

New NIGERIAN

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Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 3 No. 143

Monday 8th May, 2023

Shawwal 18, 1444

**NEMA Distributes
Items Donated By
Saudi's KSrelief
To 8,050
Nigerians**

Story on Page 20

**Drug War: NDLEA
Seizes 8,852kg
Illicit Drugs After
Gun Battle In
Lagos, Arrests 9
Traffickers In
Other States** **PAGE 4**



Pic of some of the seized illicit drugs

**Expert Advises
Nigerian Farmers
To Adopt Organic
Fertilizers** **PAGE 15**

Sudan: 1,471 Nigerians Evacuated So Far - FG

***Says no Nigerian life lost so far**



Parents and returnees at the airport

By: BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

A total of 1,471 Nigerians stranded in Sudan have been evacuated back to the country by the Federal Government. New Nigerian gathered that the stranded Nigerians were evacuated from Sudan in seven batches so far.

According to sources at

the Inter Ministerial committee responsible for the evacuation, the 6th and 7th batches of Evacuees: 424 Nationals that departed Aswan International Airport, Egypt, landed at Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport around 12:30 pm local time on May 7 as well as Tarco and Azman Airlines respectively.

The Inter Ministerial

Continued on Page 2

**Nami, Executive
Chairman, FIRS
Wins ICAN Merit
Award** **PAGE 17**

**Sudan Evacuation:
ACF Hails Onyema,
Dangote, MTN**
***Says acts patriotic**

PAGE 11

**Senate Presidency Tussle: Group Hails
Tinubu's Silence Amid Pressure** **PAGE 4**

NTI Trains e-Facilitators For Its Programmes

By; ISAAC ODEH,
K a d u n a

As part of effort by the Prof. Musa Garba Maitafsir-led administration as Director and Chief Executive of the National Teachers' Institute (NTI), Kaduna, to migrate the Institute's programmes to blended method of Open Distance Learning (ODL), using e-facilitation, the institute through its department of Quality Assurance and ICT has conducted a two-day capacity building development training between May 2 and 3, which was held at the Institute's headquarters in Kaduna.

Declaring the workshop open, the Director and Chief Executive of NTI, Prof. Musa Garba Maitafsir, who was represented by NTI Director of Examinations, Dr. Bashir Mamman, said prior to this day, the Institute delivered programmes through the traditional face to face method of ODL, since the inception of the Bachelor Degree programmes in 2015.

"Now the Institute is migrating to blended method of ODL e-



Prof. Musa Garba Maitafsir, Director and Chief Executive of NTI, Kaduna

facilitation, where the facilitation will be both offline and online method of delivery," he said.

The Director and Chief Executive tasked the participants to use the opportunity and explore innovative strategies in addressing potential challenges in the delivery. Also speaking at the workshop, the Ag. Director, Department of Quality Assurance and ICT, Dr. Angela Ozibo, having appreciated the Chief Executive for his support in making the

training a reality, said the train-the-trainer workshop will ensure that all the Institute's facilitators are trained on the e-facilitation and likewise the students to be trained on e-learning nationwide. According to Dr. Mamman, the Chief Executive has expressed satisfaction, seeing that all the resource persons-cum e-facilitators are staff of NTI.

"These e-facilitators are expected to train the Course Facilitators on e-facilitation and the

students on e-learning at all NTI Study Centres nationwide," he stressed.

At the end of the training, the trained e-facilitators are deployed to all states of the federation and study centres to cascade the training.

By this development, all NTI students are to be sensitized and advised to effectively utilize the Institute's portal. On this, the Institute is starting with its Bachelor Degree programmes now, then later other programmes.

Bandits Kill Two, Injure Military Personnel, Another In Southern Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA,
Kaduna

Suspected bandits on Thursday evening, attacked and killed two people in Gora Bafai, Atyap Chiefdom in Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Report also has it that one military personnel and a

civilian were also injured and are presently in the hospital receiving treatment.

The President, Atyap Community Development Association, Dr Samuel Achie while narrating the ordeal to New Nigerian said the attackers attacked the military personnel keeping surveillance in

Sudan: 1,471 Nigerians Evacuated So Far - FG

committee gave breakdown of those already evacuated to Nigeria as 376 in the first and second batches among others

"First and Second Batch Military Jet C13 ~ 99 people

AirPeace Flight ~ 277 (Total 376) and 3rd Batch - Tarco Air ~ 130.

Others are " 4th Batch -

Tarco Air ~ 131, 5th Batch - MaxAir ~ 410

6th Batch - Tarco Air ~ 102

7th Batch - Azman Air 322"

The sources stressed further, " we await the arrival of Air Peace later.

The good news is, no Nigerian life has been lost so far".

HYPPADEC Begins Flood Control In Kogi

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

As part of efforts to address the perennial flooding of Lokoja-Abuja highway and riverine communities in Kogi, the Hydro Electric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPPADEC) has commenced line drainage of the highly flood prone Koton-Karfe town.

Managing Director of HYPPADEC,

Alhaji Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa, disclosed this while speaking at the official handing over of the Erosion Control Project site to the contractors, Atimpsuda Integrated Services Limited over

the weekend in Koton-Karfe.

Yelwa (Garkuwan-Igu) said the Commission regretted that year-in, year-out, commuters and motorists as well as members of the Koton-Karfe community had continued to suffer untold hardship with loss of lives, property and means of livelihood to flooding.

He said that some time ago, the community complained to the Commission about de-silting the drains and opening them up in order to address the frequent flooding.

Yelwa said that it was against this backdrop that the commission "quickly organised

a tripartite meeting with the Ministries of Environment and Works – the State, HYPPADEC and the local communities.

He said that HYPPADEC engaged a consultant to evolve an intervention programme of line drainage of the silted drainages.

The Managing Director said that the silt removing erosion control project covering about 500 meters, was awarded at a cost of N220 million to Atimpsuda Integrated Services Limited and to be completed within eight weeks.

Also speaking, the state Commissioner for Environment,

Mr. Victor Adewale Omofaiye said that going by the contractor's assurances; the project would be completed in two months.

"Kogi State is strategically located and flood will always come when we least expect and now that we even heard that going by NiMET prediction that flood is coming again we have embarked on mitigation measures.

He said that the state had planned to embark on an afforestation programme as part of measures to mitigate flooding and erosion menace across the 10 most affected Local

Government Areas.

Alhaji Isa Ozi-Salami, Member representing Kogi State on the Board of HYPPADEC, also speaking thanked the Koton-Karfe community for their cooperation with the Commission.

He assured that the commission would do everything possible to assist and succour the riverine communities.

Earlier at the palace of Ohimege-Igu of Koton-Karfe, Alhaji Abdulrazaq Sani Isah-Koto in an emotion-laden voice said "Our fears have started again with the rains coming."

Masari Gives Pass Mark To Contractors Of General Hospital Kafur Construction

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Aminu Bello Masari of Katsina State has expressed satisfaction with the ongoing construction of the new General Hospital in Kafur town of Kafur local government area of the state.

Speaking when he paid a visit to the site of the project, Governor Bello Masari described the progress of the work as "commendable."

A statement from the office of the Director General New Media to the Governor, Malam Al - Amin Isah said Governor Masari was conducted around the construction site by the project consultant and the contractor Engineer Muntari Sagir.

The contractor, according to Malam Isah briefed

Governor Aminu Masari on the level of work and sections of the hospital as contained in the building plan.

He said the hospital had all the sections required for a standard general hospital, in addition to a residential quarter for one doctor and other medical personnel.

Governor Aminu Masari who appreciated the quality of the work also urged the contractor to adhere to specifications and speed up to ensure the timely completion of the project, Malam Al - Amin Isah explained.

He disclosed that, Kafur Local Government Council Chairman, Alhaji Garba Abdullahi Kanya, and the District head of Mahuta Alhaji Bello Abdulkadir were at the site of the project to welcome the state Governor, Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari.



Gov Masari

Nigerians Overwhelmingly Elected Obi/Datti - Asake

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal (PEPT), gets set to commence sitting on Monday, Gubernatorial Candidate of the Labour Party in Kaduna State in the general elections, Honourable Jonathan Asake has insisted that Peter Obi and his running mate, Datti Baba Ahmed were overwhelmingly voted by Nigerians.

Asake expressed this in his remarks at a meeting of LP in Kaduna on Saturday May 6, 2023.

"Nigerians overwhelmingly elected Peter Obi, Datti Ahmed but where never announced.

"That group that continue to parade themselves as factional chairman of party are out to tear the party apart," he said.

According to him, "Just yesterday, one of them was on Arise TV and he

accused Obi and Datti of working for PDP and they plan to deal with them by expulsion. Are we going to sit and watch what we have worked for taken over!?"

"We learnt they are appointing new chairmen for states and even local government areas. We have to let them know that labour party is not an orphan," he said.

According to Asake, "We loyalists to the party must

keep it alive, let's not give them a chance to ruin the party.

"Can we allow that to happen? Let us not be intimidated. Let us work until our mandate' is reclaimed," he charged.

He was optimistic that the reclaiming of the mandate of the LP, is the way out, not just for the party, but Nigeria.

"What is not, will not stand the test of time," he declared.



Jonathan Asake at a Labour Party meeting on Saturday.

Disputed Ikono/Ini Federal Constituency: INEC Declares Ukpong-Udo Winner

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

After months of political wrangling for the the soul of Ikono/Ini Federal Constituency in Akwa Ibom State, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has declared Hon. Emmanuel Ukpong-Udo of the Young Progressives Party (YPP) the winner of February 25 House of Representatives election. Ukpong-Udo came top against his closed rivalry, Dr Glory Edet of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) who is the immediate past Commissioner for Agriculture in Udom Emmanuel's led executive

council.

The returning officer for the Constituency, Patrick Aderorho, made this declaration at the constituency collation office on Friday, in the presence of collation agents of political parties and stakeholders.

Announcing the results, Aderoro disclosed that the YPP candidate polled 19,926 votes to emerge winner, defeating the PDP candidate, Dr Glory Edet who got 15,765 votes.

Following the violence that marred the February 25 elections in Itak, Ikono Local Government Area, INEC scheduled supplementary elections in 17 units of the area on the 15th of April 2023.

After a careful review of the outcome, INEC declared Hon. Emmanuel Ukpong-udo as the winner of the election and duly returned elected to represent Ikono/Ini Federal Constituency for a second term in office.

Responding to the declaration, Rep. Ukpong-Udo dedicated his victory to God and to the good people of his constituency. He attributed the victory to the grace of God upon his life and to the faith



reposed on him by his people, and promised to remain a man of his word by continuing to serve only the interest of Ikono-Ini, above all else.

Senate Presidency Tussle: Group Hails Tinubu's Silence Amid Pressure

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A conference of North-West Progressive Forum (NPF) and regional partners, have hailed President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu's reserved non-committal as the debate for the leadership of the 10th National Assembly rages. Briefing newsmen in Kaduna yesterday, the Conference convener, Nasir Dambatta said the NPF and associates from the South-South and the Southeast zones met and reviewed developments regarding the debate on which of Nigeria's two regional blocks should produce the next Senate President.

Dambatta said the conference, after reviewing developments in the country regarding the regional permutations for the Senate presidency and other key National Assembly positions, has also taken cognizance of claims that some of the contenders have been "anointed".

"We are, however not bothered by these permutations as they are already part of our democratic culture.

"We note especially the twist taken by the debates that has potentially pitched the President-elect Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu against the Northern region, which gave him the most votes in the February election," the conference noted.

It stressed the importance of pointing that the North generally played a vital role in the electoral victory of the Asiwaju and the All Progressives Congress.

In particular, the Conference noted, the North-west is on record as providing the highest percentage of votes of over 30% over and above every other geopolitical zone in the country.

"It is noteworthy to recall that Asiwaju Tinubu

scored a total of 8.79 million broken down into: -North West: 30.0%, -South West: 25.9%, -North Central: 20.0%, -North East: 13.5%, -South South: 9.10%, -South East: 1.45%.

"We find it ridiculous, therefore, that even a zone that contributed a meagre 1.45% is finding it convenient to seek the Senate presidency.

Dambatta then highlighted a number of resolutions reached at the meeting which include commending the mature and reserved silence of the President-elect Tinubu in the face of the mounting pressure of the moment, "which we hold as golden."

It then called on the President-elect to resist the temptation to be unduly dragged into a situation that will pitch him against the interest of his most reliable ally, the North-west and especially the North-west.

"We call on regional agitators from the South to reconsider their position and embrace the decent

rule of fairness and balance, which gives the North-west and indeed the North-west, the legitimacy to claim the Senate presidential slot.

"We finally call on the President-elect and the APC and all critical stakeholders everywhere in the country to eschew personal parochial interest and accept that the North and especially North-west is most eligible for the No. 3 position, which is also the second functional office after the presidency," Dambatta said.

The statement was jointly signed by Nasir Dambatta, Convener; Moses Ekpeyong, South-South Chairman of Advocates for Justice & Fairness; Ifeanyi James Coordinator of New Era Democrats Assembly; and Fatima Mohammed of the Gender Advocates League.

Drug War: NDLEA Seizes 8,852kg Illicit Drugs After Gun Battle In Lagos, Arrests 9 Traffickers In Other States

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have proved their superior fire power in a gun duel, resulting in the seizure of 8.852kg tonnes of Canadian Loud, an imported synthetic strain of cannabis, at the Eleko Beach Road, Lekki area of Lagos.

Similarly, nine suspects were also arrested in connection with another seizure recorded within the same period in Ogun, Adamawa, Edo, Kogi and Lagos.

The 8,852 kg seizure, according to reports, was recorded after a shoot out that lasted about 30 minutes with armed men who were escorting the consignment loaded in two long trucks on Thursday, May 4, 2023.

Operatives of the anti-narcotic agency, while acting on credible intelligence, were said to have laid ambush for the traffickers along the Eleko beach road and at about 4:51am, and flagged down the two long trucks conveying the illicit consignments.

But rather than stopping, the trucks escorted by armed men sped off, as a result of which there ensued an exchange of gunfire that lasted 30

minutes.

Spokesperson of the Agency Femi Babafemi in a statement yesterday, explained that the truck drivers and their armed escorts escaped into the bush, abandoning the trucks and the drug consignments, after they were overpowered by the NDLEA operatives.

While one of the trucks painted red has 149 jumbo bags weighing 6,548kg, Babafemi disclosed that the second one with blue colour has 53 big bags with a weight of 2,304kg, bringing the total number of bags to 202 and gross weight of both to 8,852 kilograms.

He added that operatives are already on the trail of the drug lord who shipped the illicit consignment into the country.

Babafemi also informed that other seizures were made within the same period in Ogun, Adamawa, Edo, Kogi and Lagos where nine suspects were arrested in connection with the drugs.

"On the same day, NDLEA operatives also intercepted a Toyota Sienna vehicle driven by one Mukaila Idowu, conveying 88.3kg skunk at Otedola bridge in Lagos, while another suspect, Joseph Friday was arrested on Saturday, May 6, at Iyana Ira, Lagos with 58.7kg cannabis

sativa concealed inside his Toyota Camry car marked FST 587FH.

"In Ogun State, operatives in the early hours of Wednesday 3rd May busted a mini factory where a suspect, Bakare Taofeek was producing skucchies around Safari Onikolobo, Abeokuta. Exhibits recovered from him include: 4kg black currant drink (Sobo) mixed with cannabis; 255 litres of skucchies; 1,880 tablets of tramadol; 735 grams of cannabis; three deep freezers; 2 gas cylinders and two cooking pots among others.

"In the same vein, operatives in Adamawa arrested a suspect, Sahabi Mohammed, 39, with 8,800 tablets of tramadol and counterfeit N60,000-naira notes, while another suspect, Bala Ali Umar, was arrested on Wednesday 3rd May with 2.850kg cannabis sativa and 825 litres of formalin popularly known as 'Suck and Die' at Anguwar Laka, Numan LGA.

"In Edo state, a Toyota Previa bus marked NER 460 XA (Bayelsa) conveying 13,000 pills of tramadol and diazepam was intercepted along Ewohimi road, heading to Ekiti state, while the driver of the vehicle, Femi Oluwadare, was taken into custody on Friday 5th May 2023.

Similarly, another suspect, Ahmed Rafi'u, 34, was arrested with 84 blocks of compressed cannabis weighing 43.200kg, by operatives in Kogi state, while 381.1kg of the same substance was recovered from three suspects travelling in a Sienna bus in Anambra state.

"They include: Innocent Saturday; Sunday Asuquo and Akpan Asukuma who were arrested by a combined patrol team of security agents comprising NDLEA operatives and other security agencies at Nneobi, Anambra state.

"Meanwhile, NDLEA officers of the Directorate of Operations and General Investigation, DOGI, attached to courier firms have intercepted blocks of compressed brown methamphetamine packaged as soap bars weighing 1.54 kilograms going to Australia.

"The seizure at a courier house in Lagos on Tuesday 2nd May was a follow up operation to an earlier interception of 3.389kg of the same substance on 23rd February 2023. A suspected drug courier, Paul Adetigbe who delivered the previous parcel was eventually arrested with the latest consignment.



Pic of some of the seized illicit drugs

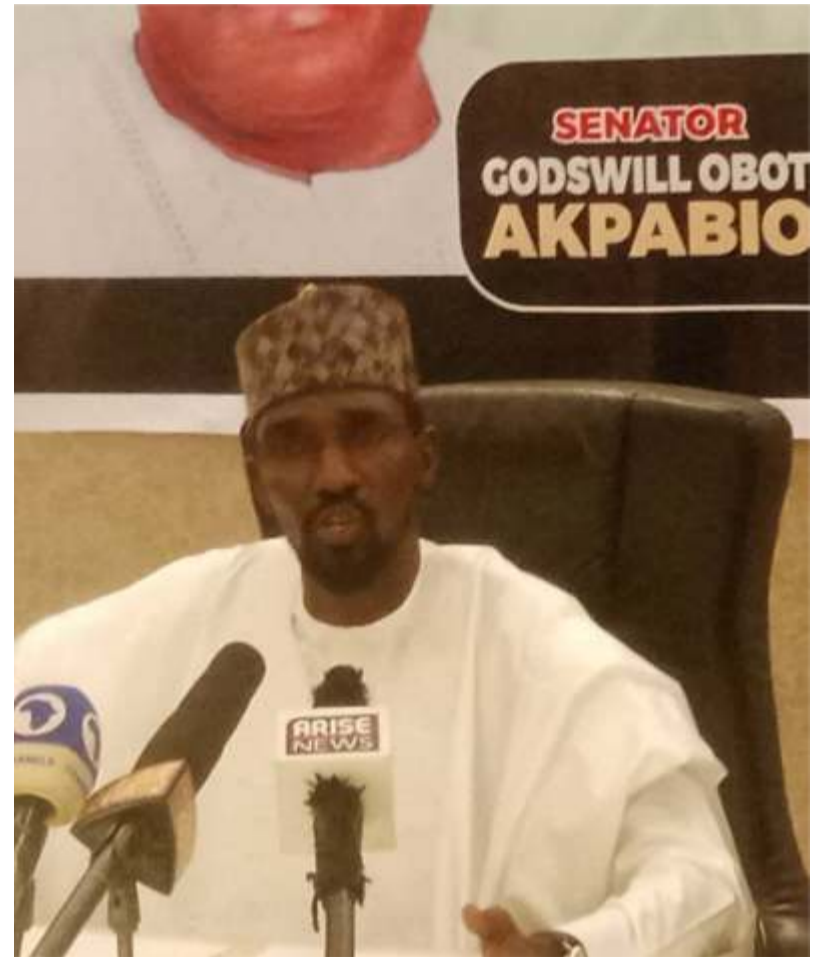
Senate Presidency: Northern Youth Progressive Initiative Hails Tinubu, Endorses Akpabio

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

While praising Nigeria's President Elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his public declaration of fairness to all, a group, the Northern Youth Progressive Initiative has endorsed the candidature of Senator Godswill Akpabio for Senate President. The group expressed this at a press briefing held on Saturday May 6, 2023 in Kaduna, with the text of briefing read by its President, Honourable Usman Shehu Aliyu, Danmalikin Hausa. "We praise the President Elect for vocally expressing his wish for equity, justice and fairness to all Nigerians irrespective of region, religion, tribe or ethnicity, with these, the youth progressive initiative in the North, align and endorse the choice of Sen. Godwill Akpabio as the 10th president of

the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Sen. Jibril Barau as the Deputy President of the 10th Senate," he said. According to him, "Nigeria belongs to everybody and we have six zones, hence the need to zone Senate Presidency. "The President elect assured Nigerians that his administration will be fair. "We want all regions in the country to be carried along in the leadership of NASS". He stressed that in view of the above, they want the Senate Presidency to go to the South and the Deputy Senate Presidency to the North West. "With this, every geo-political zone will be carried along," he pointed out. Fielding questions on the clamour for the Senate Presidency by other regions, he said, "North West of course gave the highest vote, but for

fairness, we want Nigeria to be for Nigerians, let everyone have a sense of belonging "Bola Ahmed Tinubu calculates, he is an achiever and wants to carry everybody along. "We are talking about Nigeria, we are talking about fairness and equity. He said the Youth Progressive Initiative in The North congratulates all Nigerians more for the just concluded general elections, specifically the President Elect, Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the Vice President Elect, Sen. Kashim Shettima. "We reiterate our support towards their success, the Youth Progressive Initiative in the North, thanks Nigerians for their patriotism before and after the general elections," he added. It would be recalled that the Northern Youth Progressive Initiative President organisation has been existing since 2012.



We Need Freedom Of Expression, Media To Strengthen Democracies - Senator Balogun

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Senator representing Oyo South Senatorial District, Senator Kola Balogun on Thursday, said we need freedom of expression and media to strengthen democracies and tear down the walls of Tyranny and bad governance.

Senator Balogun stated this in Ibadan, while delivering a lecture organized by the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Zone B titled, "FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AS A DRIVER FOR ALL OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS" on the 30th edition of World Press Freedom Day.

He stressed that, "a democratic media is needed because it gives us hope and chronicles the movements and organizations that are making history."

"Freedom of expression and media are what we need to strengthen our democracies and tear down the walls of Tyranny and bad governance across the globe. A democratic media is needed because it gives us hope and chronicles the movements and organizations that are making history," he said.

Senator Balogun added, "it

gives voice to the voiceless and encourage people to get involved in their struggles to make a difference. Social change will not come from the minds of the Commander-in-Chief, the generals or Mr. President, in fact, change is vulnerable to blockage by the powerful. Change begins with active common citizens, working in their communities.

"The media should not have to agree with persons or groups, government or the most powerful, it is the media responsibility to include all voices in the discourse and then allow the people to decide. Our democracy is going through a wobbling evolution, if we continue to work at it, we will get to the promised land no matter how long it takes".

According to Senator Balogun who was honoured with the "UNESCO Guillermo Cano Award", "Freedom of expression is the gift of nature to human race, you don't need to wait for anyone to give it to you. It is already in our spirit and all you need to do is release it to make a difference."

"Freedom of speech and expression is broadly

understood as the notion that every person has the natural right to freely express themselves through any media and himself or herself without outside interference, such as censorship, and without fear of reprisal, such as threats and persecutions. Freedom of expression is a complex right. This is because freedom of expression is not absolute and carries with it special duties and responsibilities, therefore it may be subject to certain restrictions provided by law.

"The term 'freedom of speech and expression' includes any act of seeking, receiving and imparting information or ideas, regardless of the medium used. Freedom of speech is understood as a multi-faceted right including not only the right to express or disseminate information and ideas but also including the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas."

Speaking, the NUJ Vice President, Zone B, Comrade Ronke Samo urged government to ensure adequate safety for journalists in and across the country.



Senator Kola Balogun delivering lecture at the WPF in Ibadan.

Agric Score Card: 81% Women Farmers In Ebonyi Lack Access To Inputs - PDA

By: MKPUMAENYINNA, Abakaliki

Inadequate and untimely access to agricultural inputs have been identified as major impediments to the thriving by smallholder women farmers towards achieving food sufficiency in Nigeria.

The information was contained in a report: community score card on Smallholder Women Farmers Access to Agricultural/Farm inputs in Ebonyi State. It was an outcome of a study conducted by a non-governmental organization, Participatory Development Alternatives (PDA), under the Scaling up Public Investment in Agriculture (SUPIA) Project, in partnership with Actionaid - Nigeria.

The report was presented on Tuesday by the PDA's Programme Officer for the project, Ugochi Joseph in Abakaliki, the Ebonyi State capital.

According to the report, covering a four-year period (2019 - 2022), greater percentage of women cooperative societies under the Small Holder Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria, do not have access to agricultural inputs to enable them scale up their production.

Where available, the inputs were either misplaced against the needs of the farmers, or released outside the seasons of their usefulness, thereby truncating

their effectiveness.

Part of the scorecard reads, "On received farm input from the government within the past four years (2019-2022), 81 per cent of smallholder women farmers indicated that their various cooperatives have not received agricultural inputs from the government in the past four (4) years. While only 19 per cent indicated that they have received."

"19 per cent of smallholder women farmers affirmed that their various cooperatives accessed the inputs in the month of July and August 2022, while 81 per cent said they never accessed farm inputs at all."

"This means that farm inputs are not distributed on time and yearly to support smallholder women farmers."

The report recommended among other things, the need for the government to integrate smallholder women in the design of inputs distribution model.

It prescribed that distribution of farm inputs should be done directly to the stakeholders at the grass-roots rather than at the state level, so that they can get to the targeted beneficiaries.

The report added, "There should be adequate budgetary allocation to farm inputs in the yearly agriculture budget."

"The State Ministry of Agriculture should work in synergy with the Small Scale

Women Farmers Organisation in Nigeria (SWOFON), Ebonyi State and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to be able to reach the targeted farmers.

"Smallholder women farmer organizations and CSOs should be continually invited to participate in policy making processes to ensure proper needs of farmers are always captured."

In an interview, one of the representatives of SWOFON at the event, Mrs Ifeoma Chukwu, lamented the development whereby government agricultural inputs land in the hands of those who do not actually need it.

She said, "Now is the farming period, and we are supposed to have these farm inputs that we've been shouting about."

"They tell us that we have these agricultural representatives in our areas, but we don't normally see them."

"They keep telling us that they will give and we don't see anything."

"But after sometime, they will tell us that they have distributed the farm inputs to people that are not even farmers; they share it to political agriculturists, leaving the real farmers."

Chukwu however, commended PDA and Actionaid for assisting women farmers in Nigeria realize their potentials through their many programmes.

The Permanent Secretary, State Ministry

of Agriculture, Mrs Patricia Okiri, represented by Chidimma Obiokoye, explained that the Ministry has policies put in place to integrate women farmers in its agricultural programmes, including extension officers and a desk office for women farmers at the Ebonyi State Agricultural Development Programme, EBADEP.

Okiri added: "Another reason why they don't get the inputs at the appropriate time sometimes, is because of climate change."

"When a forecast is made, nature will always take its course, and when that happens, it will alter all the plans that has been made by the government."

On the area of increasing access to inputs, the head, Women in Agriculture desk of EBADEP, Mrs Favour Okouwa, advised the women farmers to always take advantage of their umbrella body to press home their demands with government.

She further advised them to increase advocacy visits to concerned ministries, departments and agencies.

The event offered Civil Society Organizations, SWOFON, government officials and the media the opportunity to dialogue on the prospects and challenges of agriculture towards ending hunger in Nigeria by 2030 in line with goal two of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Alhaji Buhari Adeniyi

Kwara: New Onijagbo Of Ijagbo Emerges

By; BILIQIS
OLAJUMOKE
ONAOLAPO, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has approved the appointment of Alhaji Buhari Adeniyi as the new Onijagbo of Ijagbo in Oyun Local Government Area of the state.

Commissioner for Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Community Development, Hon. Lafia Aliyu Kora-Sabi said in a statement on Friday, that the announcement followed the long-drawn processes specified under the law.

"His Excellency congratulates the new Onijagbo of Ijagbo on his

ascension to the throne of his forebears," the statement said.

"This exalted position has uniquely placed His Royal Highness in the position to build bridges of harmony, understanding, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence amongst the people. The Governor similarly urges all sons and daughters of the ancient community to work with His Royal Highness to consolidate on the successes of his forefathers.

"His Excellency prays that the reign of His Royal Highness will usher in more progress, peace and development in his domain in particular and the State at large."

Timi Frank To Tinubu: You Lack Capacity To Fight Corruption In Judiciary

*Says 80% of corrupt politicians will be beneficiaries of Asiwaju's presidency

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Comrade Timi Frank, has faulted Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu's claim that he will make corruption unattractive, especially in the Judiciary.

Frank, who described such statement as a lie, noted that the former Lagos state governor do not possess the capacity and ability to fight corruption in the Judiciary.

Tinubu, while speaking in Port Harcourt, during the inauguration of a Magistrate Courts Complex built by the Governor Nyesom Wike administration, reportedly promised to make corruption unattractive.

Responding in a statement released on Saturday in Abuja, Timi Frank said Tinubu's track record on corruption fights is abysmal.

According to Frank, It is an insult to the sensibility of majority of Nigerians, that Tinubu who has been linked to several corrupt practices, including the famous bullion van episode, will suddenly become the anti corruption czar.

He said: "A man who's unable to answer questions on the activities of the Alpha Beta company and several other properties linked to him, obviously do not possess the prerequisites to fight corruption.

"It is however ironic that Tinubu, whose political career is peppered with allegations of corruption, would try to position himself as a champion of anti-corruption, only aimed at fooling the gullible.

"Of utmost importance is



the caliber of persons currently hobnobbing around the president elect for one favor or another. These individuals who are busy outwitting one another, all in a bid to grab juicy government portfolios with statutory immunity, may all have a case or more to answer with the anti graft agencies. These characters who are currently vying for leadership positions in all arms of government, including the Executive, Legislature, and the Judiciary will most likely be cleared for public service, thereby joepadizing the fight against corruption ab initio.

The Bayelsa born political activist believed that the incoming administration, if confirmed by the judiciary, will harbour many politicians of questionable characters giving them a safe haven to operate.

"A closer look at these individuals reveals that they are made of high net worth personalities who may have previously been convicted of crimes, or currently facing investigations or

prosecution by the EFCC and other sister anti graft agencies.

"The jostle for the position of the Senate President by one of the leading contenders is a clear testimony to the fact. It is therefore pertinent to ascertain whether Tinubu's potential administration will be comprised by these glaring associations.

"Consequently, the statement credited to the former Lagos state governor in Port Harcourt is laughable, given that the facts prove otherwise as clearly evident by the current realities.

"It's worthy to note that Tinubu, whose ruling party campaigned on an anti-corruption mantra will suddenly drive an anti-corruption fight when even the incumbent President, who has no known history of corruption is unable to tackle the menace, rather the corruption index has risen exponentially under this administration."

Frank who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua

(ULMWP), Ambassador to East Africa and Middle East, furthermore added that it will be difficult to take Tinubu's words on fighting corruption seriously.

He said: "Evidence of corruption linked to his interests continues to surface, as even the recently concluded general elections were grossly compromised. Tinubu should note that he's yet to be sworn in and should focus his attention on the pending cases challenging the legitimacy of his victory at the polls rather than making any such promises on an illegality pending before the tribunal.

"Lastly as a nation seeking a change, we must demand accountability from our leaders, regardless of their party affiliation. We cannot afford to remain silent whilst corruption continues to plague our democracy. Those who seek to lead us, must henceforth show by their actions that they are committed to a corrupt-free Nigeria."

Constant Personnel Training Key To Countering Security Threats - COAS

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

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lieutenant General Faruk Yahaya has said that the Nigerian Army (NA) considers constant training of personnel as key to countering any threats to security of the nation.

He stated this while declaring open a one-week Nigerian Army Inter Formation Combat Cross Country Competition 2023, at Headquarters 3 Division Small Arms Range, Miango, Jos.

While charging the participants to take advantage of the

competition to build their endurance for effective fighting efficiency during military operations, the COAS noted that training in rough and rugged terrains requires endurance and team work. Represented by the Commandant Nigerian Army Amour School, Major General Adewale Adekeye, the COAS reiterated that the NA will continue to place high premium on qualitative training of its personnel across board.

He explained that the competition would enhance combat proficiency of troops towards discharging their

roles as professional soldiers.

Earlier, in his welcome address, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Division NA and Commander Operation Safe Haven (OPSH), Major General Abdulsalami Bagudu Ibrahim noted that the competition is aimed at promoting team spirit and healthy competition among NA formations, while building their endurance.

Represented by the Chief Of Staff Headquarters 3 Division, Brigadier General David Kurmi, the GOC/Commander OPSH thanked the COAS for

approving 3 Division to host the event.

He noted that physical training and exercise is key to physical and mental well-being of an individual. He urged the participants to take advantage of the competition to build their stamina.

The participants for the competition drawn from all the formations of the NA will be competed for five kilometers combat race through difficult terrain, beam heaving, sit up, push up, vertical rope, climbing and step bench test.

They were also subjected to 15 kilometers combat cross country race.



Nasarawa Council Chair Suspended Over Alleged Misconduct

By; **SAMSON YAKI, Lafia**

The Legislative Arm of Doma Local Government Area in Nasarawa State has passed a resolution suspending the executive chairman of the area, Architect Ahmed Sarki Usman for six months with immediate effect.

The Speaker of the arm, Igbabo Rabo announced the suspension during plenary on Wednesday,

citing failure of the council chairman to present budget for the 2023 fiscal year in flagrant breach of section 41(2) of the Nasarawa State Local Government Law 2018 as amended.

Mr Rabo also accused the suspended chairman of assaulting some members of the Legislative Arm at his residence in Lafia on August 12, 2022.

Other allegations include deliberate refusal to

appear before the lawmakers, involvement in anti-party activities, forceful removal of the Sergeant at Arm of the Legislative Arm, repeated denial of the Legislative Arm access to financial details of the Council and blatant refusal to devote 45% of funds accrued to the Council for development projects in the development area as enshrined in section 77 of the Nasarawa State Local

Government 2018 as amended.

The Legislative Arm in the plenary which had seven members in attendance directed the suspended Chairman to handover the affairs and leadership of the Council to his Deputy. Mr Usman was further barred from parading himself and carrying out any social and banking transactions in the name of the council.



Kaduna Monarch Honours PDP Chieftain With Wambai Garun-Kurama Traditional Title

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

A critical stakeholder of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Lere Local Government Area of Kaduna State has been honoured with the Wambai Garun Kurama traditional title by the village head of Garu.

Irmiya Garba, who is well known as Jerry was turbaned on Friday May 5, 2023 by the Chief of Garun Kurama, Malam Bala Kadade Surubu amidst a mammoth crowd of supporters.

The Wambai title according to Mr Bawa, was given to Jerry because of the direct link with the ruling family of the community and his people support base that has been beneficial to the community.

Bawa said Jerry has distinguished himself as a

man of the people whose life of sacrifice has been notable, since he was a civil servant up to his political life.

While expressing his joy over the ceremony, Mr. Jerry said he has been called to another service to humanity, an added feather in his cap, pledging to be diligent in contributing to the development of his community.

He thanked the entire council of chiefs and the community leaders for finding him worthy of the noble call.

"I have every good reason to turn down this offer, but I consider it a clarion call to serve my people, to contribute my quota in making sure our collective destiny in the community is enhanced is a cordial relationship where peace and unity will take the lead," Jerry said.

By:AKINOLAARIYO



LR;LagosStateDeputyCommissionerofPoliceOperation,ShaffaHassan,HRMObaAbdulWasiuOmogbolahanLawal(AbisogunIITheOniruoofIruKingdom)andLagosStateCommissionerofPolice,IdowuOwahunwaduringofficialvisittotheOniruoofIruKingdominLagos.

R-L;HRM ObaAbdul-Wasiu Omogbolahan Lawal (Abisogun II The Oniru of Iru Kingdom) presenting the magazine of the palace to Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Idowu Owahunwa in his palace in Lagos.



R-L; HRM Oba AbdulWasiu Omogbolahan Lawal (AbisogunII The Oniru of Iru Kingdom) presenting the magazine of the palace to Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Idowu Owahunwa in his palace in Lagos.



L-R; Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Idowu Owahunwa presenting a police plaque to HRM Oba Abdul-Wasiu Omogbolahan Lawal (Abisogun II The Oniru of Iru Kingdom) in his Lagos



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Free Eye Treatment: Fitilar Jama'ar Reaches Out To Bichi Community Of Kano

By: JABIRUA. HASSAN, Kano

A Kano based non-governmental organization (NGO), Fitilar Jama'a situated in Bichi Local Government Area has since its establishment, been tirelessly working to promote and improve health, social and economic well-being of people, especially the downtrodden. The nonprofit outfit has initiated and executed quite a number of projects solely for humanitarian service spread across key sectors of human endeavors

such as; health, education and portable water infrastructure. Vice Chairman of the self-help association, Malam Ali Ibrahim in an interview with New Nigerian Newspapers, reiterated commitment of members to continue serving the people, assuring those yet to benefit from numerous community development initiatives that they would be captured in subsequent programmes. On success stories of the outfit, Ali Ibrahim Bichi disclosed that many

programmes on vocations and empowerment such as training on solar repairs to promote self reliance among the populace, were carried out to positively impact on lives of people within the community. While seeking collaboration from individual and corporate bodies, Malam Ibrahim commended sponsors and benefactors of the association whose invaluable material assistance he noted could never be quantified, adding that Fitilar Jama'a wouldn't have gone this far

without the complementary efforts of good citizens. He was full of praises for chairman of the association, Alhaji Rulwan Idris Malikawa Garu and his lieutenants for leading Fitilar Al'umar Bichi to an enviable heights. He declared that Fitilar Jama'ar Bichi would always in collaboration with sister associations, be ready and in the forefront of leading humanitarian strides capable of impacting positively on lives of the masses.



Sudan Evacuation: ACF Hails Onyema, Dangote, MTN

**Says acts patriotic*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

While describing their acts as genuine patriotism, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), has singled out Mr. Allen Onyema of Air-Peace, Aliko Dangote and MTN for rising to the occasion in ensuring Nigerians caught up in the Sudan crisis are evacuated home.

ACF expressed this in a statement signed by its chairman, Chief Audu Ogbah, made available to our correspondent in Kaduna yesterday.

"However, one person who stands out in this demonstration of patriotism is Mr Allen Onyema of Air-Peace.

"We notice that, some years ago, when some Nigerians were expelled from South Africa, he sent several flights to South Africa to bring them back at his own cost.

"He has equally sent our national football team out a number of times to enable them participate in tournaments and this time from Sudan, he deployed a whole Boeing 777 Aircraft including the fueling, overflight duties, landing fees, international flight charges and other costs in order to rescue Nigerians caught up in Sudan," ACF said.

The statement added, "We want to thank him for this remarkable and consistent show of patriotism, we are

deeply touched, and we pray that the Almighty God will reward him adequately."

Arewa Consultative Forum said that, "This is to express our joy and relief at the efforts of the Nigerian Government, namely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and the Diaspora organisation in bringing back our youths and others caught up in the sad events in Sudan.

"We appreciate their efforts and commend them for their commitment to national service.

"We are however particularly grateful and appreciative of the support given by some very patriotic Nigerians. In particular, we want to thank Mr Allen Onyema and Aliko Dangote for the personal support they gave to the stranded Nigerians. Aliko's 100,000 Naira to each of them, and MTN's recharge credit of 25,000 Naira each are extremely remarkable gestures of good-heartedness and patriotism. Only God Almighty will reward them for these efforts.

"These patriots continue to show that in spite of our challenges and difficulties as a nation, we have men and women who still love their country and will go to any length to render service in times of need," the statement said.



C'River: JUSUN Strike Halts 2023 Elections Petition Tribunal Hearing

By: VITALIS UGOH, Calabar

An indefinite strike action declared by the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), Cross River State, has put a set back to the inaugural sitting of the 2023 Elections Petition Tribunal in Calabar.

It would be recalled that the hearing was scheduled to commence on May 3 by 9:00am, but as at 10:45, the premises for the hearing still remained under locks and key.

The Secretary of the Tribunal, Akawu Bamur in a short response said the sitting has been adjourned indefinitely in view of the strike and a new date would be subsequently disclosed.

Petitions the panel was scheduled to hear include that of the People's Democratic Party (PDP's) gubernatorial candidate, Professor Sandy Onor against the state governor elect and All Progressives Congress (APC) gubernatorial candidate,

Senator Bassey Otu.

Another major petition was that of the governor, Prof. Ben Ayade who lost his Cross River North Senatorial Contest to the PDP's Senator Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe.

Comrade Enyia Etorti, the state chairman of JUSUN had earlier justified the action, saying, "the government failed to make any response to their demands which have been since 2015".

He went on, "our major

demands are the independence of the judiciary, which I think is more paramount. Then the most pertinent to us is the pending 66% which is CONJUSS, it's paid all over the country.

"The state only paid 34 per cent, left with 66 per cent and we have been begging the government to pay for years, moreover, promotion has not been made for years in the state judiciary," he said.



Alleged Anti Party: NNPP Expels Ogun, Delta Party Chairmen

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The National Working Committee (NWC) of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) on Thursday, announced the expulsion of the party chairmen in Ogun, Comrade Sunday Olaposi Oguni and Delta State, Chief Efe Tobor. National Publicity Secretary of the party, Dr Agbo Major made this known at a press conference held at the party's national secretariat, Abuja. According to the NNPP National Publicity Secretary, the two Chairmen were expelled for alleged anti-party activities.

"It gives me great pleasure to address you today on the latest development in our

party. I wish to appreciate your presence here today even at such short notice. It is very disheartening that some members of our party engaged in anti-party activities by aligning openly with other parties in the last election", he said.

Dr. Major added, "You will agree with me that no party worth its salt will condone such misdemeanor.

Unfortunately, some States Chairmen and their Executives, apart from very loud anti-party activities were accused of plethora of wrongdoings which negated their oath of office".

"This prompted the National Working Committee (NWC) to set up a disciplinary committee to investigate

three states, Edo, Delta, and Ogun. While the Edo State chairman appeared before the disciplinary committee, the Delta State Chairman, Chief Efe Tobor and his Ogun State counterpart, Comrade Sunday Olaposi Oguni failed to appear on the two occasions they were invited".

The NNPP National Publicity Secretary stressed, "Consequently, the NWC met on Thursday, April 27, 2023 and came up with the following decisions: That the chairmen of NNPP in Ogun State, Sunday Olaposi Oguni and his Delta State counterpart, Chief Efe Tobor have been expelled from the party, with effect from Thursday April 27, 2023".

He maintained that, "the executive from the state, down to the local government and ward levels in Ogun and Delta have been dissolved effective from Thursday, April 27, 2023."

Dr Major noted, "The expulsion of the National Executive Committee (NEC) and the National Convention for ratification while further development on these two States and others will be made public".

Already, the executives and members of Ogun state of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) have expressed satisfaction over the expulsion of the party state Chairman, Comrade Olaposi Sunday Oguni.

Fire Razes Popular Lagos Alaba International Market

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE,
Lagos

Goods estimated to about several millions of Naira have been destroyed in an inferno that razed 12 shops at the popular Alaba International market in Lagos, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt.

One of the traders was said to have sustained severe burnt as the fire raged uncontrollably and was rushed to a private hospital.

Following the non arrival of fire fighters and other emergency responders, the traders were said to have resolved to source water on their own to put out the fire after all efforts to get officials of the Lagos State fire service to the scene proved abortive.

The inferno, which broke out at the early hours on Friday, from a shop where cylinders were stored, disrupted commercial activities within the market located in Ojo Local Government area of the state.

The Director, Lagos State Fire, and Rescue Service, Adeseye Margaret, who confirmed the inferno, alleged that the emergency officials responded to the distress call immediately but were turned back by the traders.

Adeseye, in a short statement made



available to newsmen, added that the emergency officials from Ojo, Sari-Iganmu, and Ajegunle stations have been mandated to stay some meters away from the scene, pending when the traders would allow them to assist.

According to the statement, reports reaching Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service indicates shops at the popular Alaba International Market, Ojo, Lagos are on Fire. However, Fire Crew from Ojo, Sari-Iganmu, and Ajegunle are

being turned back by angry mobs from performing their statutory duty but are presently on standby. The agency is consequently collaborating with Security Agents to address it.

Timi Frank Urges Presidential Election Petition Tribunal Justices To Uphold Integrity

**Warns against resorting to legal technicalities*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank on Friday, urged the Justices of the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal (PEPT) to be guided by integrity, truth and fear of God in the discharge of their crucial national assignment.

Frank in a statement in Abuja, reminded the five Justices of the court to be mindful of the great expectation of Nigerians who see them as the last hope in redressing discontent that emanated from obvious manipulation and rigging of the February 25, 2023, Presidential election.

He urged them to painstakingly sift the petitions before them, examine arguments for and against made by petitioners and defendants and unbiased reach a decision based on facts and unassailable truth.

He warned them against resort to legal technicalities in taking their final decisions, saying such an action is capable of completely eroding the confidence reposed in the judiciary by the oppressed and marginalized petitioners

whose electoral mandates have been brazenly stolen.

Frank said: "As the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal begins its hearing and determination of suits brought before it, it is noteworthy that the enthusiasm and expectation of Nigerians is at an all-time high, which signifies a renewed hope in the judiciary as an unbiased arbiter.

"The five Justices who have been selected for this arduous task are aware of the magnitude of the assignment before them, and therefore, must ensure that they uphold the high sense of integrity expected of them as Justices of the Court of Appeal.

"The overall consideration and subsequent decision of the tribunal must be seen to reflect the basis for judicial decisions, which are the products of two fixed elements: the facts and the rule of law.

"Therefore all the features of a good judgment are expected to be demonstrated by the Justices in an accurate, succinct, factual and vivid manner.

"The Justices must be reminded that the

fate of the nation is currently in their hands, and the least responsibility expected by Nigerians is their unalloyed loyalty to the people and their oaths of allegiance to the Nigerian Constitution.

"They must resist any form of pressure from whomsoever whether within or without. The Justices must display utmost uprightness as Nigeria will be in the spotlight of international stakeholders and citizens eager to follow the proceedings."

Frank, who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), Ambassador to East Africa and Middle East, insisted that expectations of Nigerians who feel disenfranchised should be the main cause of worry for the Justices.

According to him, "the total disregard by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in adhering to its set procedures and denying same is a shame to say the least, notwithstanding the earlier position of its National Chairman affirming to follow the electoral guidelines.

"It is rather appalling that several months

after the conduct of the Presidential elections, we're still confronted with unuploaded results on the IREV Portal. Therefore utmost importance to details rather than technicality must be the bedrock in determining the conduct of the 2023 General elections.

"The Presidential Tribunal must adhere to strict compliance with the timeframe for the tribunal's sitting as stipulated in the revised Electoral Act, as so much time has already been expended unnecessarily.

"The call for a speedy judgement before the May 29th 2023 handover date is sacrosanct and must be respected. We want to remind the Honourable Justices to do their own part in delivering a just judgement, while we look up to the Supreme Court for its final ruling.

"We do not expect anything less, otherwise the Nigerian people will hold the Justices liable for any eventuality.

"Furthermore, we urge all friends and stakeholders of the Nigeria project to also lend a voice in ensuring that the judiciary upholds the dignity and integrity expected of them.

"We are hopeful that there is a more sense

Governor Inuwa Wins Big At Business Day's State Competitiveness, Good Governance Awards

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has won two awards at the Business Day's State Competitiveness and Good Governance Award, 2022.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs)

Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available at the weekend, the event was held on Thursday May 4, 2023 at the Abuja Continental Hotel (Sheraton Hotel and Towers).

The governor's awards were received on his behalf by Dr. Manassah Daniel Jatau, the Deputy Governor of Gombe State.

The publisher and chief executive officer of Business Day Media, Mr. Frank Aigbogun said the event was created to ensure leaders at the sub-national levels of governance imbibe the culture of hard work and deliver the dividends of democracy to the citizens.

According to him, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya competed with other governors in various categories and emerged winner of Most Improved State on Ease of Doing Business and Most Improved State in Rural and Urban Development after the Award Committee, made up of eminent personalities, gathered primary data through on-the-spot assessments and analysis of secondary data provided on different socio-economic parameters.

"We have seen great strides in Gombe State since the coming of Governor Inuwa Yahaya. We have heard of his exploits in the health sector, infrastructure, rural development and investment drive. Just few days ago we witnessed as his state clinched the number one spot in the Ease of Doing Business ranking. No wonder His Excellency is a regular recipient of our Competitiveness awards. We congratulate His Excellency and we encourage him to continue to do more".

Receiving the award on behalf of Governor Inuwa, the Deputy Governor, Dr. Manassah Daniel Jatau described the recognition as a challenge to do more.

He appreciated the media outfit for rewarding hardwork and excellence in governance.

"Let me begin by appreciating the Publishers of Business Day for this recognition and award. It is a very important job you have done. Just last week we received an award as the best state in ease of doing business and another on pro-labour policies by the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria, and here we are today receiving another set of awards on excellence in public service".

"For us receiving an award is a challenge. A burden and expectation on us to do more. Based on the system Theory, none can do anything alone. We appreciate the contributions of all the people of the State who made this award a possibility. Therefore the award is dedicated to all the people resident in the state for their various contributions towards the success of our

administration".

"I invite you all to Gombe State to visit the 1000 hectares, Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park where we have provided all facilities including a dedicated source of power from Dadinkowa Dam, state-of-the-art infrastructure and social amenities as well as peaceful atmosphere for businesses to thrive. I also invite you to come and invest in Gombe State. We have the friendliest environment for business operations".

The Governor of Edo State, Godwin Obaseki, Minister of Labour and Empowerment, Chris Ngige, Director-General of NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa were among recipients of awards at the occasion.

The Gombe delegation at the event included the Commissioner of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Nasiru Aliyu mni, his Rural Development counterpart, Danladi Adamu and the Principal Private Secretary to the Governor, Ahmed kasimu Abdullahi.



NGO Urges Kaduna Govt To Equip ICT Centre, Lab For Girls With Disabilities

By; AUSTINE EMMANUEL, Kaduna
 A non governmental organisation (NGO), Centre for Girls Education, has advocated for improved budgetary allocation by the Kaduna State Government to its Special School to equip the ICT Centre and Laboratory for Girls with disabilities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
 The state has only One Special Junior Secondary School until recently, it started Senior Secondary School section, but without well equipped Information Communication Technology (ICT) centre and laboratory.
 It is against this background, the NGO is advocating for improved budgetary

allocation to meet the cost of the equipment to aid this segment of the girls. Speaking at a Media Roundtable, on Friday in Kaduna, a Rise up Fellow, Barr. Jennifer Agbaji noted that girls with special needs in the state face double invisibility as they have very little access to education due to the poor budgetary allocation for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). She explained that in view of the high cost, a budgetary line or a sub-head could be created for equipping the ICT/Laboratory, STEM education, she emphasized, gives girls with disabilities the skills that would make them More employable to meet the current labour demand.

“Girls with disabilities need to be part of the workforce that STEM course alone can make possible to shrink the gap and reduce inequalities”, she said. According to Barr. Jennifer Agbaji, women with disabilities have low employment rates, as compared with men with or without disabilities. STEM education, she added, affords women and girls with disabilities, the opportunity to pursue further education and future employment in these fields that are in high demand. Some PWDs at the meeting. Earlier, the Lead and Rise Up Fellow, Aisha Bello, who gave a brief on the Centre, said it focused on improving access and quality of school and

vocational training for rural and low income urban girls in Northern Nigeria since 2007. She said the Centre had helped girls across Northern Nigeria stay in school, delay marriage and acquire life skills and livelihoods through educational programs tailored to the needs of each segment of the girls population. The Kaduna State Special School has a population of about 1,100 students with 40% girls. Part of the roundtable, was a commitment by the media to join hands with the centre in the advocacy having lauded the Rise Up project funded by the Public Health Institute, Oakland, California, USA.



Transport Sector: Our Reforms On Safety In Conformity With UN Standards, Gov Akeredolu --- RETEAN

*PMC lauds Gov Akeredolu on security, infrastructures

By; ADOADEBOYE, Akure
The Ondo State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, CON has expressed satisfaction that performance indicators of the transport sector of his administration have conformed with the thematic thrust of the United Nations on Decade of Action targeting reduction in road crashes.

Governor Akeredolu who spoke at the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Ore Computerized Vehicle Inspection Centre said since the inception of his administration in Year 2017, conscious efforts have been deployed into transforming the transport sector.

The Governor represented by his Chief of Staff, Chief Olugbenga Ale said the restructuring of the Ministry of Transport by his administration have now yielded improved performance through the adoption of modern approaches to vehicle inspection and establishment of Computerized Vehicle Inspection Centres in three cities in the state.

"It is noteworthy that the Vehicle Inspection Department of the erstwhile Ministry of Transport is experiencing a paradigm shift from the old, manual way of doing things to digital method which is more accurate, reliable and cost effective", he said.

Governor Akeredolu who assured that by the time the Computerized Vehicle Inspection Mega Centre, Ore is completed will not only

intensify the sterling achievements in the transport sector but also contribute to safety on roads across state.

"This Mega Centre is one of the numerous fruitful outcomes of our partnership with private investors in line with our policy thrust of exploring the hitherto untapped resources for the growth and development of our dear State.

This Mega Vehicle Inspection Centre is principally to ensure safety on our roads for the protection of lives and property. The centre, when completed will ensure that major safety items such as tyre, brake, steering, vehicle emission, alignment conform to the prescribed safety standard", the governor declared.

Arakunrin Akeredolu used the occasion to highlight the heavy investments of his administration on aggressive construction of new roads, timely repairs and maintenance of old ones across Local Governments in the state all in a bid at ensuring ensuring smooth movement on all our roads the tate.

He acknowledged the collaborative efforts of officers and men of the Ondo State Security Network code-named Amotekun Corps with other security agencies which according to him have continually checkmated kidnapping and other nefarious activities on roads across the state and have enabled citizens to go about their daily activities without any fear.



In his Welcome Address the Special Adviser on Transport to Ondo State Governor, Tobi Ogunleye stated that the Ore Mega Computerised Vehicle Inspection Centre is in fulfilment of one of the critical features of the REDEEMED Agenda of Arakunrin Akeredolu administration.

"These Computerized Vehicle Inspection Services in Sunshine State are demonstration of the commitment of the Government to ensuring that our vehicles are road worthy and in ensuring ultimately reduction of road crashes in Ondo State and beyond"

The Special Adviser assured that the facility will be equipped with necessary facilities and machines required for computerised Vehicle Inspection to ensure adequate

safety of lives and properties on our roads.

"When this Centre is completed, it will be one of the four that had been built in the State. It is our determination to replicate these in the entire Vehicle Inspection Offices across the State as this will help to address the issue of the State of vehicles on the roads and determine the roadworthiness of such vehicles in line with the International practices" he added

He also urged all private vehicle owners to partner with the Government to promote safety on road by patronising the Ore Mega Computerised Vehicle Inspection Centre.

"This is because Vehicle safety is a component for total safety on the road, as we all know that Government cannot do it alone, it is the responsibility of

Vehicle owners to maintain their vehicles" he noted

In their separate goodwill messages, the Chairman of Ondo State Park Management Committee, Comrade Jacob Adebo and the Deputy State Chairman of Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria, Ondo State Chapter, Comrade Sodiq Moshood appreciated the Ondo State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu for the landmark project and assured

The Consulting Firm of the Project, Temple SYC Inspection Limited, represented by the Southwest Zonal Coordinator, Mr Bolaji Makinde appreciated the State Government for the opportunity to serve the state in its areas of core-competence and assured that it will work to give motorists the best of services to keep vehicles in perfect conditions.

Expert Advises Nigerian Farmers To Adopt Organic Fertilizers

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Professor Sani Yusuf of the National Agricultural Extension Research and Liaison Services (NAERLS/ABU) Zaria has advised farmers to adopt the use of organic fertilizer in their farms for agricultural development.

He gave the advise at the farmers field day on Tomatoes organized by the BPZ-BP Ltd inconjunction with Kaduna State Agricultural Agency (KADA) at Rafin Tabo, Kurmin Kogi in Ikara Local Government Area at the weekend.

He said the field day is to showcase the

performance of the organic product named, "Arisetech Soil Conditioner" which is purely natural without any chemical use in the farm such as Fertilizer or herbicide.

According to him, with this development farmers will gain more if they returned to the organic product in their farming processes.

The agricultural expert called on the producer's of the Arisetech Soil Conditioner to arranged market for farmers so that they will benefit more at the end.

In his remarks, the General Manager

Kaduna State Agricultural Development Agency (KADA) Abubakar Bayero commended the BPZ-BP Ltd for accepting to be in Kaduna and to partner with them.

Represented by Director Agricultural Services, Malam Adamu Usman said, KADA is ready to partner fully with them and it will use its avenue to enlighten farmers in the state on the benefit of the organic fertilizer in their farming activities.

The general manager commended the Lead farmer for accepting the trial in his farm.

Speaking on the performance of the organic product, the Director Operators BPZ-BP Ltd, Chyke Samuel N. said the product has no effect on Health either by human beings or animals.

He gave assurance that their product is purely natural and very safe for consumption and farmland.

The lead farmer, Malam Yusuf Rabo Rafin Tabo said, the Organic fertilizer is very effective and it has increase the production of the farm produce.

Rabo added, that he didn't use herbicide and fertilizer throughout only that the products when applied more water will be needed to complements its services.



Force Spokesperson CSP Adejobi flanked at the right by (AIG Works) Obe Rudolf and Dr. Olajide Abiodun Babajide

Police Earmarks 25 Lagos Barracks For Demolition

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

In its continuous efforts to upgrade poor and dilapidated facilities occupied by its personnel, the Police High Command has earmarked a total number of 25 barracks for demolition and redevelopment in Lagos.

The initiative is part of the Inspector General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba's fundamental resolve to address the longstanding dilapidated buildings occupied by personnel serving in the state and enhance their overall welfare.

The Force Public Relations Officer CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi made the disclosure at a press conference held at the Lagos State Police Command headquarters Ikeja on Wednesday.

Adejobi stated that the planned demolition is in full compliance with the Lagos State Government's recommendations on the poor condition of some Police

Barracks that do not match up to the structural integrity test.

He identified the affected Barracks to include Ijeh Police Barracks, Obalende, Highway Police Barracks, Ikeja, K9 Police Barracks, Keffi Street, South-West, Ikoyi, Falomo Police Barracks (A and B), Ikoyi, Bar Beach Police Barracks, Victoria Island, MOPOL 20 Barracks, Ikeja, Women Police Barracks, Obalende, MOPOL 2 Police Barracks, Keffi Street, South-West, Ikoyi, Mounted Troop, Ribadu Road, Ikoyi, Queen Barracks, Apapa, FPRO Annex Office and Barracks, Ijora Olopa.

Others are Iponrin Police Barracks, Surulere, Adekunle Police Barracks, Yaba, Federal Highway Patrol Office, Yaba, Alausa Police Barracks, Ikeja, Mounted Troop, Ikeja, Okesuna Police Barracks, Obalende, Mc Carthy Barracks, Obalende, Force Headquarters Annex, Obalende, Obalende Police Barracks, Obalende, Bourdillon

Police Barracks, Ikoyi, New Staff Quarters, Ikeja, Elere Police Barracks, Agege, Onikan Officers Mess, Ikoyi and Police Special Fraud Unit (PSFU), Milberton Street, Ikoyi.

The Force Spokesperson flanked by the Assistant Inspector General of Police (Works) AIG Obe Rudolf, hinted that the redevelopment of the Barracks will be carried out in partnership with the Lagos State Government, but not specific on the duration of completion.

Before eviction and commencement of the demolition exercise, Adejobi said all the genuine serving officers occupying the Barracks will be ascertained and giving enough money to rent alternative accommodations close to their respective stations for two years.

"The IGP's directive is that all currently residing and legally seated residents of any of the affected Barracks will receive a maximum sum of money equaling the rental cost for the

location of their Barracks for two years, to aid them in advance in acquiring alternative accommodation options throughout the period of reconstruction.

"Upon the successful curation and completion of these living arrangements, a formal notice to vacate will be issued.

"The Inspector-General of Police has provided an assurance that all officers who are on active service and living in these barracks legally, shall receive the keys to the new structures upon completion of the development of the improved housing area.

"The revolutionary drive of the Nigeria Police Force to redefine the physical landscape and outdoor environment of Police Barracks and other facilities in Lagos State is a clear-cut effort to modernize the current facilities, as well as create a conducive environment for officers to carry out their duties and responsibilities with honour and self-esteem", the Force

image maker emphasised.

Speaking at the occasion, the Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Housing Barrister Toke Awoyinka Benson said the State Government is passionate about what happens in the state, hence its resolve to give the police a befitting structure and their families.

"We have been talking with the Police over this that it is time to reconstruct the Barracks. We look at those building and ask that how would men coming out of these buildings be addressing us. They will transfer their anger on us. The police deserve a better living condition, something befitting of them", she posited.

In his contribution, the Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Enterprise Geography Information System (EGIS) Dr. Olajide Abiodun Babajide disclosed that the State Government will provide infrastructural support amongst others through the Lagos State Security Trust Fund.

Zango Kataf Attacks: Gen Opurum Promises Decisive Action Against Criminal Elements

By; AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

Commander of Sector 7, Operation Safe Haven Kafanchan, Brigadier General Timothy Opurum has expressed the determination of the Army to protect lives and property within their area of operation.

He assured that the Army will not be distracted in its quest to carry out its professional responsibilities in their area of assignment.

Speaking on Wednesday shortly after leading a troop on a show of force across communities in Atypa Chiefdom in Zango Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Brigadier General Opurum lamented that some elements have continued to disregard the efforts of the Army to ensure the sustenance of peace in the area.

Addressing community leaders in Zango Urban, the commander assured that the Army would not hesitate to deal decisively with

anyone found to have taken the law into his or her hand in the name of carrying out revenge attacks in whatever guise.

According to him. "The Army is more than prepared to decisively deal with trouble makers from both the Atypa, Hausa and Fulani communities."

He explained that the time was now over for those fomenting trouble in the area, assuring that he would no longer pamper and beg people who are bent on with their

evil actions.

General Opurum promised those planning to carry out attacks in the area that they would meet their Waterloo if they fail to heed the warning.

It would be recalled that Atypa villages had of recent, witnessed renewed attacks leading to the loss of many lives and destruction of property worth millions of Naira.

Nami, Executive Chairman, FIRS Wins ICAN Merit Award

**Also named winner BusinessDay Newspaper Excellence in Public Service Award 2022*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Mr. Muhammad Nami has been named winner of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) Merit Award 2023 in its Non-Members Category at the Institute's 2023 Annual Dinner Awards.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Special Assistant to the Executive Chairman, FIRS (Media & Communication), Johannes Oluwatobi Wojuola, made available yesterday.

Mr. Nami, who received the Award at the Monarch Event Centre, Lagos, on Saturday, was described by the President of the Association, Malam Tijani Musa Isa as an unassuming and humble achiever who has led the FIRS to excel in the international tax circle despite global economic challenges by achieving milestones in revenue collection.

"This Award is in recognition for your positive impact in the society. You have made significant contribution to the institute and to Nigeria. The governing board deemed it fit to acknowledge the role you have played and your outstanding achievements," Mal. Isa noted.

In his Citation, Mr. Muhammad Nami was described as "a go-getter and an ingenious leader." It further stated that "the reforms he is implementing at FIRS attest to his dexterity, visionary leadership and patriotism. Under his visionary leadership, the FIRS in 2022 achieved an unprecedented revenue collection of N10.1 trillion, which is the highest tax collection ever made in the history of the country."

While receiving the award, the Executive Chairman FIRS appreciated the Council Members of the Institute, saying that he has been lucky to work with their members through his 32 year career.



Mr. Muhammad Nami, Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) speaks to Tax Matters at the ICAN 2023 Annual Dinner Awards, held in Lagos. (May 6, 2023)

"Since I left the university, over 32 years ago, I have had the privilege and luck to be directly and indirectly associated with ICAN members: from the PKF, to Manam Professional Services, and now I am working directly with well over 3,000 members of this Institute as the Executive Chairman of the FIRS.

"I feel blessed by this honour and privilege. I am grateful to God, and to all of you who have found me worthy of this recognition. I pray God rewards all of you enormously," he noted.

Mr. Nami dedicated the award to his alma mater from primary to tertiary levels; his former colleagues at the Presidential

Committee on Audit of Stolen Recovered Stolen Assets; members of the Tax Advisory Committee of the FIRS; all taxpayers; the Board Members, Management and staff of the FIRS, and his family members.

In a similar recognition earlier in the week, on Thursday 4th May, 2023, the FIRS boss was named the winner of the BusinessDay Excellence in Public Service Award 2022, at the BusinessDay States Competitiveness And Good Governance Awards 2022.

The country's influential business newspaper explained that it named him the winner of the award for his "visionary

and leadership qualities [that] has brought tremendous change to the FIRS."

It further noted that: "Under your leadership, you transformed the tax administration and compliance landscape in Nigeria. You deployed the revolutionary TaxPro Max: FIRS' homegrown digital platform for tax administration which allows taxpayers to register, file returns and pay their taxes easily from any location other than their respective tax offices.

"You have repositioned the operations and staff of the FIRS, and introduced technological tools to institute more transparency, accountability, and effectiveness, which in turn has translated into the



Mr. Muhammad Nami, Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) flanked by staff of the FIRS, after he received the ICAN Merit Award, at the ICAN 2023 Annual Dinner Awards, Lagos. (May 6, 2023)



Mr. Muhammad Nami, Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), receives the ICAN Merit Award from Mallam Tijani Musa Isa, President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN). (May 6, 2023)

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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

My Phone Conversation With Dangiwa Umar Over Tukur Mamu

By; HASSAN GIMBA

My column of last week with the title “Like Mamu, like Abdulsalami and the billion naira firefighter” drew the attention of Colonel Dangiwa Umar (rtd). The respected senior citizen was more particular about the first part because I mentioned him.

In the piece, I pointed out that Tukur Mamu, publisher of Kaduna-based Desert Herald and an aide to Sheikh Ahmad Gumi, a popular Islamic cleric, was arrested in September last year and taken to court on a 10-count charge bordering on terrorism financing.

He was accused of receiving ransom payments from families of hostages on behalf of the Boko Haram terrorist group that attacked the Abuja-Kaduna train. The government said the offence contravenes section 21 (3) (a) of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022.

Then I went on to observe that four girls – Bilha Musa, Faiza Ahmed, Rahma Abdullahi and Hafsa Murtala – out of the remaining 11 schoolgirls of Federal Government College, Birnin Yauri, in Kebbi State, abducted by bandits on June 17, 2021, were released not out of magnanimity but because of what Mamu was accused of – negotiations and fundraising to get the abductees released. “It took six days of negotiations in the forest before four of the girls were released to us,” Salim Kaoje told pressmen after their release. The sum of ₦80m was also said to have been given to the bandits out of the ₦105m they demanded. They held the remaining seven back until the balance was made available to them.”

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

“This group”, according to the article, “donated and got some from the abducted girls’ relatives and good Samaritans, including organisations, to convey such to the abductors who, in turn, released their captives.”

And then the question: “Is this not exactly what Tukur Mamu did, which was termed ‘financing terrorism’?”

But Colonel Dangiwa Umar, who called

me on my mobile phone, disagreed.

Courteous, straight to the point and diplomatic, he calmly asked, “Am I speaking to Malam Hassan Gimba?” to which I answered in the affirmative. And he said, “I am Dangiwa Umar.” He told me that he had read my article and that “it was quite wrong to compare us with Tukur Mamu.”

To those now opening their eyes to Nigeria, Colonel Dangiwa Umar was a fiery military governor of Kaduna State, comprising Kaduna and current Katsina State, between August 1985 and June 1988, during the regime of General Ibrahim Babangida.

During the ill-fated coup attempt of Major Gideon Gwaza Orkar on April 22, 1990, Dangiwa Umar, as commander of the Armoured Corps Centre and School, Bauchi, threatened to shell and neutralise the coupists from his base. He retired from the army in 1993 and founded a political party called the Movement for Unity and Progress.

He is a social critic. The Nation newspaper editorial of June 8, 2020, said this of him: “Colonel Abubakar Dangiwa Umar (retd) rarely speaks, and when he does, he captures the conscience of the nation. He has done that since he retired as a young, idealistic soldier during the turmoil of the June 12 crisis in the early 1990s.”

He told me that two of the four girls released had returned with kids and that what they did was to help bring succour to traumatised people. He lamented that some of the parents of the abducted girls had died as a result of the trauma of having their daughters in the hands of unconscionable brigands. He said kidnapped females are subjected to sexual abuse and that no one would be happy if someone close to him is a victim. I could feel the pain in his voice. If he had the opportunity, the 74-year-old retired armoured officer would lead troops into the bush to give bandits a bloody nose. With a heavy voice, he lamented, “Malam Hassan, there are over a thousand people in captivity in the bush.”

While I understood the pain of the Colonel, I also do not see dissimilarities in what Mamu thought or did. Perhaps he, too, was touched by the sufferings of captives and the agony their loved ones found themselves in. I try as much as possible to see humanism as the motive of both sets of “saviours.” Whether one has “gained” anything or not is a matter of conjecture to be left for the courts to



Hassan Gimba
Monday
Column

decide.

However, my chief concern is not why money was paid to bandits by anyone. After all, we daily hear of kidnapers, in towns and bushes, being paid ransom. It has reached a stage now where people get kidnapped in broad daylight in schools, markets, workplaces, intra and inter-town commercial vehicles, etc. I believe almost everyone will pay, except if they have no money, to secure the freedom of a loved one. Sadly, that route has to be taken because it seems like it is the only way.

When 27-year-old American Philip Walton was kidnapped in the Niger Republic and the kidnapers brought him into Nigeria as a safer place, US Special Forces, including the Navy SEALs, mounted an operation in Nigeria and rescued him.

People like Mamu and everyone else take it upon themselves to negotiate with and give kidnapers money for the release of victims because there is a vacuum; those whose responsibility it is to secure citizens seem overwhelmed; the rogues among them even collude with the terrorists to make a killing on the misery of those they are paid to protect.

But when a retired General and onetime commander-in-chief of the nation’s armed forces, a onetime fiery military governor, senior officials of a sitting government and other respected citizens pool resources and deliver the proceeds to brigands to release their captives because there is no other way, then it becomes sad. And scary. It makes one cry for Nigeria. Hassan Gimba is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Neptune Prime.

NEMA Distributes Items Donated By Saudi's KSrelief To 8,050 Nigerians



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has concluded distribution of food items donated by a Saudi Arabia based charity organization, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) to 8,050 households across three states in Nigeria.

The food items were donated under the KSrelief's Eta'am Basket project in the Federal Republic of Nigeria 2023.

The items were distributed to 500 households in Kano State, 2,200 in Yobe and 5,300 in Borno. Each of the 8,050 households received a total 59.8 kilogram basket of food, comprising of 25kg of rice; 25kg of beans; 4kg of Masa Vita flour; 2kg of tomato paste; 2litres of groundnut oil; 1kg of salt and 0.8kg of maggi cubes.

A statement signed by the Head, Press Unit NEMA, Manzo Ezekiel made available yesterday, said the beneficiaries were identified by the State Emergency

Management Agency (SEMA) of the states while the distribution was carried out directly to them by staff of NEMA and SEMAs.

In line with the purpose of the donation, the items were distributed to indigent residents of the three selected states that were affected by disasters and insurgency.

The food distribution was conducted recently, during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.



Inuwa, el-Rufa'i Unveil Shongo Layout, Flag-off Construction Of 550 Housing Units, Commission GOGIS Service Centre

*Kaduna Governor extols Governor Inuwa's foresight, clear vision to transform Gombe

*GOGIS has generated over N1.8bn so far - Dr. Kabir Hassan

Iby; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, alongside his Kaduna counterpart, Malam Nasiru Ahmed el-Rufa'i have performed the official unveiling of a new layout, known as Shongo Gardens Layout and the ground breaking for the construction of 550 housing units in a bid to provide affordable houses to the people of Gombe State.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available on Saturday May 6, 2023.

Speaking at the event, Governor Inuwa observed that owing to its centrality in the North Eastern zone and the prevailing insecurity in the neighboring states, Gombe State has witnessed an exponential increase both in population and size of its urban centres, partly as a result of influx of Internally Displaced Persons and urbanisation, the scenario that he said has put more pressure on the existing social amenities and proliferated the demand for housing and other social services.

"Since inception, we realised that in our efforts towards achieving the SDGs Goal 11 on fostering sustainable community and inclusive urban development we must develop innovative ways to provide affordable and quality housing to our people.

"It is against this backdrop that our administration deemed it necessary to establish Gombe Geographic Information Systems, GOGIS and transform the Gombe State Development Board to Gombe State Urban Planning Development Authority, GOSUPDA in order to ensure the realisation of the urban renewal agenda while abolishing administrative bottle necks", he added.

According to the governor, the twin events mark the commencement of yet another phase of massive infrastructural development in the state and an important step that will see to the actualisation of the Special Development Zone Project which encapsulates an ambitious vision of his administration for a new and modern Gombe.

"This layout will be the first of



its kind where critical infrastructure such as roads, water, power networks and other vital services will be provided with a goal of creating a habitable environment for Gombe residents while at the same time attracting investors and developers", he noted.

Governor Inuwa warned that his administration will not condone any act of sabotage, distortion or encroachment in the new layout, calling on all relevant authorities to ensure compliance to development control regulations in the area.

The governor said when completed, the housing project will provide housing opportunities to hundreds of civil servants and other residents of the state, assuring to continue collaborating with both domestic and international development partners in the provision of sustainable housing and inclusive urban development.

In his remarks during the events, Mallam Nasir Ahmed Elrufa'i commended the people of Gombe State for their votes to the APC presidential candidates, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu during the presidential election and for re-electing Governor Inuwa Yahaya, whom he described as a performing governor.

"Gombe people have wisely

chosen development over deception; they refused to compromise their future and that of their young ones. I assure you that you will never regret this", he said.

Elrufa'i extolled Governor Inuwa's foresight and clear vision as testified by his administration's policies and programmes which are geared toward restoring the pride of the people of Gombe State.

"Like in our case in Kaduna, layouts have been distorted and land mismanaged, there are carve outs in GRA and no additional layouts were created, people are erecting structures without compliance to regulations and so on.

"There is urgent need to make provisions and plan for our cities and urban centres to provide conducive environment for the ever increasing population. And this is exactly what Governor Inuwa is doing in Gombe; planning for the present and the future. He is also thriving to see Gombe always remains the best option for investors, I believe that is why Gombe remains its position as the best in the ease of doing business in the country".

At the GOGIS Corporate Office, Mallam Elrufa'i described the establishment of the agency as "a step in the right direction, maintaining that no development can be achieved

without proper land administration".

He said GOGIS, apart from revenue generation, will contribute to peace and development of Gombe State.

Earlier speaking at the venue of the unveiling of the layout and flagging off of the housing construction, the Director General, Gombe Geographic Information Systems, Dr Kabiru Usman Hassan said the location, structure and other properties of the layout were modelled to provide safer, convenient and more enticing environment using Internationally recommended standards.

At the Corporate Office of the Agency, the DG lamented that "GOGIS Project was conceived in 2013 but suffered negligence by previous administration until the emergence of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya in 2019 who saw the need to rejuvenate the agency by digitizing its functions using the GIS technology".

He appreciated the support of Governor Inuwa which saw to the success of the agency and facilitation of its transformation from analogue to digital systems.

"Your Excellency, you have provided the necessary infrastructure to this agency and supported us in terms of legislation, budgetary

allocation, skillful manpower, vehicles, and befitting office complex as well as technological facilities that have adequately armed the agency to deliver on its mandate".

Dr. Kabiru noted that the agency has recorded some remarkable achievements to include: securing digital Certificates of Occupancy, digitization of over 22 thousand manual land files out of the 27,000, digitization 52 layouts to checkmate distortions, regularization of about 12,000 customary titles to statutory titles, capturing of over 1500 customary plots into database, among others.

"GOGIS through the delivery of its services, has been able to generate about 1.8 billion naira, contributing greatly to the increased Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the state", he said.

Ealier in his welcome address at the venue, the Commissioner of Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Idris Abdullahi thanked Governor Inuwa for his foresight in conceiving and moving to execute the mega project, saying that it is the first time ever in the history of the state, that a state government is building such a large number of housing units at a go.

To Be Continued

President Buhari Finally Develops a Governance Plan

By Jibrin Ibrahim

“There is continuity in government but an out-going government cannot concoct new plans it cannot itself implement for another. It is also annoying that the tough decisions he MAYBE now knows he should have taken should be taken by others after him but he wants to take the credit for the decision-making. The 101 of policy implementation is that governmental decision-making is valid within the period the person in charge has a mandate, not before, not after.”

WHEN I first saw the headline yesterday, I thought it was a joke. All papers reported that President Buhari has just launched a long-term national development plan three weeks before leaving the office he had spent eight years in. I read the story and he is indeed proposing an economic governance plan for the country until the year 2050. For the first two of his eight years in power, he refused to even appoint economic advisers. When he eventually appointed a team and they proposed a plan – the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), 2017-2020, he refused to implement it on the grounds that the Central Bank Governor, a nice man, has been giving him trillions of naira through “ways and means” so he does not need to take any tough economic decisions.

I wonder how deeply insulted the incoming president will feel when the man who could not implement a plan for himself, offers one to somebody who actually listens to experts and advisers. I am more concerned about the reality of someone who has been both a military and civilian president and has no notion of a mandate being tied to the period served in office and not beyond. We all recall that the other big economic governance policy measure that President Buhari has taken is that the fuel subsidy regime, which he has stubbornly refused to implement while in office, in spite of advice from all quarters, would be removed from first June 2023, a couple of days after he has left office.

Clearly, he does not even understand that such action is an insult and is deeply disrespectful of the incoming government. Above all, someone should have been bold enough to explain to him that his mandate ends on 29th May 2023 and that it is illegal, null and void to leave new plans for the next government. There is continuity in government but an out-going government cannot concoct new plans it cannot itself implement for another. It is also annoying that the tough decisions he MAYBE now knows he should have taken should be taken by others after him but he wants to take the credit for the decision-making. The 101 of policy implementation is that governmental decision-making is valid within the period the person in charge has a mandate, not before, not after.

“In other words, the new Plan is simply a public relations ploy for him to say he left

a plan of action for the government coming after him. It's pathetic because President Buhari borrowed so massively during his tenure that the government's debt burden is so much that all in-coming revenue is now used for debt servicing with no resources left for development. How then would the plan be financed and implemented?”

The Nigeria 2050 Plan he is proposing is essentially fiction. It claims that it will ensure that Nigeria attains a GDP per capita of \$33,328 per annum, placing the country among the top middle-income economies in the world by 2050. According to World Bank data, Nigeria's GDP per capita was only \$2,065.7 in 2021. President Buhari said his plan has the vision of a dynamic, industrialised and knowledge-based economy that generates inclusive and sustainable development for the country.

Excellent words! The irony is that his own Plans were never implemented – the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), 2017-2020. The Plans lapsed in December, 2020 so there are no links between his own economic actions in the last three years – based on borrowing to pay for fuel subsidy and what he is proposing in the new plan without fuel subsidy. In other words, the new Plan is simply a public relations ploy for him to say he left a plan of action for the government coming after him. It's pathetic because President Buhari borrowed so massively during his tenure that the government's debt burden is so much that all in-coming revenue is now used for debt servicing with no resources left for development. How then would the plan be financed and implemented?

“The law has therefore been violated repeatedly by President Buhari because there were no repayments for the eight years and the CBN under the – “you ask and I pay policy” of Godwin Emefiele of the Central Bank. If the regulation had been followed, the Ways and Means to the government for the entire 2022 should not exceed N219 billion (5 per cent of the government's revenue in 2021).”

In seven years, President Buhari collected advances to the federal government which rose 2,900 per cent to N23.8 trillion, an unprecedented rise that violated the law, stoked inflation and worsened the country's debt burden. These so-called Ways and Means Advances, are tightly controlled by law as they can fuel inflation and distort monetary policy. In May 2015 when the Buhari administration came into office, the CBN's loans to the federal government stood at N789.7 billion cumulatively. His government then went on a spending spree.

For example, between January and October 2022 alone, the government drew N5.6 trillion. By comparison, between December 2012, the earliest date the CBN has released data for and May



Jibrin Ibrahim

2015, a period of two and half years, Ways and Means advances rose by N654.9 billion. This week, after a long hesitation, the National Assembly approved that the advances be wiped off by converting them to long term bonds.

Meanwhile, the law is clear. The CBN Act says the CBN may grant advances to the federal government to cover temporary deficit of budget revenue at such rate as the bank may determine. It however warns that the total amount of such advances outstanding shall not at any time exceed five (5) percent of the previous year's actual revenue of the federal government.

In addition, it stipulates that, ALL advances shall be repaid as soon as possible and shall, in any event, be repayable by the end of the federal government financial year in which they are granted and if such advances remain unpaid at the end of the year, the power of the bank to grant such further advances in any subsequent year shall not be exercisable, unless the outstanding advances have been repaid.

“The most serious concern is that the Central Bank appears to have voluntarily given up its independence by pumping as much money as the government requests. The challenge now is to see if the incoming government can wean itself from this path of easy money. Meanwhile, we still have three more weeks of President Buhari in power so we will see what other policy directives he devises for the incoming government when he returns

from the Coronation of King Charles III.” The law has therefore been violated repeatedly by President Buhari because there were no repayments for the eight years and the CBN under the – “you ask and I pay policy” of Godwin Emefiele of the Central Bank. If the regulation had been followed, the Ways and Means to the government for the entire 2022 should not exceed N219 billion (5 per cent of the government's revenue in 2021).

The National Assembly approval of converting the CBN loans to bonds with a maturity of 40 years and an interest rate of nine per cent, effectively transfers much of the bill to the next generation of Nigerians. Meanwhile, the spending has significantly spiked inflation as the CBN became a massive pump to inject cash into the economy.

The most serious concern is that the Central Bank appears to have voluntarily given up its independence by pumping as much money as the government requests. The challenge now is to see if the incoming government can wean itself from this path of easy money. Meanwhile, we still have three more weeks of President Buhari in power so we will see what other policy directives he devises for the incoming government when he returns from the Coronation of King Charles III. 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.

C'River: Offiong Edem Foundation To Host Mini-Table Tennis Tournament For Five States

By: VITALIS UGOH, Calabar

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Offiong Edem Foundation, a professional table tennis star and legend, Offiong Edem, has concluded plans to host a Mini-Table Tennis Tournament for Children between the ages seven to 15 from Abia, Bayelsa, Akwa-Ibom, Rivers and Cross River states at the U.J Esuene Stadium from June 3 to 7, 2023.

The Cross River-born international table tennis champion said, "I do not want table tennis to die with me, in Cross River State, that is why I decided to use this opportunity to host a mini-table tennis tournament in order to groom young stars.

"I am also inviting other neighbouring states to participate in this year's event and it is open to all children between seven to 15 years, this will be great opportunity for the kids to showcase their table tennis skills".

Offiong Edem who qualified for the finals of the European Table Tennis Cup is currently playing in Qratro Mori Tennis Tavolo in Sardinia, Italy.

She spoke during a telephone interview with reporters on the state of her preparedness for the finals.

She said she would pair with Romanian top ranked players, Tania Plaina and Adreea Dragoman during the finals.

"We will be playing against the Hungarian team. They belong to Budaorsi Hungary.

"We defeated them 3-2 in the first leg home matches: that was on the 2nd of April 2023.

Before berthing in the finals, Edem's team

had defeated the Italian team in quarter finals 3-1. They had also defeated the French team in the semifinals 3-1.

Edem disclosed that after the continental table tennis championship, she will return to Nigeria to organize Tournament for different categories of Cross River young table tennis stars.

"It is true that I am planning to come home to organize the annual

Offiong Edem Table Tennis tournaments.

"Prizes, tennis equipment and

empowerments would be given out to the young budding stars.

"The tournaments will aim at

discovering new talents and encourage older ones."



CAA'S U18/20 Championship: Engr. Gusau Hails Performance Of Team Nigeria

By: AMOS MATHEW, Kaduna

The immediate past Vice-President of the Confederation of African Athletics CAA, Engr. Dr. Ibrahim Shehu Gusau has hailed the performance of team Nigeria at the just concluded CAA's Under 18/20 Championship held in Ndola, Zambia.

Team Nigeria won 17 Gold, 10 Silver and 9 Bronze medals to finish in second place on the medal table behind South Africa at the quadrennial championship.

In his congratulatory message on Friday, the highly revered Athletics Administrator says the performance of the team is a testament to the fact that talents are abundant in Nigeria; while stressing on the need for talent discovery, training and exposure to global platforms, which according to him, will in turn result to future podium finish.

"I want to extend my heart felt congratulations to these young Nigerians



who made the country proud at the just concluded African U18/20 Athletics

Championship in Zambia.

The records achieved is a testament to the

fact that talents are abundant in Nigeria; and these talents require training and exposure to global platforms in order to achieve podium finish in the near future.

"I am impressed by the performance and feat achieved by Samuel Ogazi, obliterating the 46.26secs record of Lythe Pillay, the South African in 400m with his 46.01secs, that is the Nigerian spirit", he stated.

According to him, others are appreciated, especially Faith Okwose, Fejiri Djoma and Justine Jimoh for flying the country's flag high in Zambia, Engr. Gusau said.

Recall, that Nigeria finished top at the medals table in the last edition held at the Stade Felix Houphouët-Biigny, Abidjan, Ivory Coast in 2019, producing stars like Favour Ofili, Grace Nwokocho, Rosemary Chukwuma and Enoch Adegoke.

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Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 3 No. 143

Monday 8th May, 2023

Shawwal 18, 1444

Lekki Coastal Road: Taskforce Vows Continuous Mop Up, Apprehends 38 Suspects

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Lagos State Taskforce has apprehended 38 recalcitrant occupants at the Lekki Coastal Road, just as it vowed continuous mop up operation to drive home its mandate of creating a serene and habitable environment for residents within that axis through

the removal of shanties and criminal hideouts.

The arrest was made in an operation, led by the chairman of the agency CSP Shola Jejeloye, carried out in the wee hours yesterday, that lasted about six hours.

Jejeloye further stated that the makeshift shanties by the roadside were also further demolished to ensure free vehicular

movement along that route.

The chairman warned all squatters and unscrupulous elements who try to call bluff of the Agencies activities to have a rethink and turn over a new leaf or risk being prosecuted.

In a statement by Gbadeyan Abdulraheem, Director, Press & Public Affairs, Jejeloye appealed

to road side traders in the area to move their wares to the designated market complex rather than defacing the streets and roads.

"Clearing of this area will be sustained for as long as it takes till we achieve our objective of creating a society that is safe and habitable for residents and Lagosians as a whole", he warned.



Taskforce Operatives during the mop up exercise.

NAHCON Will Commence Airlift Of Nigerian Pilgrims To Saudi Arabia May 21 - Oyo Pilgrim Board

**Yet to know dates its intending pilgrims will depart for holy land.*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Pilgrim Welfare Board (Muslim Wing) Chairman, Professor Sayed Malik has declared that the board is yet to know the dates the intending pilgrims from the state will depart for holy lands.

Professor Malik said this on Thursday, while addressing the intending

pilgrims from Oyo State during medical screening and orientation exercises being conducted for them.

The Board Chairman while stating that the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) will commence the airlift of Nigerian pilgrims to holy lands in Saudi Arabia will start from the 21st of May 2023.

Professor Malik maintained, "Oyo state State Pilgrim Welfare Board (Muslim Wing) "is yet to know the dates the intending pilgrims from the state will depart for holy lands",

Assuring that Oyo State government and his board are fully prepared for the take off and would leave no stone unturned at ensuring that this year's

exercise is hitch free, Professor Malik said the hajj fees for intending pilgrims from Oyo State is N2.9 million, saying, the Hajj fees charged by Oyo State Pilgrim Welfare Board is the cheapest in the country.

He however, enjoined those yet to complete their payments to quickly do so to enable his board to process their travelling arrangements on time.

C'River: Offiong Edem Foundation To Host Mini-Table Tennis Tournament For Five States

Story on Page 23

Ajaokuta Concession: Court Extends Restraining Order

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

A High Court sitting in Lokoja, Kogi State capital on Thursday, warned parties involved in the concession of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL) and the National Iron Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO) Itakpe against flouting court order.

The motion on notice was filed by the Attorney-General of the state against the Attorney-General of the Federation and five others on the concession of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL) and the National Iron Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO).

Chief Judge of the state, Hon. Justice Josiah Majebi presiding over the case on Thursday, asked parties involved in the concession of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL) and the National Iron Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO) not to flout the order of the court which has restrained the federal government from continuing with the concession process.

The court also extended the restraining order pending the hearing of the motion on notice.

While warning that "parties are to ensure strict compliance with the order", he urged all those involved to be diligent throughout the hearing of the case.

He said all defendants should be warned that where the order is flouted, he will not hesitate to wield the big stick by making further legal declarations against any defaulting lawyer and his client.

The Chief Judge said it was imperative that lawyers avoid disobeying court orders and admonished them to always advise their clients on adherence to court injunctions.

To him, the major reason why the court exists was to avert violence and crises

and therefore noted that disobedience of court orders rather conflicts with the tenets of democracy and organised societies.

Hence, the lawyers were charged to uphold the ethics of the legal profession and the restoration of its glory in the discharge of their duties.

Justice Majebi warned the parties when hearing on the motion commenced at the High Court 1 of Kogi State. While the 2nd, 5th and 6th respondents comprising the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, ASCL and NIOMCO respectively were represented

The 1st, 3rd and 4th respondents, namely the Attorney-General of the Federation, the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission and the Bureau of Public Enterprises were not represented.

At the hearing, Muiz Abdullahi, SAN, who appeared for Attorney-General of the state, reminded the court that an expert motion was made for service of the court process on the defendants outside the jurisdiction of the court and report on the services indicated that all the parties were already served.

However, the court granted the extension of the restraining order following the plea by counsel to the 2nd, 5th and 6th defendants, John Madaki Esq., a Deputy Director in the Federal Ministry of Justice, who argued that they were served on 28th April, 2023 and the process was assigned to him just yesterday and still within time to respond. The 1st defendant, the Attorney-General of the Federation, was not represented.

Hearing on the motion on notice has been adjourned to 18th May, 2023 for continuation of hearing.