

# New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 3 No. 137

Monday 24 April 2023

Shawwal 4, 1444

**Three Vandals  
Arraigned  
For Stealing  
N2.1m  
Cables  
In Kebbi**

**Story on Page 9**

**Atiku's Aide Dares  
Keyamo To Publish  
Asset Declaration  
Forms Over Alleged  
House Acquisition**

**Page 5**



**Collapsed Structure:  
NEMA Warns That Police  
Barracks Housing 168  
Occupants, Weak**

**Page 4**

*\*Insists it needs integrity test to avoid further disaster*

*\*Says no life lost, no injury, nobody trapped*

## Obi Slams Desperate Politicians For Sowing Seeds Of Discord Among Nigerians

### Visits Muslim faithful in Onitsha

By; PAMELA EBOH,  
Awka

The Presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP), Mr. Peter Obi has blamed those he described as desperate politicians of using politics to sow seeds of discord among Nigerians. He said he believes in the oneness of Nigeria as an entity irrespective of tribe and religion. Obi added, "I have never discriminated against anyone on basis of religion, and I will never do that."

Addressing Muslim

faithful in Onitsha, Anambra State as they marked the Sallah holiday yesterday, the LP presidential candidate said, "Nigerians are one, but once politics comes on stream, some desperate politicians who want to reap from where they did not sow, would try to divide the citizens along tribal and religious lines. "I'm here today to celebrate with you on this year's occasion. Nigeria is one country. I'm one Nigerian who believes in Nigeria and also that we are one, irrespective of tribe and religion."

Continued on Page 22

**Story on Page 4**

**Cerebospinal  
Meningitis Claims  
118 Lives In  
Nigeria - NCDC**



The two suspected kidnappers Intercepted In Ebonyi yesterday.

**War: Nigeria Set To Bring Back 4,000  
Stranded Citizens From Sudan**

**Story on Page 4**

## Eid-el-Fitr: Continue Acts Of Goodwill, el-Rufai Tells Muslims

By ; F U N M I  
ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai of Kaduna State on Friday, congratulated the Muslim ummah on the festival of Eid-el-Fitr and for the successful completion of fasting in the month of Ramadan. He appealed for the

continued observance of the acts of goodwill, generosity and patience which were exhibited during Ramadan, in daily lives.

This was contained in a statement made available to newsmen by the Special Adviser to the Governor (Media & Communication) Muyiwa

Adekeye April 21, 2023 in Kaduna.

The governor further commended the focus on faith and spiritual rejuvenation during the holy month of Ramadan, praised the resilience of citizens and prayed for the blessings of Allah (SWT) on the people of this state and the country at large.

The statement said, governor also appealed to all communities in Kaduna State to uphold peace and harmony, despite the security challenges in many communities. He urged all residents to practise vigilance and be law-abiding.



Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai and other dignitaries at the prayer ground on Friday.

## Eid-el-Fitr: Governor Inuwa Enjoins Muslims To Imbibe Lessons Of Ramadan; Sustain Momentum Of Devotion, Prayers

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As Muslims in Gombe State join their counterparts the world over to celebrate this year's Eid-el-Fitr marking the successful end of Ramadan fast, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has enjoined the Ummah in the state to sustain the momentum of supplication, devotion and prayers for the peace, development and prosperity of the State and Nigeria as a whole.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Thursday April 20, 2023, the Governor made the call in his Sallah goodwill message.

Governor Inuwa, who described Eid-el-Fitr as a period of sober reflection, charged the Muslim faithful to replicate in their daily lives, the lessons learnt in the holy month of Ramadan.

He said, "As we celebrate the Eid-el-Fitr festival, I wish to admonish us to learn from the good lessons of Ramadan which connotes piety, obedience, and selflessness. We must all imbibe the tenets of Islam which promotes peace, tolerance, modesty and love".

Governor Inuwa tasked citizens not to lose sight in the face of current socio-economic challenges in the country but to remain resolute and prayerful, saying with faith, the nation's trying moments will be over and Nigeria will emerge

stronger and more united.

He urged the people to continue to cherish the relative peace and harmony enjoyed in the state, calling on the clerics and traditional rulers to continue to preach the gospel of unity and tolerance among the diverse people for peace and growth of Gombe State and the country at large, describing peace as a catalyst for socio-economic development of any society.

Governor Inuwa, however emphasized that his administration would not condone any act that is capable of undermining the prevailing peace and would remain focused on delivering the dividends of democracy to the people of the State.

He called for special prayers for leaders at all levels. "At this critical time that power will soon change hands in our country, it is my appeal that we all indulge in prayers for a peaceful transition and in particular for the incoming leaders at various positions for God to grant them wisdom and guide them in discharging their leadership responsibilities".

"Let me express my immense gratitude to our traditional rulers, community and religious leaders and indeed the entire people of Gombe State for their support to our administration. I urge us all to



Gov Inuwa Yahaya

rededicate ourselves and contribute positively to the progress and development of our dear State. I wish to assure you that our administration is committed to ensuring speedy and sustainable development of the Gombe State in its entire ramification. Eid Mubarak!"

## Sallah: Reps Member Samaila Suleiman Felicitates Constituents, Preaches Loyalty, Faith, Love For Country

By ;  
IBRAHIM  
ADAMU,  
Kaduna

As Muslims mark this year's Eid-el-fitr, Member House of Reps, Hon. Samaila Suleiman has congratulated Kaduna North Federal Constituents,

praying for hitch-free celebrations.

The federal legislator in a statement, urged people of Kaduna North and Muslims in particular to allow their bodies and souls align with lessons learnt during the holy Month of Ramadan and expend the spiritual energies gained in selfless service to people and country.

He admonished adherents of Islamic faith to be loyal, faithful and honest to the cause of making Nigeria a prosperous nation.

He expressed conviction in the ability of Nigerians to take the country to a higher level through obedience to the injunction of their Creator. "No substitute to absolute obedience and undiluted sincerity to God in worship and our interactions with one another if We are determined and ready to move this country forward.

"We must see the providence of finding ourselves in a religiously diverse entity as the unique plan of God for us to live together and share a common destiny.

"We must see religion as a tool for spreading love, care and generosity to others in the face of overwhelming economic hardship caused by this present administration.

"I wish us a memorable, joyous and seamless celebrations that we will live to remember with nostalgia despite the obvious economic hardship faced by most families across the country.

"I pray We live to experience many fruitful years in happiness and better economic



Samaila Suleiman

condition," he said.

Kano Governor-elect Felicitates Muslims On Successful Ramadan Fasting, Eid-el-Fitr

\*Cautions against reckless driving, unguarded Sallah celebrations for safety of residents

Kano State Governor-elect, His Excellency, Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf has felicitated Muslim Ummah and people of Kano on the successful completion of Ramadan fasting.

According to a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, dated Friday April 21, 2023, he said Ramadan has come to an end with the sighting of the crescent for Shawwal, lessons of compassion, generosity, discipline, patriotism and peaceful co-existence it taught should be sustained by the citizens for a better society we all crave.

In the statement the Kano State Governor-elect wished Ummah Eidil-Fitr Mubarak and admonished good people of Kano to pray for Allah's guidance for the leadership at all levels especially as the new government takes over on 29 May, 2023.

Engr. Abba said better days are ahead of Kano people as the incoming government under his watch will create enabling policy environment for everyone to live in peace and harmony.

He urged citizens to remain patriotic, peace-loving while praying for tranquility and prosperity of Kano and Nigeria at large.

H.E. Abba Kabir Yusuf also cautioned against reckless driving and other unguarded sallah celebrations with a view to ensure safety of all Kano

## Eid-el-Fitr: NUT President Greet Muslims

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As Muslims in Nigeria join their counterparts across the world to commemorate this year's Eid-el-fitr symbolizing the end of the holy month of Ramadan, the national president of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), Comrade Audu Titus Amba has congratulated Muslims across the country for the spiritual sacrifices, prayers and supplications for the good of mankind and societal peace and development.

Comrade Audu Titus Amba in a Sallah message made available to journalists, urged Muslim faithful in Nigeria to use the lessons learnt during the holy month of Ramadan for spiritual rejuvenation and peaceful transition of power in the country.

He admonished Muslims to rededicate themselves and be resolute towards serving God Almighty and humanity.

Comrade Audu Titus Amba also enjoined Muslim faithful to continue to love one another and live in peace



Comrade Audu Titus

with other religions faithful, as exemplified by prophet Muhammad (peace be unto him). The NUT national president who is also the Deputy national president of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), further enjoined Nigerians to bury their differences and close ranks towards supporting government at all levels in their quest to provide a peaceful and virile society for socioeconomic and political prosperity.

## Jema'a/Sanga Reps Elect Tasks Muslims To Pray For Unity Of Nigeria

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The member-elect, Jema'a/Sanga Federal Constituency, Daniel Amos has tasked the Muslim Ummah to use the lessons learnt during the Holy Month of Ramadan in praying for the unity of the country.

In a Sallah goodwill message he personally signed and made available to newsmen in Kafanchan, Dan Amos congratulated the entire Muslim community for witnessing this year's celebration.

He called on them to use the celebration to pray for the current and incoming leaders in the country, so that they will be fair and equitable in the discharge of their duties.

The member-elect also urged the Muslim Ummah



Daniel Amos

to continue to pray for those facing turmoil and calamity the world over and to ensure they reach out to those in need.

## Stop Cursing Leaders, Pray For Them, Hon Peller Urges Nigerians

### \*Congratulates Muslims on Eid-el-Fitr

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Ayedero of Yorubaland and the lawmaker representing Iseyin/Itesiwaju/Kajola/Iwajowa Federal Constituency, Honourable Shina Peller on Friday, urged Nigerians to desist from cursing their leaders.

Honourable Peller stated this while congratulating Muslim brothers and sisters on the occasion of Eid-el-fitr celebration to mark the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

The lawmaker who disclosed that doing so will have direct or indirect impact on the governed, also enjoined all to embrace love, peace and unity in the best interest of the country.

According to Honourable Peller, "Peaceful coexistence, irrespective of our religious, ethnic or political differences, should be our watchword if truly we want a Nigeria of our dream to be a reality. There can never be progress where there is no peace".

Emphasizing that there can never be progress where there is no peace, the Ayedero of Yorubaland said there is the need for

Muslims to intensify their good deeds as devotedly carried out during Ramadan period.

"As we witness another occasion of Eid-el-Fitr, I extend my best wishes and greetings to fellow Muslim brothers and sisters both at home and in the diaspora. Indeed, the last one month has been a soul-purifying one for some of us", he said.

Honourable Peller added "Days and nights, we devoted our mind, time, energy and resources to praying, seeking God's forgiveness, embracing and promoting good deeds in different ways".

"While in Saudi Arabia for lesser hajj, I prayed fervently for Nigeria; for peace to reign in our land and for our country to progress beyond our imagination".

Hon Peller pointed out that the last one month has been a soul-purifying one for many who engaged God days and nights praying, seeking forgiveness, embracing and promoting goodness in different ways.

The lawmaker recalled that while he was in Saudi Arabia for lesser hajj, he seized the opportunity to pray for peace to reign in

Nigeria, and for the country to progress impressively, saying, "Individuals who are displeased with the outcome of the just concluded general election to seek redress in court peacefully instead of challenging it through violence" Stressing that it is God that gives power to whoever he so desires and that what will be, will be, the lawmaker said, "However, now that Ramadan is over, we must make all our supplications to Allah during the Holy Month count by not withdrawing from our good deeds, but improving on them, where necessary."

"Also, as Muslims, we shouldn't forget that it is God that gives power to whom he so wishes. Some of us may not be pleased with the outcome of the just concluded general election. However, we shouldn't take law into our hands through violence; rather we should challenge it in a peaceful manner legitimately in



Shina Peller

court. And whatever happens in the end, we should accept it as God's will and move on. After all, what will be, will be.

"Moreover, we must restrict the temptation of cursing our leaders as doing so will have direct or indirect impacts on us, the governed. Rather, we should pray for God to purify their heart and guide them aright.

"Importantly, as we

## Obi Slams Desperate Politicians For Sowing Seeds Of Discord Among Nigerians

"The only thing that brings division among us is politics. Once it's time for election, some politicians engage in divisive campaign, but it should not be so. One of my businesses is run by a Northerner from Kano, and the business is doing well.

"You all are my brothers, and I am your brother. Today is not for politics but for celebration. I came after election because if I came during politics, people would have said it is because I am running to be president.

"No one has supported the Muslim community in Anambra like myself. This mosque was demolished at some point, but when I became governor I rebuilt it the way it is today. We see you as part of us, and I want to assure you that no one can stop you from living here and carrying out your businesses.

"I live here in Onitsha, and if there is any need to contact me, always do so. If you need me in the area of healthcare and education, feel free to call on me, because those are areas

I'm very passionate about."

Earlier in his speech, the Chief Imam of Onitsha Central Mosque, Alhaji Abdulraman Imam said that Obi remains the only governor in the state, who visits members of the Muslim community at every celebration to felicitate with them.

He said, "This mosque was rebuilt by you when it was demolished years back. You visited us in Army barracks when we had problem then. All the years you were governor, you always visited us during celebrations like this, so you are not new to us.

"For the eight years you were governor, you sponsored a lot of our members to Mecca. You did all these, even though you are a Christian. That is why we say we are with you, even as a Christian."

Also, the secretary and spokesperson of the Hausa community in Onitsha, Barr Mahmud Imam while conveying the declaration of the community to Obi, said that it has decided to

support Obi and would continue to pray that he triumphs and leads Nigeria, noting that his capacity to lead is not in doubt.

"We know what you are capable of, you did it here while you were governor.

"We (Hausa community) are the highest registered voters in Odoakpu Ward Four here and we voted for you, and we have no regrets about that.

"We saw you during campaigns, visiting interior parts of the North, places that presidential candidates that are of Northern extraction feared to go to. We are happy that you represented very well, and you vindicated us, through the messages we always sent back to our people that you were the best for the position."

Obi donated bags of rice, cartons of noodles and packs of soft drinks to them and prayed Allah to accept their fasting and sacrifices and grant them good life.

# Cerebrospinal Meningitis Claims 118 Lives In Nigeria - NCDC

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has said that Cerebrospinal Meningitis (CSM) has claimed 118 lives in 21 states between last year and April 2 in the country.

A report from NCDC explained that 22 states that reported suspected Cerebrospinal Meningitis cases in 2022/2023 are Kogi, Nasarawa, Niger, Oyo, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe, Abia, Adamawa, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Borno, Ebonyi, Gombe, Imo, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi and Zamfara. The report explained that Jigawa with (1,064 cases), Yobe (234 cases), Zamfara (36 cases), Bauchi (23 cases) and Adamawa (21 cases) have 93 per cent of all the cumulative cases in the five states.

According to the report, 14 local government areas

across four states of Jigawa (8), Yobe (4), Bauchi (1) and Zamfara (1) – reported more than 10 cases of Cerebrospinal Meningitis each during the 2022/2023 CSM seasons.

The report also explained that males were 57 per cent while females were 43 per cent of the cases.

Jigawa State, according to the report had been in an outbreak since Epi week 40 (2022), with 11 out of 22 local government areas affected.

The NCDC stated that Yobe State is being supported to generate surveillance/laboratory data/evidence to make a request for vaccines in a suspected outbreak.

The report explained that the national multi-sectoral Cerebrospinal Meningitis Technical Working Group (TWG) continued to monitor response across states with a view to curbing the spread of Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

# Atiku's Aide Dares Keyamo To Publish Asset Declaration Forms Over Alleged House Acquisition

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Special Assistant on Public Communication to Atiku Abubakar, Mr. Phrank Shaibu has called on the National Assembly to publish a report of its investigation on the N52bn Special Works Programme implemented by the Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Mr. Festus Keyamo.

Shaibu said this in a statement, while reacting to Keyamo's acquisition of a house in the United States at the cost of over \$300,000. Recall that in 2021, the Federal Government had in a bid to ameliorate the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, approved the sum of N52bn for the hiring of 774,000 Nigerians across all the local government areas in the country for three months.

The 774,000 Nigerians were hired to take on menial jobs such as clearing of drainages, sweeping of markets, cutting grass and other community services.

Keyamo had specifically orchestrated the sacking of the Director-General of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Nasiru Argungu, insisting that he was in charge of the N52bn project which the National Assembly noted was a flop.

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives had stated that many of the beneficiaries of the funds did not get anything, while others who got did not do any job. They, therefore, questioned Keyamo's running of the programme and promised to launch an investigation into the matter.

Reacting to Keyamo's claim that he owns several houses in the US, Shaibu said: "The National Assembly had described the special works programme as a sham and also questioned how the funds were spent. Keyamo had, for the last two years, defended the shambolic implementation of the programme.

"With his open confession that he has acquired houses in the US, I hereby call on the National Assembly to publish its report on the failed project. I also call on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to immediately probe the finances of Festus Keyamo, who only became a senior advocate two years before becoming a minister.

"It is public record that Keyamo was an activist and a prosecutor for the EFCC, doing mostly pro bono cases before taking public office. However, he now boasts of being a real estate mogul after becoming a minister. This is laughable and an insult to the sensibilities of Nigerians.

"In any case, Keyamo's time as minister of state for labour and employment witnessed the highest level of unemployment, which KPMG says is about to hit 40%. Under Keyamo, universities also witnessed prolonged strikes, as ASUU proceeded on 10 months strike in 2020 and eight months industrial action in 2021. Keyamo clearly failed as a minister but grew wealthier in the process through his so-called real estate business. He thus needs to be investigated with immediate effect."

Keyamo had said that by letters dated March 6, 2019, before he was

appointed a Minister, he wrote to the relevant government agencies, informing them of the closure of his foreign accounts and the repatriation of his funds to the country since Nigerian law does not allow public officials to operate foreign bank accounts.

He further stated, "My assets declaration is there for all to see. Some of us don't need government funds or patronage to get by. Whatever we do and whoever we support is out of our deep convictions."

Reacting, however, Shaibu dared Keyamo to publish his asset declaration form as submitted to the Code of Conduct Bureau in 2019.

He said since Keyamo had boasted many times about being an EFCC prosecutor and an anti-corruption champion, he ought to be bold enough to make his asset declaration forms public to prove that he was telling the truth.

Shaibu said, "Keyamo has one month left on his tenure as minister, which means he will need to declare his assets before the CCB next month. Let him make public his asset declaration forms, before and after office, to prove to Nigerians that he did not steal.

"The truth about Keyamo is that he is a hypocrite, a rabble-rouser who pretends to be on the side of the masses but is only after his stomach. He started as a disciple of the great Gani Fawehinmi but has since strayed from Gani's ideals by serving as Spokesman for a man who was an anathema to Gani and who Gani had accused of forgery and fraud - Bola Tinubu."

# Collapsed Structure: NEMA Warns That Police Barrack Housing 168 Occupants, Weak

\*Insists it needs integrity test to avoid further disaster

\*Says no life lost, no injury, nobody trapped

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Southwest Zonal Director of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr Akide Akande yesterday, alerted that the entire building in the Sango Police Barracks in Ibadan with about 168 occupants are obviously weak.

Mr. Akande who raised the alarm while speaking on the incident of a collapsed building at the Police Barracks on Saturday hinted that the entire building stretch in the Barracks shows obvious weakness and might need to be subjected to integrity test to avoid further disaster.

He declared that in the collapsed building at the Sango Police barracks, no life was loss, no

one sustained any injury and that nobody was trapped in the collapsed building.

The NEMA Zonal Director pointed out that about four generating set were still trapped under the rubble of the collapsed Block 11 of the Police Barracks while the rescue team were able to recover three vehicles and two motorcycles which were completely damaged from under the rubble.

According to Mr Akande, the collapsed building, which is one of the oldest abandoned structures within the barracks had showed signs of collapse as it had cracked in many areas.

The NEMA Southwest Zonal Director stated that before the part of the building eventually went down on Saturday, all its

occupants have deserted the building thereby forestalling what would have been a disaster. Mr Akande maintained that the collapsed part of the building was only being used as a kitchen and not occupied as residential and that rescue effort was able to recover three vehicles and two motorcycles which were completely damaged from under the rubble.

He disclosed further that about four generating set were still trapped under the rubble of the collapsed Block 11 of the Police Barracks and that the Agency ensured that none of the about 168 occupants of the entire building passed the night in the Barracks due to the collapsed part.



The collapsed building

# Criminals Should Relocate Or Be Dislocated - **AIG Zone 2 Command**

In his characteristic, **Ari Ali Mohammed**, the newly deployed Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Zone 2 Command, doesn't have soft spot for criminal elements. This, he has proved everywhere he has served as a crime buster per excellence. In a chat with some selected newsmen on assumption of office at the Onikan, Lagos headquarters of the Zone, Mohammed bared his mind on his blueprint to pilot the affairs of the zone. **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE** was there for NEW NIGERIAN.

Except:

**W**hat is your impression when being deployed to Lagos?

Well, for me, coming back to Lagos is home coming and I must say I feel highly elated and very honoured to be here.

Have you taken into cognisance the responsibility lying ahead of you, particularly supervising the affair of two states?

Of course, I am a hard fighter without being told. So, for me, taking anything into cognisance is an understatement, I am fully prepared for the job.

What should residents expect in terms of border and riverine security?

They should expect reduction in crime perpetration. We want to see how we can bring crime relatively under control, at least to give Lagosians and of course, Ogun State residents that enabling environment, where people will do their businesses without fear of being attacked and secondly, to ensure that they go home from their various places of businesses and sleep well with their two eyes closed.

The issues of cultism and gangsterism appear to be major problems facing both states, what new plan do you have to tackle the menace?

The best approach to fight cultism is of course, through community policing and that tells you that we have to partner all the major actors and stakeholders. You can't do it alone.

Globally, it has been acknowledged that in crime fighting, there is no way the police alone can do it. You take into cognisance all the actors, you talk about the parents, you talk about the teachers, you talk about the religious bodies, you talk about the landlord associations and what have you. All the major stakeholders, for me, are paramount and key in this fight.

*With this determination to battle*



*crime to a stand still, do you envisage any challenge?*

For me, when you begin to see challenges as problems, you already have that sense of self defeatism, but when you see challenges as opportunities to excel, I am sure you will excel definitely. So I don't really see anything as a challenge to me.

**Is there going to be change in operational order or maintain what you will meet on ground?**

We will improve on whatever we are meeting on ground.

**What is your message to criminals?**

They should relocate and whosoever refuses to relocate, we will dislocate the person.

**When appointed as the AIG Zone 2, what was your mindset?**

Well, a lot of things have to come into play. First, you have to do your crime mapping to know where we have those notorious criminals that normally disturb businesses and of course residents, then you think about how to go into partnership with major actors and see how best you can nip such crime in the bud.

Indiscipline among personnel is another worrisome omen, how do you hope to tackle it?

You know in the Police, we have our own internal discipline mechanism, it's an organisation that is well organised, there is nobody that is above discipline and everything we talk about in the police revolves basically around discipline. All we need to do is to strengthen those areas where we feel our men are not doing well in terms of enforcement of discipline.

Once we are able to enforce discipline in all ramifications of the job, for me, you are home and dry and everybody will fall into place to what is right. But when you are lackadaisical and have lazy attitude to work, your body language is what the men are looking up to. If you are the type that sleeps and snores, you don't take things seriously the way they are, don't expect anything from the men.

## Eid-el-fitr: Ogun NNPP Guber Candidate, Ajadi Felicitates Muslims, Tasks Nigerians On Peaceful Conduct

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The gubernatorial candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in Ogun State, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Friday, congratulated Muslim Ummah on the completion of 2023 Ramadan fasting.

Ambassador Ajadi in the congratulatory message he personally signed to felicitate Muslims on the successful completion of fasting in the holy month of Ramadan, tasked Nigerians, especially Muslim faithful to remain committed to the peaceful coexistence with other religious faith in the society.

Describing the Ramadan season as a rare opportunity to commune with God, the NNPP governorship candidate said the Holy month signifies a period of purification, sacrifice and act of sincere worship.

"It is indeed a rare opportunity for all of us to witness the beginning and the very end of the Holy Month of Ramadan. The Holy month signifies a period of purification, sacrifice and act of sincere worship to our Almighty creator," he said. Ambassador Ajadi added, "These acts are expected to become our habitual act even beyond the Holy month. An expected end of all religious acts is in the true reflection of the positive impacts of it in our interactions with people even those from other faith. Let's rise to make our society a habitable one".

"Eid el-fitr festival connotes sacrifice, selflessness, love and obedience to the tenets of



Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo

Islam. I therefore enjoin us to draw enduring lessons from the Ramadan and show love to one another as well as promote harmony and peaceful coexistence among our diverse people". While urging the people of Ogun state, his supporters and Nigerians as whole to be cautious in celebration, the Managing Director of Bullion Go-Neat Global Limited cautioned the youths against being used as agents of destruction by desperate politicians.

"My ever energetic youths, your future is brighter than

you can ever imagine, don't use yourself as collateral and obnoxious ladder for desperate politicians to ascend to power. My belief has always been that if your interest is to creditably represent your people, then you have no reason to resort to violence using the children of the people you're seeking to serve.

"I equally want to use this golden opportunity of Eid el-fitr to call on my teeming supporters and people of Ogun state generally to be firm against any act that is capable of throwing our

settlements into turmoil. This is because the cost of preventing acrimony is lesser than the cost of maintaining peace when it is distorted".

Ambassador Ajadi stressed, "therefore, as we just concluded 2023 general elections and we are in Court to challenge the omission of our party's name on the ballot paper, bear in mind that we should not be involved in any act that can destabilise our nascent democracy and peaceful coexistence irrespective of religious, political party and ethnic affiliation."

## Opposition PDP Plotting Hon Soli's Speakership To Ridicule APC, Group Alleges

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Amidst uncertainty over the zoning of the speakership of the 10th Assembly, an All Progressives Congress (APC) Support Group has raised the alarm over alleged plot by the opposition to foist a Speaker on the next House of Representatives.

Alluding to outcomes of clandestine meetings being held in and outside the country, the group accused the opposition of plotting to not only destabilize the APC, but further embarrass the ruling party at the inauguration of the 10th Assembly.

Alh. Ali Kangiwa Dankira, a member of the Katsina State chapter of the APC Support Group, while speaking on the matter, alleged plans by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), headed by outgoing Governor of Sokoto State, Rt. Hon. Aminu Tambuwal to rally opposition House members - elect to support his ally and an APC Reps member - elect from Katsina State, Hon. Sada Soli, for the speakership of the 10th Assembly without recourse to zoning arrangements or input of the APC.

Dankira alleged plans to reenact the Saraki/Dogara National Assembly leadership scenario in 2015, where the ruling APC was embarrassed by party stalwarts in conjunction with opposition elements.

"Hon Sada Soli, member -

elect, Kaita, Jibia Federal Constituency, Katsina State was the Chief of Staff to Tambuwal from 2011 to 2015, just as they had been colleagues in same House from 2007 to 2011 as Reps then under the PDP.

"Hon Soli, some members and outgoing Governor Tambuwal have been holding meetings on how Soli would emerge as the 10th Assembly Speaker with direct implementation of the strategies that led to the Saraki/Dogara scenario in 2011, which Tambuwal helped in marshalling out.

"Our fear is that given the diversity in the composition of the 10th Assembly as regards members-elect, if there is no clear cut intervention by the party leadership and chieftains, the APC will be embarrassed by opposition elements working in cohort with some of our members. This will ultimately hamper the smooth running and success of the incoming Bola Tinubu administration," Alh. Dankira lamented.

He called on the APC National Working Committee, President Muhammadu Buhari, the President - elect and his vice, APC leaders and party stalwarts to immediately liaise with its members-elect to reach encompassing resolutions as to their stand on the current leadership position to avoid a repeat of the past, noting that a stitch in time saves nine.

## 2.2m Nigerian Children Not Vaccinated Annually - UNICEF

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has said that every year, no single dose of any vaccine is received by about 2.2 million Nigerian children. According to the report, the situation has made Nigeria the second highest country with the number of zero-dose children in the world.

The Chief of Health, UNICEF Nigeria, Eduardo Celades, on Thursday in Nigeria, explained at a

media briefing on the release of the state of the World's Children global report, that, "In the first eight weeks of delivery, 2.2 million children every year are not vaccinated at all in Nigeria."

According to him, vaccines are a very powerful tool in preventing childhood diseases as well as reducing child mortality, saying that it saves the lives of more than 4.4 million children every year.

He added that UNICEF in collaboration with the federal

government and other actors, was working towards addressing the zero-dose children in Nigeria in order to ensure more children are vaccinated every year to be able to overcome any disease.

He assured that they aim to catch up with one million missed children in the next 700 days, pointing out that 100 priority local government areas and 1, 200 wards with zero dose children have been identified in order to arrest the situation.



# GPFN, Others Sign World Peace Agreement In Delhi

**B**y; AMOS TAUNA,  
Kaduna

The Global Peace Foundation Nigeria (GPFN), has joined other world peacebuilders to sign Delhi Peace Agreement, India.

The delegates who came from around the globe, gathered to discuss innovative ways to foster peace.

The peace module was modeled on the One Family under God campaign, the Nigeria Global Peace Foundation affiliates office is doing to mitigate any identity based violence and make the world a peaceful place for everybody.

The Global Peace Leadership Conference Indo-Pacific 2023 (GPLC 2023) brought more than 1,000 students, ambassadors, and peacebuilders both virtually and in-person to the Le Meridien and Royal Plaza Hotels, New Delhi, India from April 11 to 13, 2023, with the theme for the conference was Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: "Vision for Advancing Human Consciousness and Peace".

The President, Global Peace Foundation, Mr. James P. Flynn, directed attention of the world towards the future and the necessary steps to be ready for it. He emphasized the need for bold and collaborative efforts that transcend artificial boundaries as man strives toward a future that lies beyond them.

The Country Director, Global Peace Foundation Nigeria, Rev. John Joseph Hayab, assured of his resilience and commitment in preaching peace in every nook and cranny of Nigeria by bringing to the knowledge of all that they are a family created by God and desired all to live in peace and harmony irrespective of any different.

Dr. Moon took a critical aspect that the Global Peace Foundation focused on the ongoing global turmoil, highlighted the failure of western principles towards ensuring peaceful coexistence and urged all stakeholders to fill the resulting moral vacuum with positive aspirations rooted in universal principles.

He emphasized the importance of peace and how it could be achieved in the face of conflicts and through freedom, as great



*Rev. John Joseph Hayab (second left) with other delegates in India*

leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and Nelson Mandela demonstrated.

Dr. Vikarant Tomar emphasized the importance of cherishing our similarities rather than fixating on our differences, leaving a lasting impact on all fortunate enough to attend.

The conference 2023 kicked off with a youth sustainathon: Leap Hub Challenge 2023 Inauguration where students at Manav Rachna University presented Innovative solutions to preserve the environment, mentors assisted the students as they identified problems and came up with solutions to present during the challenge.

The goal of the youth empowerment track was to improve youths' approach to solving problems, how to think from a global perspective, and become moral and innovative leaders to rethink, redefine, and transform.

It also involved transforming education for the future by

analysing new trends, ideas, and policies to prepare students to be successful in all aspects of their lives and contribute to overall peace in the world.

The Values - Based Peacebuilding Track examined effective models, best practices, practical tools, and how to apply peacebuilding to educational programs, youth leadership development, and community-based peacebuilding.

The environmental conservation seeks to promote environmental conservation through caring for the environment, improving the quality of life by not compromising future generations, and protecting greenery by combatting waste.

Dr. Markanday Rai, Chairman, of Global Peace Foundation India, said the Global Peace Foundation in advancing human consciousness and peace and by seeking to ensure youth involvement, build youth, build the nation towards having a peaceful environment.

The declaration includes nine specific action items such as developing youth through peace mentoring, encouraging service-led practices for all, assisting with poverty, environmental conservation, youth development, and other key principles as transforming education practices.

Dr. Binny Sareen led a transformative meditation session, provided guidance to help individuals discover inner peace amidst the chaos of everyday life, empowering the audience to derive happiness from the ordinary and build resilience during challenging times, and find illumination in the darkest moments.

Dr. Marsudi Syuhud, seeks to uphold the noble values of tradition in the modern world with the support of the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) and the passion of the youth, he reflected on the futility of conflict and emphasized the need to move beyond religious differences.

He shared his relationship with religion, expressing his aspiration for a truly secular world where diverse populations unite while Dr. Syuhud underscored the importance of effective communication and peaceful conflict resolution to pave the way for a better future for Indonesia and the world.

Dr. Vivkrant Tomar, noted the power of storytelling, from the mythical lands of gods to the captivating tales of man most significant leaders and painted a vivid and powerful picture of man history that centred on peace and the nature of the world was bone-chilling and thought-provoking, culminating in a call to action to promote the concept of an integration commission.

For Dr. Tomar, he emphasized the importance of cherishing man's similarities rather than fixating on the differences, leaving a lasting impact on all fortunate enough to attend.

# Encourage Local Manufacturers To Bridge Nigeria's Metering Gap, MEMMCOL Tasks FG

## *\*Trains 10 youths on Printed Circuit Board* *\*To Build Meter Laboratory Institute in Kwara State*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In order to boost electricity meter usage and encourage local content driven, the Momas Electricity Meters Manufacturing Company Ltd. (MEMMCOL), has called on the Federal Government to increase its support and encouragement to indigenous meter manufacturers, to bridge the nation's metering gap.

Mr Kola Balogun, Chairman, MEMMCOL, made the appeal at the graduation ceremony of 10 youth on a five-week Printed Circuit Board (PCB) training course in Lagos on Thursday.

Balogun said that encouraging and allowing consumers to acquire meters on their own would spring up more investment in metering industry.

The indigenous electricity meters manufacturer also called on the government to license meter manufacturers to bridge the metering gap.

According to him, the federal government must continue to encourage local companies sufficiently or allow consumers to be able to buy meters on their own.

"If they can buy meters on their own, we will be able to invest.

"This means we should be licensed and most of the enterprises that are sustainable today are licensed enterprise.

"License meter manufacturers, so that we will be able to reach more users," he said.

He also advised the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and development banks to seek ways of directly funding manufacturers, saying that it the surest path to reducing unemployment in the country.

Speaking on the training course, he said the PCB fabrication design had never been done in any of the higher institutions or skill acquisition centres in the country.

He pointed that the idea behind the training course was to reposition Nigerian youths for the global digital economy.

"We want to represent our youths, especially those in the science domain to be able to key into global Artificial Intelligence (AI) space.

Balogun said, "Nigerians are known to be users of computers and telephone, but we do not manufacture these things.

"We are using this platform to be able to train youths to design these digital technologies and the fundamental foundation of designing electronic device is the

PCD.

"The PCD is where you plug all your components to do the magic," he added.

According to him, each of the graduands is a macro business enterprise as a unit and has the capacity to design and fabricate for all the global digital industries across the globe.

"They are digital entrepreneurs and engineers and can now fabricate PCB and it is the heart of any electronic device.

"Our next agenda is to write to most of the universities to send in some of their representatives," Balogun emphasised.

He said that the company's efforts in empowering youths and women with skill acquisition, had attracted grant from the German government to establish a skill acquisition institution.

"The grant is for establishing institution for skill acquisition, which PCB will be part of the courses we are going to run.

"We have a database for all our students, to ensure that they comply with all the regulations in their curriculum.

"So, this will help them hold on to the discipline that is required to sustain what they have learnt.

"The setback we are having today is that most of the youths are losing their virtues and character that drives good knowledge.

"We are always preaching virtue, discipline and attitudinal change for us to be able to sustain the knowledge we are imparting on these youths," he said.

Also speaking, Dr Waheed Olagunju, Chairman, One Innovation Hub, said that Nigerians needed to be well educated, skillful and healthy to eradicate poverty in the country by 2030, pointing out that the training speaks to the skill acquisition aspect.

Olagunju said: "For any nation to be productive, it needs to be skillful and the skills being imparted will enable them navigate the world better.

"We are in a knowledge based economy and PCDs are the heart of electronics.

"If we are able to produce PCDs, we will be able to produce anything electronics.

"This would go a long way to helping us achieving our objective of being a smart city and a smart city will play a critical role in driving the Nigerian economy.

"This is to enable Nigeria play an active role in the international arena

that is being driven by the fourth industrial revolution."

He noted that skill acquisition is very important for Nigeria to achieve its development aspiration as a community and as a country.

One of the graduands, Mr Lawal Kolawole, commended MOMAS Group for the initiative, while also calling on other corporate bodies to emulate the initiative to digitalise the Nigerian economy.

Kolawole said: "We are thought effective basic components of PCB and the installation.

"We are exposed to so many applications and appliances to electrical installations and telecommunications systems solutions.

"We are going to impact positively on our community when we return to Offa in Kwara State especially based on what we have been taught here," he said.

The company has trained and graduated over 1,000 youths in various specialties of the power sector from 2018 to 2022.

It would be recalled that the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) said that the country's metering gap currently stands at over five million.

## War: Nigeria Set To Bring Back 4,000 Stranded Citizens From Sudan

By; IBRAHIMADAMU, Kaduna.

The Federal Government has concluded necessary arrangements to bring back stranded Nigerians from war-torn Sudan. According to a source, Nigerian Mission in Sudan has compiled about 4,000 names of stranded students and families willing to evacuate the crisis-ridden Sahara nation, adding that an aircraft to be used for the airlift was being sorted for.

Deadly confrontation ensued penultimate week between the Sudanese Army headed by Abdel Fattah alBurham and Mohammed Hamden Daglo,

Commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF)

The two warring factions have failed to respect a 72-hour truce brokered by international organizations as more than 400 people were said to have been killed in the war.

United Nations (UN) feared that the fighting would worsened the country's humanitarian crisis as more and more families are left without water and electricity in Khartoum and other affected cities.

Great chunk of the Arab nation's population had already fled into

neighboring Chad without an adequate arrangements for food and shelters.

Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa has over a million of her citizens living permanently in Sudan, though only an insignificant number are said to be caught in the midst of the infighting between the two generals.

Analysts feared that days ahead could be unpredictably disastrous with failure of the truce and either side unwilling to explore diplomatic option to end the battle.

United States, United Kingdom, France and Germany are among nations who are

already evacuating their diplomats and embassies' staff to avoid being caught unawares in the raging war.

Chairman, CEO of Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) Abike Dabiri-Erewa said she was already in contact with Nigerians and the nation's mission in Sudan for update on the situation of citizens trapped in the crisis, adding that the security challenge was the cause of delay to avoid endangering lives of citizens due to consistent bombing of wide areas by the Sudanese army.

She stated that everything humanly possible would be done to ensure a safe return of Nigerians from Sudan.

## Agriculture Suffering Serious Set Backs In Kaduna State - el-Rufa'i

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The agricultural sector in Kaduna State has suffered serious set backs because of the security challenges.

Governor Nasiru Ahmed el-Rufa'i admitted this at the traditional Hawan Bariki in continuation of Eid-fitr celebrations organized by Zazzau Emirate, at Zaria Polo Club on Saturday. Represented by the Deputy Governor, Hajiya Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, he said, the state government is supporting the armed forces to continue massively eliminating the criminal elements hiding in the forests.

The governor called on traditional rulers to make sure that adequate enlightenment campaign to their subjects is done on security challenges, to warn their children



on the dangers ahead. el-Rufa'i expressed appreciation to the state council of chiefs and emirs for the support and cooperation his government

that affect emirates in order to ease steps of installing an emir if the need arises. According to him, the main issue is to strengthen the emirates and to give them

recieved from the traditional institution particularly in ensuring the peaceful coexistence and the fight against insecurity. He said, his government has introduced policies and programmes

the recognition they deserve.

He appealed to the people of Kaduna State to give all the necessary support and cooperation to the governor elect, Senator Uba Sani for him to succeed.

In his remarks, the Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli said that Zazzau Emirate is happy with the roads constructed in Zaria and environs.

He said in the Zazzau Emirate, only Giwa Local Government is still suffering from insecurity.

He warned elected leaders not allow people to be their servants, instead, they should be servants of the people.

The emir congratulated Nigerians for the peaceful conduct of the 2023 general elections.



## APC Youths Sentinel Hails Kalu at 63

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A leading support group of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) Youths Sentinel has congratulated the Chief Whip of the Senate, Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu as he celebrates his 63rd birthday anniversary. In a statement released to newsmen in Abuja by the Southeast Coordinator of the group, Mr. Brown Agunnane, the group said Senator Kalu is a seasoned and tested leader whose birthday anniversary is worth celebrating despite

the death of his beloved wife.

He noted that the incoming 10th Senate needed the skills, charisma and impeccable character of Dr. Kalu to lead the third arm of government as Senate President.

The group urged the APC leadership and the President-elect, Bola Ahmed Tinubu to consider Senator Kalu for the Senate plumb job based on his commitment to APC and dedication to the Pan Nigerian project. "Happy birthday to our able leader," it concluded.



Senator Uzor Kalu

## NUYOSS ABU Chapter Holds IFTAR, Prayer Session

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The National Union of Yobe State Students, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria Chapter, has organized an IFTAR, prayer session for its members.

The programme was organized in line with the leadership's humanitarian motive to assist students with IFTAR meals.

In his remarks, the president Rt. Hon Usman Yusuf Dole reiterated that the iftar will go a long way in uniting the students and showcase the beauty of Islam.

The IFTAR was aimed at

feeding students freely for the sake of Allah and it was done successful.

Many important dignitaries from far and wide graced the occasion namely, SSA to Yobe State Governor on Students Matters, Comrade Abdulmuminu Liman, Mal. Umar Muhammad Danfulani, the CEO DF COLLECTION and Majikiran Bomo, ABU MSSN Ameer and other important personalities.

The president asked counterpart unions to borrow a leaf from NUYOSS ABU, stressing that there is no limit to any act of ibada.

## Seme Customs Nabs 2 Uniform Personnel, 2 Others With Illicit Drugs Worth N10m

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Four suspected drug traffickers have been apprehended by operatives of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) Seme Command with substance suspected to be cannabis sativa said to have worth N10 million.

Two out of the suspects were learnt to the personnel of one of security agencies in the country.

Our correspondent gathered that the suspects were intercepted along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor in a Ford bus marked, EPE 622YC at Gbatrome, Badagry by operatives while on patrol of the area. The substances were concealed in seven large sacks, containing 553 parcels of Cannabis Sativa, also known as Indian Hemp loaded in the bus.

The Seme Command Public Relations Officer Abdullahi Hussaini, who made the disclosure in a release, however failed to

reveal the identity of the uniform personnel arrested in connection with the narcotics.

Abdullahi stated that they have been handed over to the sister security agency for further necessary action.

He hinted that a preliminary investigation following the questioning of the suspects revealed that the Indian hemp was destined for Kaduna State. The release reads, " On the 21 April 2023 at about 0403 hours, officers of Seme Command of Nigeria Customs Service while on routine patrol along the Abidjan - Lagos Corridor intercepted a Ford Bus with registration number EPE 622 YC at Gbatrome, Badagry.

" Upon search of the bus, seven large sacks containing five hundred and fifty-three (553) parcels of Cannabis Sativa, also known as Indian Hemp, were discovered. Four male occupants of the vehicle comprising two civilians and two members of one

of the sister security agencies conveying the contraband items were arrested.

" The contraband narcotics valued at about Ten (10) million Naira and the means of conveyance were taken to the station at Seme and detained pending further investigations.

" Also taken to the station are the four male suspects who have volunteered statements.

" However, the two members of one of the sister security agencies were handed over to their agency for further necessary action. A preliminary investigation following the questioning of the suspects revealed that the Indian hemp was destined for Kaduna State.

" The Area Controller of the Command Comptroller Dera Nnadi, mni, has condemned this nefarious means of earning a living by some members of the society who have no consideration for the damaging effects of hard

drugs which contribute to crime in the country.

" He enjoined members of the society who traverse the Seme Corridor to take advantage of the trade facilitation effort of the Nigeria Customs Service and engage in a legitimate business.

" Meanwhile, the Customs Area Controller Seme Command and Chairman of the Seme-Krake Joint Border Post, Comptroller Dera Nnadi,

mni wishes all stakeholders and officers and men of Nigeria Customs Service and sister border agencies along the corridor to remain vigilant during the Sallah celebration as smugglers may wish to take advantage the public holidays to engage in their reprehensible acts.

" He also urged them to ensure that all facilities and critical government infrastructures in their Area of responsibility are protected during this period as always."



The Ford bus and the Illicit Drug

## Three Vandals Arraigned For Stealing N2.1m Cables In Kebbi

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The trio of Salmanu Muhammad, Sani Haruna and Kabiru Muhammad have been charged before Chief Magistrate Court 1, Birnin Kebbi for stealing aluminium conductor, property of Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company, worth over two million, one hundred and twenty

six thousand Naira.

The suspected vandals were apprehended by some community members at 'Yar Magajiya Village in Ribah Local Govt Area of Zuru Emirate with about 4800 metres of alluminium conductor and were later handed over to the Nigerian Police, Zuru Division.

The Divisional Police Office, Zuru later transferred the case to the State

Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Police Headquarters in Birnin Kebbi were further investigations established prima facie case against the suspects.

The suspects were remanded in correctional centre till 26/04/2023 for further hearing.

The two suspected kidnapers Intercepted In Ebonyi yesterday.

# Southern Kaduna Youths, Student Forum Gets New Leadership

*\*Harps on peace building, youth empowerment*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Southern Kaduna Youths and Students Forum (SKYSFOM) has elected new leaders to lead the body towards peace building and youth empowerment.

At the inauguration of the elected leaders in Zonkwa, Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, chairman of the electoral Committee, Mr Gideon Joseph who was represented by his secretary, Didam Amos David said the three presidential candidates, Mr Shedrack Danladi, Markus Emmanuel Kajit and maikano Jerry Mendous scored 40,18 and 17 votes respectively.

In his acceptance speech, the newly elected president of the forum, Mr. Shedrack Danladi promised to engage relevant stakeholders to improve learning conditions and the welfare of the students.

He also assured that he will do anything humanly possible to restore the image of the forum to make it a global and attractive body that will attract the needed attention from stakeholders in the region.

"We will visit all institutions across the nation and listen to the concerns of our students so that we can identify thier challenges and map out steps in solving them.

"Southern Kaduna is made up of bright students, so we will make sure we work with key stakeholders in the region, aimed at bringing out initiatives to reward bright and talented students," he assured.

Comrade Danladi also added that the forum will promote peace and secure the various communities in collaboration with security agencies, through continuous engagement.

"We will engage the students to be law abiding and also network by encouraging them to share positive information to security agencies in order to nip to the bud, all manners of challenges bedeviling the region and the state in general," he added.

On the issue of students welfarism, the elected president stressed that the forum will mitigate and engage constituted authorities, sons and daughters of the region on possible ways to make thier lives better.

"Expect an advocacy visit to key stakeholders in Southern Kaduna, where we will map out individuals and corporate bodies that have stakes in the region and ensure we conscientise ourselves on why we need to invest in the youth and students of the region," he added.

The president further called on students and youth of the region to be role models and decision makers geared towards solving their immediate problems for the betterment of the country at large.

Seventy five delegates voted for various elective positions in the Southern Kaduna Youths and Students Forum election, where Theophilus Ishaya emerged Secretary General.

The two contending secretaries, Mr. Theophilus Ishaya and Sabo Eli scored 64 and 11 votes respectively, while all other elective positions were unopposed.



# 20 African Returnees Benefit Business Training Workshop In Ghana

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Efforts at integrating repatriated African migrants have yielded fruits as no fewer than 20 returnees have been offered business training workshop in Accra, Ghana.

The 5-day non-residential coaching business training workshop was organised by the German Sparkassensitftung for International Co-operation (DSIK) with her Cooperation Partner Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI), held at the Ghanaian-European Centre for Migration and Development (GEC), Accra and Queen of Peace Credit Union Centre, (QOPCCU), Madina both in Greater Accra Region from 10th to 14th April, 2023 respectively. According to a report made available to Journalists International Forum For Migration (JIFORM) by Justice Baako Ntarmah of Migrant Labour Worker Salary Bulletin, the workshop was based on business skills and financial services support.

It explained that the training workshop is part of DSIIK 'Economic Inclusion for Returnees and Potential Migrants' for African Migrants

aimed to support them by gaining basic business skills and provide easier access to financial services and products to equip Returnees and Potential Migrants specifically from Germany and order countries with entrepreneurial skills.

The Participants were selected out DSIIK 40 Micro Business Training Trainees organised from 20th to 24th March, 2023 at Credit Union Training Centre (CUtraC), Kasoa in Ghana.

In his message to the Trainees on Day One, the Business Training Co-ordinator of DSIIK, Mr. Benjamin Tawiah Adomako urged Trainees to take this opportunity of Business Coaching Training Workshop Session seriously to ensure they have good and successful business plans for submission and considered financial services and products support.

Mr. Frank Aboagye, the Manager of Queen of Peace Credit Union did short presentation about financial product services CUA offers to individuals including Migration Business Loan Fund and urged the Trainees to join CUA.

Justice Baako Ntarmah, the General Secretary and Head of Education International Relations of the Migrant Labour General Workers Union

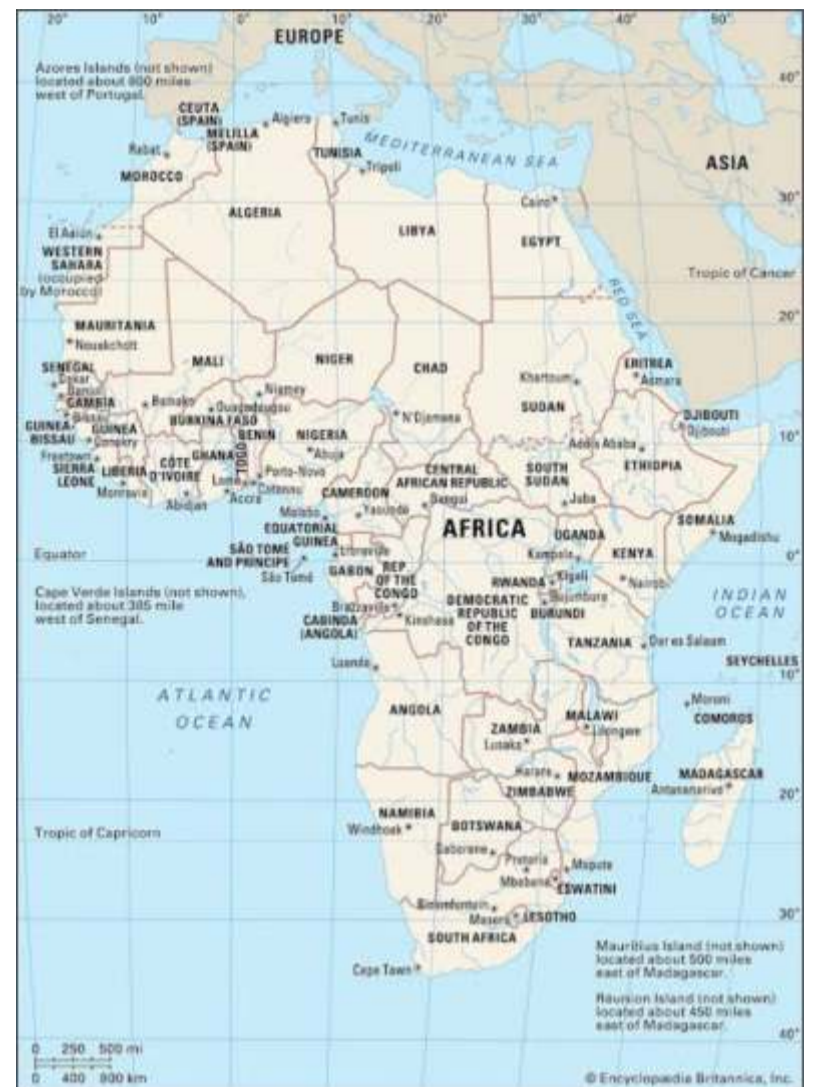
International (MLGWUI) who coordinated and monitored two training sessions.

assured all African Return Migrants (Returnees) that Migrant Labour General Workers' Union International (MLGWUI) which is the migrant trade union organisation for African and Diaspora Migrants is working assiduously to ensure almost all Return Migrants are trained and gained with business skills and have access to finance services and products support for their own businesses.

Mr. Justice Baako Ntarmah who is also known in labour migration and regional reintegration as "Comrade" reiterated his comradeship appeal on behalf of Returnees to Landlords(ladies) to consider and support Returnees with low rental accommodation for their immediate and happy reintegration into society.

"Delay or Returnees inability to immediate access to decent accommodation and employment gives another thought of labour remigration", Mr. Ntarmah bemoaned.

Mr. Ntarmah thanked Facilitators Mr. Joseph, Madams Christabel, Abena and Doreen respectively for their cooperation with Trainees



during the 5-Day Business Coaching Training Workshop Sessions.

Among other topics and expectations, the Business

Coaching Trainees went through Business Plan Assessment Submission for successful business plans and financial services support.

# NILEST Trains, Empowers 33 Youth From South-South

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology (NILEST) Zaria, after two weeks intensive training, has graduated 33 youth in footwear manufacturing from South-South Zone of the country.

According to a statement issued by the Head of Information and Protocol of the Institute, Mr. Reminded Basorun, the training was conducted in NILEST Extension Centre Afuze, Owan East Edo State, which commenced from April 11 to 20, 2023.

NILEST which is one of the 17 agencies under the Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, has the sole mandate to provide courses of instruction, train and research in the field of leather and leather products technology.

According to the statement, since inception in 1964, the institute has been vigorously carrying out all aspects of its mandate to the letter.

Pursuant to this mandate, NILEST has trained thousands of youth who are now providing manpower for the leather sector in the country and beyond, while many are entrepreneurs in their own respect, creating jobs and employing the unemployed.

According to the statement, from 2021 to date, NILEST under the able leadership of Prof. Mohammed Kabir Yakubu the Director-General, in order to complement efforts made by the Federal Government under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari,



has prioritised training and empowerment of the Nigerian youth in skills acquisition especially, in footwear and leather goods manufacturing.

In this scheme, more than 400 Nigerian youth spreading across the six geo-political zones of the country have been trained and empowered.

In his address which was delivered at the occasion by Mr. Dauda Galadima, the Chief

Operating Officer of the institute the DG, informed the audience that having been duly trained on the rudiments of footwear manufacturing, they were awarded NILEST approved Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Certificate in order to enable them carry out the business of footwear manufacturing successfully anywhere.

Prof Yakubu further encouraged the

Graduands to be committed to the profession and passionate for them to successfully practice the trade.

In his remarks, the Extension Centre Manager, Hon. Edeki Jimoh thanked the DG and the entire management for their support to Afuze Centre.

According to him, the management demonstrated enormous interest in the development of the centre.

"This commitment was the reason why within a year, training on skills acquisition has been conducted twice.

Jimoh however, advised the graduands to make the best use of the skills they have acquired within the period of training.

Edeki further told the beneficiaries that the certificates they were awarded, "is farewell to poverty" as a result, they should count themselves lucky to have benefited from the scheme.

Presenting the Owan East Local Government Chairman's Remarks, Hon. Edukpe Samson Ohiole, the Director of Personnel Management (DPM), Owan East, appreciated NILEST for the wonderful commitment to growth of the centre since it was established a few years back.

Edukpe further remarked that the decentralisation policy of the institute's operations has immeasurably offered Afuze, the entire Owan East, Edo State and South-South people at large the golden opportunity to benefit from the laudable skills acquisition programme of the institute.

## Eid-el-Fitr: Let's Make Our Society Habitable -Ambassador Ayinde

*\*Felicitates Muslim faithful*



Ambassador Ayinde

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Iyalaje Adini of Oyo State and owner of Kayromlee Gym and Fitness Center, Ambassador Ramat Romoke Ayinde on Saturday, charged Nigerians to rise and make the society a habitable one.

Ambassador Ayinde gave the charge in her message to felicitate with Muslim Ummah all over Oyo State and Nigeria on the successful completion of 2023 Ramadan fasting.

She stressed that in doing this, there is the need for Nigerians particularly Muslim faithful to reflect the lessons of the just concluded Ramadan fasting in their day to day activities.

According to the wellness expert and owner of Kayromlee Gym and Fitness Center, Eid el-fitr festival connotes sacrifice, selflessness, love and obedience to the tenets of Islam, hence the need for people to draw enduring lessons from the Ramadan and show love to one another as well as promote harmony and peaceful coexistence among our diverse people.

Ambassador Ayinde described the Ramadan season as a rare opportunity to commune with Allah, saying the Holy month signifies a period of purification, sacrifice and act of sincere worship.

"These acts are expected to become our habit even beyond the Holy month. An expected end of all religious acts is in the true reflection of the positive impacts of it in our interactions with people even those from other faith. Let's rise to make our society a habitable one", she said.

Ambassador Ayinde added, "Eid el-fitr festival connotes sacrifice, selflessness, love and obedience to the tenets of Islam, therefore enjoining people to draw enduring lessons from the Ramadan and show love to one another as well as promote harmony and peaceful coexistence among our diverse people".

She emphasized further that Eid-Al-Fitr signified a period of sober reflection and charged Muslims to replicate the lessons learned in the holy month of Ramadan in their daily lives.

## NEMA Working To Bring Stranded Nigerians In Sudan Home - DG

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Director General NEMA Mustapha Habib Ahmed has assured that NEMA is very much concerned and on top of the situation and is working on all possible options of bringing the stranded Nigerians back home to their loved ones in safe and dignified manner.

He expressed this in a statement signed by the Head, Press Unit NEMA, Manzo Ezekiel, dated Saturday April 22, 2023. This followed widespread criticism from Nigerians,

condemning the federal government's attitude towards Nigerians in war torn Sudan.

NEMA informed that a committee has been set up comprising of professional emergency responders, search and rescue experts to constantly evaluate the situation and seek for the safest way to evacuate the Nigerian citizens even if it is through a country neighbouring Sudan.

According to the statement titled, "UPDATE ON SITUATION OF NIGERIAN CITIZENS IN SUDAN" the

intervention agency said that It has become necessary to inform the public that NEMA is in constant communication with all relevant partners including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Nigerian Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan, the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission and security agencies while seeking for an appropriate window of opportunity to evacuate all stranded Nigerians back home in a safe and dignified manner.

"The attention of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is drawn to the

widespread public concern on the situation in Sudan especially in regards to the ongoing conflict and the safety as well as well-being of stranded Nigerian citizens including hundreds of students in various universities of the country. "The current emergency situation in Sudan is very complex with fighting between warring factions going on and all airports and land borders closed. NEMA is working assiduously with all its partners and is constantly compiling updated information on the situation," it assured.



## Eid-el-Fitr: Kaduna South Reps Member-elect Rejoices With Muslims

*\*Urge them to imbibe lessons of Ramadan*

The Honourable member-elect for Kaduna South Federal Constituency, Malam Hussaini Abdulkarim Ahmed (Mai Kero) has rejoiced with the Muslim Ummah on the occasion of this year's Eid-el-Fitr celebration, which marks the end of Ramadan for 1444 after the Hijra. In a statement made available on Friday by his Media Aide, Sharifudeen Ibrahim Muhammad (Dan Jarida), Hon. Mai Kero enjoined Muslim ummah to use the occasion to reunite with friends and families, and to reach out to the needy.

Mai Kero charged

Muslims to coexist with non Muslims peacefully, reiterating that peace is second to none.

He called on Muslims across the 13 wards of his constituency to imbibe the virtues of Ramadan, forgiveness, repentance and good deeds.

Hon. Mai Kero, pleaded with the Muslim ummah to pray for him to have a successful tenure for better representation.

He asked Allah to accept their fasting as an act of Ibada, while praying for Him to give Kaduna South, Kaduna State and Nigeria as a whole, lasting peace and sustainable development.



Mai Kero



Chief Imam of Kano Road Mosque, Umar Habib, leading the Muslim Ummah the Eid-el fitr prayer at Murtala Square in Kaduna. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS



Thousand of Muslims Ummah observing the 2023, Eid-El Fitr prayer at eid praying ground Murtala Square in Kaduna. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS



Top government officials, businessmen and other Muslim Ummah waiting for the Chief Imam of Kano Road Mosque, Umar Habib to lead the eid prayer in Murtala Square in Kaduna. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS



Thousand of Muslims Ummah observing the 2023, Eid-El Fitr prayer at eid praying ground Murtala Square in Kaduna. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS



Former Governor of Kaduna State, His Excellency, Dr. Mukhtar Ramalan Yaro arrives Murtala Square Eid-El Fitr praying ground to mark the 2023 Eid prayer in Kaduna. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

## Southern Kaduna In Diaspora Condemns Killings Of Kinsmen In Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Southern Kaduna People in Diaspora (SOKAPDA) Europe, has condemned in very strong terms, the incessant killings in Southern Kaduna in recent times and destruction of property.

The group noted that those who masterminded the dastardly act sought to execute a scorched earth policy aimed at total extermination of a people. Mr. Casimir P Biriok and Dr. Janet Nale, President and Secretary of the group in a statement said, "This unprovoked attack occurred barely four months after the mass murder of 38 harmless villagers in Malagum, Kamuru-Ikulu and Abun (Broni Prono) also in Southern Kaduna on the 18th of December, 2022. A month ago, 17 lives were lost, while an untold number of innocent persons were injured in Ungwan Wakili and other villages in Zangon Kataf Local Government of Kaduna State.

"We the indigenous people of Southern Kaduna represented by SOKAPDA in Europe find it incomprehensible that human lives seem to have little or no value in Nigeria in general and Kaduna State in particular. These attacks are obviously calculated to inflict maximum damage without any consideration for the young, elderly, or women. Those who masterminded the dastardly act sought to execute a scorched earth policy aimed at total extermination of a people."

The statement lamented that the real tragedy is that there is no empathy with the dispossessed by the political leadership of the state, as no prominent politician either in the legislature or the executive has made an attempt to visit the violence-prone areas to condole those deprived of lives and limbs, and lack the means to replace damaged shelters.

The group further lamented that the political class is asleep, only to awake when they need votes to remain in office, stressing that the elected representatives at both the state and federal level ought to be foremost in the search for solutions to the mayhem depleting Southern Kaduna population.

It explained that it appears to them in the diaspora that these innocent souls are on their own, saying that the was the urgent need for the victims to be provided with basic skills for self defence against the attacks of those after them.

The group called on the Association of Southern Kaduna Lawyers to be in court challenging the unwillingness of the state and federal governments to positively respond to the cries of their people for respite from incessant attacks by both miscreants and political marauders.

The members said that they are frustrated that in the 21st century, technology like phone tracking, geo-orbits satellite, drones and old-fashion spying and others are not being fully utilised and deployed to track these blood thirsty marauders.

The statement alleged that those responsible for the security of the people are either negligent or possibly part of the problem.

According to the statement, "this is a planned case of genocide, and this has turned the peaceful Southern Kaduna that we once knew and love for its beautiful environment and peace loving people into a mass burial site."

The statement explained that their hearts remain with all the families that they (victims) left behind, saying that it is only the Almighty God that can console them in these challenging periods as they sympathized with every individual who has in one way or the other been affected negatively by the random killings that seem to have no end in sight.

## Eid-el-Fitr: Oyo FRSC Deploys 1,700 Personnel

*\*22 vehicles, two ambulances, tow truck, motor bikes also deployed - Sector Commander*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Oyo State Sector Commander of Federal Road Safety Corps, (FRSC), Corps Commander, Joshua Oluwafemi Adekanye on Friday, said the command has deployed 1,700 personnel for safe travel during and after the Eid -El Fitr.

Corps Commander Adekanye in a statement in Ibadan, declared that the Oyo State FRSC Sector Command has mobilized adequate personnel and logistics for the Eid El Fitr period in and across the state.

He pointed out that the adequate personnel and logistics included the 1700 Officers/ Marshals and Special Marshals and 22 vehicles, two

ambulances, tow truck and motor bikes.

Corps Commander, Joshua Oluwafemi Adekanye maintained that adequate personnel and logistics has been deployed to enhance the Corps visibility on major critical road corridors to ensure free flow of traffic, reduction in Road Traffic Crashes, Traffic Fatalities and Injuries.

The FRSC Sector Commander added that a 24 hour rescue team are on ground to respond promptly to road traffic crashes and victims and speedy removal of obstructions from the highways as the Command engages in purposeful public enlightenment.

He stressed further that the Command has engaged the haulage truck

carrying passengers " as a strategy to curtail the rising fatalities involving truck carrying passengers and mandated the personnel to apprehend vehicles that engages in carrying containers that are not latched, use of phone while driving, overloading, wrongful overtaking, right hand drive vehicles, non-use of seat belt, driving against traffic which in our local parlance is known as one way etc.

Commending Oyo State Government and the various construction companies handling major road projects in the state for coming up with palliative works on our roads to ensure smooth free flow of traffic, he assured motorists that the Command is collaborating with other

sister security agencies and organisation like the Nig, Police, NSCDC, FERMA, NEMA etc to ensure safety on our roads as Road safety is a shared responsibility.

While urging residents, visitors, motorist and the general public in Oyo state to exhibits high level of discipline on our roads during and after the Eid - El Fitr celebration, the Sector Commander admonished them to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and ensure maximum compliance with traffic laws and regulations and that they should exemplify the essence of the season which is for spiritual reflections and growth to help those in need, spend time with loved ones and obedience to established authorities.



Muslim faithful praying during 2023 Eid-el-Fitr prayers at Ikeja praying ground in Lagos. Photos: AKINOLAARIYO

## Eid-el-Fitr: Umahi Assures Of Adequate Security, Felicitates Muslims

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor David Umahi of Ebonyi State has assured of adequate security for non indigenes in the state and also felicitated the Muslim faithful across the country on this year's Eid-el-Fitr celebration, urging them to continue to intercede for the peace and stability of our nation, Nigeria more especially now that new administration will soon emerge.

Governor Umahi who paid glowing tributes to Muslims for their prayers for the peace and unity of the nation under President Muhammadu Buhari, congratulated them on the successful conclusion of their Ramadan fast.

"On behalf of my family, our government and the good people of Ebonyi State, I congratulate our Muslim brothers and

sisters on the successful completion of their Ramadan fast and subsequent Eid-el-Fitr celebrations."

While reminding them on the true essence of the festivity which calls for piety, Governor Umahi enjoined them to use the opportunity of the celebration to pray fervently for the peace and unity of the country, going into the next dispensation.

"We however, urge you to intercede on behalf of our nation for the continued peace and stability of our country, Nigeria, especially now that we are inching closer to the end of the current



Umahi

administration."

While congratulating President Muhammadu Buhari, the first family and all Muslim Ummah on the remarkable celebration, Governor Umahi who is the

Chairman of South East Governors Forum, assured that governors of the South East would continue to ensure adequate security for Igbos and non-Igbos resident in the region.

## Sallah: Dr Wailare Greets Muslim Umma

By; JABIRU AHASSAN, Kano

The founder of Tamallan Foundation Kano, Dr. Saleh Musa Wailare has saluted the world's Muslims on the occasion of Eid-el-Fitr that marked the end of this year's Ramadan fasting.

In a message he issued through his assistant on Media and Publicity,

Jabiru Hassan, and issued to newsmen in Kano, Dr. Wailare called on the brothers in Islam to adopt what they learnt from the Holy Month of Ramadan to continue with excellent living.

"I wish to congratulate the world's Muslims on the completion of the Ramadan fasting and hope that we would also adopt what we have learnt

during the period which remains a straight path to better living and fear of Allah," he emphasized.

Dr. Saleh Musa Wailare extended the similar Sallah greetings to the national Kwankwasiyya Movement leader, Engineer Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, the Kano State Governor-elect, Engineer Abba Kabir Yusuf and the New

Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) Director campaign, Dr. Ali Haruna Makoda respectively.

Dr. Wailare commended the entire people of Dambatta and Makoda for their usual support and genuine love accorded him in all the 21 wards that comprise Dambatta/Makoda Federal Constituency.



Dr. Wailare and NNPP leaders

## Carry People Along, Emir Bamalli Tells Newly Elected Leaders

By; SANALIYU, Zaria

The Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli has appealed to the newly elected leaders to carry people along and execute meaningful developmental projects as contained in their campaign promises.

He made the appeal in his Sallah message on Friday, while addressing his subjects in his palace as part of activities marking the Sallah celebrations.

Emir Bamalli commended Governor Nasir el-Rufa'i for executing meaningful projects in the state from 2015 to date.

He also expressed appreciation to Kaduna State Government for measures taken on security challenges in the entire state.

The traditional ruler used the occasion to call on the people to support

government's efforts in ensuring the existing peaceful coexistence remains among its citizens.

He equally charged wealthy people among the society to imbibe the habit of assisting the needy.

The emir advised people to be security conscious and report any suspicious movement for quick intervention.

He congratulated the Muslim community for the successful completion of Ramadan and prayed to Allah for his acceptance of the fasting.

The Sallah festival included traditional durbar and a host of other activities.

Governor Nasir.Ahmed el-Rufa'i, top government officials and local government chairmen attended the Sallah festival.

## Do Good To Needy, Senator Akpabio Urges Muslims At Sallah

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Senator-elect for Akwa Ibom North West Senatorial District of Akwa Ibom State, Senator Godswill Akpabio, has urged Muslim faithful in Nigeria and in the diaspora to imbibe the lessons learnt during the Ramadan fast.

These lessons, Senator Akpabio said, include forgiveness, giving to the poor and peaceful coexistence while urging them also to continue to pray for the unity, peace and progress of the nation.

Akpabio's Ramadan message was contained in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr Jackson Udom and made available to newsmen in Uyo on Friday.

According to him, "let me use this opportunity to

congratulate all the Muslim Ummah on the successful completion of this year's Ramadan. I pray that may all the requests placed before almighty Allah by our Muslim brothers and sisters during this period of fast and supplications be answered by almighty Allah.

"I pray that the peace of God that passes human understanding be bestowed upon our country, as a result of our sacrifices during the Ramadan.

"Let us also remember those in need as we celebrate and pray for the stability of our dear nation." He stated.

Senator Akpabio is the immediate past Minister of Niger Delta Affairs Ministry, and former the minority leader in the 8th Senate.

# Land Matters: 22 Ibadan Baales, Senior Chief Petition IGP Alkali, Arase, Gov Makinde

*\*Ask IGP to investigate, punish Police Gender Officer for allegedly dabbling into matter*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Twenty three community leaders, including 22 Baales and a Senior Chief in Ona Ara Local Government area of Oyo State have tasked the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Usman Baba Alkali to investigate and bring to justice, a supposed gender officer identified as ASP Samson for allegedly terrorizing some Baales (village heads) in Ibadan over land matters.

The 23 community leaders alleged that the ASP was fingered in the ongoing unlawful persecution of residents of Akintola Village in Ona Ara and diversionary invitation of chiefs in a matter they know nothing about.

In the petition sent to IGP Alkali on Wednesday April 19, 2023, the Council of Baales under the leadership of Baale Yekini Obisesan stressed that the 'illegal activities' of the said ASP who was saddled with gender matters, but regrettably, is dabbling into land matters, in contravention to his duty call and the position of the Inspector General and the Chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC), Solomon Arase.

According to the 22 Baales and the Senior Chief, the officer, working in the Gender Unit in the office of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Area 10, Abuja is allegedly "being used to harass, intimidate and threaten to victimise and threaten influential and innocent people in the

society", adding that ASP Samson, with telephone number 08052531330, also had the effrontery to invite Chief Dotun Sanusi, a Senior Chief in the city who knew nothing about the disputed land to appear in Abuja for alleged threat to life of yet to be identified persons, masquerading as land grabbers on an expanse of land in Akintola Village, Akanran in Ona Ara Local Government Area.

The Baales in the petition titled, "Threat to Life, Unlawful arrest, intimidation and illegal acquisition of 95 acres of land at Akintola village, Akanran, Ona-Ara Local Government of Oyo State", said a suspected land grabber, trading under Paragon Estate allegedly wanted to grab 250 acres of land in Akanran, with the aid of the Police ASP, and alleged that the atrocities of said ASP alongside one Akinrogun of Ibeju Lekki, Chief Jelili Akande, on a long settled disputed land which an Oyo State High Court had entered judgment into, is already before the Oyo State Government Task Force on Land Matters.

"For even contravening the IGP who was reported to have warned officers on land matters, we (undersigned Baales) demand panel of enquiry to investigate the interest of ASP Samson and other officers in this matter. That this same ASP Samson unlawfully arrested and detained a resident of the area at a police facility in Orita Challenge Ibadan, before the innocent man was forcibly

whisked to Abuja the following day and made to write statement under duress. This calls for further investigation and punishment must be served accordingly."

The petitioner also accused the ASP of allegedly, "Using threats on people including traditional rulers to appear before him or vacate their land when he is not a judge or court of law, also calls to question the integrity of the said officer and we therefore, demand from both the IGP and the PSC Chairman, Solomon Arase to wade in, immediately and ensure thorough investigation of this officer."

Part of the petition reads, "Since experience has shown that these so-called property developers have been using the police officers to coerce innocent people and lawful land owners to vacate their lands or forfeit same after series of human right abuses, intimidation, harassment including threats to lives, the IGP and the PSC must not allow this matter to be swept under the carpet because an injury to one is an injury to all.

"For the umpteenth time, we are using this medium to officially complain against this unlawful police action in a purely civil matter. Anybody who feels he is the rightful owner of a land needs not resort to self-help by using the police to threaten people but should rather heads to the court to proof his case."

They alleged further, " This officer, ASP Samson and his type destroying the image of the Force

and going against the instructions of the IGP, should be punished to serve as a deterrent to other officers. The officer boasting that he was above the law and could not be called to question on this civil matter and not gender affair with which he was saddled with, should be probed thoroughly and investigated for justice to be served."

The Council of Baales thereafter, issued a petition to the Governor of Oyo State; the IGP, the PSC Chairman, Chief Judge of Oyo State; the Commissioner of Police; the Director of DSS; the Chairman, NUJ Oyo State, among others to warn of dire consequences of further harassment of residents on the disputed land or the chiefs in the area.

Describing the ongoing several invitations being extended to residents in the area on the alleged influence of one Chief Jelili Akande, the Akinrogun of Ibeju-Lekki as provocative, the 23 Community leaders stressed, " After a crucial meeting held on Wednesday, we write to inform your office about threat to life, unlawful arrest, intimidation, harassment and illegal acquisition of 95 acres of land at Akintola Village, Akanran.

"The nefarious activities are allegedly being perpetrated by one Akinrogun of Ibeju-Lekki, Chief Jelili Akande, the chief promoter of Paragon Estate. Akande is perpetrating the act with active connivance of one officer from the Force Criminal

Intelligence and Investigation Department (FCIID), Area 10, Abuja, simply identified as ASP Samson, with telephone number 08052531330," they said.

The petitioners said that the disputed land has been resolved by the Oyo State High Court, sitting in Ibadan, in a suit with number: I/443/2014, and that Justice G.A. Sunmonu had on March 19, 2020 delivered a judgment in favour of Alhaji Rasheed Eniayenfe Ojo, and Good Foundation Social Club, who were the defendants in the case.

New Nigerian recalled that both the IGP and Arase had variously being quoted on the need for the police officers to refrain from dabbling in land matters in order to avoid ridiculing the force and exposing the police authority to unnecessary litigation that may arise therefrom.

The police chiefs had warned recently thus, "One of the issues that I have had to tackle is the incidence of people dabbling into land matters. The police do not have the constitutional power to allocate land to anybody; they cannot do that. The only people that have the right to do that is the civil court. So, you people must be able to draw the thin line between what is criminal, what is civil and what is commercial because whenever you dabble into civil and commercial issues, you attract civil litigation to the Nigeria Police Force. And when you do that, you have to take garnishee orders."

## Arewa Youth Consultative Forum Warns That No Nigerian Must Be Killed In Sudan War

*\*Blames Embassy for not evacuating citizens*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

It is abundantly clear that lives are now at stake, "especially for our Northern brothers and sisters schooling in Sudan, considering the escalation of this war, that involves the use of heavy-duty incendiary." This was expressed by the National President of the Arewa Youth Consultative Forum (AYCF), Alh. Yerima Shettima in a statement he personally signed and made available to newsmen in Kaduna on Saturday April 22.

"As a group, we wish to make it categorically clear that if our innocent Northern brothers and sisters schooling in Sudan get killed in this war, we shall hold the Nigerian Embassy in Sudan accountable.

"We wish to emphasize that on no account should these young and innocent Nigerians be left to their own devices, because they have a fatherland that has the constitutional and legal responsibility to protect the lives of citizens anywhere they are on this planet," the statement said.

AYCF in the statement titled, "On The Unacceptable Response Of Nigerian Government To Citizens Trapped

In Sudan" said that as concerned Nigerians who are very uncomfortable with the fate of Nigerians trapped in Sudan due to ongoing war and killings, they feel duty bound to unequivocally state their final stand on this bloodshed and arson.

"We therefore wish to state, for the records, as follows:

It is totally unacceptable that while several countries were evacuating their citizens from Sudan, ours is the only African nation giving excuses.

"With thousands of Nigerians in Sudan, especially male and female Northern students being the majority, we reject the lame excuse given in a letter by the Nigeria Embassy about the difficulty of evacuating our sons and daughters. No Northerner in this country is at peace since the killings and arson started in Sudan.

"We are aware that the Sudanese government had already warned that the situation would escalate, and gave 72 hours ultimatum for countries whose citizens are either doing business or schooling in that country to be evacuated. We cannot fathom why all we get at the moment is the excuse by our Embassy that doing so

would be difficult. What held us from taking advantage of the 72 hours ultimatum in the first place?"



Yerima Shettima





## Hakimi and the 'Only Woman He Can Trust'

By Safiya I. Dantiye

**T**wenty-four-year-old Achraf Hakimi, the Moroccan footballer who plays for Paris Saint-Germain and the Moroccan national team, has registered a lot of his property in his mother's name, probably to avoid a situation whereby his property would be given to his wife in case of a divorce in addition to alimony, as it obtains in the Western world. Or who knows, he might have done it out of sheer love and loyalty to his mother.

Now his wife, Hiba Abouk, filed for divorce and is demanding 50 percent of his wealth, only to find that most of it was registered in his mother's name Fatima. They have two children.

"The only woman he can trust," is a gleeful joke on social media, even though alimony is not applied here in Nigeria in case of a divorce.

Though the clerics tell us that a husband is supposed to give his wife a token in the case of divorce, it doesn't happen. In fact, some even confiscate what they have given to their wives. Or what belongs to the wives through what they earned, inherited or given by relations. Their aim is to totally destabilise the wives financially, so that they would become a subject of pity and ridicule. And maybe they hope the wives would feel remorse. "There was one woman who was divorced with three children. She raised them alone and put them through school. The father refused to do anything for them. When they became adults and got jobs, he resurfaced; staking a claim on them and that was when she sparked, literally and figuratively. He accused her of inciting his children against him, so she brought out all the receipts of school fees, hospitals, including from pharmacies that she kept over the years and he felt ashamed."

Some women would however never regret it. Just recently, I heard a cleric say: "Don't push a woman too much. If you see that she obeys you, she seeks your forgiveness when she offends you, don't take her for granted, because by the time you push her to the wall, no matter how wealthy you are or how educated you are, she will demand divorce from you without qualms and would never look back."

Therefore, while alimony is not part of our system here, some mechanisms are however being put in place to address some of the financial problems, especially the immediate ones.

For example, in a situation where a woman is divorced after twenty or thirty years of marriage, she is expected to go back to her parents' house (they might

have died), or her brother's house, where his wife would not welcome her. She may go with some of the children or all of them.

She may have a job or run a petty business or don't even do anything and relies on the husband for everything. So, how does she and her children survive now? Even if she were to start looking for a job or other means of livelihood, she needs immediate help.

In such a case, agencies such as Hisba intervene or even the courts if the women have the courage to go there, as even going to seek redress in court is considered a taboo. So, they usually suffer neglect and forced to bear the burden, while they are told that the negligence is not un-Islamic! But they are discouraged to seek the Islamic way and get justice.

Where the Hisba or the courts come in, the husband is asked to provide a place for the wife and her children, provide food for the children, pay their school fees, cloths and so on.

Men that shy away from their responsibilities are forced to take them. If not, some children would drop out of school and roam about aimlessly. Some may fall into the hands of gangs and become miscreants while their own fathers look the other way.

Through this method, it is also expected to reduce the occurrence of divorce, as some may do it to avoid responsibility, but they are told in no uncertain terms that some things will no longer be tolerated.

If a man is asked to pay rent or give his divorced wife a house if he can afford to, after all, she deserves this dignity after, say, thirty years of marriage, not disgrace and embarrassment, it would make marriage more enduring.

There was one woman who was divorced with three children. She raised them alone and put them through school. The father refused to do anything for them. When they became adults and got jobs, he resurfaced; staking a claim on them and that was when she sparked, literally and figuratively. He accused her of inciting his children against him, so she brought out all the receipts of school fees, hospitals, including from pharmacies that she kept over the years and he felt ashamed.

In any case, even if not exactly alimony, some ways are needed to give respite to women and their children. They should not be thrown out of the houses and lives they help built, even in doing only the thankless job of cooking, cleaning and taking care of the children. They deserve a share.

Culled from *The National Record*.

## Senator Dino Melaye: The Man Who The Cap Fits



Dino Melaye

By: ALI YAHAYA

**K**ogi State, hundreds of issues unite us, only a few irrelevant issues divide us. To some, it is absolutely normal to disagree on those flimsy unconvincing, lame issues. For those with progressive minds, their conscience goes along way in speaking to them not minding what selected few will say.

This create a multiplier mutual distrust amongst "kogite" that affect the progress of its human resources. Human remains the most critical and important factor for any society to succeed.

Kogites for years have made made wrong choices in the selection of those saddled with the responsibility of leading the lugard house. However, an opportunity has come ones again for us to take our destiny in to our hands

Juxtaposing all those seeking to represent us in the November 2023 governorship election, Senator Dino Melaye stands out as the most qualified candidate to lead the state in the next four years. This is not a statement born out of ethnic loyalty but of a progressive mind. For the record, I am an Igala man from Ankpa while Senator Dino Melaye is an Okun man from Ayetoro Gbede in Ijimu.

Dino no doubt has been a democracy champion from his days as a student in Ahmadu Bello University. He served as a member of House of representative and also Senator of the federal Republic of Nigeria.

This no doubt is an intimidating profile that none of the candidate in other political party can match. His humanitarian accolade is so numerous and rich to be appreciated at a glance.

This brings me to one of the main issue that tickles my fancy about Senator Dino,

he is not someone who believes in traditional or tribal social structure designed by selfish individuals to achieve selfish desires but rather a champion of competency and moral.

A man who has sponsored over 20 bills and moved over 30 motion in the 8th assembly, a man who's survival and happiness depends on how many people he blesses, a man who stop at nothing to help other through the ladder of life, in a country where only those privileged to know who is who gets to make it, a man who sends a hand of friendship to his none kinsmen, a man who's disdain for nepotism and subjection of his state citizens has been the only crime he has committed, a man who's propensity to tell truth to kogi state government has made him a man to beat among the young Igala breeds.

Don't get it twisted, I have never been fortunate enough to meet him but one thing I know for sure is that he will beat the standard and perception I have about him any day I am fortunate enough to meet him. I will be actively involved in making sure he gets in to Lugard House, in sha Allah.

Among those aspiring to lead Kogi State, the personality of Senator Dino Melaye is not only standing tall, but very intimidating. He is a shining example of a bridge builder, who relates so well with every tribe in Kogi State.

Dino is one, among the few Kogi State's politicians endowed with a proven track records for selfless services to anyone lucky enough to have met him irrespective of your tribe.

He is absolutely the man who the cap fits. *Ali Yahaya can be reached via [blinksaliyu@yahoo.com](mailto:blinksaliyu@yahoo.com) or 08036979262, 08090880891*



# Fallacies Of Religion, No-man's-land, And Why Nigeria Is Unbreakable (2)

By; HASSAN GIMBA

*"We can forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."* - Plato

*"There are only two people who can tell you the truth about yourself – an enemy who has lost his temper and a friend who loves you dearly."* – Antisthenes.

John Campbell, a member of the American Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and former U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria prophesied in his book, "Nigeria: Dancing on the Brink," that Nigeria was going to disintegrate by 2015. But even before him, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the espionage arm of the United States intelligence apparatus, had released a report in 2006 in which it predicted that Nigeria may splinter before 2015 along tribal and sectarian lines if some of the inherent fault lines were not properly managed and controlled.

Even though the United States, especially through its then Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Terence McCulley, denied ever predicting that Nigeria would break up by that year, the fact remains that Nigeria has surprised and, at times, dumbfounded both its friends and enemies by coming back from the brink when everyone else believed it was tipping over. After the annulment of the presidential election of June 1992, judged the freest and fairest in our electoral history, and said to have been won by the Social Democratic Party's Chief MKO Abiola, many thought Armageddon was starting from Nigeria.

However, through political brinkmanship, even though it consumed President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, who was forced to step aside, General Sani Abacha stabilised the country after showing the exit door to Chief Ernest Shonekan's interim national government (ING).

To "compensate" the South West, the region Abiola and Shonekan came from, there was a deliberate convergence of interest by the nation's stakeholders to ensure that General Abdulsalami Abubakar, the man who took over when General Abacha died, handed over to an elected president from that region.

Thus, in 1999, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) fielded retired General Olusegun Obasanjo, who eventually won and served for two terms. The All Peoples Party (APP) and the Alliance for Democracy (AD) fielded a common candidate in Chief Olu Falae, ensuring that, head or tail, the nation's top job went to the region.

Since then, we have had a relatively peaceful polity, though mired by unrest, ranging from simple crimes, farmer/herder clashes to major crimes like kidnappings, robberies and terrorism/insurgency, and lately separatist agitations and banditry by non-state actors.

Amidst all this came this election. For the first time, the issue of a Third Force gained momentum and occupied the minds of those trying to balance political equations.

A northerner was about to round off his tour of duty after two terms. At the political party level, the unwritten political law is that the outgoing president's party, the All Progressives Congress (APC) should take its ticket to the South since he came from the North. For the major opposition party, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the last president it produced came from the South. He took over from a president from the North who died just two years into his first tenure.

When we go by this, the South had already produced two presidents, one from the South West, who served two terms, and one from the South-South, who served one and a half tenures. The South East has not tasted it.

The North had also produced two presidents – both from the

North West; one was midway through his first term when he passed away, while the other is just rounding off his two terms. When you look at all these in numbers, then the South has served for fourteen years and the North for ten.

Those who contested were Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu of the APC. For the APC, it had never produced a president from the South; therefore, for the party, it was a fair choice. Then there was Atiku Abubakar of the PDP. For the PDP, the last president his party produced came from the South. The party wrestled with the issue of where to zone it and finally threw it open, and he won. The intra-party crisis that ensued is yet to settle.

There was also Dr Rabi Musa Kwankwaso of the New Nigerian Peoples Party (NNPP) and Mr Peter Obi of the Labour Party (LP). These two represented the third force.

But as with every election cycle in Nigeria, there was palpable fear that the election may ring the death knell for the country. As Nigeria witnessed in 2011 when supporters of a candidate killed many people and destroyed properties worth hundreds of millions in naira and no compensation was given to the victims or punishment meted out to the culprits, there was fear that supporters of presidential candidates who lost may visit mayhem in the country.

But Peter Obi, apart from balkanising Atiku's South East/South South support base, has gone a long way in reining in an "Obidient" movement that could have been in the trenches – physically – by now.

But it is only in such a situation that you know those who put Nigeria first, above other mundane issues, and those for whom Nigeria exists only to cater to their mundane interests. For the average Nigerian, such



**Hassan Gimba**

*Monday  
Column*

interests could be religion or tribe.

I am not one of those who pillory Peter Obi over his leaked conversation with Pastor Oyedepo. In this country, the caught thief is the thief, not the one who escaped arrest. However, it will shock many if the conversations between some presidential candidates and the clerics of their faith become public knowledge. Every candidate on each side of the religious divide has deceived the gullible in the same religion as them that it was a fight for religious supremacy. And according to their gullibility, the dewy-eyed followers and most clerics could not differentiate between a theological government and a government headed by one practising a particular faith.

Before the elections, I had a chat with an elderly journalist I had a

lot of respect for. He is from the South West and he told me, point-blank, that "there would be no Nigeria if Tinubu does not win." It shocked me to the marrows!

But unfortunately, he may not have been the only one with such an unpatriotic thought, thought and language I believe Tinubu would never harbour or support. I thought Tinubu and all the other contestants were contesting because there was Nigeria. The moment a contestant or a supporter, because of a tribe, thinks the country can go to flames if his interest was not served, then at that moment you know this type does not care about Nigeria. He does not regard you and those who are not from his tribe as equals. These are the real fascists Soyinka speaks about.

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

# Post-Election Agenda: Building Social Cohesion in Nigeria

By Jibrin Ibrahim

THE cost of the 2023 general elections on Nigeria's social fabric has been very high. Many Nigerians felt threatened by strong ethnic mobilisation aimed at harassing them with the intention of stopping them from exercising their franchise. Voter suppression emerged as a core electoral tactic precisely because in many parts of the country, the assumed inclination of Nigerians to vote along ethno-religious lines were significantly undermined. In other words, political warlords were concerned that votes they had considered theirs for the taking were going elsewhere and breaking up their hegemonic control. In response, they intensified negative ethno-religious profiling to revive latent bigotry imbibed by Nigerians over the generations. Their political objective then became to intensify national disunity for the sake of preserving their political domains. The consequence of voter suppression is to question the right of belonging and participation in the political community causing deep pain and hurt.

"The important learning from the election is that it is still possible to generate hope, even enthusiasm about the future of Nigeria. The question that is posed is what happens when such hopes are once again dashed? I would like to believe that it is still very possible to regenerate hope, enthusiasm and belief in the Nigeria project. It is all a question of governance. If Nigeria is governed in an inclusive manner, social cohesion could be generated."

I saw the video clip of my favourite poet and defender of the Nigeria idea, Dike Chukwumerije, describing his feeling after spending 24 hours patiently waiting to vote, for the votes to be counted and for the counted votes to be transmitted and SEEN on the IReV viewer's portal. He waited on his computer for three days without ever seeing his polling unit result, that was his pain. Subsequently, he wrote about the deepening of the pain as he watched the unholy alliance developed between unscrupulous politicians and thugs in Lagos to stop people voting because of their ethnicity and he asks: "Yes. So, what is the struggle? Not for a non-indigenous Governor. No. But for all Nigerians, wherever resident, to have the uncontested right to vote – freely and in accordance with their conscience – wherever they are. That is the struggle." This is the struggle we need to keep alive at this moment of hurt.

Increasingly, there are questions about the idea that the existence of Nigeria and Nigerians is self-evident. There have been tons of Nigerians doing japa out of Nigeria in the years leading up to the elections. These people had decided that the best way is out. There are yet others who would have loved Nigeria to be but have deep doubts about its future and live paralysed in the agony and fear of what

could have become. The majority of us however are very conscious of the challenges facing Nigeria but believe with pride that its promise could become a reality and work for its coming greatness with the skills, pride and assertiveness that Nigerians are known for worldwide. The divisions deepened by the elections presents a challenge in this regard.

"Nigerians have always defined the country as a plural one so no one is looking for a homogenous society. What we need in the next government is the capacity to create pathways to inclusiveness in a diverse society. There must be concrete action aimed at healing the pains and hurt from reckless ethno-religious mobilisation and action. It is even more important to develop narratives of nation building. Central to the hurt people have against the current government is the belief they have disdain for Nigerians and rarely address issues of concern. They do not even pretend to care."

In the 2021 social cohesion report by the Africa Polling Institute, they interrogated a cross section of Nigerians and the results are interesting. 49% of Nigerians are disappointed in their country while 42% feel truly proud of Nigeria. Not surprisingly, 65% of citizens expressed concerns that Nigeria is today more divided than it was four years ago. It is however revealing that 82% of respondents said that they are comfortable with their dual identity of being both Nigerian and member of their ethnic group. That is the comfort zone from where we can build the ranks of the believers in the Nigeria project. The problem is that we are in an unfortunate period of decline. In the 2019 survey, 55% of citizens said they were truly proud of being Nigerian. In the current (2021) survey, the number has declined dramatically to 42%. The key finding is that governance matters and most Nigerians believe that there is lack of equity and justice in governance, a challenge that can be addressed. The lesson is that building support for the Nigerian project requires the building of trust, equity, social justice and inclusive governance. If and when the next government takes that path, pride and commitment in building the Nigeria of our dreams will begin to grow again.

The survey revealed what we all know. That Nigerians are angry at the massive corruption in government and the ongoing run of looting the treasury. Secondly, that there is a crisis of citizenship summarised in what Nigerians call the lack of "true" federalism, accompanied by the neglected call for restructuring.

"Nigerians are a resilient people and can surmount present challenges and so while nation-building is hard work, we should all commit ourselves to do the work. It can only happen however if the incoming



Jibrin Ibrahim

government demonstrates a real commitment. It must have a body language that says power is not about self-aggrandisement for the persons exercising authority. It has to be about addressing the security and welfare of the Nigerian people. If the mind-blowing level of corruption in the country today persists, saving the Nation would be almost impossible."

Thirdly, there is widespread consternation on the inability of the political class to deepen democratic practices as they remain self-serving in their actions and are actually rolling back democratic gains. These issues are even more highlighted today following the acrimony that followed the elections.

The important learning from the election is that it is still possible to generate hope, even enthusiasm about the future of Nigeria. The question that is posed is what happens when such hopes are once again dashed? I would like to believe that it is still very possible to regenerate hope, enthusiasm and belief in the Nigeria project. It is all a question of governance. If Nigeria is governed in an inclusive manner, social cohesion could be generated.

Nigerians have always defined the country as a plural one so no one is looking for a homogenous society. What we need in the next government is the capacity to create pathways to inclusiveness in a diverse society. There must be concrete action aimed at healing the pains and hurt from reckless ethno-religious mobilisation and action. It is even more important to develop narratives of nation building. Central to

the hurt people have against the current government is the belief they have disdain for Nigerians and rarely address issues of concern. They do not even pretend to care.

Nigerians are a resilient people and can surmount present challenges and so while nation-building is hard work, we should all commit ourselves to do the work. It can only happen however if the incoming government demonstrates a real commitment. It must have a body language that says power is not about self-aggrandisement for the persons exercising authority. It has to be about addressing the security and welfare of the Nigerian people. If the mind-blowing level of corruption in the country today persists, saving the Nation would be almost impossible.

At the end of the day, the success of the Nigeria project will depend on our ability to engage in the task of the reconstruction of the Nigerian State. We cannot allow our political community to continue to crumble and suffer the outcome of State collapse, which Thomas Hobbes had assured us will make our lives "nasty, brutish and short". Rebuilding the State must take the form of a new approach based on good governance in which there is effective, transparent and accountable use of public resources to provide public goods for citizens.

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

# Runners Throng Abuja International Marathon Expo To Collect Kits



By: **AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos**

Marathon enthusiasts from within and outside the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), daily throng The Pavilion, the venue of the ongoing Abuja International Marathon Expo to collect their running kits in readiness for the first international marathon in Abuja and the Federal Capital Territory.

The Expo began last Friday and registered runners from neighbouring states like

Kogi State, Niger State, Nasarawa State, Kaduna State and others were at the Expo venue The Pavilion to collect their kits.

Members of the diplomatic community were not left out as residents in the seat of power FCT and other parts of Nigeria want to be part of the race.

Grace Basse a marathon enthusiast who came all the way from Suleja to collect her kits said she has never missed an opportunity to be part of history, "History will be made on April 29, 2023,

when the first international marathon will take place in FCT, I have never missed an opportunity to be part of history that was why I come here early to collect my kits, I don't want to hear stories that the kits have finished. I will be running the 10km with my friends"

A diplomat from one of the European countries who does not want his name in print said, "Running is part and parcel of my life; I have done races around the world where I have served. It will be great to experience a marathon in Abuja.

"Abuja is a beautiful city with an excellent road network; an international

marathon will showcase the city to the world".

Abuja International Marathon the first in FCT is slated for April 29, 2023. The race is in three categories 5km Student Run, the 10km Family Run, and the 42.195 Full Marathon.

The race will start at the City Gate and finish at Eagles Square. The best entertainers in the country will entertain runners and spectators at the Finish Point. According to Race Director Olukayode Thomas, "Registration is free, it will close April 28, 2023, the last day of the Expo".

## Visiting Young Africans SC Thrash Rivers Utd 2-0 *\*It's a bad day - Coach Eguma*

By: **PATRICK TITUS, Uyo**

Coach Stanley Eguma of Rivers Utd FC of Nigeria has said that it was a bad day for his team to lose the home match to visiting Young Africans SC of Tanzania in their Totalenergies CAF Confederation Cup quarter first leg competition

Coach Eguma told journalists after the match played at Godswill Akpabio International Stadium in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State yesterday where the visiting African team walloped home Rivers Utd 2-0.

The Coach who lamented that the players could not get their ark right in the game, attributed the loss to injury sustained by their star players who could not feature in the day match with the Young Africans. He said the team would endeavour to get

their rhythms back in the second leg and bounce back into the competition.

"It was a bad day for us today, we didn't get our ark right, but that is football. When the game started, we had a lot of scoring chances at our hands in the first half but players couldn't convert them to goals.

"We had upper hand in the game in the first half until when there was opening and the opponent scored as a result of defence mistake.

"The goal really motivated them and they came all out to play. The second goal they scored was in the run of play because it was an opportunity for us score a goal but players lost their bearings when they took the corner kick.

"Like I said, it was a bad game for us today but I believe we've learnt our lesson

today. Actually, we lost some of our key players into this team, which they were there, would have made a difference.

"Players like Morris Chukwu, Onaja Joseph and our highest goal scorer Paul Aquah, they are all out due to injury.

"We are to go back and work harder and get our rhythms well for the second leg. It is not yet over, we will still bounce back in the next game," Egu,a assured.

The captain, Nwagua Nekeberi, said it was a shocking result but they would go back and put their arks together to win in the second leg.

On his part, the Young Africans Coach, Nasredinne Nabi, said he was happy for the result as he came with the team with hope and it paid off for them.

"I am happy for the result, I came with hope that we are going to play a big team

but thank God we've won.

"This result is surprised for me because I know Rivers United is a good team and is very difficult to win in Nigeria, for that it is very good result. I have confidence in my players," Nabi said.

Captain of Young Africans, Stephane Aziz in his comment said the players worked very hard to achieve the result and promised to go far in the competition.

During the match, the Young Africans took the game to their opponent side from the blast of the whistle and at the 74th minute of play striker Fiston Kalala Mayele scored the first goal through run of play.

Rivers United FC efforts to equalise was marred by the second goal in the 81minutes through the same striker Fiston Mayele when the Rivers Utd

# Succeeders Win Kaduna Sallah Slam Beach Volleyball As Winners Smile Home With Cash Prizes

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Succeeders have emerged champions of the maiden Kaduna Sallah Slam Beach Volleyball Competition after crowned champions of the senior Men category yesterday at the closing ceremony held at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium. Diamond Spikers finished second, while Police Machine placed third. For their efforts, they were presented with trophies, medals and N120,000,

N100,000 and N80,000 respectively. In the Senior Women category, Young Eagles finished tops and received a cheque of N120,000. Second position, Filkom Academy got N100,000 and third, Succeeders got N50,000. In the Junior Boys category, Kada Prince beat all opponents to the N100,000 prize for first position. Filkom Academy settled for the second position and were rewarded N70,000,

while Destiny Hands who placed third, smiled to the bank with N50,000. Unlike their male counterparts, Destiny Hands stole the show in the Junior Girls category, pocketing N100,000 for their efforts. GG Queens were second, N70,000, while Flourish Academy placed third, claiming N50,000. In his remarks at the closing ceremony, Chairman Kaduna State Volleyball Association (KADSVB), Engineer Musa

Nimrod said that the board is making plans to bring back the state's volleyball league. "As this competition is going on, national camp for U-19 girls is going on. For those of you who have won, don't go and sleep, next year, we will be here again," he said. He commended Lt. Col Julius Usman for donating the trophies. He said he was impressed that he has seen new players in Kaduna State with over 43 teams that participated.



# Argentina 2023: Flying Eagles To Face Brazil, Italy, Dominican Republic

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Nigeria's U-20 boys, Flying Eagles must dig their feet into the ground against Brazil, Italy and Dominican Republic in order to scale the group phase of this year's FIFA U-20 World Cup competition.

Africa's number three team was slotted into the interesting Group D at the draw ceremony for the tournament held at the

House of FIFA in Zurich on Friday, with hosts Argentina heading Group A that also has Uzbekistan, Guatemala and New Zealand.

Argentina is the most successful nation at the FIFA U-20 World Cup since the competition was launched in Tunisia in 1977. The South American nation has won the tournament six times, the last being in 2007. It also hosted the

competition 22 years ago.

Nigeria's Flying Eagles have finished as runners-up on two occasions, in Saudi Arabia in 1989 and in The Netherlands in 2005. They were bronze medalists in the USSR in 1985.

This year's championship will take place between 20 May and 11 June.

GROUP A: Argentina, Uzbekistan, Guatemala, New Zealand

GROUP B: USA, Ecuador, Fiji Islands, Slovakia

GROUP C: Senegal, Japan, Israel, Colombia

GROUP D: Italy, Brazil, Nigeria, Dominican Republic

GROUP E: Uruguay, Iraq, England, Tunisia

GROUP F: France, Korea Republic, The Gambia, Honduras

## Federation Cup: Godswill Akpabio Stadium To Host Rivers United, Enyimba Clash

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Godswill Akpabio Stadium in Uyo will host the potentially-explosive Federation Cup Round of 64 battle between CAF Confederation Cup quarter-finalists Rivers United and two-time CAF Champions League winners Enyimba FC on Wednesday April 26.

The game comes up on the eve of the 'Pride of Rivers' departure to Dar es Salaam for the second leg of their CAF Confederation Cup quarter-final fixture, which first leg holds at the same Godswill Akpabio Stadium, Uyo on Sunday.

ALL THE ROUND OF 64 FIXTURES (MEN)

Heartland FC (Imo) vs Jedo FC (Sokoto) - Area 3 Abuja - 26/04/23 - 12pm

Bayelsa United (Bayelsa) Vs Essien Ayi FC (Cross River) - Aba - 26/04/23 - 2pm

Ahudiya FC (Abia) Vs Jigawa Golden Stars (Jigawa) - Jos - 26/04/23 - 2pm

ABS FC (Kwara) Vs Bendel Insurance FC (Edo) - Lagos - 26/04/23 - 2pm

Standard FC (Kaduna) Vs Ekiti United (Ekiti) - Lokoja - 26/04/23 - 12pm

FC Basira (Nasarawa) Vs Sunshine Stars (Ondo) - Lokoja - 26/04/23 - 2pm

EFCC FC (FCT) Vs Katukan Tsafe FC (Zamfara) - Kano - 26/04/23 - 2pm

Wikki Tourists (Bauchi) Vs Akwa United FC (Akwa Ibom) - UNEC Enugu - 27/04/23 - 4pm

Warri Wolves (Delta) Vs Beyond Limit FC (Ogun) - Awka - 26/04/23 - 4pm

3SC (Oyo) Vs Adamimogo FC (Ondo) - Lagos - 26/04/23 - 2pm

Mighty Jets (Plateau) Vs Niger Tornadoes Feeders (Niger) - Kaduna - 26/04/23 - 4pm

Malumfashi FC (Katsina) Vs Gombe United (Gombe) - Jos - 26/04/23 - 4pm

Osun United (Osun) Vs Katsina United (Katsina) - Area 3 Abuja - 26/04/23 - 2pm

Bendel Insurance Feeders (Edo) Vs Maikunkele FC (Niger) - Lokoja -

26/04/23 - 4pm

Cynosure FC (Ebonyi) Vs Kano Pillars Jnr (Kano) - Lokoja - 27/04/23 - 4pm

Lobi Stars (Benue) Vs FC One Rocket (Akwa Ibom) - Awka - 26/04/23 - 12pm

Jama United (Zamfara) Vs Plateau United (Plateau) - Kano - 26/04/23 - 4pm

Rivers United (Rivers) Vs Enyimba FC (Abia) - Uyo - 26/04/23 - 4pm

Ingas FC (Enugu) Vs Novia FC (Adamawa) - Kaduna - 26/04/23 - 2pm

El-Kanemi Warriors (Borno) Vs De Cardinal FC (Rivers) - Area 3 Abuja -

26/04/23 - 4pm

Nasarawa United (Nasarawa) Vs Kebbi United (Kebbi) - Minna - 26/04/23 - 4pm

DMD FC (Borno) Vs ABJ FC (Bauchi) - Gombe - 26/04/23 - 4pm

Ikorodu City (Lagos) Vs Crusader FC (Bayelsa) - Owerri - 26/04/23 - 2pm

Gateway United (Ogun) Vs Kwara United (Kwara) - Ibadan - 27/04/23 - 2pm

FC Ebedei (Ekiti) Vs Hope of Glory FC (Cross River) - Awka - 26/04/23 - 2pm

Yobe Desert Stars (Yobe) Vs Igbajo FC

(Osun) - Goal Project Abuja - 26/04/23 - 12pm

Adamawa United (Adamawa) Vs Rangers Int'l (Enugu) - Goal Project Abuja - 27/04/23 - 4pm

Ilaji FC (Oyo) Vs Kano Pillars (Kano) - Minna - 26/04/23 - 2pm

Green Berets FC (Kaduna) Vs FR Ebonuja (Imo) - Lokoja - 27/04/23 - 2pm

Ozalla FC (Anambra) Vs Doma United (Gombe) - Goal Project Abuja - 26/04/23 - 2pm

Kogi United Feeders (Kogi) Vs Edel FC (Anambra) - Akure - 26/04/23 - 4pm

Mailantarki FC (FCT) Vs Kogi United (Kogi) - Jos - 26/04/23 - 12pm

ALL THE ROUND OF 32 FIXTURES (WOMEN)

Bayelsa Queens (Bayelsa) - Bye

Akwa Angels (Akwa Ibom) Vs Dannaz Ladies (Lagos) - Asaba - 27/04/23 - 4pm

Owo Itan FC (Akwa Ibom) Vs Fortress FC (Edo) - Aba - 28/04/23 - 4pm

Honey Badgers (Benue) Vs Kada FC (Kaduna) - Minna - 28/04/23 - 4pm

Heartland Queens (Imo) Vs Confluence Queens (Kogi) - Asaba - 28/04/23 - 4pm

Lakeside FC (Ogun) Vs Kwara Ladies (Kwara) - Ibadan - 28/04/23 - 4pm

Sunshine Queens (Ondo) Vs Edo Queens (Edo) - Awka - 28/04/23 - 4pm

Maureen Mmadu KFC (Abia) Vs Green Foot (Enugu) - Owerri - 28/04/23 - 4pm

FC Robo (Lagos) Vs Immaculate Queens (Enugu) - Warri - 28/04/23 - 4pm

First Mah FC (Imo) Vs Royal Queens (Delta) - Ekiti - 28/04/23 - 4pm

Nasarawa Amazons (Nasarawa) Vs Gallant FC (Kaduna) - Jos - 28/04/23 - 4pm

Naija Ratels (FCT) Vs Adamawa Queens (Adamawa) - Bauchi - 28/04/23 - 4pm

Rivers Angels (Rivers) Vs Golden Sun FC (Bayelsa) - Uyo - 28/04/23 - 4pm

Osun Babes (Osun) Vs Awka Angels (Anambra) - Abuja - 28/04/23 - 4pm

Ekiti Queens (Ekiti) Vs Moje Queens (Kwara) - Lagos - 28/04/23 - 4pm

Paul E. FC (FCT) Vs Delta Queens (Delta) - Enugu - 28/04/23 - 4pm



**Argentina 2023:**  
Flying Eagles To  
Face Brazil, Italy,  
Dominican Republic

Story on Page 23

## UfitFly Boss Hails Air Peace Management Over Inaugural Flight To Israel

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Team Lead and CEO of the Nigerian foremost destination management company, UfitFly, Evangelist Ajibola Ogunkeyede has applauded the Chairman of Air Peace, Allen Ifechukwu Onyema CON and the entire management of the aviation firm over its milestone achievement of the inauguration and the first flight of Air Peace airlines to the holy land of Israel.

Ogunkeyede whose brand (UfitFly) is reputed for the highest transporter of Christian pilgrims from Africa to the holy land of Israel and Jordan, made the call while speaking during the inaugural takeoff of direct flights from Nigeria to Tel Aviv via Lagos and Abuja, held in Lagos on 20th April 2023.

He described the development as a catalyst that will uplift the face of pilgrimage in Nigeria and as well foster a more profiting bilateral relationship between Nigeria and Israel while thanking the Air Peace



management for considering a partnership with his brand. "We are delighted and honored to be considered for this amazing

event that we believe will uplift the face of pilgrimage in Nigeria and as well foster a more profiting bilateral relationship

Nweze Umahi CON, the Ebonyi State Governor, The honorable minister for women affairs,

between Nigeria and Israel.

"I want to specially appreciate and applaud the Chairman of Air Peace, Allen Ifechukwu Onyema CON and the entire management for counting us worthy at UFITFLY to partner and witness the inauguration and the first flight of Air Peace airlines in the Holyland of Israel.

"I cannot curtail the Joy and gladness of meeting with important dignitaries and giants of industries from Nigeria and other nationals which include, His Excellency, David

Dame Pauline Tallen, Hon. Ekumankama Joseph Nkama, Minister of State for Health and the C.O.O of Air Peace Mrs Toyin Olajide among others", he noted.

The UfitFly boss however, added that, "this wonderful offer and invite is such a golden opportunity which I dearly appreciate. We will continue to represent the travel industry in good faith and we won't relent in serving you an unbeatable pilgrimage experience."

Speaking in the same vein, the Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Christian Pilgrim Commission, (NCPC) Dr. Yakubu Pam also described the historical feat of Air Peace as the beginning of a new song while addressing the stakeholders in Lagos.

The Ambassador of Israel to Nigeria Michael Freeman was also part of dignitaries that witnessed the event and applauded the management of Air Peace.

## Media Expert Tasks Police On Menace Of Cultism In Lagos

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Police authority in Lagos has been charged to re- strategise and evolve tactics to tackle the menace of cultism in the state.

Lagos based renowned media practitioner, Mr. Wole Odunsi gave the charge in a chat with New Nigerian Newspaper on the sidelines of a ceremony of award of excellence conferred on the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Badia Division, CSP Ayoola Olawole in Lagos.

Odunsi, publisher of National Express Newspaper, noted that cultism is still rampant in some remote areas of the state, such as Ikorodu, Ogijo, Ijede, Imota and Agbowwa.

He disclosed that some cult members struck penultimate week in Ogijo area of the state, killing some of their rivals and escaped to Ogun State.

Odunsi therefore, urged the Lagos State Police Commissioner Idowu Owohunwa to urgently devise plan to ensure the crime is completely nip in the bud during his



CSP Ayoola Olawole (2nd from right) being presented the award by Odunsi flanked by other senior officers.

reign as did by CP Imohim Edgal to "Badoo Cult" gangsters during his reign. However, he applauded the police boss for the feat achieved since assumption of office, asserting that there has been considerable improvement in crime reduction.

sleep with their eyes closed. So there is general improvement of security in Lagos, ditto for his predecessor.

" However, cultism is still more rampant in Ikorodu, Ogijo, Ijede, Imota and Agbowwa areas because few weeks back

" There has been considerable improvement in the reduction of crime and criminal activities in the state, the Commissioner of Police Idowu Owohunwa is doing a lot of work in securing Lagos and presently people can

some people were killed, the boys did it successfully and ran back to Ogun state. So, the Lagos State Police Commissioner needs to do a lot in that regard in combating cultism in the remote part of the state."

Commenting on the honour conferred on CSP Olawole, the media guru said the cop was being honoured for his sterling performance in crime bursting and control.

He explained that the decision was arrived at in recognition of his monumental and outstanding efforts in combating crime and unflinching contribution towards sanitising the society of bad elements and as a way of encouraging him to do more.

"We met with the CP last week and he commended his sterling performance, the Area Commander Area "B" Apapa applauded his bravery and gallant achievement and cohesive leadership quality. He said Ayoola is one of the best materials in Area "B", that is why we are honouring him.