

# New NIGERIAN

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**Rainstorm Wrecks Havoc In Borno, Renders Thousands Homeless**

\*Property worth hundreds of millions of Naira lost

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## Parting Gift: Ex VP, Ex APC National Chairmen, Serving Ministers To Commission Urban Renewal Projects In Kaduna Today

■ Binani, former governors also expected

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## Traditionalists Demand Recognition Like Muslims, Christians, Say Tinubu's Administration Will Be Peaceful

■ Optimistic Nigeria will be better during his tenure



Traditionalists at the press conference in Ibadan yesterday.

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Traditional religion adherents yesterday, tasked governments at all levels to recognize traditionalists in the country and treat them like Muslims and Christians.

Addressing a press conference held at Osemeji

Temple in Ibadan under the leadership of the Araba (Olu Isese) Agbaye, His Eminence, Owolabi Awodotun Aworeni, the traditionalists specifically demanded due recognition to traditional religion by the Nigeria's governments.

The Araba Agbaye whose speech was read by Jagunmolu Awo Agbaye,

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\*Plans "Mother Of All Protests" in Kaduna

\*Says el-Rufai setting Uba Sani Up To make Kaduna ungovernable for him

# Gov Emmanuel Excites Citizens, Inaugurates Projects As Parting Gifts

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The last few days to the exit of present administration in Akwa Ibom State, have witnessed inaugurations of different developmental projects initiated by Governor Udom Emmanuel across the state.

On Wednesday, Governor Emmanuel commissioned two projects, the remodeled Uyo Township Stadium and a state-of-the-art Dakkada Skills Acquisition Centre (DASAC) in Uyo and Ibiono Ibom local government areas of the state respectively, describing them as part of his parting gifts.

Commissioning the DASAC, the governor informed the people that the state government will be running the center in collaboration with the University of Lagos, which would be overseeing activities and operations of the center. Emmanuel said the decision to partner a university within the country instead of some institutions outside, is to

ensure understanding of the state's environment and socio-cultural structure.

"I want to thank the University of Lagos because when we approached them on this project for their collaboration and partnership, they did not turn us down. Meeting the University of Lagos should assure you that this centre will be one of the best, a centre of excellence.

"It is also a challenge on the University of Lagos because we had the opportunity of collaborating and partnering with other institutions outside Nigeria. We have some in Philippines, some from Pakistan, but I said no, east or west, that no other institution outside Nigeria would understand our environment, our socio-cultural structure to be able to manage in order to achieve our desired result", he said.

Governor Emmanuel assured the institution's partners of state government continuous support, even though he

will be leaving office.

He listed faculties in the center to include; Faculty of Agric- Business, Faculty of steel and building technology, Faculty of Mechanical fabrication and automobile engineering, Faculty of power and renewable energy, Faculty of Hospitality and lifestyle Management, Faculty of Information and Communication technology, Faculty of wood technology, Faculty of General studies and Skills Development amongst others

In her remarks, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Lagos Prof Ayodele Atsenuwa thanked Governor Udom Emmanuel for entrusting the responsibility on the University of Lagos assuring that they will ensure that graduates from the centre become potential employers of labour.

Addressing the gathering, the state Commissioner for Information and Strategy an indigene of the area, Comrade Ini Ememobong applauded

Governor Udom Emmanuel's decision to convert the institution which once served as Government Technical College to a skills acquisition center.

Ememobong who recalled that the school was abandoned by successive governments said the institution's transformation to a world class skills acquisition center will bring about incremental development to the area and state at large

He described the revolutionary achievement as another history making event in the conclusion agenda of the outgoing administration and extended gratitude of Ibiono Ibom people to Governor Udom Emmanuel.

Our correspondent also observed that on Tuesday, the Governor commissioned 10.4 km Utu Ikot Ekpo-Ika Road and remodelled General Hospital in Etim Ekpo Local Government Area of the state on Tuesday.

## Alleged Terrorism: Kogi Assembly Pardons 8 Members, Two Others

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Kogi State House of Assembly on Wednesday, lifted the ban on the suspended eight members and two local government council chairmen, following allegations of terrorism.

The lifting of the ban followed the clearance by the Department of State Security Service (DSS) which was sent by the State Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello in a correspondence to the assembly and read by the Speaker, Rt. Honourable Prince Mathew Kolawole at the plenary.

The lawmakers include Daniya Rayin, Bassa Constituency, Murktar Bajeh, Okehi Constituency, Kilani Olumo, Ijumu Constituency and Moses Akande Ogori-Magongo Constituency.

Others are Mohammed Lawi Ahmed Okene One Constituency, Atule Igbonu, Ibaji

Constituency, Suleiman Attajachi Musa, Idah and Aderonke Aro, Yagba West Constituency.

While the cleared council chairmen include, Moses Olorunleke, Kabba-Bunu Local Government Area and William Ikoojo, Ibaji of Ibaji Local Government Area.

Reading the correspondence from the governor, the Speaker, Prince Mathew Kolawole said the lawmakers and council chairmen were not indicted.

Meanwhile, the Speaker directed the clerk of the house to invite two former commissioners and a former auditor general for screening.

It would be recalled that Governor Yahaya Bello earlier in the week, reappointed some of the commissioners and others who contested the All Progressives Congress (APC) governorship primary election, which saw Alhaji Ododo Ahmed Usman emerge winner.

## EFCC Advises Nigerians Against Scam Alert

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), has advised Nigerians against the activities of what it called "some unscrupulous elements" through a fake EFCC Help Desk issuing a scam alert.

The scam alert, according to the commission, could be in the form of fake calls purported to be from its help desk.

Mr. Wilson Uwujaren, the commission's spokesperson, in a statement in Abuja, explained that the 'Scam Alert' trending on social media is fake.

He clarified that for the

avoidance of doubt, EFCC has no such desk, saying that any information which supposedly emanated from the said EFCC help desk did not originate from the EFCC.

The spokesman added that the use of EFCC by the authors of the Scam Alert smacks of sinister motives.

"It is important that the public is put on notice, as the commission will not be liable should anyone become a victim of what is obviously a scam," he emphasized.

The commission, according to the statement advised the public to be cautious and verify any questionable information with them.



Commissioning of the Unilag Affiliated Skills Acquisition Center in Ibiono Ibom

## Assist APC-IGG To Actualize Inaugural Plans-APC Members

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

**A**PC Initiative For Good Governance, one of the APC Supports groups is always working towards the sustainability of the party and Nigeria in general.

The initiative since inception is bringing out all the necessary strategies that would make APC successful at all levels, and it is clear that APC-IGG have made various contributions towards the reelection bid for the ruling party.

Our correspondent who had an interactive session with the members of the ruling party in Kano, Jigawa and Katsina states, described the Initiative as the most formidable support group that is working selflessly for national emancipation, despite financial odds.

Alhaji Abdulazeed Adamu, an APC stalwart from Kano, called on the bigwigs within the party to come out and assist APC-IGG financially to ensure that the May 29 Presidential Inauguration

is successful.

In his remarks, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa from Jigawa State said that if there would be assistance and logistics from well meaning members of the party, APC-IGG would organise a grand ceremony by making excellent organisation that would make the inaugural ceremony very colourful.

Responding to the people's reactions, the national president of the initiative, Ambassador Musa Mohammed Tsoken assured that, "We are making plans to add colour to the presidential inauguration ceremony by bringing contingents from the 36 states and FCT, but lack of funds always retards our strategies." He disclosed.

Furthermore, Ambassador Tsoken said that it is not late as APC Initiative For Good Governance welcomes any donations from members of the party, political office holders, as well as top ranking personalities across the 6-geo political zones of Nigeria.



Musa Tsoken

## Tinubu Presidency: North-East Group Makes Case For Namdas

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

**A**head of handing and taking over on May 29, the North East All Progressives Congress (APC) Youth Ambassadors, Adamawa State Chapter on Wednesday, urged the President-elect, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu to consider the Adamawa APC big wig, Hon Abdulrazak Saad Namdas in his cabinet because of his ability to deliver on a given mandate.

The group also appealed to the Vice President-elect, Alh Kashim Shettima and the All Progressives Congress National Working Committee (APC-NWC) to be magnanimous in their zonal consideration for those who worked for the success of the party in the recently concluded presidential election.

Namdas had contested the Adamawa governorship primary under APC alongside five others, including former Governor Muhammadu Umaru Jibrilla Bindow, Senator Aishatu Dahiru Ahmed Binani, former Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) Nuhu Ribadu, former Chairman of the Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria (RIFAN) Wafari Theman, and Umar Mustapha Otumba, a business tycoon.

Ahmed B Mohammed and Alhaji Bappare Musa; Convener and Co-convenor respectfully in their joint press conference text said, expressed optimism that with the right people around Tinubu, he would be able to take the country to an enviable height.

The text reads in part; "We

congratulate Nigeria and Nigerians for the successful election that has thrown up Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Alh Kashim Shettima of All Progressives Congress (APC) as President-Elect and Vice President-Elect respectively who will be sworn in by May 29 as substantive President and Vice President by the grace of God.

"We can say with all responsibility that both of them represent tolerance, inclusiveness, love, and compassion as detribalized leaders who have been tested and trusted in different political capacities.

"Over the years, Senator Tinubu has exercised superior intelligence, and leadership composure and demonstrated a far more pragmatic approach to solving the many problems of economic downturn, disunity, insecurity, human capital development, and issues.

"As students and observers of the Nigerian political environment, we understand that a lot of political alignment and realignment are currently ongoing ahead of May 29 handing and taking over that will usher in a change of guards.

"We, therefore, choose this time to engage you all through this medium to reiterate our total support for the man whom we regard as a political octopus in Adamawa State, in the person of Hon. Abdulrazak Saad Namdas who took the bull by the horn to champion the struggle for BAT/SHETTIMA in this part of the country.

"It is on record that, Hon Namdas has what it takes for him to boldly come out in a state overrun by the



Namdas

People's Democratic Party (PDP) and distinguished himself as a member of the APC and proven to be the number one party man in Adamawa and Nigerian political landscape.

"He is the man adjudged to be the primary pillar of the APC in Adamawa State.

"The man who represented Jada/Ganye/MayoBelwa/Toungo Federal Constituency and former Chief Press Secretary to former Governor Boni Haruna of Adamawa State has a lot in stock to offer the incoming administration when appropriately considered with a befitting appointment.

"Tinubu has always been the epitome of humility, faithfulness, honesty, fairness, and progress. While he was a governor he built bridges between Christians and Muslims,

he is an actualizer who made human capital dev and infrastructural re-engineering the fulcrum of administration.

"The greatest challenge facing Nigeria today is that of leadership, Nigeria needs a leader that the people can identify with and inspire them to greater heights and at the same time work with individuals with deliverables.

"We hereby, call on our incoming President, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the incoming Vice President, Alh Kashim Shettima, and our great party National Working Committee (APC-NWC) to consider Hon. Abdulrazak Saad Namdas in the ongoing political permutations as may be due to the North East considering his effort in the recently concluded presidential election".

## Governor Ganduje Presents Transition Report To Abba Gida Gida

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

**T**he outgoing Kano State Governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje has presented the 2023 transition report to the Kano State Governor-elect H.E Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf.

In a short meeting at the Kano Government House Ante Chamber Hall, Ganduje who was represented by the secretary to the state

government Alhaji Usman Allah reiterated has commitment ensuring a seamless transition on 29th May 2023.

He urged the incoming administration to study the transition report and make feedback where necessary as he appreciated the members of the outgoing government transition committee for producing three volumes of the report that covers all sectors of the state.

In his remarks, the Kano State Governor-elect H.E Abba Kabir Yusuf, also represented the Chairman, NNPP Gubernatorial Transition Committee Dr Abdullahi Baffa Bichi indicates that his committee will report to the incoming governor and revert with any observations if any.

"At this time, we have just 105 hours to formal handover and takeover of government in Kano state, as such we are committed

to a hitch free transition in the interest of Kano and its people."

A statement issued by Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, the Chief Press Secretary to the Kano State Governor-elect said that details of the inauguration ceremony would be made available to public after some certain agreements are reached between the outgoing and incoming governments.

## Parting Gift: Ex VP, Ex APC National Chairmen, Serving Ministers To Commission Urban Renewal Projects In Kaduna Today

\*Binani, former governors also expected

By; F U N M I  
ADERINTO, Kaduna

In what can be aptly described as a befitting parting gift for citizens of the state as his eight-year tenure winds up on May 29, Governor Nasir el-Rufai has invited several dignitaries to commission various infrastructural projects which are part of the Kaduna State Urban Renewal Programme of his administration.

Former Vice-President, Architect Namadi Sambo, ex national chairmen of the APC, Chiefs Bisi Akande and John Odigie-Oyegun, former governors and the two serving ministers from Kaduna State, Hajiya Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed and Dr. Mohammed Mahmood Abubakar, will commission the projects at different locations today.

A statement signed by Mr Muiyiwa Adekeye, Special Adviser on Media and Communication, listed the projects to include the Safe City Command and Control Centre and the new Ungwan Rimi Market.

The statement which also listed the Umaru Yar'adua Road which links the Millennium City to the Eastern Bypass, the Isa Kaita Road and 10 other

roads as projects to be commissioned, recalling that "President Muhammadu Buhari commissioned the projects of the first phase of the Urban Renewal Programme in January 2021."

Adekeye explained that the choice of Arch Sambo as one of the dignitaries that will commission the projects, is because he is the highest-ranking elected official that Kaduna State has so far produced.

"Chief Bisi Akande, Chief John Odigie-Oyegun, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, Pastor Tunde Bakare and former governor Ali Modu Sheriff are being honored for their sterling roles in the merger of the parties that fused into the APC".

He argued that Senator Aisha Dahiru Binani, the APC gubernatorial candidate in Adamawa State, "has worked hard to break the glass ceiling limiting the political aspirations of women in Nigeria."

According to the Special Adviser, "it is only right and proper to recognize the service of Hajiya



Gov el-Rufai

Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed and Dr. Mohammed Mahmood Abubakar as ministers from Kaduna state."

"The projects to be commissioned are part of the comprehensive effort to expand and improve critical public infrastructure across the state through the Urban Renewal Programme and projects undertaken by the

newly created metropolitan authorities", he added.

The statement pointed out that the projects, "are a significant milestone for the state as they play a critical role in linking communities, attracting investment and promoting economic growth, while enhancing the quality of life for our citizens."

## Apostle Emmanuel Kure's Mother Buried In Kafanchan

By; AMOS TAUNA,  
Kaduna

The remains of Mama Asabaru Nuhu Kure, mother to Apostle Dr Emmanuel Nuhu Kure, Vision Pioneer, Throneroom Trust Ministry Kafanchan who died on Saturday have been laid to rest.

This was after a funeral service, held at Zuturing Mago in Zango Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, attended by people from all walks of life across the country.

Speaking during the service, President Southern Kaduna Baptist Conference, Reverend Dr Donald Arak who described death as a necessary end, said for a believer to die in Christ is gain and to live is Christ. Reverend Dr Arak who noted that there is a crown of life in heaven for those who abide in Jesus Christ, admonished all to endeavour to be heirs of the better inheritance that awaits them.

Also speaking, the Chairman, Christian

Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kaduna State Chapter, Reverend Joseph John Hayab extolled the virtues of the late Mama Asabaru Nuhu Kure and called on all to emulate.

Similarly, a former Plateau State Governor, Senator Jonah David Jang lamented the unending killings in some parts of Kaduna State and urged all to present the unwholesome acts to God for remedy.

On his part, the Agwam Kajju, Mr Luka Kogi Yabuwat prayed God to raised people of good standing like the late Mama Asabaru Nuhu Kure.

Earlier, the eldest son of the deceased, Apostle Emmanuel Nuhu Kure, described his late mother as uncompromising who left no stone unturned in ensuring their proper upbringing.

Kure, who expressed gratitude to all who attended the burial ceremony prayed God to reward everyone richly.

## Traditionalists Demand Recognition Like Muslims, Christians, Say Tinubu's Administration Will Be Peaceful

\*Optimistic Nigeria will be better during his tenure

Dr. Fayemi Fatunde Fakayode, also appealed to traditional rulers in Yoruba land to as a matter of priority "promote Yoruba traditional religion which is the basis of the crowns on their heads".

"I am using this opportunity to call on the government from the local to the national level to give due recognition to our traditional religion and treat it the same way the alien religions are being treated. This appeal is also extended to our traditional rulers. Our kings are implored to promote Yoruba traditional religion which is the basis of the crowns on their heads", he said.

Araba Agbaye added, "The world annual Ifa Festival has commenced last two weeks with the activities including

pilgrimage to our sacred shrines and grooves in Ekiti State.

"The activities in Ile-Ife will commence on Thursday 1st June and the grand finale will be on Saturday 3rd June 2023, which is the last day of the year with the last worship of the year in the world Ifa temple, Oke Itase, Ile-Ife, Osun state".

His Eminence Aworemi stressed, "The new year Ifa divination will be cast in the early hours of Sunday, 4th June 2023 which is the first day year in Yoruba calendar. My fellow Orisa devotees, as true followers of Orunmila, I implore us to abide by teachings of Ifa on patience and gentle character. With this our cherished Isese, the Yoruba traditional religion will triumph amidst conspirators in this land.

Surely ours is the most peaceful religion in the world".

Speaking further, he said, "I am also using this medium to assure you that Ile-Ife is a peaceful as ever and there is no reason for any kind of fear for anybody coming home. We are entitled to all the things you are given the Muslims and Christians".

On the President elect, the traditionalists urged those that are aggrieved with the outcome of the last presidential election to support the incoming administration of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and move Nigeria forward.

"Those who are saying that they should not hand over to him should exercise patience. They should support him. He has won and he has been declared as the

winner. The next thing is for him to take over the power. We cannot say that they should not hand over power to him".

According to Araba Agbaye, the administration of Asiwaju Tinubu "will be peaceful and Nigeria will be better during his own time. We advised the youths to exercise patience while looking for money. They should not rush".

Others that spoke at the press conference included the Araba/ Olu Isese of Ibadanland, High Chief Ifalare Odegbemi Odegbola, Araba/ Oluwo of Oyo, High Chief Faleye Kusaanu, Araba of Oka Akoko of Ondo state, Chief Adewale Oso and Jagunmolu Awo Agbaye, Dr. Fayemi Fatunde Fakayode.

# Gbagyi Villa Demolition: Rescue Movement Tasks FG To Call el-Rufai To Order

\*Plans "Mother Of All Protests" in Kaduna

\*Says el-Rufai setting Uba Sani Up To make Kaduna ungovernable for him

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A group, Rescue Movement For New Nigeria has called on the Federal Government to prevail on the Kaduna State Government to halt the planned demolition of Gbagyi Villa, Chikun Local Government Area of the state.

This was expressed during a protest on Wednesday, with the Media Director, Rescue Movement For New Nigeria, Olorunmagba Emmanuel reading the text of the briefing during the protest

The group argued that despite court judgment in favour of the community, the government decided to go ahead with the demolition exercise, hence they are calling on Nigeria's authority to caution Governor Nasir el-Rufai against demolition of Gbagyi Villa.

"It is so pathetic that Malam Nasir el-Rufai, a sitting governor who has less than six days to go will attempt to set the state he governs on fire by taking the law into his hands to commence demolition of a community that already secured a clear judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction against such act.

"Yet the governor elect who will be taking over from him is his follower whom he went extra mile to support to emerge as governor. Is El-rufai setting up the next governor by deliberately creating chaotic situations to create enemies for the governor just like he created enemies for himself throughout his tenure that as a governor? He could not move freely in some parts of the

state he governs, even with his heavy security presence?

"This and others are the questions in the lips of the leadership of Rescue Movement For New Nigeria. But this is the time when the country needs peace, reconciliation and healing, but El-rufai, a member of the ruling party that is supposed to initiate the healing process, is always out fanning embers of war, stirring more divisions than ever before and creating more enemies.

"Therefore, in this protest today, which is just the beginning of our planned "Mother Of All Protests In Kaduna State" we want to call on the IGP, AIG, the Police Commissioner, the the GOC, the C o m m a n d a n t N D A , Commandant Civil Defense and other security agencies to cease from releasing their personnel for the back up of El-rufai's illegality," the group said.

According to them, "the incoming governor, Senator Uba Sani is also advised to go for peace immediately he is sworn in, instead of inheriting El-rufai's avoidable crisis. Because it's obvious his man, Malam Nasir El-rufai is setting him up to make Kaduna State ungovernable for him so that he too won't be able to move freely in the state he will govern just like El-rufai was repeatedly pelted with stones among those that can even be somehow referred to as "his people".

They explained that in as much as they are ready to take up court cases against all the perpetrators of the illegality, they wish to fundamentally assert that they have adequate knowledge of the



matter, as they have carried out diligent investigation as summarised below.

"When the news of the second attempt by Governor Nasir el-Rufai to demolish Gbagyi Villa, despite subsisting court judgment in favour of Gbagyi Villa broke out, our Organisation (Rescue Movement For New Nigeria) decided to dig deep into the issue and we discovered as follows:

"No 1) That immediately Gov Nasir El-rufai took over Kaduna State, he invaded Gbagyi Villa claiming the land belongs to Kaduna Federal Polytechnic. Hence vowed to demolish the over 3,500 houses, more than 43 churches, clinic and all buildings in the community.

"Then the Property Owners Association of Gbagyi Villa took the matter to a court of competent jurisdiction in suit number KDH/KAD/218/2016. After thorough arguments between the lawyers of Kaduna State government with her agencies and the lawyers representing G b a g y i V i l l a community, it was clear that:

"(A) As at when El-rufai invaded Gbagyi

Villa, the Kaduna (Federal) Polytechnic had no pending dispute with the Gbagyi Villa community as the only dispute between them was resolved amicably out of court by the intervention of the late Governor Patrick Yakowa of Kaduna State then and even till date there is no other dispute with Gbagyi Villa peaceful people.

"(B) Kaduna Polytechnic (a federal institution) could not even be joined in the court case against El-rufai since there is no pending dispute between the institution and Gbagyi Villa. This was clearly declared by Kaduna Polytechnic in her affidavit filed at the court when Kaduna State government wanted the Polytechnic to be joined in the case.

"(C) Kaduna State government under the leadership of Governor Nasir El-rufai only attempted to capitalise on Kaduna Polytechnic to mislead the public by claiming that there is dispute between the institution and Gbagyi Villa.

"Thus, the court ruled as follows: "(A) "In this circumstance, I find and hold that the plaintiffs (landlords in Gbagyi Villa community) are not trespassers on the Gbagyi Villa community land, upon which they built their properties, but are holders of customary titles, which are deemed grants of right of occupancy pursuant to section 34 of the Land Use Act".

" (B) "On the whole I hold that the plaintiffs (Gbagyi Villa community members) have proved their case on a balance of probabilities.

"The defendants (Gov Nasir El-rufai, KASUPDA and other agents of Kaduna State government) have no locus to hold brief for Kaduna Polytechnic who HAS NO DISPUTE WITH THE PRESENT PLAINTIFFS.

"Consequently judgment is entered for the plaintiffs and I make all the declarations sought and grant all the orders as prayed. "The counterclaim (by Kaduna State government and her agencies) is dismissed for lack of merit".

Rescue Movement For New Nigeria therefore, clarified that based on what they read in the court judgment which they claimed to have obtained a certified true copy, part of the prayers granted by the court of competent jurisdiction include, but not limited to:

"(A) "AN ORDER of perpetual injunction restraining the defendants (Kaduna State government and her agencies) by themselves or through any agent... from carrying out any demolition of the properties, buildings or structures of the plaintiffs at Gbagyi Villa without any prior order of a court of competent jurisdiction obtained

Continued on Page 6



## New ALGON IMC Chairman, Hon Abubakar Set To Reposition LG Affairs

*\*Says no mercy for lawbreakers, usurpers within Association*

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The newly elected Chairman of the Interim Management Committee (IMC) of the Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON), Hon. Abubakar U. Abdullahi has vowed to take strides in repositioning and redefining the association for sustainable grassroots development across Nigeria.

Abdullahi, who is the Chairman of Abaji Area Council, Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, stated this while addressing newsmen after his selection as IMC National Chairman during the extraordinary NEC meeting held in Abuja on Thursday.

According to him, the association, which has been hijacked by the Kolade Alabi-led faction, through impersonation amongst others will be recovered, repositioned and redefined to meet with the expectations of its mandate and lawbreakers within shall meet with dire legal consequences.

He said, "I am thrilled to have been appointed as chairman of the association, and I accept it in good faith. I will fulfill my duties with utmost dedication and efficiency while maintaining the standards set by the association."

The chairman further pledged that the association will be repositioned to fast-

track local government development and change whatever bad narrative the usurpers have drawn to it through their malicious acts of lies, deceit and fraudulent practices.

He however, urged all members of ALGON across the country to join hands with him in the quest to ensure local government areas get the deserved attention needed to make it more functional in line with its constitutional roles.

While promising to operate an open door policy, he thanked members for the confidence reposed in him to lead ALGON during this crucial transitional period.



Hon Abubakar

## Gbagyi Villa Demolition: Rescue Movement Tasks FG To Call el-Rufai To Order

by the defendants through the due process of law against the plaintiffs and authorizing the enforcement or demolition."

"(B) "A declaration that the 5th defendant (The Commissioner of Police, Kaduna State) cannot lawfully avail the Kaduna State government or her agencies, the service of the officers and men of the Nigeria Police Force under his command either by way of security cover or howsoever otherwise to effect the demolition of the properties, buildings and structures of the plaintiffs at Gbagyi Villa, without a prior court order obtained by 1st to 4th defendants through the due process of law, directing or compelling the 5th defendant to enforce such demolition or enforcement."

"Thus the action of the Commissioner of Police was an abuse of the "Section 4 of the Police Act" and a gross violation of the power conferred on him.

"No 2) While the court case was not yet concluded, El-rufai came up with a form for Gbagyi Villa people to fill, sign and submit about their properties, but the lawyer to the community advised that such an act could be mischievous. Hence, no member of the community should collect any form about their property from the government that is in court with them until the end of the court case.

"No 3) After the court case ended with clear judgment in favour of the Gbagyi Villa community El-rufai came up with another form for Gbagyi Villa people to fill, sign and submit. The form titled "Application For Grant/Re-Grant Of Right Of Occupancy (Statutory/Customary)" was distributed round the community asking landlords to go to an Agency of Kaduna State government named, "Kaduna Geographical Information Service (KADGIS)" to submit the form and pay twenty thousand naira (N20,000) for

what was termed "regularization".

"The form was shared from 14th June, 2022 and many landlords in Gbagyi Villa complied, but few of them are still skeptic, suspecting mischief as there was rumour that El-rufai vowed to still level Gbagyi Villa to rubble even if it will happen 24 hours to the end of his tenure.

"No 4) It was also confirmed that the portal for receiving the payment for the "regularization" was close on 31st December, 2022 (being five and half months after the commence of the sharing of the form). And till date it has not been reopened for submission for Gbagyi Villa community. Hence, people from Gbagyi Villa who later had rethink and wanted to submit the "regularization" form with their payment are no longer able to do that as KADGIS refused to collect the form and money since after 31 December, 2022 and no way to make payment from then till today

"No 5) From KADGIS office it was gathered that the governor had ordered that the houses of those who didn't pay the N20,000 should be demolished.

"No 6) Then in a leaked memo from the Director-General of Kaduna State Urban Planning and Development Authority (KASUPDA), Mallam Ismail Umaru-Dikko, dated April 20, 2023, he demanded the urgent release of N29,253,500 for the demolition exercise of various properties including Gbagyi Villa.

"The memo by KASUPDA entitled 'Request for Clearance To Carry out Pending Demolition Exercise', listed Gbagyi Villa citing reasons of "non-compliance on special regularization programme".

"And it was confirmed that the governor eventually released the money for KASUPDA for the demolition exercises to enable the agency engage the service of

bulldozers, drivers, get security personnel and thugs that will accompany the bulldozers drivers and others coming for demolition.

"No 7) Then on Monday 8th May, 2023 KASUPDA workers came into Gbagyi Villa with loads of armed uniform men lead by one Mr. Francis who is a KASUPDA staff and distributed letter to all houses in Gbagyi Villa giving 60 days notice to those who have not paid the said N20,000 for regularization to go and pay. And those who have paid to go and start fresh building approval for their existing building even if they have prior approval. As based on finding by those who visited KASUPDA after receiving the letter, that the agency now claimed that all previous building approval granted before now, have been voided and cancelled by the order from the governor.

"This Mr. Francis that led the security men to distribute the last letter is the KASUPDA staff in charge of areas in Southern part of Kaduna, covering Gbagyi Villa. He has been consistently leading thugs to badly puncture and seriously damage new houses in Gbagyi Villa as the agency has refused to grant any new building approval for anyone in Gbagyi Villa during the court case and since the court case ended on 26th February, 2023 thereby suspended any kind of development in the entire Gbagyi Villa, not even renovation that will be seen outside is legally allowed again. And the buildings of those who dare to do carry out renovation or construction have been badly damaged by thugs lead by the Mr. Francis who claimed to be acting on instructions from the Director of Development in KASUPDA.

"No 8) After giving out the letters, it was said that it will be only the buildings of those who didn't pay the N20,000 that will

be demolished. Though this does not go well with all members of the community, but those who have not paid expressed readiness to pay, but the portal to receive the payment is still not opened till now. So there is absolutely no way to make the payment without the portal opened.

"No 9). On Monday 22nd May, 2023 being 18 days after the sharing of the letter giving 60 days notice for people to go and pay, Gbagyi Villa people suddenly heard that El-rufai's bulldozers were on the way to Gbagyi Villa accompanied by armed uniform men for the demolition of Gbagyi Villa. Therefore youths came out massively and vowed to resist such act of illegality and contempt of court with their last blood.

"Gbagyi Villa people said enough is enough of the harassment and intimidation by El-rufai. That since the governor who supposed to uphold the law is the person taking the law into his hand against judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction and the law enforcement agents that supposed to abide by law also give him backing illegally, the youths too are ready to take the law into their hand to defend the judgment of the court since the country has been turned to Banana Republic.

"The people thus vowed that either they want to demolish the houses of those who had not paid the N20,000 or all the houses in Gbagyi Villa, the demolishers and their armed uniform men will be resisted and every building will be defended.

"However, the bulldozers passed through the other entrance to Gbagyi Villa not commonly used and already commenced demolition before the youths arrived. We also gathered that the first buildings that were leveled completely, the owner of the building had paid the said

N20,000 for the regularization since last year and even the receipt of payment was pasted conspicuously on the building as at when it was demolished.

"Speaking after their emergency meeting held on 23rd of May 2023, the leader of the Rescue Movement For New Nigeria, Faduri Joseph pointed out that, in the light of the clear revelation, it's obvious beyond every reasonable and unreasonable doubt that Gov Nasir El-rufai has no justifiable reason to demolish Gbagyi Villa more than just that of a man in authority vested with so much power and who has personal hatred for a community probably because the people didn't support his elections. Hence, the deep seated hatred clearly manifests in the various scheming attempts to call the peaceful law abiding people bad names and destroy their landed properties. Yet there are widows, pensioners, orphans whose only comfort is the building that has overhead.

"Reiterating the organisation's commitment and readiness for justice, equity and fairness irrespective of class or tribe, the DG Rescue Movement For New Nigeria, Comrade Martins Chiedozie Ugwu, noted that the Rescue Nigeria Movement has finalized the arrangement to drag Kaduna State government, the Commissioner of Police and their agencies to court over abuse of power, disobedient to court order. And also drag El-rufai to court as an individual after his handing over, that he has no immunity any longer so that he can account for his gross abuse of power and other atrocities committed hiding under immunity.

"The noble movement has therefore called for this protest to mark the beginning of "Mother Of All Protests In Kaduna State, as the leadership vowed to do anything within their right to ensure that the person of Gbagyi get justice! Enough is enough," he said.

# We Will Not Recognize Tinubu As President - Arewa Youth

## \*Insist Atiku didn't lose polls

*Comrade Elliot Afiyo is the National President of the Northern Youth Leaders Forum (NYLF), the umbrella Organisation of 42 Northern youth groups founded in 1994 by the Northern Traditional, Military, Political and Religious leaders to propagate and protect the northern political and economic interest within the national interest. Comrade (Dr) Elliot Afiyo is also the Secretary - General of the Association of West African Monarchs (AWAM), the umbrella body of Traditional Rulers in West Africa. In this interview with Journalists in Abeokuta, Comrade Afiyo bares his mind on the 2023 general elections.*

**Comrade sir, since 1999, your Forum secured victories for Candidates you endorsed and supported at all levels since 1999. But in the last presidential elections, former vice president Atiku lost in spite of all your support and endorsement. What went wrong Sir?**

Thank you very much. I want to tell you categorically that Atiku did not lose the 2023 presidential election because there wasn't any candidate that meets up with the constitutional requirements to be declared the winner of the 2023 presidential election. It was a conspiracy in diatribe to declaring Tinubu as the winner of that election for fear of a rerun. 2023 presidential election was full of betrayals, conspiracies and deceptions. But your Forum couldn't make the difference like the previous elections since 1999.

Our Forum performed the best ever since 1999. For the first time, our Forum faced the toughest and most challenging election and came out with good results especially in the North- East and North-West geopolitical zones.

**How tough was the election sir?**

You see, I held a press conference in Kano two weeks to the elections and drew the attention of our presidential candidate of an organised deception and betrayals. All the APC governors that promised to work for Atiku changed their minds three days to the elections because of the senseless and leucitic statement made by one of the Atiku's campaign spokesmen that Atiku will investigate and jail them.

Secondly, the statement made by Atiku that he was going to restructure the country even at the detriment of his life, made the Fulani elites to work against him.

Thirdly, 85% of the people Atiku made as PCC members also betrayed him because the dollars given to them for logistics and mobilization, was only shared amongst and between them. They had erroneous and lithifying confidence that with or without mobilization, Atiku will win.

Fourthly, the people that were sincerely and honestly working for Atiku were side lined, barricaded, excluded and isolated. Thanks to some our patrons who saw all these things and decided to mobilise us and also gotten some assistance from international Organisations. These mobilisations coupled with our determination and commitments made the difference in the voting outcome.

We saw ourselves fighting against the collective decision of the Northern Governors, Fulani Elites and the

Religious leaders from both the Islamic and Christian religions.

The Imams were heavily mobilised with millions of dollars while the statement made by Governor El-Rufai about the northern Christians population also encouraged and ginged the Christian clerics to mobilise Christians to waste their votes for Obi so as to prove el-Rufai wrong and teaches him and his cohorts a protogenetic and dangerous lesson. The ethnic angle was also given priority in some states like Kogi, Kwara and Niger. You can now see the forces NYLF faced and still ensured that Atiku won in the North.

**Why Niger State?**

Whether you believe it or not, Asiwaju has a link with the Nupes.

**Are you saying Tinubu did not win the 2023 Presidential election?**

I am telling you without fear of contradiction that Tinubu did not win the election that meets up with the constitutional requirements even after results were doctored. Prof Yakubu knew it and he made up his mind to announce a rerun. thirty minutes to the announcement, he was summoned and the decision was changed. Alterations and doctoring of results were made, that is why he reluctantly staged a podiatric coup against democracy and Nigerians, by going ahead and announced Tinubu as the winner at about 4:am.

**Sir, are you saying that Prof Yakubu staged a coup?**

Prof. Yakubu is a learn tic Couplist by every reasoning. Coups are normally announced at early hours of the day and that what was he did. I will not be surprised if Prof Yakubu is arrested and tried for treasonable felony in the nearest future.

But the Northern Elders Forum and the Arewa Consultative Forum supported Atiku?

All these pressure groups are constituted for political relevance and financial patronage. They are far from translating to political victories. Unfortunately, the Aspirants and the Candidates patronize them at the detriment of the Youth groups. Some of these Individuals are not known in their localities. And if they are known, they cannot command political fellowship and followership which will translate to political voting and by extension, political victories.

**Sir, so you agree with Governor el-Rufai that they don't control votes?**

I totally agree with him because he said nothing but the truth. How many of these elders will secure a political victory for

t h e i r  
councillors  
not to talk  
o f  
president?

T h e  
Governors  
a n d t h e  
Y o u t h  
L e a d e r s

control and determine the direction of voting in the North. The clerics are far politically better than these Elders.

The only aspect that I disagree with el-Rufai is denigration and localisation of the elders by calling them 'so called elders' and his statement on the Northern Christians which has caused major division among the Northerners. If care is not taken or more awareness created, it will be very difficult for a Northerner to win presidential election in the nearest future in a free and fair elections unless that Northerner is a Muslim and must come from one of the minority tribes.

President Buhari said that Atiku lost the election because of over confidence and complacency.

That's very true, over confidence in the sense that PCC members were doing what they feel like. Even the presidential candidate and his running mate were deliberately ignoring some stakeholders. The support groups were ignored and downgraded. The G5 Governors were termed and considered inconsequential. The Governor of Bauchi who is very popular and influential in the country especially the Northern Youth, was isolated not until I decided to take an action that maybe so devastating, before he was visited and invited for negotiation. Let me tell you the truth, most of the key members of PCC of the PDP worked against Atiku because they have interest in 2027 and Atiku winning this election will block them. This is more reason why they pocketed the dollars, thereby frustrating the genuine efforts of Atiku's supporters.

Another factor that causes complacency was the appointment of his spokesmen who were caucus members of the APC. These were people verily known with Tinubu, whatever they said were not given any serious consideration.

You can see Senator Dino saying ALLAH YA ISA to PDP in 2015. The same Dino saying ALLAH YA ISA to APC in 2019 and 2023. Spiritually, any Candidate that Dino becomes his or her Spokesman under PDP or APC, will never wins the election because he has used the same tongue to curse the Parties.



*Comrade Eliot Afiyo*

Sir, we read in some National Dailies prior to the elections that some Emirs threatened to assassinate you if Atiku wins the election in their States. How true is this statement?

Absolutely true, two of them told our Coordinators that they will assassinate me if Atiku wins in their States. I personally called them to confirm the story and they affirmed it. These threats made me to relocate to one of the States and informed the Emir that I was in the State to ensure that Atiku wins in all the States. I called some of our Patrons who mobilised funds for us. When Atiku won in the State, I placed a call to the Emir who later invited me for a dinner in his palace. After the Dinner, he looked at me said "shege Batta jo", and I smiled and said mi yeti barkama walla aibe". And that was all.

Sir, we were also told that Tinubu's camp is making overtures for you to join the team.

For now, I will not join them until the final pronouncement by the Supreme court. In fact, the Northern Youth will never recognize Tinubu as President of Nigeria even after the swearing - in until the final pronouncement by the Supreme Court.

**Are you saying that the inauguration ceremony should be stopped?**

Under common sense or literal reasoning, the inauguration should have been done after final pronouncement by the Court. But in a situation like this, one should not expect that to happened. Seriously, it is a major set- back to our Country. But I am quite sure that God's will would prevail very soon.

There was a story in one of the daily newspapers that you led a team of investigation from UN and EU to visit the six geo- political zones and the team was sponsored by one of your patrons.

The Team was a fact-finding Team. I was just privileged to guide them.

**What do we expect from you and your Forum from now?**

For now, let us allow the will of God to prevail. This is our only country that we can call our home. Enough of crisis and shedding of innocent blood. Let us all be law abiding and give maximum support to the security agencies. Sooner or later, Nigerians will definitely rejoice.

# Rainstorm Wrecks Havoc In Borno, Renders Thousands Homeless

## \*Property worth hundreds of millions of Naira lost

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

It was a black Wednesday for the people of Azare, Fuma, Ghuma, Hizhi and Yimirshika villages of Hawul Local Government Area in Borno State, as a midnight rainstorm tendered thousands homeless.

Reports from Azare the local government headquarters indicate that, no life was lost, except a few injuries but the heavy downpour, associated with strong windstorm led to the collapse of many structures in several villages and towns.

Transition Committee Chairman, Inuwa Bwala who cut short his journey to Maiduguri for a workshop, told newsmen that, the damages could not be immediately quantified, but a committee is working out details.

According to him, government structures were not also spared as the perimeter fences of the local government secretariat and the government lodge, including the roofs of ongoing projects and the council chambers of the local Government were also blown off.

Mr. Bwala said they have

experienced rainstorms in the past, but the magnitude of the dawn disaster was greater and completely beyond the capacity of the local government to handle.

"We have introduced remedial measures to cushion the effects of the disaster by providing some palliatives, but we shall approach the state government through the State Emergency Management Agency and the Ministry For Local Government and Emirate Affairs, with the hope that our people could be assisted and some of the structures rehabilitated", Bwala

said.

He said on the part of the local government alone, the damages is in hundreds of millions, just as that of private citizens is being estimated.

The chairman explained that, from what he saw during the preliminary tour of the areas, there were first, second and third degree damages to property, but the Local Government secretariat suffered the worst damages.

He said he is at loss as to where he should start from, even as he directed for works on the central store which roof was blown off

to continue before the council comes up with a holistic reconstruction plan.

Already, some households that suffered minimal damages have commenced the repairs of their roofs, through personal efforts, while the council has rolled out some financial assistance to those who have been completely displaced.

As at the time of filling this report, the Transition Council Chairman, Inuwa Bwala is said to have rushed down to Maiduguri to lodge formal report on the development.





## Kwara Gov Excited As Prof Alaro Bags 'Intellectual Impact' Award In University Of Madina



By; **BILIQIS  
ONALAPO  
OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin**

**K**wara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has congratulated Prof. Abdurrazaq Abdulmajeed Alaro (mni) on his winning the 'most intellectual impact' award of the International Islamic University of Madina, Saudi Arabia.

The governor said the award reasserts the place of Prof. Alaro, a Kwaran, as a global leader in Islamic law and a public intellectual who continues to impact his community with his contributions to knowledge.

"The Government and people of Kwara State are proud to identify with the sterling achievements of Professor Alaro. We share in the joy and honour that this recognition brings to him and his family, especially because of the inspiration such a feat gives to younger generations," the Governor said in a statement.

"We pray Allah to grant him more successes in the coming years and the good health to live his dreams to the fullest."

The University of Madina on Wednesday night awarded him the best alumnus of all time with the most intellectual impact. Alaro was honoured alongside other outstanding alumni of the school who have made huge contributions to knowledge, such as Dr. Hamid Choi Yong Kil, the first Korean Muslim to translate the Qur'an and Sahih Al-Bukhari into the Korean language; Dr. Muhammad Hidayat Nur Wahid, former Speaker of Indonesia People's Consultative Assembly; and Prof. Massire Doukoure who specializes in computational linguistics at Yobe State University.

Prof. Alaro, who teaches at the University of Ilorin, is a recipient of the Kwara State Lifetime Achievement Award that was held in December 2022.

## Seun Kuti in court

Photos: AKINOLA ARIYO



## Alleged Money Laundering: Abuja Court Adjourns Case Against Five Directors

By; BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja.

A Federal High Court in Abuja, Nigeria, has adjourned to June 19 2023, the arraignment of directors in five companies for alleged money laundering and breach of Public procurement law in relation to a multi-billion Naira contract in the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN).

Among those arraigned is the Managing Director of Nigerian Rural Electrification Agency, Ahmed Salihijo, and his company, Velocity Nigeria Limited.

The four other companies are, Winslow Logistics, Equal Logistics, Sahams Crystal Investment and Antaser Nigeria Limited. The judge, Justice James Omotoso fixed the date after listening to both counsels.

The landmark case was instituted by Donnington Limited against the CEO

and the four companies for their non declaration of the activities of their companies as specified under the money Laundering prohibition act of 2011 and punishable under the same act.

Donnington believes that it will step into the shoes of Nigeria's Attorney General in instituting the matter due to noncompliance of the companies to Nigerian laws.

According to the company, "Our country cannot condone contravention of the Money Laundering Act and non-compliance with statutory provisions by company Directors chasing a Government contract.

Counsel to Donnington Limited, Mr. Bala Sanga while speaking in an interview with journalists, said he filed a criminal charge against the five companies and revealed that "the companies broke the provisions of the law".

## Appointment: Board Of Nestle Expresses Confidence In New Chairman, Oyebode

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA

The Board of Nestle Nigeria Plc has expressed confidence in the ability of the company's new Chairman, Board of Directors (BoD), Mr. Gbenga Oyebode, to further contribute to the development of the organization.

The board also thanked Mr. David Ifezulike, Oyebode's immediate predecessor, for his contributions to the growth of the company,

and, therefore, wished him success in his future endeavours.

Nestle's Corporate Communications Specialist, Mr. Bola Audu said this while announcing the appointment of Oyebode as board chairman as Ifezulike retired.

"The Board of Nestle Nigeria PLC has appointed Mr. Gbenga Oyebode, MFR, as the new Chairman of the Board of Directors with effect from May 18, 2023," Audu reported on Tuesday.

The appointment which followed the retirement of Ifezulike was announced to shareholders and other stakeholders at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Nestle Nigeria PLC which was held at MUSON Centre, Lagos on 17th May 2023.

Oyebode qualified as a solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in 1980. He holds a Master of Law degree and is the co-founder of the law firm of Aluko & Oyebode.



Gbenga Oyebode

## Your Emergence As Chairman Nigeria's Governors' Forum Will Deepen Democracy, Kwara Students Tell Governor

By; BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO, Ilorin

The Executive President, National Association of Kwara State Students National Headquarters, Comrade Abdullahi Abdulkadir Wokili has said that the elevation of Abdurazak to Chairman Nigeria's Governors' Forum will deepen dividends of democracy. He made disclosure in a congratulatory statement to the Executive Governor of Kwara State, Mallam Abdurazak over his emergence.

He said "I join the entire Kwarans and on behalf of the Kwara State Students

schooling both home and abroad, to congratulate Governor Abdurazak over his emergence as the Chairman, Nigerian Governors' Forum.

"No doubt this elevation will further bring more dividends of democracy to our dear state as we have the belief that Mallam Abdurazak will bring his leadership sagacity to bear and discharge his responsibilities with dedication and full commitment.

"I wish our patron, the Executive Governor of Kwara State, Chairman Nigerian Governors' Forum, all the best as he will be taking on this great responsibility"



Governor Abdurazak with Comrade Abdullahi Wokili



## I Won't Disappoint Constituents - Ondo Lawmaker-elect, Ayebusiwa

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

A member-elect, Chris Ayebusiwa, has vowed to set the political record straight through effective representation of his constituency at the Ondo State House of Assembly. Ayebusiwa who will be representing Okitipupa Constituency I at the 10th Assembly, promised to better the lives of his constituents through timely empowerment and

quality engagement with the people at the grassroots level.

He also pledged to mortgage large chunk of time to addressing societal challenges frontally troubling Okitipupa residents, adding that plans are afoot to return the milieu to its former glory.

Ayebusiwa made this known on Wednesday, while speaking to some journalists on phone after the workshop for

Members-elect of the Ondo State House of Assembly at Lagos Marriott Hotel in Ikeja, Lagos State.

The two-day induction training programme organized by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS), is aimed at providing the members-elect with operational information about legislative procedures most especially legislative

powers, ethics and privileges.

However, Chris who expressed satisfaction with the training, hailed the trainers for allotting quality time to furnish participants with the requisite knowledge.

"We thank the organizers for exposing us through the core tenets and modus operandi to have healthy house for the purpose of moving the state forward, and I promise not to disappoint my people" he said briefly.

## Plateau Killings: Youth Call For Self Defense

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Plateau State Youth Council (PYC), on Monday, following the incessant attacks in the state, called on the citizens to urgently rise up to defend themselves against continuous attacks and killings in various villages in the state.

During a peaceful protest held at the Federal Secretariat junction, Jos, by the youth, they lamented the recent killings in some villages in Mangu Local Government Area of the state leading to the loss of lives of more than 100 people including women and property worth millions of Naira destroyed.

Sunday Adas, the chairman of PYC who led the protest, expressed concerns over killings in the state, saying, "We believe that our people and communities now know

better that we are second-class citizens in our own country, and that our lives and property do not matter as much. Therefore, the clarion call is, make every effort to help yourself before anyone else does."

He stated that the killings and acts of terrorism are not coincidental or random happenings, saying that they are premeditated and calculated attacks that aim at uprooting native villages and communities to satisfy the inordinate territorial ambition and supremacy of the Fulani and their cohorts.

According to him, the scale and skills of the attackers speak volumes to the scope, sophistication and quantum of the ammunition and weaponry at the disposal of the said Fulani militias and called on the government to ensure the protection of the lives and property of the citizens.

## Kogi Reinstates Key Officials After Primary Election Debacles

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello, has officially announced the immediate reinstatement of several key officials who resigned their appointments for election reasons.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Secretary to Kogi State Government, Dr. Ayoade Arike Folashade on Monday.

They include, Jibrin Momoh, former Accountant General, Pharmacist Jamii Abdulkarim Asuku, former Chief of Staff to the Governor and Yakubu Okala, former Auditor-General.

Others include, Idris Asiwaju Asiru, former Commissioner for Finance, Budget and

Economic Planning and Barrister Momodu Ozigi Deedat, former Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

The caveat however, is that the reinstatement of the Auditor-General and the commissioners is subject to the scrutiny and confirmation of the House of Assembly before they can resume their duties.

Their reinstatement followed carefully consideration and approval by Governor Yahaya Bello after they had submitted their letters of resignation.

"We trust that the reinstatement of these officials will further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the state government in delivering its mandate to the people of Kogi State" the statement said.

## A'lbom Deputy Governor, Information Commissioner Bag NUJ Remarkable Service Awards

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

For being seen to have contributed remarkably to nation building, the Akwa Ibom State Deputy Governor, Mr Moses Ekpo, and the Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Comrade Ini Ememobong have been honoured by Nigeria Union of journalists (NUJ).

The event which held in Uyo at the weekend, had the pioneer Information Commissioner, Mr Ekpo receive a Lifetime Achievement Award, while the incumbent, Ememobong emerged Most Outstanding Commissioner in the South South Zone.

Speaking on the awards, National President of NUJ, Chief Chris Isiguzo said the union, which does not reward unmerited personalities, took out time to scrutinize the awardees, and could rightly adjudge them most deserving of the awards.

"The government and the governed now look up to the media, that is why we will not give recognition to just anybody. We take out time to scrutinize awardees, and I can say that these ones are deserving of the awards.

"Comrade Ini Ememobong is one of the best commissioners we have ever produced in the South-South. He is driven by intellect, humility, initiative and ingenuity. He is an Outstanding Commissioner". He asserted.

The National President who applauded NUJ Zone F and the Akwa Ibom State Council for the initiative, suggested the need to make such an annual gathering.

He also appealed to journalists to hold onto the ethics of the profession as watchdogs of the society.

In a keynote address, Prof Godwin Okon of the Department of Mass Communication, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, described Ememobong's honour as deserving, as he scored Akwa Ibom high on information management, media relations and ability to maintain a hygienic website for the state.

In his words "The information management optics of Akwa Ibom State government leaves much room for commendation and emulation. A participant cluster appraisal reveals that the state in the past eight years has not

particularly been in the news for the wrong reasons.

"Approaches to government information management are multifaceted. While some derive from the literature, others from industry practice with yet another stream dovetailing within the framework of hybridization. That of the state seems to assume the hybrid colouration which allows for more than just a cursory glance while presenting a lesson curve. "Maintaining a hygienic website

In the face of social media blitz, the official website of the state becomes the first port of attention. Fortunately, Akwa-Ibom State evokes favourable imagery in the minds of many with Uyo becoming a destination point for conferences, workshops, and other ancillary programmes.

"Commendably, the official website of Akwa Ibom State Government, as revealed in the course of a recent study, is remarkably the best when viewed against the backdrop of the South-South states.

He cited instances where the Akwa Ibom State Government information management team demonstrated top-class

approach to crisis/information management and applauded organizers of the award ceremony for recognizing excellence. Speaking on behalf of the awardees, the Deputy Governor, Mr Moses Ekpo, dedicated the award to his mentors and to "all real journalists in Akwa Ibom State" and vowed to remain a journalist.

"I pledge that I will always remain a reporter and a journalist. It is the right way to go. This is indeed a valedictory honour and I want to assure you that whether in Government or outside Government, i will be a journalist" he assured

Goodwill messages and encomiums poured in from the organizers of the event, led by the Vice President, NUJ Zone F (South South) Comrade Opaoka Dokubo, Chairman of NUJ, Akwa Ibom State Council, Comrade Amos Etuk, past commissioners for information, Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Information and Strategy and personal aides of Comrade Ini Ememobong, who all gave glowing descriptions of the awardees.



NUJ awards

# Lagos Gov Commissions 6 Projects At LASUTH

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Wednesday, commissioned six medical infrastructure projects at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH).

The projects that the governor commissioned include a 124-Bed SDG Multipurpose Medical Building; the Renovated House Officers' Quarters; the Faculty of Basic Medical and Clinical Sciences Building; an Ambulance Bay; a Special Services Centre and a Sport complex all located within the premises of the LASUTH complex.

The governor also performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the commencement of construction of 11-Floor Resident Doctors' Quarters which when completed will have 30 units of two bed room apartments and 63 units of one bedroom apartment including ancillary facilities.

As reported by Tunbosun Ogunbanwo, Director, Public Affairs in the Ministry of Health, Sanwo-Olu who was represented by the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, stated that the delivery of the modern medical infrastructure projects will further strengthen the capacity of the State healthcare system to meet the needs of residents and citizens alike.

He said: "We are here today at LASUTH to celebrate the delivery of modern medical infrastructure projects that will further strengthen the capacity of our health care system to meet the needs of our people.

"All of these facilities have been provided in fulfilment of our promises and commitment to the good people of Lagos State under the Health and Environment pillar of our administration's T.H.E.M.E.S development agenda. We are committed to doing more in this second term of our administration and raise the bar of excellence".

Sanwo-Olu while appreciating the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals, Princess Adejoke Orelupe-Adefulire for midwifing and handing over of the 124-bed SDG multipurpose medical building to Lagos State noted that the purpose built medical infrastructure will significantly

raise the status of LASUTH as a leading and award winning medical school and centre of excellence in healthcare service delivery.

"Let me use this opportunity to express the profound appreciation of the government and the good people of Lagos State to the Federal Government through the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to Mr President on Sustainable Development Goals for the donation of a 124 Bed multipurpose medical building which we are commissioning today.

"This building which is well equipped with modern medical care facilities and comprising 4 medical schools in the areas of Anaesthesia Technology, Echo Cardiograph, Orthopaedic Cast Technology and Post Graduate Nursing, will significantly raise the status of LASUTH as a leading and award winning medical school and centre of excellence in healthcare service delivery

"I have no doubt in my mind that with this facility, and several others that have been put in place in other parts of the country, we are on the path to improving our nation's human capital development index and achieving the set targets under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals", the Governor said.

While congratulating the Management of LASUTH on the harvest of medical infrastructure projects, he urged the management and staff of the hospital to prioritize the care and maintenance of the facilities adding that his administration is committed to doing more in the second term to further raise the bar of excellence.

Earlier, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goal, Mrs Adejoke Orelupe-Adefulire said that the Federal Government through the Sustainable Development Goals will continue to partner with the State government to ensure that citizens have unhindered access to quality healthcare services.

Orelupe-Adefulire explained that the 124-bed SDG multipurpose building is a unique facility that houses Private Wards, Presidential Suites, GYM and SPA. She noted that the facility would hopefully attract VIPs and VVIPs to seek health care services at LASUTH.

"Aside from many other projects all

across Nigeria that we have implemented, this edifice at LASUTH stands out, and will take care of all Nigerians living in Lagos. I'm aware that not only those who live in Lagos are coming to receive treatment in LASUTH".

While appreciating the Lagos State Government for the support given to the outgoing President, she urged the Government and people of Lagos State to extend the same support to the incoming administration in order further the delivery of democratic dividend.

Also Speaking, the State Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi explained that the different medical infrastructure projects that were commissioned are of immense value and significant in the effort of the Sanwo-Olu led administration to improve the State Health indices.

He explained that the 124-Bed SDG Multipurpose Medical Building donated by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals is an L-Shaped 2-Storey structure with a waiting shed geared towards expansion, improvement of healthcare delivery and to complement the existing inadequate bed compliment at LASUTH.

Abayomi noted that the Renovated House Officers' Quarters has 22 self-contain apartment with six general lounge inclusive of Toilets and Bathrooms, Terrace and 6 general kitchens adding that the project equally support the LASUTH in securing accreditation from the Medical and Dental council of Nigeria for the training of House Officers.

"The Faculty of Basic Medical and Clinical Sciences Building is a four floor project built to enhance the learning process of tutors and students of the Lagos State University College of Medicine. The building houses a reception, offices, conference rooms, lecture rooms, lecture theatres, conference room, laboratories including; anatomy laboratory and physiology laboratory.

"The Ambulance Bay is a storey building facility that houses the Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS) activities in Ikeja division of Lagos State. The Ambulance Bay is designed to ensure quick response to



Gov Sanwo-Olu

emergencies especially road traffic accidents and other medical emergencies and improved response time to emergencies. The facility has a Reception, Kitchenette, Driver's Lounge, Office space for administrative activities, Male and Female Bedroom for convenience of staff running night shift", Abayomi said.

The Commissioner stated that the Special Services Centre (SSC) is intended to bridge the gap in our healthcare sector and solve challenges of interventional procedures on a Private Public Partnership model.

According to him, the SSC accommodates a Dialysis Unit, a Bronchoscopy Suite, a Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and an Endoscopy Suite whose services are economically affordable to patients across the State.

He noted that the Unit has eight dialysis stations which cater for a minimum of 22 sessions daily and 660 dialysis sessions monthly in addition to the existing six dialysis machines in the Critical Care Unit (CCU) of LASUTH.

On the Resident Doctors' Quarters, Abayomi explained that the construction of a facility to house resident doctors becomes more imperative due to the continuous agitation by the Resident Doctors

for accommodation and the promise of the State Government to solve the problem of accommodation being experienced by the Doctors.

"The proposal for the construction is in line with the "Health and Environment" pillar under the T.H.E.M.E.S. agenda, the present Administration embarked on provision of conducive infrastructure for staff in order to enhance productivity and efficiency in the public health sector.

"The proposed new staff quarter for resident doctors in LASUTH will consist of 11-Floors with each floor designed with consideration to natural ventilation, illumination and energy efficiency which will eventually assist them to achieve optimum performance in their Clinical services", the Commissioner said.

While appreciating the Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for investing in medical infrastructure development, Abayomi opined that the collaboration of the Federal Government agency and the Lagos State Government is a decisive way to position LASUTH as one of the leading academic centers for medical training and care in Nigeria.

# Sanwo-Olu Dissolves Cabinet Ahead Inauguration

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has announced the dissolution of his cabinet in preparation for the swearing-in ceremony on 29th May, marking the start of the second term administration of Sanwo-Olu/Hamzat in the state.

Aside from the cabinet members, his Assistants including Senior Special Assistants, Special Assistants, Personal Assistants, Technical Assistants, Personal Aides and others were also expected to leave office and handover all government belongings in their care to the most senior civil servant in the Ministry, Department and Agency (MDAs).

Sanwo-Olu's decision, meanwhile, did not affect government appointees whose tenures

were yet to expire as guided by relevant laws of their establishments.

The Head of Service, Hakeem Muri-Okunola, made the announcement on Wednesday through a circular with No. 046, and released to newsmen in the state.

According to the circular, it is hereby notified for general information r, Mr. Governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has directed that Political Appointees, specifically, Honourable Commissioners, Special Advisers (Cabinet and Non-Cabinet), all Assistants (Senior Special Assistants, Special Assistants, Personal Assistants, Technical Assistants, Personal Aides etc be notified of the end of term of their appointments, with effect from the close of work on Friday, 26th May, 2023

"However, Political Appointees whose

appointments are by Legislation/Tenure-Based and Members of Statutory Commissions/Governing Councils whose tenures have not lapsed, are not affected by this directive, unless otherwise formally informed.

"Therefore, all affected Political Office Holders are expected to prepare individual Handover Notes and return any Government property including Utility/Project Vehicles in their possession to the Accounting Officer/Most Senior Director of their respective Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDA),

"In addition to handing over to their respective Permanent Secretaries, Cabinet Members are to send a copy of the Handover notes to the Permanent Secretary, Cabinet Office not later

than Friday, 26 May, 2023.

"Furthermore, all concerned Officers are to comply with the provision of paragraph 11 (1b), part one of the Fifth Schedule of Nigeria Constitution on End of Tenure Assets Declaration While wishing the affected Political Office Holders success in their future endeavours, Mr. Governor appreciates the contributions and roles of the affected Public Officers to the development of the state, especially the significant milestones recorded under the T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda.

"Accordingly, all affected Political Office Holders, Accounting Officers of MDAs and the general Public are enjoined to note the contents of this Circular and give it the deserved Service-wide publicity".

## AIG Zone 14 Visits Kaduna Police Command, Hails Gallantry Of Personnel

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) Zone 14, Ahmad Abdurrahman yesterday May 25, 2023, paid a familiarisation and working visit to the Kaduna State Police Command.

This was contained in a statement made available by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Mohammed Jalige.

It informed that during the visit, he was warmly received by the Commissioner of Police Kaduna State Command, CP M. Y. Garba, accompanied by other senior police officers in the command.

"During the visit, the AIG

commended the Kaduna State Police Command for recent feats achieved in crime control in the state.

"He charged the CP to intensify intelligence gathering ahead of the May 29 handing over ceremony in the state," the statement said.

According to the statement, in his welcome address, CP M.Y. Garba told his visitor that the command is appreciative of the support being received from the AIG Zone 14.

The CP used the opportunity to warn trouble makers that the command is ready to deal decisively with anyone who attempt to disrupt the relative peace currently enjoyed by the state.

## One Police Officer Feared Dead, Others Sustain Injuries As Gunmen Launch Attack In Ebonyi

By: M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

At about 2030hrs, Monday night, one police officer was shot dead by unknown gunmen while two others sustained varying degrees of injuries.

The gunmen launched the attack at the police checkpoint at Union Bank Junction, where a team of police officers mounted road block on stop and search duty.

According to a statement issued by the command's Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Onome Onovewakpoyeya, two other officers sustained injuries and are receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, CP Faleye Olaleye therefore appeals to members of the public to report anyone seen with bullet wound or soliciting for treatment elsewhere.

"On the 22/05/2023 at about 2030hrs, the Operatives of the Command on Stop and

Search duty at Union Bank roundabout, the area where banks are concentrated in the State Capital, engaged in a shootout with heavily armed hoodlums, whose mission were unknown in the area.

"Sadly, one of the Operatives paid the supreme price, while two others were injured and are receiving treatment in the hospital. Also, the hoodlums equally recorded casualties but were taken away.

"The Commissioner of Police, therefore, appeals to members of the public to report anyone seen with bullet wound or soliciting for treatment for same.

"Conclusively, the Commissioner Of Police, Ebonyi State Police Command, CP Faleye S. Olayele, Psc enjoins members of the Public to remain calm, as measures have been emplaced to protect lives and property of the Citizens and that the Command will not rest on its oars until the perpetrators are hound down," it said.

## Akwa Ibom: Why We Declared Emergency In Health Sector - Gov Emmanuel

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Akwa Ibom State Governor, Udom Emmanuel has said that his administration's prompt action at revamping the health sector of the state economy is to ensure that the citizens receive medical help easily and within minimal time, especially during emergency.

Speaking during the commissioning of the remodeled general hospital in Etim Ekpo Local Government Area of the state yesterday, Gov Emmanuel explained that his administration has channeled enough resources to get all general hospitals in the state in good shape to safe lives.

"Our vision is that if you have medical emergency, anywhere in Akwa Ibom State, it should not take you more than 30 minutes to get help in a well equipped, well staffed hospital, excluding cottage hospitals, excluding Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs).

"I am talking about well equipped medical centres which a lot of people call secondary health care facilities, which is the general hospital. It cannot take you 30 minutes, that is our vision.

"We value lives, we value our citizens, we value lives more than anything. We don't want anything to happen to anybody that is avoidable. That is the essence in which we are littering everywhere in the state with well equipped hospitals.

"As at today, we are leaving office, still a whole lot of containers of medical equipment are on ground. I think some are yet to be cleared at Onne Port, more are on the high sea. Those ones would arrive after I would have left office, but at least when they arrive, you will see the signature of Udom Emmanuel equipment that are 2024/2025 equipment in terms of medicare," he stated.

While speaking, the Commissioner for Health, Prof. Augustune Umoh applauded the governor for his drive to change the face of health sector in the state, saying his achievements in this area across the state was a testament to this fact. "His Excellency has completely painted the landscape of medicine and medical facilities in this state and has clearly left a giant foot print in the sands of medical practice in Akw Ibom State. You will therefore imagine my joy and feeling.

"I pledge that the staff of this hospital and indeed the medical field will utilise their medical facility to the glory of God. I call on all the workers in this facility to put in their best.

"I also call on the good people of Etim Ekpo, that if you look at the pictures that we have here, you could see if you ever came here, what this place looked liked, you will also see what His Excellency has done. But that would come to nought, if you do not utilise this facility.

"Going forward, we promise to give you the best in terms of service. Come forward, utilise it and improve your health," he stated.

It would be recalled that before the intervention of government, the remodeled General Hospital in Etim Ekpo local government area and many other ones were in deplorable conditions



Composite picture of remodelled hospital at Etim Ekpo

## Sierraleonian Officials In Lagos To Understudy LASTMA Operational Guidelines, Legal Framework

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), over the weekend, hosted some Sierra Leonean Transport Officials who were in Lagos to understudy the operational guidelines and legal framework of the Agency.

The General Manager of LASTMA, Mr. Bolaji Oreagba, while welcoming the Sierra Leonean Traffic Officials to his office at Oshodi, disclosed that the main purpose for the establishment of the Agency in year 2000 by the then administration of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu was to transform the State transportation system and to ensure free flow of traffic and reduction in road accident across the State.

Mr. Oreagba disclosed further that to properly manage and control traffic in Lagos, the Agency operates an efficient operational guideline which comprises of seven Comptrollers that covers the three Senatorial Districts of the State, 21 Commanders and 45 Zonal Heads including BRT (1 & 2) as well as the Free Trade Zone.

According to a release by Adebayo Taofiq Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department, Oreagba stated that all working ethics of the Authority, including all its operations, are being regulated by the Lagos State Transport Sector Reform Law of 2018 as reviewed.

The General Manager confirmed that the Government is currently adopting modern technology innovations in addressing transportation challenges by installing Automatic Number Plates Recognition (ANPR) Camera which captures images of vehicle license



Mr. Hindolo Shiaka Director, Sierraleonian Ministry of Transportation & Aviation (right) being presented a plaque by Mr. Bolaji Oreagba LASTMA GM

plates on roads, CCTV Cameras, and also equipping traffic officers with the newly introduced hand-held Traffic Management Solution (TMS) Device which captures real time traffic violations on the roads, in addition to signalised intersection and junction improvement.

He added that the Lagos State Government also established Mobile Court to adjudicate on traffic related matters since the Agency cannot be a judge in its case against offenders.

Oreagba averred that some of the traffic offences refer to the Lagos Mobile Court by the Agency include obstructions, driving against traffic 'one-way', illegal parking, illegal U-turn, dropping/picking

passengers at undesignated bus-stops, disobeying traffic lights/officials, reckless driving and illegal parking on walkways/kerbs among others.

He stressed that the Agency collaborates with the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) by sanitising the brt corridors from motoring public in order to pave way for smooth movement of commuters from one designation to another across the State.

During his address, the Director, Ministry of Transportation and Aviation of Sierra Leone and leader of the team, Mr. Hindolo Shiaka thanked Mr. Bolaji Oreagba for the detailed presentation of the Agency's operational guidelines and legal

framework in line with dictates of effective traffic management and control.

Mr. Shiaka equally appreciated the Lagos State Government for the establishment of the Lagos State Mobile Courts which ensure fair hearing and Justice to motorists.

According to him "We came here from our County (Sierra Leone) to understudy the operational guidelines including Legal framework of LASTMA inline with traffic management and control in order to improve/upgrade our transportation system"

Shiaka however, promised to strengthen the cordial relationship between LASTMA and the Sierra Leone Ministry of Transportation and Aviation.

## Accident: Lagos Taskforce Set To Clear Rail Track Traders

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

In an avowed move to ensure safety, trench sanity and orderliness, the Lagos State Taskforce said that it is set to clear all railway tracks across the state of traders to ensure their safety and that of other passengers along the tracks.

The move, according to the Agency becomes imperative due to the presence of recalcitrant traders who constantly display their wares at the detriment of their safety in spite repeatedly warnings.

Chairman of the agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye made the disclosure at the Headquarters in Bolade, Oshodi where he stated that it was high time the Taskforce took proactive steps in forestalling any avoidable accidents along the railway corridors that could lead to loss of lives and property.

A statement on Monday by Jejeloye, decried the nonchalant manner in which street traders and road side sellers flagrantly display their goods along the railway corridors thereby risking their lives and that of the passengers on trains who are greatly affected in the event of a derailment as a result of the obstacles placed on the tracks by these traders.

"Its high time we put a stop to these selfish actions by roadside sellers who display their goods right on the rail tracks. It is dangerous, unsafe and unnecessary due to the fact that some of these obstacles obstruct the

smooth movement of trains along those corridors and could ultimately lead to derailment. We frown at it completely and we will put at end to it in the coming days"

The chairman further sounded a note of warning to those who are in the habit of carrying out acts that could lead to accidents across the rail tracks to be weary of their actions as it could lead to arrest and prosecution. He made mention of the train accident experienced a few weeks ago in the State and vowed to do all it takes to prevent any further occurrences of such in the future.

"Accidents don't just happen, they are caused by one or two errors that could have been avoided. The rail accident that occurred around PWD was avoidable but unfortunately, it led to loss of lives. This is the reason we have taken it upon ourselves to ensure that such does not repeat itself. We will prosecute anyone without any legitimate business on the rail tracks henceforth"

Jejeloye urged Lagosians to send in their tips and information that could aid the activities of the Agency in ensuring that sanity is maintained across board. He urged them to make use of social media channels or visit the Headquarters of the Agency with their vital information that could help stamp out irregularities in the State and maintain the safe, serene and habitable ambience which the State is known for.



Lagos Taskforce Chairman CSP Jejeloye leading his men in an operation

# NSA: Why President-elect Must Assert His Independence, Appoint The Best Man

By: Dr SALISU MAJIGIRI

Recent ongoing debates and discussions around the personality of who should occupy the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) have gained so much prominence in the media as Nigeria inches towards another democratic transition in a couple of days from now.

At no time have Nigerians become so interested in the person who will occupy the office than now perhaps due to the intensity of the insecurity crisis that has engulfed Nigeria as a country even with a retired general as its president.

Before the very eyes of Muhammadu Buhari whose major campaign promise was to nip insurgency and other pockets of security concerns in the bud, Nigeria became a killing field as citizens are on daily basis butchered by rampaging criminal elements.

While the president seemingly became inept and lethargic to the human carnage which became the sore point of his administration, the security architecture which is supposed to be superintended by the NSA became clueless about what to do in finding a lasting solution to the scourge.

With such apparent lack of capacity on the part of the government to contain the army of social miscreants that wreak havoc on innocent lives, over 90,000 Nigerians according to reports were killed by these merciless purveyors of death in the last eight years of Buhari's administration.

No serious and responsible government will like a repeat of such carnage during its reign which may fast-track Nigeria's descent into a failed state. And for the sake of emphasis, if any Nigerian has a solution to the raging insecurity debacle that has engulfed Nigeria, that person is our incoming president, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, considering how he responded to the social insecurity challenge in Lagos State when he served as governor.

In the past, the incoming president has demonstrated courage and capacity to resolve very complex human problems especially when he led Lagos state. And Nigeria is lucky for the first time to elect an independent minded politician who has invested years of preparation to

lead one of the most complex countries in the world. For these reasons and many others, we have absolute faith, confidence and belief that Tinubu will not fail Nigerians.

Although the president is at the discretion to appoint whoever he believes can help him resolve the security quagmire, it will not be out of place for patriotic Nigerians to help him make an informed choice considering the desperate times we are in, which call for desperate and better approach to confront the hydra-headed monster.

The most important consideration the president must put at the back of his mind is that it is his responsibility to ensure that lives and properties of Nigerians are protected. The president won't have any excuse if he failed to discharge this very important responsibility.

Before settling on the person of his choice, the president must consider a number of factors including, experience of his candidate, his personality, network of friends across Nigeria, his grasp of Nigeria's intelligence sphere, his understanding of the operations of international security network and diplomacy and to a greater extent, the religious, ethnic and the regional identity of the candidate.

The latter suggestion of religious, ethnic and regional identity of the candidate may look queer from its face value, but in the estimation of this writer, those requirements are as critical as the others because of the peculiar times we are in which really need peculiar



approach.

This is particularly important so that the incoming president will reassure other Nigerians that they matter in the all important task of nation building considering the fact that Christians already felt shortchanged on account of the Muslim/Muslim ticket on whose back the president rode to power. It is pertinent to point out that president Muhammadu Buhari lost considerable goodwill on account of his failure to reflect the Nigerian character in the appointment of top security personnel even when such consideration became necessary in view of the activities of some of his notorious Fulani kinsmen who became the enablers of social insecurity in the land.

That error of judgement by Buhari in appointing men from his region and largely ethnic stock has fuelled the thinking in the minds of other Nigerians that the president deliberately appointed his Fulani kinsmen to take over Nigeria forcefully from other nationalities.

The failure of the administration to tame the marauding Fulani herders who make Nigeria almost ungovernable and engaged in a wild killing and kidnapping spree made

Nigerians to believe that the Fulani resolve to 'conquer' Nigeria enjoyed the support and backing of the presidency.

In order to start on a clean slate and to avoid the mistakes of the past, our incoming president should as a matter of importance appoint Christian or Hausa man as his NSA as they are the worst victims of this Fulani carnage but certainly not a person of Fulani ethnic nationality for Nigerians to have confidence in the security architecture. In the vein, the president should also appoint considerable number of Christians and southerners into important security positions.

And again for the sake of emphasis, he should appoint a goal getter, and a no nonsense retired Army general from the array of retired military men on ground or a former Head of DSS with proven integrity and well entrenched track record of service. He should appoint a name whose mere mention will evoke fear in the hearts of the insurgents and other miscreants that have been fomenting trouble in Nigeria. And more importantly, the incoming president should give him all the support to succeed in the complex task of ridding Nigeria of the menace of the notorious

Fulani herders and all agents of destabilization.

He should appoint a man who sits down comfortably well and is highly respected in Nigeria's security establishment. Such requirement is very critical because it has the tendency to stop unnecessary bickering, conflict of interest and even sabotage that may ensue on account of the appointment of a greenhorn.

It should also interest the incoming president to know that even in America, the citadel of world democracy, strict considerations are given in the appointment of NSA to match the continuous need for the country to remain on top of the security value chain. That is why majority of those who occupy the office of NSA are men and women who excelled in the military.

The president at this critical time in our democratic journey does not have the luxury of making mistake in this critical national assignment because Nigeria's survival should be his utmost consideration. Therefore, the president should spare no effort in achieving that cardinal objective.

I come in peace.

Majigiri writes from Abuja.

# The 9th NASS Scorecard Of Diminishing Liberty

By: JEROME-MARIO CHIJOKE  
UTOMI

To every society where the media is free, the marketplace of ideas is allowed to sort the unaccountable from the responsible and reward the latter. Likewise, the Ahmed Lawan led 9th Nigeria National Assembly four years reign which is coming to a close few days from now, has come under intense public scrutiny.

Briefly, Nigerians are particularly not happy that the 9th NASS have in the past four years demonstrated no curiosity to finding any new legislation that might produce a deeper understanding of the problems and policies that the Federal Government is supposed to wrestle with on behalf of the country.

However, even as this season of surprise occasioned by the below average performance of the 9th National Assembly festers, I must state that as an individual, the report of NASS slanted performance did not in any way come as a surprise because their actions and inactions from the very beginning, portrayed a 'bunch' that were in the office not to render selfless service to Nigerians. The first event that raised the suspicion and did so well to reveal that the present Assembly may not be allergic to controversy or scandal was the out-of-the-ordinary political interplays, and considerable uncertainties that lasted for weeks created by new and returning members of the 9th Assembly angling for principal positions in both the senate and House of Representatives.

What however, made the situation a very curious one, was that an exercise like election of principal officers which constitutionally supposed to be an internal affair within the Assembly, suddenly against all known logic got characterized by national intrigue with the ruling party, The All Progressive Congress (APC) taking time to underline the advantages, and otherwise of having a particular lawmaker in a particular position.

Without any lesson learnt, the exposed systematized personal interest in the 9th Assembly was amplified by the controversy that characterized the lawmaker's first official assignment—the screening of the ministerial nominees that was silent on portfolios forwarded to the house by President Muhammadu Buhari.

Aside from the non attachment of portfolios rendering the senators clueless in generating relevant strategic questions for the nominees, what really caused concern among Nigerians with critical interest was the senator's adoption of the doctrine of 'take a bow and go' for the majority of the nominees that were once senators. Without minding whether they (ex-senators) are familiar with the magnitude and urgency of our problem as a nation or laced with the requisite knowledge that the ministerial positions demand to help the nation come out of its present predicament. Before the apprehension raised by the Lawan led senate not allowing Nigerians know what the Ex- Senators on the list have done in the past, currently doing, or will do when they become ministers, could settle, that of the planned purchase of the

controversial SUV's cars was up.

Similarly, as Nigerians were still waiting for the commencement of governance, the leadership of the National Assembly before embarking on its eight-week recess, which ended on September 24, 2019, begun moves to procure operational vehicles for the lawmakers that make up its dual legislative chambers. Essentially, while there was no question that high-offices such as the National Assembly need operational vehicle to facilitate their responsibilities, the stunning aspect of this episode going by reports is with the estimated current price of the chosen vehicle now N50 million. And the Senate needed about N5.550 billion to get enough quantity for its members. What is in one considerably different is the question; how can a nation spend over N5 billion on such project in a country with slow economic but high population growth? Where excruciating poverty and starvation daily drives more people into the ranks of beggars? And where so many children are presently out of school?

As if Nigerians were never tired of receiving frightening packages from the 9th Assembly, at about the same time the world leaders were standing up with sets of values that encourage listening and responding constructively to views expressed by citizens, giving others the benefits of the doubt, providing support and recognizing the interests and achievements of its citizens, the Senate came out with two Bills that critical minds and of course the global community qualified as obnoxious—the Internet Falsehood and Manipulations Bill, and the hate speech bill. At the most basic level, while the Internet Falsehood and Manipulations Bill, 2019, sponsored by Senator Mohammed Sani Musa, (APC Niger East), among other provisions, seeks to curtail the spread of fake information. And seeks a three-year jail term for anyone involved in what it calls the abuse of social media or an option of fine of N150, 000 or both. It also proposed a fine of N10 million for media houses involved in peddling falsehood or misleading the public.

The hate speech bill on its part, proposed that any person found guilty of any form of hate speech that results in the death of another person shall die by hanging upon conviction.

This is in addition to its call for the establishment of an 'Independent National Commission for Hate Speeches', which shall enforce hate speech laws across the country. The above defect is by no means unique to the Senate. In fact, if what is happening in the Senate is considered by Nigerians as a challenge, that of the House of Representative is a crisis.

Take as an illustration, a glance at the



history of attempts seeking regulation of non-profitable organizations (NPOs) in Nigeria will reveal that no bill has ever received the level of knocks like the 9th Assembly planned but now suspended re-introduction of the NGO Bill formerly sponsored by late Honourable Umar Buba Jibril of the out-gone 8th Assembly.

The reasons for such knocks were built on the fact that if passed, it contains far-reaching, restrictive provisions than its counterparts.

But one point they (House) failed to remember is that Non-Profitable Organizations are not just another platform for disseminating the truth or falsehood, information, foodstuff and other relief materials that can be controlled at will. Rather, it is a platform for pursuing the truth, and the decentralized creation and distribution of ideas; in the same way, that government is a decentralized body for the promotion and protection of the people's life chances. It is a platform, in other words, for development that the government must partner with instead of vilification.

Looking at commentary, what also made the Bill a very controversial one lies in its quest for a regulatory commission established which shall facilitate and coordinate the work of all national and international civil society organisations and will assist in checking any likelihood of any civil society organisation being illegally sponsored against the interest of Nigeria. Weeks after the suspension of the Bill due to public outcry, the House in a related move declined the opportunity to promote local content— an expression that is daily preached within the government circle without compliance.

As the House refused to patronize the locally assembled vehicles by Innoson Group, said to have been recommended for them; and in its place, opted for the 2020 edition of Toyota Camry which will not only double the price of the initially recommended, but, will cost a whopping N5 billion to purchase 400 of the Toyota Camry model needed by the House.

Essentially, aside from the rejection of Innoson brand of SUV's initially recommended for members, and in its place, went for 2020 edition of Toyota

Camry, that will gulp about N5 billion of tax payers money, what, however, made the development newsy is that the house going by report has before now been at the forefront promoting the local content laws in the country. Of course, one strategic implication of the above is that it explains why what is today said at the floor of the national assembly hardly matters that much more to the people.

In the same vein, the House few weeks after, through Honourable Odebunmi Olusegun, of Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere federal constituency (APC, Oyo), pushed for the passage of a bill tagged; "Bill for an Act to Alter Section 308 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), which provides that: "no civil or criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the President, Vice President, Governors and Deputy Governors during their period of office." And have same provision extended to accommodate/cover Presiding Officers of Legislative offices during their period of office."

The most serious and surprising failure of checks and balances in the last four years is the approval by the present ninth NASS mountain of foreign loans for the present Federal Government without recourse to its harsh impact on both Nigeria and Nigerians.

Finally, even as this piece holds the opinion that the incoming 10th NASS must work very hard to avoid the above pits, one important lesson we must not fail to remember as a nation, is that when leaders are not held accountable for serious mistakes, they and their successors are more likely to repeat the mistakes.

Thus, as Nigerians bid members of the 9th NASS farewell and success in their future endeavours, this piece in the interim, holds the opinion that they left behind a scorecard of how democracy and liberty of Nigerians were diminished!

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# Seyi Tinubu, A Catch 22 Of Unbalanced Reportage

By: ALIYAHAYA

Catch-22 is a satirical novel written by John Yossarian, a bombardier in the U.S. Army Air Forces. The novel is known for introducing the term "Catch-22," which has since become a common phrase in the English language.

In the book, a Catch-22 is a paradoxical situation in which an individual is unable to escape a particular set of circumstances. The term "Catch-22" is often used to describe situations where an individual is trapped by contradictory rules.

Seyi Tinubu, the son Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has become a catch 22 for some media house in recent years. On one hand, his family name gives him a certain level of notoriety and attention, which is a valuable asset for media outlets looking to generate clicks and views to feast on. On the other hand, this same notoriety is also a double-edged sword, as Seyi Tinubu has found himself the target of negative press and baseless accusations simply because of his last name.

For those who may not be aware, Seyi Tinubu is a successful businessman and entrepreneur in his own right. Despite his success, however, Seyi Tinubu has been the subject of numerous articles, blog posts, and social media rumors that seek to discredit him based solely on his family ties.

One reason for this is the fact that Seyi Tinubu's father is a dominating figure in Nigerian politics, who is the only politician in Nigeria that can boast of building several people from every tribe and region of this country irrespective of religion or tribe. This has made his family a target for media scrutiny and public criticism, even when he is not directly involved in public office running.

Another reason why Seyi Tinubu has become a catch 22 for the media is the rise of social media influencers and bloggers. In recent years, there has been a proliferation of "influencer culture" in Nigeria, with many young people seeking fame and fortune through social media platforms like Instagram and Twitter. Some of these influencers have taken to using Seyi Tinubu's name in their posts and articles in order to generate



Seyi Tinubu

clicks and views.

Unfortunately, this has led to a situation where Seyi Tinubu's name is often associated with negative rumours and baseless accusations. For example, there have been rumours that he is involved in money laundering and other illegal activities, simply because of his family ties. These rumours have been debunked time and time again, but they continue to circulate on social media and in some media outlets.

The truth is that, Seyi Tinubu's only "crime" is being the son of Bola Ahmed Tinubu. He has worked hard to build a successful business and has made a name for himself in his own right. Yet, he continues to be the target of baseless accusations

and negative press simply because of his last name. This is a catch 22 for the media, as they can generate clicks and views by writing about Seyi Tinubu, but they also risk damaging their own reputations by perpetuating false rumors and accusations.

Seyi Tinubu's situation is a cautionary tale for the media and for social media influencers. While it may be tempting to use his name to generate attention and relevancy, it is important to remember that he is a real person with a real reputation. Baseless accusations and rumours can have real-world consequences, and it is important to verify information before publishing. Ultimately, the media has a responsibility to report the truth

and the truth should not always be a version that must always tickle their fancy, even if it is not the most sensational or attention-grabbing story. They should learn to say it the way it is, Anything short of the truth will amount to the story of the snake and the firefly that goes like these:

The snake began to chase a firefly that only lived to shine. The firefly stopped and said to the snake:  
 "Can I ask you three questions?"  
 The snake said, "Yes."  
 -Do I belong to your food chain?  
 The snake said, "No."  
 Did I do anything to you?  
 The snake said, "No."  
 Then why do you wanna devour me?

"The snake replied, "Cause I can't stand to see you shine."".

Moral of the story.

Often, some people can't stand to see Seyi Tinubu shine, and that's why they act like snakes, silent and ready to destroy him through bad reportage.

Most times, the literature on Seyi Tinubu by bad press men creates unnecessary tension in frail minds who do not understand tactical blackmail in disguise. This act is used to arm twist others into aggravated annoyance and hatred for Seyi Tinubu. God bless Seyi Tinubu my dogged leader.

Ali Yahaya writes from Kaduna. He can be reached via; 08036979262 or 08090880891



# Unveiling The New NGF Chairman: AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq Of Kwara State

By; RAFIU AJAKAYE

**A**bdulRahman AbdulRazaq, Governor of Kwara State and new chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), looks many ways like the iconic US President Harry Truman: strategic, humble, foresighted and exceptionally deeper than his critics may admit, and not flippant or garrulous by any stretch. He is a man of consensus who believes in the unity of Nigeria and its people.

AbdulRazaq has maintained a fairly low media profile that many say is at variance with his vast network of friends and protégés within the elite circle of Nigeria, a huge popularity among Kwarans at home and in diaspora anchored on the successes of his first term across many sectors, and his pedigree as the scion of one of Nigeria's earliest and most decorated lawyers of all time: the late AGF Abdulrazaq, SAN, life bencher, and first lawyer in northern Nigeria.

His phenomenal listening skills, sense of history, willingness to emulate great strides from anywhere and anyone, and in-depth appreciation of the core issues of governance make him a man to watch as he leads his colleagues. His greatest strength is his calculated silence and measured speech in time of tension.

Opinions among politically neutral Kwarans are that his success at the poll matched his performance over the last four years. The outstanding performance of his party at the polls is one of the best by any APC state — a triumph that proved wrong many bookmakers who had predicted that the pre-election struggles within the state APC was going to consume him. Reverse was the case: three in every five Kwarans who voted APC did so because of him.

AbdulRazaq comes to the job with impressive records as a Governor. He has breathed life to the state's basic education, which had collapsed when he assumed office in 2019. He revived public water. The state's healthcare system has improved under his watch, with Kwara posting some of the best indices in the sector while acknowledging the huge gaps that still exist. Last week, Kwara emerged the best state in primary healthcare delivery in the entire North Central, beating Abuja to the crown.



Gov AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq

He has not only appointed the highest number of women to cabinet positions but has also gone ahead to make gender parity a state policy. He was the first Governor to make such a policy in Nigeria. His love for youth inclusion in government is anchored on his data-driven position that Africa has the youngest population in the world, and it is a disservice to not have them at the decision table. His background as a big private sector player has helped to chart a new course for small-scale businesses in Kwara State while building a new political culture around self-reliance and responsible leadership.

If he holds an opinion on an issue, it is mostly guided by history, a need for moderation, and a patriotic duty to preserve the interest of the underserved or the silent majority.

Asiwaju Bola Tinubu is positioned to resolve many national questions — a duty especially thrust upon him by his antecedents as a federalist,

resource control activist, and a pragmatic political figure who must now unite the fractured country. He will need the Governors who are themselves political leaders of their various states to push through such agenda for national acceptance as States wield many powers based on our constitution. He will be working with an NGF whose leadership is an ally who belongs to his party and actively worked for Tinubu's emergence and shares his views and passion on many issues of national development.

The President-elect can count on AbdulRazaq, himself a smooth political operator, to mobilise his colleagues for a national consensus to tackle myriad of issues, including the challenges of youth bulge and unemployment, expansion of the middle class, herders-farmers' conundrum and food security, climate change and renewable energy, gender parity, among others.

The Governor is well-versed in

the SDGs, which is expected to get better attention and funding under the Tinubu presidency if Nigeria wants to make appreciable progress in human capital development by 2030. He is rated very high in rural development as a Governor, with several road and other developmental projects in the Kwara hinterlands and improved social mobility across different demographics. That is a major reason for his smooth re-election in the last election.

AbdulRazaq has come under the radar since words got out that his peers were increasingly looking towards him for the NGF seat. He understands the burden of leadership and history this places on him as far as his native Kwara is concerned. If history is a guide, the Governor has a record of attracting development to the state: the \$59m AfDB agroprocessing zone, one of the few so far approved for the country, the UBEC smart school, the recently approved \$7m diagnostic centre to be sited in

Kwara, and the multibillion naira 284-kilometre tax credit road projects approved for BUA in Kwara, among others.

The NGF, an amalgam of equals, has been established for the purpose of rallying resources and political stakeholders for national development, good governance, and effective peer learning among the Governors and related bodies within and outside of Nigeria. It recorded successes, including sustained partnerships with development partners in the areas of healthcare delivery and smoothing relationships between the national and subnational governments.

AbdulRazaq's leadership of the club is certain to up the ante, given his record of achievements in the healthcare and education sectors, and gender mainstreaming — three thematic areas where he had credited his optimism and feats on collaboration with the development partners.

Ajakaye is Chief Press Secretary to the Governor

# Many Things We Don't Know or May Never Know

By Owei Lakemfa

**T**HE United States of America (US) this Monday placed visa restrictions on some Nigerians who allegedly undermined the February and March 2023 general elections. The US in a statement by its Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, said it took the decision as part of its commitment to supporting and advancing democracy in Nigeria and around the world.

“Also, the American decision is supposed to serve as a warning to other people who may want to short-circuit the democratic process; but how can these ends be served when there are no names released and the process is likely to be secret? Yes, the Americans may want to avoid stigmatising people, but if it has verifiable facts, why not?”

The restrictions, he said, affect those “believed to be responsible for, or complicit in, undermining democracy. These individuals have been involved in intimidation of voters through threats and physical violence, the manipulation of vote results, and other activity that undermines Nigeria's democratic process”.

A number of issues arise from this decision. When the US claimed that those affected were involved in “the manipulation of vote results”, how did it know when the election petition tribunals and courts are still sitting and have not reached or given verdicts in any of the cases? Did the Americans constitute their own secret courts and found the said persons guilty? Were those the Americans want to ban, taken to any court? Were they given any hearing; whether fair or not before being found guilty?

Is the ban a result of a conclusive American investigation? If results were manipulated as the Americans claim, then they must have the true results. If they do, why have they not published it? Can the Americans usurp the powers of the Independent National Electoral

Commission (INEC) which is empowered to conduct and announce election results? Do they have the powers to sit over election petitions and deliver judgement?

If the American conclusion is based on its opinion, can it oblige us how it came to such conclusion? Was it its security agents that compiled the 'authentic' results, reported back to the American government on which basis such opinion was formed? Can justice be served based on opinions or perceptions rather than verifiable facts? Will those affected be told the reason why their visa application is rejected? If not, how do they seek a review, including applying for a judicial reappraisal to determine if the restriction is lawful, rational or legal?

I am not saying the US, or any country for that matter, does not have a right to give or deny visa. If anything, every sovereign state, except on humanitarian grounds, has the right to stop any non-citizen stepping foot on its territory if it thinks the presence of such a person can be injurious to its interests. However, such action should be based on verifiable facts not assumptions or opinions which may end up punishing the innocent.

“We may never know whether the American visa restriction is a reality or a farce; whatever it is, the US has to be careful not to strut the universe as the self-appointed policeman of democracy.”

Also, the American decision is supposed to serve as a warning to other people who may want to short-circuit the democratic process; but how can these ends be served when there are no names released and the process is likely to be secret? Yes, the Americans may want to avoid stigmatising people, but if it has verifiable facts, why not?

In past elections in Nigeria such as the 2019 ones, there were claims in the media that particular persons were under



visa ban by the US which turned out to be untrue.

We may never know whether the American visa restriction is a reality or a farce; whatever it is, the US has to be careful not to strut the universe as the self-appointed policeman of democracy.

Yet a second matter we may never know is why the Generals in Sudan are at war. A war which, by May 16, had claimed over 1,000 lives, with 4,500 injured.

It is virtually impossible to have a country where the armed forces and the militia seem equally matched on the battle field without foreign assistance. My conclusion is that both sides in the Sudanese war have foreign backers.

The reports that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) sent 40,000 of its members as Saudi Arabia mercenaries to fight in the Yemeni civil war, has not been denied. Also not refuted is the European Union's conscious but indirect funding of the RSF. It is estimated that the EU paid between 200-600 million Euro to the Sudanese government to detain and prevent migrants from reaching Europe. The Sudanese leader, Hassan al-Bashir, outsourced this job to the RSF and paid it using the EU funds. Far back in 2017, the 'Enough Project' wrote a report warning that

with such payments, the EU was strengthening the RSF militia which was notorious for massacres and crimes against humanity in the Darfur region. It is this militia, known as the Janjaweed, that was re-branded as the RSF.

Both the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF were under the joint command of President al-Bashir. They accepted his leadership. But when the civil populace in 2019 rose and were on the verge of removing him, both the SAF and the RSF conspired to overthrow al-Bashir and subvert the mass revolution. In doing so, both forces might not have realised that they were snapping the rope that bonded them. At first, they remained united in their plans to subvert the popular revolt. In the interim government, SAF's General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan was Head of State and RSF's General Mohamed Hamdan 'Hemetti' Dagalo, was Deputy. While the former was meeting foreign leaders and sourcing for funds, the latter remained in Sudan massacring the Sudanese masses who insisted that both forces hand over power to the civil populace and subject themselves to civil control. Both forces again conspired in 2021 to remove the interim civilian administration. However, after

a transition programme was sketched out in 2022, the SAF and RSF were required to merge. The question of who leads between the two Generals cropped up. This blew into open combat on April 17.

It is not known if all there is to the conflict is who leads, or the fact that both forces control the resources of the country with the RSF being in charge of the minerals. There is also the ethnic issue, with al-Burhan being Arab and Hemetti from the Mahariya Rizengat herders tribe in Darfur. There is also the issue of al-Burhan supporting the Russians building a military base in the area and the West rejecting it. We may never know the real reasons for the fall-out but what is clear is that both the SAF and RSF are a danger to Sudan and Africa.

Any defeated side will spill into other African countries, bringing trained men and arms. This was what happened in Libya and countries like Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria were saturated with defeated fighters who turned into ethnic militia and bandits. It is better for Africa to bring these rogue forces together and let them hand over power to the pro-democracy forces in Sudan, than allow one army to take out the other.

# The remodeled Uyo Township Stadium



## Gombe Names 11-man C'ttee On First Inter-Primary School Athletics Meet

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe Athletics Association (GAA) plans to hold Inter-Primary Schools Athletics Championship in the state as highly experienced 11-man Organising Committee members made up of sportsmen and women technocrats, coaches and media have been shortlisted.

Chairman of the committee is Mallam Musa Garba, Vice-chairman, Mallam Babawuro Mohammed.

Other members include, Mallam Mohammed Dawaki, Mallam Ibrahim Abubakar, Malam Sadiq Abubakar Ali, Mallam Kawu Mohammed, Mallam Sani Nuhu Abdullahi, media officer is Mallam Inuwa Mohammed, Prince Simon Ayuba

Technical director, Mallam Ishaku Zanna and Mallam Haryana Isah secretary.

The committee will be inaugurated by the Chairman Gombe State Athletics Association Hon. Ahmed Shuaibu Gara Gombe on May 30, 2023.

Over 36 Inter-Primary Schools are expected to be part of the athletics championships.

The GAA boss has passion for the grassroots athletics sports and would want to build future Gombe athletes from the grassroots through the inter-Primary Schools Championship.

With the inauguration of the 11-man committee, it's expected that the job of rebuilding Gombe State Athletics would have commenced on a healthy fresh note.





## Win World Cup, Become Landowners, Wammako Promises Flying Eagles

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Each member of the Nigeria squad to this year's FIFA U-20 World Cup finals in Argentina will become owner of a five-metre square plot of land, if the team emerges champions of the ongoing tournament in South America.

A stakeholder of Nigeria football, Alhaji Aliyu Oroje Wammako made this pledge in Mendoza, Argentina on Tuesday, on the eve of the team's crucial second game against Italy. Wammako, who is the President of Real Estate Developers Association of Nigeria, made this known on Tuesday afternoon when he visited the team's camp at Hyatt Park Hotel in Mendoza. He further charged the players to be

focused ahead of the game against Italy and implored them to play as a unit.

"I urge you to keep focus in this tournament and I pledge to give five-metre square plot of land in the Federal Capital, Abuja to each and every player if the team emerges as winners of the FIFA U20 World Cup. In the absence of triumph, I will still support the team with an amount of money that will go round everyone including the officials.

"Nigerians are hoping and praying for you and we all believe you can do it." Also speaking, NFF General Secretary, Dr. Sanusi Mohammed who spoke on behalf of leader of delegation, Sharif Rabi'u Inuwa praised the Flying Eagles come-back win against the Dominican Republic on Sunday.

## Gusau Inaugurates NFF Appeals Committee, Urges Diligence, Fairness

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

President of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau on Tuesday, inaugurated the NFF Appeals Committee with charges to the chairman and members to discharge their duties and obligations diligently and truthfully, and to ensure fairness and justice for all. "The Appeals Committee is the last line of fairness and justice in our football, and justice must not only be done but must always be seen to be done. This is

a very serious assignment and we have absolute trust and confidence in your ability and capacity to ensure that justice and fairness prevail whenever you are approached for adjudication.

"Your committee should be ready to dispense justice promptly and as appropriate in cases within and among stakeholders of the game. It is important to discharge your duties promptly and fairly without fear or favour, after examining all facts brought before you."

In his response, Chairman

of the Committee, Barrister Gandi Umar Mohammed (mni), assured that his panel is ready to give its very best in ensuring that justice is done in all cases brought before it.

"I want to assure the NFF President, Board and Management, and indeed the Football fraternity, that we are committed, dedicated and willing to serve purposefully, truthfully, fairly and justly in order to attain the goals and objectives of this administration in its desire to ensure real growth of

the Nigeria game.

"I have seen my members and I am assured of responsiveness and total commitment to the task at hand towards the development of Nigeria Football."

Also at the inauguration were Barrister Martin Usen Effiong (Vice Chairman); Barrister Bweino Dauda (Member); Barrister Bukar Muazu (Member); Barrister Bemva Akortsaha (Member) and Joshua Onoja Esq. (Secretary).



There were also Rt. Hon. Margaret Icheen (Member, NFF Executive Committee); Dr. Emmanuel Ikpeme (NFF Deputy General Secretary); Barrister Okey Obi (Ag. Director, Legal); Alhaji Abdulkarim Bako (Deputy Director, Finance & Admin); Dr. Robinson Okosun (Deputy Director, Technical); Mr. Abdulrafiu Yusuf (Assistant Director, Technical) and Mr. Mohammed Ameenu (Special Assistant to the General Secretary).

## WAFU B U-20 Women Tourney: Falconets Whip Togo 6-0 To Reach Semi Finals

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

On a day that Nigeria's U-20 boys whiplashed more fancied Italy 2-0 at the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Argentina, Nigeria's U-20 girls were also in the spirit, flogging Togo's U-20 girls 6-0 at the ongoing WAFU B U-20 Women's Tournament in Kumasi, Ghana.

Aminat Omowunmi Bello put Nigeria in front in the 11th minute, and only 60 seconds later, Flourish Sebastine made it two. On the half-hour, midfielder Esther Onyenezide got in on the act with a third goal that put daylight between the Falconets and their

Togolese counterparts.

Bello was again on song in the 59th minute, and two minutes later, Opeyemi Ajakaye, who netted a hat-trick in the 7-0 pounding of Niger Republic on Sunday, got her fourth goal of the tournament.

Not done yet, the FIFA World Cup quarter-finalists got a sixth in the 76th minute as Sebastine notched her brace.

The Falconets have a final group phase clash with Burkina Faso (8-0 winners over Niger Republic) on Sunday, but they are already assured of a place in the last four with maximum six points and 13 goals advantage.

# Go For Victory Against Brazil, Gusau Charges Superlative Flying Eagles

By: AYO OJEDOKUN,  
Lagos

A thrilled President of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau on Wednesday night, told Nigeria's U-20 boys, Flying Eagles to go for all three points against Brazil in their final group game at the FIFA U-20 World Cup to sustain their winning mentality.

The NFF supremo spoke minutes after the two-time World Cup silver medallists stunned Italy 2-0 in Mendoza to soar to the top of Group D at the ongoing global fiesta in Argentina, with a commanding performance that left the Italians and their thousands of supporters flustered and crest-fallen at the Estadio Malvinas Argentina.

Pre-game, the bookmakers had the encounter all in favour of the Italians, who overran Brazil with three goals in a rapturous first 45 minutes on Sunday, before the South Americans reduced the tally by two in the second period. Against the Flying Eagles, the pacy Italians could not find their rhythm and simply watched the Nigerians dominate several sectors of the pitch, with two well-taken second half goals by Salim Fago Lawal and Jude Sunday no more than the African flagbearers deserved on the night.

"I want you to celebrate but to quickly put this behind you and focus on the game against Brazil. Nigerians are proud of what you have achieved in qualifying for the knockout stages after only two matches. But we must sustain the winning mentality, so we have to go for victory against the Brazilians on Saturday. "Once the winning

mentality is sustained, we can go all the way."

From the very first minute, the Flying Eagles left no one in doubt that they were on the pitch for business, with Salim Fago Lawal turning and shooting inside the box, but the goalkeeper had it covered. Italy's Tommaso Baldanzi, who dazzled against Brazil, saw his shot fly over goalkeeper Chijioko Aniagboso's sticks in the 4th minute, and another one went far away six minutes later. Daniel Daga tried his luck at the other end, but the Italians rocked the Nigeria crossbar in the 20th minute after a flowing move orchestrated by Baldanzi. Daniel Bameyi and Fago Lawal got behind the Italian defence but the first half ended scoreless.

On resumption, Italy broke forward but Abel Ogwuche, excellent at the heart of defence, botched their efforts, and Bameyi would again rattle goalkeeper Sebastiano Desplanches in the 48th minute. In the 62nd minute, a resilient Tochukwu Nnadi fought his way through the opposition defence and a fall to spin a good cross that Fago Lawal headed beautifully into the net for Nigeria's first goal.

Italy came close in the 84th minute with a flowing team move, but substitute Daniele Montevago could not make it count. At the other end, Jude Sunday latched onto a long thrust that bounced beautifully for him and scored Nigeria's second with a well-taken shot, well into added time.

Victory means the Flying Eagles have qualified for the Round of 16 at the FIFA U-20 World Cup, ahead of their clash with Brazil in La Plata on Saturday afternoon.

## Aiyegbeni Boys Talk Tough Ahead Of Lagos "Battle of the Ages"

By: AYO OJEDOKUN,  
Lagos

Top boxer from the Ibadan based E. Francis Aiyegbeni Boxing Gym, Habeeb Oladeji aka IGE who will be facing Toheeb Hassan aka Full tank has vowed to destroy his opponent in the first two rounds.

The professional boxing show tagged: 'Battle of the Ages' is scheduled for Sunday May 28, 2023, inside Indoor Sports Hall of National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos.

The National Super Bantam Weight belt holder who has fought six career fights with four Wins, one

Lose and one Draw is not leaving any stone unturned in his preparation for the epic bout.

Another hot boxer from the Aiyegbeni gym that will also be locking horns with a Lagos based opponent is Idowu Rasheed, aka Buster in the Super Middle Weight category.

The heavy-puncher who has won all his four professional boxing career fights on knockout is ranked number 7th best in Nigerian boxing cader.

Speaking with newsmen via telephone in Ibadan, the coordinator of the E. Francis Boxing Gym who

is also a daughter of the late Nigerian foremost boxing promoter Chief Francis Aiyegbeni, Edna Bola Aiyegbeni has also attested to better preparation plans for her boys.

"I must tell you these boys are in good frame of minds for these bouts from the positive feedback am getting from my brother that is managing them, Hamilton Nicholas Oladayo, and Coach Sunday Adebayo Oketunde popularly



known as Sunny Bruce", England based woman promoter who was formerly the vice Chairman of NBB of C Oyo State.



## Oladele Wins Ilorin Golf Club Captain's Inaugural Tourney

By: AYO OJEDOKUN,  
Lagos

The lush green course of Ilorin Golf Club over the weekend, hosted more than 200 professionals and amateur golfers across the country that took part in the Club's Captain Inaugural Golf Tournament organized to celebrate Alhaji Luqman Yahaya.

Samson Oladele of Ilorin Golf Club, playing handicap eight who returned with 65 nett emerged winner of the

tournament while M. Malik also of Ilorin Golf Club and Sunny Agaga of the Tiger Golf Club ended up as the first and second runners-up respectively.

The respective winner and runner-up in the ladies category was Oladipo T. and A. Madungwo, both of Ilorin Golf Club, while Mary Okunola of Tiger Golf Club came third, all carting home mouth watering prizes during the closing ceremony of the medals that was done inside the palatial hall of the Ilorin

Golf Club.

The new Captain, Alhaji Luqman Yahaya in his speech appreciated the visiting captains of various golf clubs and all golfers that travelled down from far and near to celebrate with him, as he promised the members of Ilorin Golf Club a new dawn and best service delivery.

Golfers in their reactions while speaking with newsmen after the tournament praised the new Captain for the well-planned event and the beautiful hospitality

offered by the members of Ilorin Golf Club. They described the club golf course, music and served dishes as one of the best in recent times.

"Alhaji Yahaya with his exposure and experience in the game of golf will surely take Ilorin Golf Club to the zenith in the golfing circle in the country as we can all attest to that with what was witnessed during this inaugural golf event", said one of the participants.

# New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

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## Insecurity: Another 3 Police Officers Killed In Ebonyi

**\*2 hoodlums shot dead, Lexus car, AK 47 rifles, amunition recovered**  
**\*charms, juju drums, charka musical instrument for shrine also recovered**

**By ; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki**  
 Following the rising spate of attacks on security agencies in different parts of Ebonyi State recently, another three police officers who were on stop and search duty were attacked and shot dead on Wednesday May 24, 2023 at Oshiri Divisional police station. According to a statement issued by the command's Public Relations Officer, S P O n o m e Onovewakpoyeya, the hoodlums launched the attack at about 08:30hrs against the operatives of the Police Division at Oshiri where three officers lost their lives while two of the hoodlums were also killed by the police tactical squad who were drafted to go after the hoodlums. Today being 24/05/2023 at about 08:30hrs, operatives of the command on stop and

search duty at Oshiri Division were attacked by armed Hoodlums. Sadly, three Policemen lost their lives, one was injured and is currently receiving treatment at the hospital. Tactical teams were immediately drafted to the area to go after the Hoodlums. Consequently, two of the hoodlums were neutralized and others escaped with bullet wounds. "Some of the items recovered from them are: one Lexus car ES350 Model, one fabricated AK



47 rifle, one AK 47 magazine with seven rounds of ammunition, one SMG rifle, one SMG magazine with 8 rounds of ammunition, a pack of hard drugs (SK), charms, juju drums and charka musical instrument for shrine. Recall that last Sunday night, 2 police officers were also gundown at

Union bank junction while on stop and search duty. The Commissioner Of Police, Ebonyi State Police Command, CP Faleye S. Olayele, appeals to members of the Public to report anyone with bullet wounds or suspicious character in order to apprehend those at large.

## May 29: Sardaunan Kagarko Rallies Support For Uba Sani

**By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**  
 Tracing the trajectory of antecendence of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kaduna state, Senator Uba Sani through political history, a community leader, Alhaji Abdullahi Ahmed Tibbo Sardaunan Kagarko has tasked the people of Kaduna State to unanimously and resoundingly double their support and prayers for the government of Malam Uba Sani for unity, progress and mutual harmony to prevail when he is sworn-in on May 29. In a strong worded statement, he praised



Malam Uba Sani for his doggedness and strength of character, which made him to survive the difficult terrain of politics that made him to be the Governor-elect.

"That Senator Uba Sani is not only a politician, but a strong activist of international repute who stands by the oppressed, is a glaring fact," he said. Sardaunan Kagarko

finally, said that the good people of Kaduna State are eager and waiting to see and enjoy the leadership qualities of Malam Uba Sani respectively.

## Go For Victory Against Brazil, Gusau Charges Superlative Flying Eagles

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## May 29: Ebonyi South Welcomes Umahi Back Home

**\*Bags Chieftaincy title "Dikediohanma"**

**By ; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki**  
 People of Ebonyi South Senatorial Zone in Ebonyi State, comprising Ivo, Afikpo, Edda, Onicha and Ohaozara local government areas have staged a civic reception in honour of Governor David Nweze Umahi following the imminent completion of his tenure as governor. The civic reception was held at the Osborn La Palm Event Centre, Uburu, Wednesday. Speaking at the event, the Chairman of the Occasion, Senator Sonni Ogbuaji applauded Governor Umahi for his superlative performance as Governor which has birthed a new Ebonyi State in line with the dreams of the founding fathers. "Your Excellency, it is not a fluke that you went, you saw and you conquered, we wish you well in the Senate." He observed that the good legacies of the Governor have earned people of the Zone high regard among contemporaries in the state and beyond. An Elder Statesman, Chief

Mike Okoro assured that people of the Zone would continue to remain grateful to Governor Umahi for his giant infrastructural accomplishments. Responding, Governor David Nweze Umahi thanked the organizers of the event for the honour done him and prayed God to bless them. He assured that he was going to Abuja as Senator to consolidate on his achievements as governor. Engineer Umahi pledged that he would work hard at the red Chambers of the National Assembly to improve the fortunes of people of the zone, state and Ndigbo. Traditional Rulers from the Zone conferred the Chieftaincy title of "Dikediohanma" on Governor Umahi and Nnediohanma on his wife. Governor Umahi had on arrival in Uburu, commissioned the Uburu Regional Market, the Umunaga Town hall, Nweke Agugwu market as well as Senior Police Officers' quarters at the Uburu Industrial Cluster constructed by his administration.