entrusted with palliatives.

Nine, this regime, because it is in

reality, a regime, has manufactured so much untruth in eight years that even lies are ashamed to be associated with it; so, giving it new loans for palliatives is like putting a cat in charge of fried fish.

Ten, this government after eight years has been unable to deliver on its promises to provide basic electricity; in fact, it is incapable of even distributing the 4000MW its “clueless” predecessor distributed. Consequently, many households rely on the use of PMS-powered generators. So, increases in fuel prices, among other things, automatically lead to higher prices, reduced economic activity and higher inflation which is already over 22 per cent.

I am not surprised that the Buhari regime backed down on the removal of fuel subsidies which automatically would have led to higher PMS prices. While the Finance Minister was shouting about the regime removing the subsidy, the Petroleum Ministry under Buhari, in January 2023, was assuring the populace this will not happen.

Its Senior Media Adviser, Horatius Eguu, assured Nigerians that the President : “understands the challenges of the ordinary Nigerian and would not want to cause untold hardship for the electorate.”

As the Buhari regime beats a retreat from holding the census, collecting the World Bank loan and further removing fuel subsidy, so should it also retreat from awarding more weekly contracts, and from the Presidential Villa not later than May 29,

Gangwon 2024: Nigeria, Brazil, Others Confirmed For Youth Olympic Games Curling Event

By AYO OJEDOKUN Lagos

As the countdown to the Gangwon 2024 Youth Olympic Games continues, the qualification for the prestigious curling competition has been finalized. The World Curling Federation through an official statement on its website, confirmed Nigeria as one of the countries that would feature in both the Mixed Team Championship and Mixed Doubles Championship at next year's Youth Winter Olympic Games.

Hosts Korea, Brazil, and the United States are among the other countries that would also have representation simultaneously in both the Mixed Team Championship and the Mixed Doubles Championship.

The countries that would be battling for honours in Gangwon secured qualification through different routes.

While some earned qualification through points earned at world championships held in Finland, others sealed their places through regional quotas or as the National Olympic Committee with the most points outside these initial criteria.

President of the Nigeria Curling Federation, Daniel Damola while expressing delight at the official ratification of Nigeria's qualification noted that all hands need to be on deck to ensure the country has a memorable outing in Gangwon.

"This is quite historic and we are glad we have been able to qualify as the only team from Africa, now we have to switch our focus to doing respectably



well at the Youth Olympic Games," he said.

Mr Daniel said a lot of funds will be required to give the young lads who would be representing Nigeria the kind of preparation they needed.

"As a federation, we have been doing all these alone but we will need the government, corporate bodies and indeed well-meaning Nigerians to come to our aid as we step up in our preparation for the Youth Olympic Games" he appealed.

The Winter Youth Olympics is billed to take place from 19 Jan 2024 – 1 Feb 2024

Qualified Teams
Mixed Team Championship
 The Mixed Team Championship will feature 16 teams from across the globe, with representation from various regions:
 Hosts: Korea
 Africa: Nigeria

Americas: Brazil, Canada, and the United States

Asia: China and Japan

Europe: Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and Türkiye

Oceania: New Zealand

Mixed Doubles Championship
 The Mixed Doubles Championship expands the field, featuring 24 teams from around the world:

Hosts: Korea

Africa: Nigeria

Americas: Brazil, Canada, and the United States

Asia: China, Japan, and Kazakhstan

Europe: Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, and Ukraine

Oceania: New Zealand

West Asia Region: Qatar

Gangwon 2024:
Nigeria, Brazil, Others
Confirmed For Youth Olympic
Games Curling Event

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Kwara Gov Swears-in Adebara, Kamaldeen As Chief Judge, Grand Kadi

By: **BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO, Ilorin**

Kwara State Governor, **AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq** yesterday, swore-in Justice **Abiodun Adebara** and **Kadi Abdullateef Kamaldeen** as substantive chief judge of Kwara State and Grand Kadi Kwara State Shariah Court of Appeal respectively, re-stating his administration's commitment to the rule of law and non-interference in the justice system.

"I have been told that this is the first time that the Chief Judge and the Grand Kadi will take their oaths of Allegiance and Judicial Oaths on the same occasion. This is coming just after the overwhelming majority of the people of Kwara State have renewed our mandate to serve them for another term of four years," AbdulRazaq said at the event held at the council chamber of Government House Ilorin.

"The State is therefore at the threshold of history as the leaderships of the three arms of government are assuming fresh mandates about the same period. This imposes on us a duty to work together for the larger interest of our people while respecting the boundaries of separation of powers.

"As Your Lordships assume

your role of leading and guiding the judiciary, I would like to re-state my administration's commitment to the rule of law and non-interference in the justice system."

He said. AbdulRazaq congratulated the two judicial officers on their appointments and urged them to commit themselves to duties in line with the constitutional oaths they have just subscribed to.

Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice **Barrister Senior Ibrahim Sulyman**, for his part, said: "We are gathered to witness the performance of the constitutional duty of the Executive Governor of Kwara



L-R: Speaker Kwara State House of Assembly Rt Hon. Yakubu Salihu Danlandi; Grand Kadi Sharia Court of Appeal Justice Abdullateef Kamaldeen; Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; Chief Judge Justice Abiodun Ayodele Adebara; and Deputy Governor Mr Kayode Alabi; during the swearing-in ceremony of Chief Judge, and Grand Kadi at Government House, Ilorin, on Tuesday.

State as enjoined by the provision of Section 271(1) and 276(1) of the 1999 constitution which vested the Governor with the power to appoint the Chief Judge of Kwara State and Grand Kadi for the Shariah Court of Appeal upon the recommendation of the National Judicial Council and confirmation by the House of Assembly.

"I commend Your Excellency

the bench, as well as the clergy, such as Deputy Governor **Kayode Alabi**; Speaker Kwara State House of Assembly **Engr Yakubu Danladi Salihu**; members of the state legislative, judiciary and executive arms; and traditional rulers.

The **Khalifatul Adaby (Ilorin) Sheikh Abdulqodir Muhammad Kamaldeen** also attended the inauguration.

for the continuous support of the judicial arm of government and pray that Almighty God continue to see Your Excellency through in all your undertakings and commitments to take this State to greater heights."

The swearing in was attended by several dignitaries from government, the bar and

Chief Judge of Kwara State, **Justice Abiodun Adebara**, assured the governor and the people of Kwara State that brother-judges, together with the entire workforce of the Kwara State Judiciary, are committed to serving the people to the best of their abilities.

He added: "I would like to take a moment here to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency, the Governor, **Mallam AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq**, for my appointment as the Chief Judge. I am humbled and honoured to have been so appointed. Without mincing words, Your Excellency, permit me to say here publicly that I see our appointments as another of Your Excellency's commitments to promoting justice, equity, and fairness in our state. By allowing the exercise to proceed seamlessly without any rancour or controversy, you have demonstrated remarkable leadership in giving a sense of belonging to all."

He commended the Governor for his hard work, humility, and commitment to raising the bar of good governance and service to the people -- qualities he said had just earned AbdulRazaq a new term of four years.

Bodija Plank Market Fire: Over 200 Persons, 120 Shops Affected - NEMA

By: **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The National Emergency Management Agency, (NEMA), South West Zone yesterday, said over 200 persons and 120 shops were affected in the Bodija International market fire incident of last Tuesday

This was disclosed by the South West Zonal Coordinator of NEMA, **Mr. Saheed Akiode**, while speaking on the agency's assessment at the market. According to the NEMA Zonal Coordinator, the

fire incident also affected three electric poles, one motor bike, generator set and ply machines

"The disaster affected over (120) one hundred and twenty shops and over (200) Two hundred persons, 3 electric poles, 1 motor bike, generator set and ply machines were destroyed," he said. **Mr Akiode** added, "The NEMA South West Zonal Office conducted a post-disaster assessment of the fire incident in Bodija International Market, Ibadan North LGA of Oyo State, on 1st May,

2023."

"The assessment team was received by the chairman of the plank market **Mr Waliyu Adewale**. He briefed the team on the impact of the disaster on the traders and appealed to NEMA to come to the aid of the affected traders".

He emphasized that, "the assessment was successfully conducted by NEMA Officials.

New Nigerian recalled that the Senator-elect for Oyo South Senatorial District and **Maye Balogun Olubadan** of

Ibadanland Oloye Sharafadeen Alli last Friday delivered a 50 bundles of roofing sheets to victims of the inferno at the Bodija International market plank unit.

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



NEMA officials during the assessment tour