

SERG Carpets APC Over Nominees For Elective 10th National Assembly Leadership

**Urges North Central, opposition lawmakers to dislodge APC selected*

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Arewa Youth Forum Rejects APC Zoning Of NASS Leadership, Backs Betara For Speaker

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

While rejecting the All Progressives Congress (APC's) plans to zone leadership positions of the 10th National Assembly (NASS), the Arewa Youth Forum (AYF), has declared its support for Rt. Honourable Mukhtar Betara to emerge Speaker of the House of Representatives.

AYF made its position known in Kaduna yesterday, at a press conference, where the

group described zoning of NASS leadership as undemocratic.

Reading the text of the briefing, President of AYF, Ahmed Mohammed Zagi explained that what is needed now, is ensuring the most competent emerges Speaker of the House of Representatives, to ensure a robust democratic experience in the country.

"In our collective resolve and genuine commitment to ensure that we have a quality leader that will maintain the tempo in the lower chamber at this

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NNPP Would Work With Formidable Blueprint To Change Face Of Kano State - Stalwart

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Kaduna: Again, Suspected Bandits Invade Zango Kataf



Adeleke with jubilant crowd outside the court yesterday.

Supreme Court Victory Will Strengthen Nigeria's Democracy - Gov Adeleke

**Says irrespective of party affiliation, they must join hands to develop state*

**Insists it's affirmation of truth*

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Petroleum Dealers In Court Over Allegations of Payee In Ebonyi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The Petroleum Dealers Association of Nigeria, Ebonyi State chapter, yesterday, shutdown businesses as a result of the ongoing court case to resolve the issue of 'Payee' between the petroleum dealers and Ebonyi state Board of Internal Revenue.

Addressing newsmen after the court sitting in Abakaliki, the Chairman of the Petroleum Dealers Association of Nigeria, Ebonyi State branch, Hon. Njaka Silas alleged that the Board of Internal Revenue in Ebonyi State took about 18 companies to court over payee issues, insisting that monthly emolument of their staff must be compiled and forwarded to the board, but the petroleum dealers association insisted that it is abnormal to do so since their company's staff are unstable, irregular and not permanent because they can easily abandon the job and move elsewhere anytime they want.

Hon. Silas further explained that the issue of 'Payee' is not obtainable in other sister states in South East like Enugu, Imo, Anambra and Abia, questioning why their state should be different from others.

"Well, the State Board of Internal Revenue, took

some of our members to court on the issue of 'Payee' ie we did not do filling for some years, now.

"As we have case in court, our offices can't be open; we do close our offices as we go. And as we are going back, our offices will be open again.

"We don't have any personal issue with government, except that Ebonyi state Board of Internal Revenue took about 18 companies to court over allegations of 'Payee', that they did not file payee for previous years.

"What they meant by filling payee is that the names of our workers should be submitted since we pay our workers monthly, at the end of the year, we compile monthly emolument and forward to them, but the new law says, if somebody doesn't earn up to thirty thousand, a certain number of staff, should not do it which is not applicable to us.

"We have made inquiries from Anambra, Enugu, Abia, Imo and the are not doing it. So many other states in the country are not doing it, why is our own seeming to be different.

"Depot community has ordered that all filling stations in Ebonyi, any day we are going to court has to remain closed in solidarity."

Hides, Skin Becomes Big Business In Kano Local Markets

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The sales of hides and skin in some Kano local markets is now increasing, whereby girls from Malikawa Town in Bichi Local Government Area are always busy selling hides and skin for consumption in large quantity.

Our correspondent who visited some local markets where the sales of hides and skins is creating more opportunity for economic progress, gathered that there is economic progress for the sellers like what is been witnessed every market day.

Furthermore, most of the sellers that had chats with our correspondent,

disclosed that the hides and skin sales is an important business, that has transformed their livelihood from unemployed to economic progressives.

We are happy to announce that our business is progressing and from what we are witnessing, the sales of hides and skins has changed the lives of so

many people where economic growth tends to be actualized".

In conclusion, the hides and skins at Badume, Dan Zabuwa, Shuwaki, Bichi and other local markets are gradually increasing, while some of the commodity dealers often load the hides and skins from Malikawa to other sides of the country.



Hides and skin

Prof Match bags NIP's Fellowship Award For Contributions To Physics

By; JACOB ONJEWUDICKSON

Professor of Physics at the Kaduna State University (KASU), Rt Hon Match Dari Dogara has received a prestigious award from the Nigerian Institute of Physics (NIP)

Match bagged the award at the yearly fellowship event of NIP in Lagos yesterday, amidst a glorious rendition of his academic prowess and excellent research.

Match earned the fellowship of the Nigeria Institute of Physics (FNIP) a rare award to only deserving physicists because of his record of academic excellence he has over the years.

While presenting the

award, Professor H.O Agbor, the President of the institute, said; "Match has satisfied the condition laid down in the institution's constitution and by-laws are elected a Fellow of the Nigeria Institute of Physics and he is by this position entitled to all privileges granted by the institution."

Match, an epoch politician who delved into politics by hearkening onto the cry of his people has been both a meaningful humanity helper in his academic and political lifeline.

"We are honoring you because of the immense contribution of your work to the growth and development of Physics," Agboh added



Gunmen Abduct 40 Worshipers During Church Service In Kaduna

*15 escape

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

About 40 people were on Sunday abducted by gunmen during a Church service at Bege Baptist Church, Madala along Buruku Baringi road, Kaduna in Chikun local government area of Kaduna state.

Confirming to New Nigerian about the incident, the chairman, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kaduna State Chapter, Rev. John

Joseph Hayab said, "The worshippers were in the Sunday service in the church when around 9:30am, they heard gun shots very close to the church. The gunmen attacked the church and went away with 40 worshippers."

He added, "Along the way, somehow 15 of the kidnapped persons returned, remaining the rest 25 who are presently in captivity without any word from their

abductors."

According to him, efforts are being made to get in contact with the abductors concerning the remaining people and prayed that the abductors would be merciful to release the remaining 25 back to their families. When contacted, the state Police spokesman, DSP Mohammed Jalige, promised to contact the DPO of the affected area for prompt action.

Airlines' Maintenance Capacity Low In Nigeria - Ogun NNPP Guber Candidate

*Demands govt's seriousness in aviation sector

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Ogun State gubernatorial candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in the last general elections, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi on Monday, tasked the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to take urgent steps on aircrafts operating at Nigeria's airports.

Ambassador Ajadi in a statement, said this is necessary in view of the various challenges encountered by passengers during flights as a result of poor maintenance capacity of aircrafts operating at Nigerian airports.

According to him, the situation is a primitive system that needs urgent attention from various relevant government authorities, saying the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and other relevant government agencies should be up and doing in the area of policy formation, implementation and execution, such as mandating airlines operation with standard and better aircrafts.

Ambassador Ajadi also called for stringent sanctions against any airline that fails to airlift passengers on scheduled time, as well as other violation of local content policy of the country, where some airlines are still selling tickets in dollars instead of Nigerian

currency, Naira.

Recalling that his recent experience in boarding an aircraft within the country was not palatable and nothing to write about, Ambassador Ajadi pointed out that most of the airlines are operating with old and obsolete aeroplanes that are unfit

He stressed that the airline industry, especially those running local businesses, should be monitored and sanctioned if necessary by the relevant federal government agencies like NCAA, adding that nonchalant attitude of government towards some areas of human endeavours and economic growth and development are major factors responsible for negligence of most of the airline companies.

"If government wakes up to its responsibility in sanctioning most of these erring airline operators, they will think twice and wake up to their responsibility. But our government does not take us serious, I have called their attention twice to our plight in the aviation sector but nothing good comes from their part, this is the third time I am



Ambassador Ajadi flanked by his friends

calling their attention to the suffering of Nigerians in the aviation sector", he said.

Ajadi added, "The airline, in which I have been boarding in the recent times were turning all the boarding passengers into prayer-warriors as the aeroplane was jerking in a worrisome manner. Apart from the usage of old and obsolete aircrafts by most of the airline companies, the environment of the departure and arrival are not too conducive at all.

"Just recently on my way from Abuja to Lagos, the airline, Dana that supposed to board us by 9pm on Friday was not available until Saturday morning. We are just left stranded, no

accommodation, no foods, we are just hanging around here, everywhere was hot and this act made me lose millions of Naira worth of contract.

"I am calling on relevant government agencies particularly Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to take urgent steps in saving Nigerians from this avoidable acts by various airlines in the country".

New Nigerian recalls that recently, Ajadi threatened to sue Dana Airline for N50 million damages over failure to provide a scheduled plane to airlift him and other passengers from Abuja to Lagos resulting into losing of contract worth millions of Naira.

Kidnapped Victim Killed, Others Rescue By Police In Abuja

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A gun duel between operatives of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Command and some kidnappers claimed the life of a kidnapped victim identified as Tama Jonathan.

SP Josephine Akeh, the FCT Police Public Relations Officer, in a statement on Sunday, explained that the operation led to the rescue of at least 58 abductees.

Udulu Forest in the Gugu Local Government Area of Kogi State, bordering Sardauna Forest in Nasarawa State hosted the kidnapped victims, according to the statement and other identified kidnappers' dens in communities bordering the FCT.

Akeh explained that the bandits and kidnappers, while sighting the security team coordinated by the police, immediately opened fire leading to a gun battle, but were overpowered and escaped with bullet injuries, leaving behind their victims.

She explained that one Tama Jonathan, a kidnapped victim sustained injury during the rescue operation and died on the spot, saying that his remains have subsequently been released to his family for burial.

The other 58 rescued victims, according to the statement are being treated at the hospital and would be reunited with their families.

The statement said, "Rescue is part of efforts by the command's leadership, in a sustained joint operation with other security agencies, vigilantes, and hunters from the various local communities, to combat violent crimes in the FCT, rescue victims, and bring perpetrators to book."

Haruna Garba, the Commissioner of Police, FCT Command, vowed that efforts are on to prevent any further threats to the safety and security of residents, adding that the command would not relent in ensuring the rescue of any resident held hostage by criminals and would also bring the perpetrators to book.

Akwa Ibom HIV Anti-Stigma Bill: More Calls On Gov Emmanuel To Append Signature

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Concerned by the need to check HIV/AIDS prevalence in Akwa Ibom State and to ensure free and supportive environment for all, Governor Udom Emmanuel has been called upon to sign the HIV Anti-Stigma and Discrimination Bill into law.

This is in spite of the advocacy mounted by various concerned groups in the state, including the Association of People living with HIV/AIDS.

Speaking to our correspondent in Uyo, on Monday, the Coordinator Association of Positive Youths Nigeria, Akwa Ibom State chapter, Mr. Churchill Kingsley said assenting the bill into law will be a foundation for the state to leverage on fight against HIV/AIDS and reduce its prevalence.

"Advocacy has been made, lot of contributions, sacrifices and pressures have also been made. We are appealing to His Excellency, Governor Udom Emmanuel to do us this before he leaves office on May 29 to sign the anti-stigma bill into law so to be a foundation for us to leverage on fighting this HIV/AIDS and also reducing its prevalence in Akwa Ibom state because it is alarming and not supporting us." Churchill stated.

Also expressing worries over the development and the need for the bill to be assented to by governor, the Coordinator of Association of Women Living With HIV/AIDS, Mrs Racheal Ignatius said the high HIV/AIDS prevalence in the state owes its roots more to people who refuse to disclose their status.

According to Mrs Ignatius, Anti-Stigma and Discrimination Bill if signed into law, would be of great benefit to the state in addressing the HIV/AIDS scourge.

"If the bill is signed into law by the governor, we will benefit, we will enjoy the reduction on prevalence that is number one (1). Number two (2), People will be free to come out of their closet to disclose their status and live comfortable, because without disclosure and we are talking about epidemic control, it will not be, it can't come to board and I am really pleading with my governor.



CP Olatoye Durosini

Police Confirms Killing Of 4 In Akwa Ibom Cult War

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Nigeria Police Command in Akwa Ibom State has said that four persons were killed during a cult clash at Nwaniba axis of Uyo metropolis yesterday. New Nigerian in Uyo learnt that the clash which started little on Sunday evening between the Red Heart and Lions Confraternity went wild yesterday evening, causing motorists and other passerbys around the two hot zones to scraper for safety.

The command Public Relations Officer, (PPRO) SP Odiko Macdon in a statement made available to journalists in Uyo, stated that the Commissioner of Police, CP Olatoye Durosini was miffed at the situation.

He explained that during the incident, public order and safety were disrupted with four persons killed.

"While tactical resources have been deployed to restore order and bring out perpetrators," the police image maker said, adding that the commissioner has condemned the wanton destruction of lives and property by two rival cult groups.

"The Commissioner of Police, Akwa Ibom State Police Command, CP

Olatoye Durosini is miffed at the disruption of Public Order and Safety by two rival cult groups at Anua Offot and Use Offot, both at Nwaniba in Uyo Local Government Area, leading to the loss of four lives.

"The CP condemned in strong terms the wanton destruction of lives and has vowed to bring perpetrators to book. Hence, he has deployed Tactical resources to restore order and fish out perpetrators.

"The CP has, therefore, called on Residents of the said Communities and Uyo to go about their lawful businesses without fear of molestation and be assured of their safety because of strategies emplaced.

"He has sent a clear warning to perpetrators of these dastardly acts to desist forthwith or face the dire consequences of their actions." SP Macdon stated.

The command urged members of the public to contact the following hotlines for security concerns and information;

1. Control Hotline: 08039273071
2. Police Public Complaint Bureau: 09169839213
3. Information Hotline (WhatsApp & Text Only): 09050282806

Supreme Court Victory Will Strengthen Nigeria's Democracy - Gov Adeleke

**Insists it's affirmation of truth*

**Says irrespective of party affiliation, they must join hands to develop state*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Ademola Adeleke yesterday, said his victory at the Supreme Court stands as an affirmation for truth and will strengthen Nigeria's democracy

The governor while reacting to the Supreme Court victory, declared that the revalidation of his mandate "is a challenge, a call to duty, a fresh demand for more dividends of democracy". According to the governor, with the development, there is the need for support and cooperation of all Osun residents and citizens irrespective of party affiliations, saying,

"This is our state and we must join hands to develop it.

"Today is the day our God ordained to stamp his authority as the owner of power. Today is that moment when the will of the people ordained by God survives the anti masses plot of powerful forces", he said.

"We therefore, celebrate God Almighty, the author and finisher of our faith. We dedicate today's victory to him, as we finally assume the Governorship of this great state of living spring".

"State power is of God and he bestows it on whoever he wills, I will remain God driven, divinely inspired governing with the fear of

God. Our governorship is an affirmation that a government of the people, by the people and for the people is possible"

Governor Adeleke stressed, "Our victory is a testimony that people's will backed by divine will can withstand and survive plots of anti democratic elements. I must therefore express my heartfelt to great people of Osun state for your deep support on behalf of my family and party, I say thank you"

"To the judiciary, Osun has emerged as a moral compass affirming the integrity of my Lord Justices. Your affirmation for truth and people's will consolidates and strengthens our

democracy. On behalf of Osun people, we appreciate you and we adore your love for Justice and equity. To all stakeholders in the Osun project, be assured that the revalidation of our mandate is a challenge, a call to duty, a fresh demand for more dividends of democracy." Speaking further, the governor said, "I commit myself to an even more expanded delivery of good governance, in me, you will find a truly pro people governor. I seek support and cooperation of all Osun residents and citizens irrespective of party affiliations. This is our state and we must join hands to develop it."



Adeleke with jubilant crowd outside the court yesterday.

NNPP Would Work With Formidable Blueprint To Change Face Of Kano State - Stalwart

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The administration of Engineer Abba Kabir Yusuf would work with the most formidable blueprint to bring genuine change in Kano for the rapid transformation of the state with optimum results.

This was disclosed by Honourable Idris Ibrahim Bulai, a frontline stalwart of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) from Garko Local Government Area, adding that the government of Engineer Abba Kabir Yusuf would become a



Idris Ibrahim Bulai

trusted administration in Kano State.

He stressed that NNPP is a party that is putting everything in place in order to ensure that Kano State becomes one of the best in a democratic dispensation and to run a satisfactory government without bias.

He called on the people of the state to support the new dawn. Commenting on the preparations for the inauguration ceremony of the new government, Bulai reiterated their

determination towards a peaceful event and reassured that the occasion would be hitch free and interesting, especially when the new government is loved by Kano people of all categories.

"I call on the people of our great state, especially our teaming youth to be law abiding, disciplined and peace promoters during the forthcoming inauguration of new government, and I also call on every citizen to cooperate with the Abba Gida-gida administration," he appealed.

Arewa Youth Forum Rejects APC Zoning Of NASS Leadership, Backs Betara For Speaker

critical time of our history as a sovereign nation, we have conducted deep and wider consultations as well as sampling of vital opinions that cut across the length and breadth of the country, among members of the Green Chamber, from both returning and newly elected, on who does the cap fit for the Speakership position.

"Our conclusion from the exercise therefore, has it that one personality stands out among all, and that person is Rt. Hon. Mukhtar Betara Aliyu, OON, popularly known and called as the 'The Golden Boy' among his lawmaker colleagues," he declared.

He explained that Arewa Youth Forum (AYF), the Premier umbrella platform of all Youth Organizations in Northern Nigeria and FCT-Abuja, which has structures in the 19-Northern States, some Southern States, the FCT and the Diaspora. Part of our operational mandate as a Civil Society Organization is championing the course of good governance through qualitative representations, settled for Honourable Betara for several reasons.

"To support our claim, we have the following reasons:

"In his constituency, Hon. Betara has exceeded the electorates' expectations by providing dividends of democracy through infrastructural development, empowerment and effective representation. It is not a surprise therefore that he was given the mandate by his people for an unprecedented fifth term to represent the constituency.

"It is on record that the role in which Hon. Betara played in the 9th Assembly is that of a proficient and efficient administrator who was fair, just, logical and sincere in the appropriation of resources for the improvement of the living standard of Nigerians and the development of critical sectors of the economy.

"No wonder, his ambition to become the next Speaker of the House of Representatives is receiving overwhelming support and endorsement from both returning and new members of the parliament across political parties," he said.

AYF President said that as a person, Hon. Betara is well known to be a humble, intelligent and smart personality with the wisdom of the ancients.

"He is friendly, generous, easy going and accessible and always ensures fairness, transparency and logic in the discharge of his official responsibility as Appropriation Committee Chairman. In short, most.

"Members of the 9th Assembly have openly confessed on several occasions that Hon. Betara is the reason behind their success and sterling performance in their various constituencies as regards appropriation of funds for the execution of projects in the various committees they represent.

"Already a veteran in both chambers of the NASS, Hon. Betara has been in the House since 2007. He has held several strategic positions such as Chairman of the Sub-committee on NDIC, Banking and Currency, Member of the House

Committee on Interior and was later appointed Chairman of the Sub-committee on Customs, Immigration and Prisons Pension Office between 2007 and 2011.

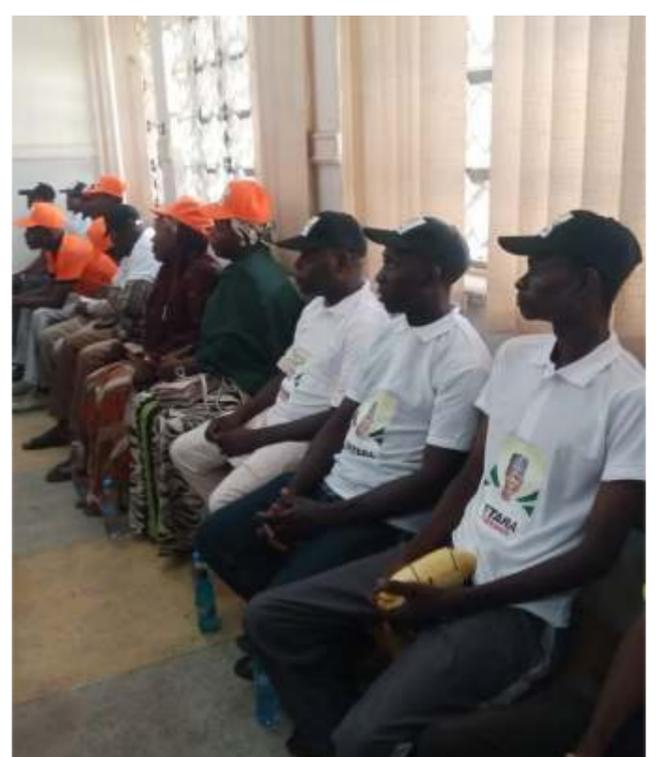
"He also served as chairman of, the House Committee on the Army in the 7th Assembly (2011 to 2015) and Chairman of the House Committee on Defence from 2015 – 2019 before his current position as Chairman of, the House Committee on Appropriations (2019-2023)," he submitted.

According to AYF, Betara's administrative acumen, competence, credibility, and legislative experience combined with his acceptability by the majority of the returning and newly elected members of the House of Representatives stands him out among other contestants and position him as the man to win the Speakership Position of the 10th Assembly once the election is held.

"Also, with him as the Speaker, the incoming administration of Asiwaju/Shettima will be sure of having an excellent performance from the legislative arm of the government.

"Consequent to the above, on the many reasons why Hon. Betara is the man fit for the job, the AYF hereby, with its affiliate comprising of Civil Society Organizations, Women Groups, Pressure Groups, Student Bodies etc, hereby unanimously endorses Rt. Hon. Mukhtar Betara Aliyu, OON the 'Golden Boy' to lead the Green Chamber as Speaker in the 10th National Assembly. This resolution of endorsement is made by all structures of AYF in Nigeria and the Diaspora," he stressed.

AYF therefore, called on all and sundry especially, returning and new members of the Green Chamber to support the aspiration and candidature of Rt. Hon. Mukhtar Betara Aliyu, OON as Speaker so that Nigeria "go better for the Nigerian Citizens" through qualitative and sound legislation.



Parents, Guardians Raise Alarm Over Rising Cost Of Education

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Education is a vital legacy that every parent longs to leave behind for children or wards, but in achieving success, there are basic items students need and one of such is essential writing materials.

Training of children in this era has a lot of tasks ahead, as parents struggle to ensure their wards have every necessary material to be used as part of their learning aids in class. Primary and secondary schools in Nigeria have resumed for a new session, parents and guardians have raised alarm over increasing prices of textbooks, stationery and school items.

Speaking with some parents, in an exclusive interview, they lamented that sending their wards to school has added to the economic burdens currently being felt in the country.

But in achieving success, there are basic items students need and one of such, is essential writing materials.

According to Mrs Amaka Godwin, at the school her children attend, "school fees have increased, prices for text books that we buy for 1,000 have increased to 1,500 and 2,000, school bags and writing materials have jumped up, not excluding prices of socks of N50 to N70, which is now N200 and above, not excluding prices of cardigans and other school related materials.

On the part of school fees increase, another parent said her ward brought a note from the school to notify them of school fees increments, "also the school has decided that students should buy their books from wherever they wish, since prices from publishers have jumped up," she lamented.

She said the decision was taken as some parents thought the school was the one adding extra money to

the price of books and this will amount to lots of financial expenses.

Meanwhile, on school fees, some of the schools are under going decision to increase their fees, while some are contemplating, due to the recent surge in prices of books and other school materials needed for students, which have added to the burden on parents.

Confirming the development from bookshop owners and stationery dealers in the market, Mr Eze Nwanko lamented the cost price of essential writing materials, while also revealing that publishers are also lamenting that cost of producing the books is now expensive.

He said, "it is not our fault. It is what we buy that we sell and we cannot sell at a loss".

Consequently, parents and students who cannot afford the new textbooks opt for old ones that are similar and are quite affordable.

According to him, to run an effective workshop this period in the country and around the world, is a challenge as the cost of materials used in manufacturing the items have increased, leading to the increment in the cost of their purchase, affecting supplies.

"The West African Examination Council (WAEC), students and pupils in exit class, next week will begin their final year exams," Mr Eze further said, hinting that essential writing materials increase as students resume for writing WAEC, is not an easy task as it is characterized with one striving for success and sales is still at a slow level.

Mr Eze also said, the books publishers used to bring them for between N350 to N500 are now demanding N1,500 to N2,000.

Going on a survey at Sheikh Mohammed Gumi Central Market in Kaduna, revealed that 40 and 60 leaves notebooks have increased from N800 and N1,200 to N1,500 and N2,400 respectively.

Also, a piece of pen, pencil, sharpener and ruler now cost N50 and N30 respectively. Two years back, a pen cost just N20, while a pencil was sold between N5 or N10.

However, the prices of school bags have also jumped. The least price in the market was between N3,500 to N4,000, depending on the quality for either fairly used popularly known as Okrika, or inferior quality bags.

He explained that, "within the past few months, we were not finding survival to be an easy one, but now it is a different thing entirely".

Also, original leather sandals for students cost between N3,500 and N5,000, while rubber sandals for pupils in primary school cost between N1,700 to N2,500.

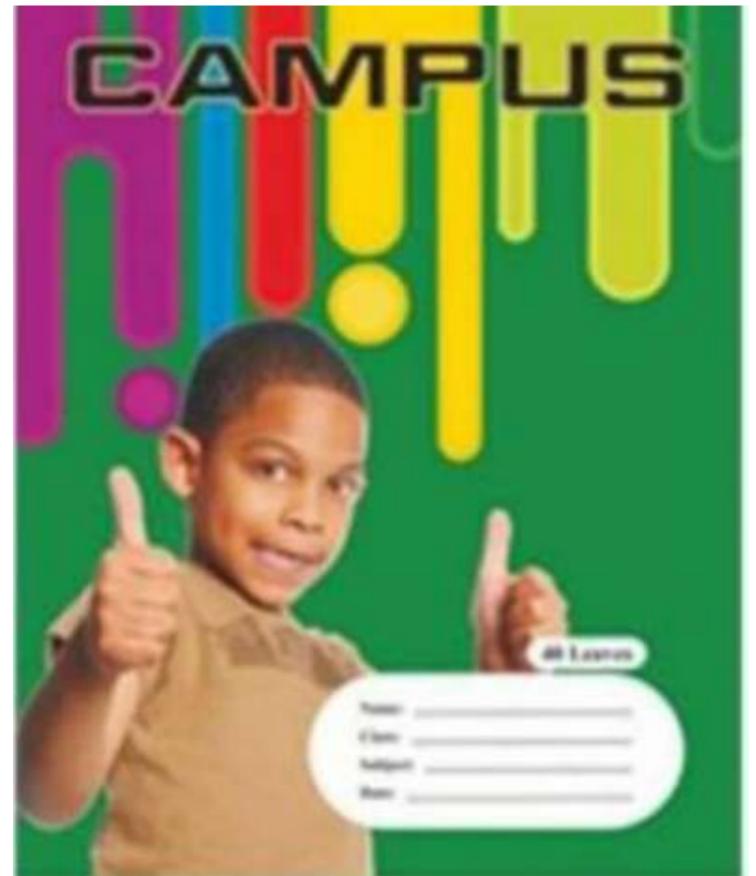
Cost of textbooks, New General Mathematics is N2,500 and Intensive English costs N3,500 without workbook.

An average story book for primary school students, which used to be sold between N300 and N500, now costs between N1,000 and N1,200.

Speaking to a parent, Hajiya Aisha Umar, she lamented that she has spent every penny on her to buy few things for her children.

She said, items are just too expensive. They keep adding money to them every year. Imagine a biro costs N50. Something we used to buy for between N10 to N20 few years ago.

On visiting a seller of exercise books, Malam Aminu Dauda, he said, "the patronage of exercise books in Nigeria is spiking up now



that schools have resumed, since parents procure them for their kids to take to school.

"This is because almost everyone who knows how to write uses an exercise book. However, it is a business, the essentiality of exercise books to students cannot be overemphasized, this is because it forms the basis through which whatever is learnt in school can be remembered.

"When students get back home, they pull out their notebooks and begin to go through them, be it in preparation for a school test or exams, hence the notebooks store the information

which the student needs to go through at least one more time to recall what was done in class.

"It does not in any way mean that a seller has to wait for school to resume, even during holidays, parents buy exercise books for their children for home lessons, exercise books are not used by students alone.

"Secretaries in corporations and organizations use exercise books to take minutes during meetings, traders use exercise books to write their inventory as well as documents, their debtors and creditors," he explained.



9 Royal Families To Gov Makinde: Let Court Case End Before Announcing New Alaafin Of Oyo

**Want new Alaafin from among marginalised Atiba Children*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Few days after one of the kingmakers in Oyo Town, the Iba Samu of Oyo, Chief Lamidi Oyewale said new Alaafin of Oyo would emerge before May 29 this year, nine of the royal families in the town have asked Governor Seyi Makinde to wait until the ongoing court case over the selection of a new Alaafin is resolved.

The nine royal families at a press conference in Akinmoorin town on Saturday, specifically cautioned Governor Seyi Makinde against approving the appointment of a new Alaafin of Oyo while the court case is still on.

Speaking on behalf of the nine royal families at the Press conference, Prince Adesina Afolabi said it will be unfair on the part of Governor Makinde as well as the Oyo state government to go ahead and appoint a new Alaafin while their court case is still pending before a court.

Prince Afolabi disclosed that the nine royal families, "Adeitan family, Olanite family, Tella Agbojologun, Tella Okitipapa family, Adediran Ese Apata family, Adesokan Baba Idode family, Adesiyani family, Abidekun family and Adelabu Baba Ibadan family" have been marginalized in the appointment of the Alaafin over the years.

The spokesman stressed, "we are using this opportunity to thank the governor for his commitment to promoting good governance, transparency, and accountability in our state", adding, "we urge him to continue to prioritize the well-being of the people and

always uphold the rule of law in all matters.

"In essence, the request is for the Governor of Oyo State to refrain from taking any further action regarding the selection of a new Alaafin until the court case that has been filed against the Chieftaincy Declaration of the Alaafin is resolved. This is to ensure that the process of selecting a new Alaafin is conducted in a transparent and just manner, as stipulated by the law.", he said.

Prince Afolabi added, "it would be unfair to appoint a new Alaafin while the court case is still pending. It is important that the governor recognizes the significance of the traditional institution and ensures that a fair and just process is followed in selecting the next Alaafin".

"The Chieftaincy Declaration is a document that outlines the hierarchy and procedures for the selection and appointment of traditional rulers in the state. It is crucial that these guidelines are adhered to, and any decision regarding the appointment of an Alaafin is made based on the provisions of this declaration.

"Therefore, it is important for Governor Makinde to maintain the status quo and respect the autonomy of the traditional institution until the court case is resolved. This will not only ensure a smooth transition process but also serve as a testament to the governor's commitment to upholding the rule of law and promoting justice and equity in the state".

Prince Afolabi maintained, "it is essential that Governor Makinde prioritizes the resolution of the

court case before any action is taken with regard to the appointment of a new Alaafin. This will ensure that the process is transparent, fair, and just, as required by the law.

Gentlemen of the press, it is time to put an end to the years of discrimination that has plagued the selection of the Alaafin of Oyo in the past.

"The nine Atiba children have been marginalised for too long, and it is only fair that they are given a chance to ascend the throne. We urge the governor to make history by selecting the new king from among the nine Atiba children. The Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy has been found to have a defective process, and it is crucial that equity and justice are upheld in the selection of the new Alaafin. We cannot afford to have a flawed process that will only perpetuate the marginalization of nine out of the children of Alaafin Atiba".

The royal families stressed, "as a government that values justice and equality, we implore the governor to act in the interest of



Prince Adesina Afolabi with other members of the 9 royal families

the people and uphold the findings of the competence commission of enquiry into the stool of Alaafin. This will not only promote equity and fairness but also help to foster unity and inclusiveness in the community. Therefore, we call on the governor to make history by selecting the new king from among the marginalised Atiba Children and setting a precedent for future selection process.

The royal families are represented at the Press conference by Prince Adesina Afolabi (Adeitan family), Prince Lamola Olanite (Olanite family), Prince Nureni Taiwo (Tella Agbojologun family), Prince Remi Azeez (Tella Okitipapa family), Prince Raji Adediran (Adediran Ese Apata family), Prince Muftau Adejare

Adesokan (Adesokan Baba Idode family), Prince Adesiyani (Adesiyani family) Prince Bello Rasheed (Abidekun family) and Prince Agboin Adelabu Adelabu Baba Ibadan family

New Nigerian recalls that one of the kingmakers in Oyo Town, the Oyomesi, The Iba Samu of Oyo Empire Chief Lamidi Oyewale while speaking in Oyo town at the one-year remembrance prayer for the late Oba Lamidi Adeyemi disclosed that the new Alaafin of Oyo would emerge before May 29 this year.

Chief Oyewale said the delay in the ongoing process to choose the new Alaafin of Oyo was to ensure a rancour-free coronation of a new monarch for the town, saying, "It's just a year since the late Alaafin died, Before the swearing-in of the Governor, the

Take Advantage Of Market Lagos Represents, Sanwo-Olu Urges Investors

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has urged investors to take advantage of the market that Lagos represents, reiterating that the state is always open to partnership.

He said Lagos State is the best place to do business, noting that his administration, having attracted a lot of significant investments, will continue to make Lagos attractive for investors.

Governor Sanwo-Olu made the call at the weekend in Alausa, Ikeja during a

courtesy visit by the African Delegation from World Economic Forum (WEF).

The delegation was represented by the Head of Regional Agenda Africa of WEF, Chido Munyati and the Community Lead, African Regional Agenda, Mrs. Abir Ibrahim.

Represented by the Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Sam Egube, the Governor said Lagos understands its role not only for development but as a national asset.

He said: "To lift Lagos requires a combination of partnerships. The responsibility to lift Lagos and Nigeria

requires a significant amount of partnerships. So, we welcome the partnership you offer from the World Economic Forum.

"In our 30 years development plan in Lagos, we prioritise sectors that we want to focus on and we want people to participate wherever they are and take advantage of the market that Lagos represents.

"We need a lot of partners that can invest in good projects. Lagos is an investment destination. We have attracted a lot of significant investments into Lagos."

Also at the event, the Commissioner for

Finance, Dr. Rabiul Olowo, commended the African delegation from World Economic Forum for seeking a partnership with the Lagos State Government.

He said: "We thank the World Economic Forum for the invite to share this opportunity with us and I want to confirm to you that you are in the right place. The way we do things in Lagos is structured around partnership. Make no mistake in terms of where to situate your office in Nigeria, it has to be Lagos; this is where business, growth and economic development are."

With Tinubu, Nigeria's Journey To True Development Begins, Says Rep Adefisoye

Hon. Tajudeen Adefisoye, popularly known as Small Alhaji is the outgoing member representing Idanre/Ifedore federal constituency of Ondo State in the Nigerian House of Representatives. He opens up for the very first time on his shocking loss in the February 2023 National Assembly election. He also speaks on his expectations of Bola Tinubu's government after his inauguration and on other national issues.

Did you see it coming that you would lose your bid to become a ranking member of the House of Representatives?

I didn't see it coming. In fact, I never thought that I could lose the election. The result came as a surprise to so many people. I truly rated myself before the election based on my legislative performance, high level of dedication to my constituency and unprecedented projects that I brought to my constituency. Going by the judgment of people in my constituency, I am obviously the best MHR in the legislative history of the constituency.

I won my primary election based on this record of performance and I was willing to work with everybody during the main election. Although I knew I would have a big problem the day I decamped to the APC because majority of the youths in my constituency were not so happy with the decision. They had preferred that we remain in the SDP that brought us to office. Nevertheless, I made frantic efforts to explain what necessitated the decision to them but I could perceive that this decision still did not go down well with a majority of my youthful followers. We had a rally two days before the election and with that crowd alone, I honestly felt that I was good to go.

Surprisingly, everything changed on election day when you could even see our party agents working against me. Most of the APC party agents worked for the PDP on the election day. Painful enough, the security agents too were all out against us. Sincerely, I still couldn't fathom what really transpired on the eve of the election that I could only term with on the day of the election.

Painfully too, APC leaders in Idanre Local Government just decided not to work for me. They shockingly sold me out after I had handed over my entire election structure to them. They simply told all my groups to collapse under the party and stay loyal to the party. All my groups did as instructed by the APC leaders in Idanre, but we all realised too late that the leaders had already compromised heavily by selling out to the PDP.

What could you basically describe as the factors responsible for your unaccomplished reelection bid despite your obvious sterling performance?

People said they were angry because I took their mandate to APC. I also heard that stakeholders too were angry because I didn't let soldiers leave Idanre when they nearly killed some APC stakeholders during the last local government election in Ondo State. More so, people and leaders that were naturally expected to work for me in Idanre Local Government resorted to unconscionable anti-party activities before the election and also on

the day of the election.

I know that the majority of the people weren't happy after I decamped from SDP to APC. This was after APC members had earlier attacked members of the SDP during the Local Government election. Some of these aggrieved SDP members and supporters simply bottled up their anger until the day of the election.

I guess that this was also one of the reasons for the loss in Idanre.

I won the other local government massively and I must give kudos to the leaders of Ifedore Local Government. Although a few of them engaged in anti-party too a large majority supported me.

What are your expectations of the incoming government of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu?

You know I seriously campaigned both online and offline for Asiwaju because I so much believe in him. If you go and check my campaign videos, pictures and even my social media pages; you will see that I so much believed in Jagaban. I said it then that Asiwaju is coming to give us the much-needed and obviously developmental template that will serve as a good guide to successive governments. As a matter of fact, this is where the Nigerian journey to true and lasting development will begin.

We are very much in need of political and developmental direction in Nigeria and this is what Asiwaju has come to offer. We really don't have a clear-cut direction since the return of democracy in 1999. Past presidents were more particular about the title of the president rather than giving deserved attention to the real issue of long-lasting development.

I am totally convinced that Asiwaju means business. He is certain to make things right and we will see a lot of developmental changes under him and I am glad Nigerians will want him to continue automatically after his first four years. You can go and check Twitter and see how I was so much abused on account of pitching my tent with Asiwaju. I am the most abused lawmaker on social media because of my support for Asiwaju Bola Tinubu. I was even blackmailed at a point that I said anyone that refused to vote for Asiwaju must be a bastard.

The level of abuse at the time was quite intense but I know that the majority of the people who abused me then will still apologize by the time they begin to see true development from the government of Bola Tinubu.

What do you think the incoming administration of Bola Tinubu should do to genuinely gain the support of Nigerian youths?

Interestingly, Asiwaju has started winning the youths to his side. If you check the Transition Committee, you will see that



Honourable Adefisoye

most people on the list are youths.

The President-elect is already giving lots of responsibilities to the youth and that is a good one. He has promised to start the student loan which is also a good one. I am very confident that Asiwaju will appoint a lot of youths into major positions by the time his government starts.

He needs to listen more to the people from the grassroots to get first-hand information and not filtered ones if he wants to readily gain the support of the youths. I am of the opinion that Asiwaju needs to work with result-driven youths that also share his vision on good governance, innovative leadership and how best to empower the Nigerian youths. I am very sure that this will definitely take a whole lot of burden off him.

Who would you have supported to become the next speaker of the 10th National Assembly if you had been reelected?

I am a party man and will continue to remain a completely loyal party person. I am not unmindful of the fact that the interest of a party always supersedes that of the members. On the basis of this, I would have gone in the direction of the APC party.

This means that anybody that is endorsed by the APC national leadership would have automatically been my own candidate too.

Are you done with partisan politics and what's your next political plan if your answer is on the contrary?

Done with politics?

This question is funny I must confess. I am just 38 years old and I have a lot of legacy projects within and outside of my constituency. I have leveraged on the vehicle of politics to touch and transform lives. I couldn't have done all these on a wider scale without the vehicle of politics. I am still very much in politics and I know that better and bigger responsibilities are awaiting me and I hope to continue contributing to the development of my state and Nigeria as a whole. I will still be 38 at the completion of my tenure as a member Federal House of Representatives. At this age, I still have the energy and zeal needed for optimal delivery of responsibilities.

I have obviously performed very wonderfully as a federal lawmaker and it was this same outstanding performance that got me the award of African Lawmaker of the Year in 2020. This temporary setback happened because people of the grassroots were only angry that I left them for a bigger party. We will address them when it is time and I know they will soon be happy that I joined the APC by the time they begin to see the developmental agenda of Asiwaju for Nigeria.

I can confidently tell you that I am still a big factor in the politics of my constituency and Ondo State at large. I am obviously good to go. I have the experience and the intelligence to serve anywhere. We have in the last four years brought a lot of positive changes to.

Bauchi Governor Commissions Road Project In Akwa Ibom, Describes Governor Emmanuel As Best In Nigeria

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Bauchi State Governor, Senator Bala Mohammed has inaugurated a 17.95Km Anua-Mbak-Ishiet road with spurs and a 1.65Km outfall drain constructed by Akwa Ibom State Government in Uyo and Uruan local government areas of the state.

Senator Mohammed while commissioning the project on Thursday, described it as a people's orientated project that will be of great value to the benefiting areas.

He commended Governor Emmanuel for taking development to the hinterlands, saying that the people are happy for the new lease of life and spoke of Governor Emmanuel as one of the best Nigerian leaders PDP has ever produced.

He said, "I can see that the people of this community are positively touched by your midas touch. Because you have delivered what they craved for so many years".

Bala posited that with the hallmark of excellence that Governor Udom Emmanuel has used his experience and pedigree to bring to bear in governance through inventions and innovations particularly in urban renewal and rural development what he is leaving behind for the state is more than just a footprint.

"With your age, pedigree and

experience, and what you have testified with these infrastructural development by transforming the rural Akwa Ibom to centre of excellence, you have written your name in gold", Bala said.

In his remarks, Governor Emmanuel affirmed that his concentration on rural communities was to work the talk on his second term Completion Agenda and in appreciation of the massive support of rural dwellers towards the victory of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, in the state.

"These days I've been taking my colleagues to join me for commissioning of projects in the rural areas because these are the people that voted for us. These are the people that make PDP thick by showing faith in the party.

"We might not be able to go into houses one after the other but if we do a life touching project like the Anua-Mbak-Ishiet road that traverses two local government areas we know we're touching lives of the rural dwellers", he stated.

He assured on the completion of

a second phase of the road to provide smooth access to the Uruan Paramount Ruler's palace. This, he promised to make funds available before exiting office to avoid leaving a burden on the incoming administration.

On his part, the Governor-Elect Pastor Umo Eno, commended the impactfulness of Governor Emmanuel's development projects and acknowledged the economic viability of Anua-Mbak-Ishiet road, describing it as the commercial route of the state.

He pledged to further the on the benefits of the projects by

providing embankments at the river shore, a jetty, cold rooms and fish processing facilities to enhance the seafood businesses of the Etoi, Ishiet, Mbak and Anua people.

Reviewing the project, Commissioner for Works and Fire Service, Prof. Eno Ibanga, said the 17.95km Anua-Mbak-Ishiet road has 13.1km alignment which is 10.3m wide with side drains.

He explained that specifications of the road meets the standards of road construction anywhere in the world as it has 150mm laterite sub-base, 150mm crush stone

base and 50mm asphalt wearing course.

He added that phase I of the project links several communities to Ring Road III and it has opened up the area for commercial activities especially transportation of sea foods to the urban areas and outside the state. Goodwill messages were received from the Paramount Rulers, local government chairmen and state lawmakers of the two benefiting local government areas, who commended the Governor for retelling their story with the construction of the road.



Bauchi State Governor, Senator Mohammed cutting tape to commission road project in Akwa Ibom

NAPTIP Raises Alarm Over Plight Of Nigerian Women In Iraq, Warns Against Job Offers Abroad

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), has raised alarm on the plight of Nigerian young women working as domestic workers in Iraq.

It asserted that most of the Nigerian young women working in the country are exploited in diverse ways on daily basis and now requesting for assistance to return home.

The Director-General of NAPTIP, Prof Fatima Waziri-Azi who raised the alarm disclosed that the Agency is currently investigating several rogue labour recruiters who have been reported to be big players in the massive recruitment of Nigerians to Iraq for domestic servitude.

Prof. Waziri-Azi, made this known at the Agency's headquarters, Abuja, while speaking on new destinations for human

trafficking across the Globe, according to a statement by Adekoye Vincent Press Officer of the Agency,

She said, "Because of the proactive activities and collaborative efforts of NAPTIP and its partners in raising awareness around issues of human trafficking to some of the known destination countries, traffickers have now shifted attention to Iraq.

"We are inundated with pleas for rescue and repatriation from female victims trafficked to Iraq, especially to the cities of Baghdad and Basra where they are distributed to various homes by their recruitment agents to a hard life of domestic servitude.

"Available information shows that many of these victims have been admitted to hospital many times due to long work hours under harsh conditions they are forced to undergo. Most of them have

complained of deteriorating health resulting from the weight of work. They are constantly under threat of being harmed either by their direct employers or the Iraqi agents, each time they complained of unbearable workload.

"Many of them have no access to their phones because their phones are seized immediately they are paired with an employer. They are never allowed out of the premises where they are serving and even when communication is established with them for rescue, they cannot give details of their location because they do not know where they are. It is indeed a very scary situation.

"Aside the workload imposed on them by their taskmasters, they are constantly being sexually harassed by members of the household where they are serving, aggravating their situation.

"It is very important to be cautious about

this desperate quest to travel out of Nigeria for greener pastures, which is the reason so many fall prey to traffickers, and the lies of labour recruiters who promise juicy jobs overseas."

She however, stressed the need for people to evaluate every offer carefully and seek for second and third opinion before accepting offers outside the country. "Remember, if a sponsor facilitates your travel, you will be forced to do any job to pay off your sponsor before you earn money for yourself," Prof. Waziri-Azi further added.

While expressing worries over the increasing number of young Nigerian women suffering in Iraq, she stated that NAPTIP will continue to work with relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies in Nigeria and partners to ensure the safe return of the victims from Iraq.



From left: Sarkin Shanun, Kano, Alhaji Shehu Mohammed; Vice President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Mr. Innocent Okwuosa; Speaker of Ekiti State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Olubunmi Adelugba; President of ICAN, Mallam Tijjani Musa Isa; Akwa Ibom State Governor, Mr. Udom Emmanuel; and the Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS), Mr. Mohammed Nami; during ICAN 2023 annual dinner and award night, held in Lagos. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO



From left: Former Regional Manager/Chairman, KPMG Nigeria Ltd, Mr Kunle Elebute; and the President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Mallam Tijjani Musa Isa; during ICAN 2023 annual dinner and award night, held in Lagos. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO



From left: Wife of the Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS), Hajia Hadiza Mohammed Nami; the Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS), Mr. Mohammed Nami; and the President of ICAN, Mallam Tijjani Musa Isa; during ICAN 2023 annual dinner and award night, held in Lagos. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Lagos Govt Deploys Additional 500 TMS Cameras For Traffic Management, Enforcement

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Lagos State Government has deployed additional 500 Traffic Management Solution (TMS) devices to personnel of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) to enhance transparency in traffic management across the State. The General Manager of LASTMA, Mr Bolaji Oreagba disclosed on Friday at the formal closing ceremony of a 21-day scientific training of personnel

on the usage of these devices.

In a statement by Adebayo Taofiq Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of the Agency, Oreagba stated further that the present administration has brought lots of modern technological innovations to address transport challenges of the State of which the body camera was one for accurate traffic management among many other benefits. According to the General Manager "the 'TMS' body cameras will provide accurate validation of any tale tendered

by both the traffic law Officials and motorists also, pictorial and video evidences will help in the course of investigating complaints lodged by aggrieved motorists"

On the operation of these cameras, Mr. Oreagba assured that Lastma Officers have been duly trained on the usage and so they are capable of handling these gadgets adding that the camera would have significant effect on defiant behaviour on the road.

"It is going to be a transparent procedure for both the Law

enforcement Officers and motorists as minor arguments on traffic Laws violation will be put to rest through detailed recordings to be presented/analysed at the Lagos State Mobile Court"

Mr. Oreagba however enjoined members of the public particular motoring public to always be conscious of traffic law and obey every road traffic signs across the State.

A Lastma officer (Olokodana Daodu) who emerged as the best Officer during the training sessions said the camera would

provide another layer of security for Lastma Officers by dissuading would-be attackers from carrying out their heinous crime knowing they would be captured by the body camera.

He however thanked the Lagos State Government for providing the Agency with these devices as it would drastically reduced physical contact with motoring public particularly with traffic violators during enforcement across the state.

In case of any observation or comment on activities of the Agency contact these hotlines-



Police Set To Establish Radio Station In Lagos

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Plans are already at top gear to convert the abandoned Lagos annex of the Force Public Relations into a Radio Station by the Police high command.

The annex, located at Ijora Olopa in Mainland Local Government Council of the state, was a beehive of activities for interactions between the police high Command and members of the press.

The one story building and extension, sited on about a plot of land close to the head office of the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), has become abandoned since the tenure of Dr. Mike Mbama Okiro as Inspector General of Police by successive Force Spokespersons.

The Force Public Relations Officer, CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi who gave the hint about the conversion of the annex to a Radio Station, said arrangements are in top gear.

Speaking while fielding questions in Lagos, Adejobi said the Force headquarters has written to the

Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) for approval and regular network.

He disclosed that the Radio Station will operate on 1.9 FM in addition to others stations owned by the Police Authority.

Adejobi also disclosed that the building is one of the structures to be redeveloped along other distressed Police Barracks in the state.

He identified the affected 25 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 supper amongst others through the Lagos State Security Trust Fund.

The Governor's aide also assured that the project would be monitored once it is approved to ensure that it is completed within two to three years.

Delta Police Decimates Suspected Robbers, Kills One Apprehends 5 Others

RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The ranks of armed robbers in Delta State have continued to suffer defeat in the hands of Police operatives as one feared dead and five others arrested in a gun duel.

Three firearms, which include two locally made single barrel, one locally made cut-to-size double barrel guns, six live cartridges, nine expended cartridges were and a car marked PYN 595 PW, suspected to have been stolen were recovered from them.

The deceased suspected kidnapper and three others, according to report, had engaged the detectives in a shoot out while escaping into a bush after a robbery operation.

Our correspondent learnt that he sustained a fatal gun injury and died while receiving treatment.

The four man gang was alleged to have been terrorising and robbing innocent citizens were said to have snatched a Lexus car along Warri-Sapele road on 4th May, 2023 at about 1.00pm.

It was gathered that they were engaged in the gun battle by a crack team of detectives from "B" Division Warri, led by the

DPO SP Bolarinwa Alabi.

The Delta State Police Command Spokesperson DSP Bright Edefe who confirmed the incident in a release gave details of how the five suspects were apprehended.

It reads, "On 3/5/2023, the Deputy Commissioner of police operations DCP Johnson Adenola, had a brainstorming meeting with key officers in the Command where strategies were mapped out to nip the activities of kidnappers in the bud.

"Tactical commanders were directed to proceed to Ughelli and Warri alongside their men to reinforce the divisions.

"This effort paid off when the DPO 'B' Division Warri, SP Bolarinwa Alabi on 4/5/2023 at about 0013hours, received a distress call that some armed robbers snatched a black lexus cars along warri-sapele road and have been robbing innocent citizens using the said car.

"The DPO swiftly mobilized and led a striking force team of the Division, trailed the hoodlums, and caught up with them.

"The hoodlums upon sighting the police exchanged firing with team. The hoodlums, numbering about four, escaped into the bush while firing at the police but one

of them was hit and fatally wounded.

"The injured suspect gave up the ghost while receiving treatment. One locally made cut-to-size double barrel gun with two live cartridges, one suspected stolen vehicle with reg. no PYN 595 PW were recovered.

"In another development, on 1/5/2023, at about 2200 hours, as a proactive measure, the DPO Ughelli division led police operatives to patrol along Ughelli/Asaba road, during which, they intercepted one Odogun Ifeanyi 'm' 36yrs and one other suspect and when search was conducted on them, one locally made single barrel gun with four live cartridges, one jack knife were recovered.

"On the same date, the DPO and his men also arrested one Ediri Omote 'm' age 45 years, and two others, and one locally made single barrel gun with nine expended cartridges were recovered from them".

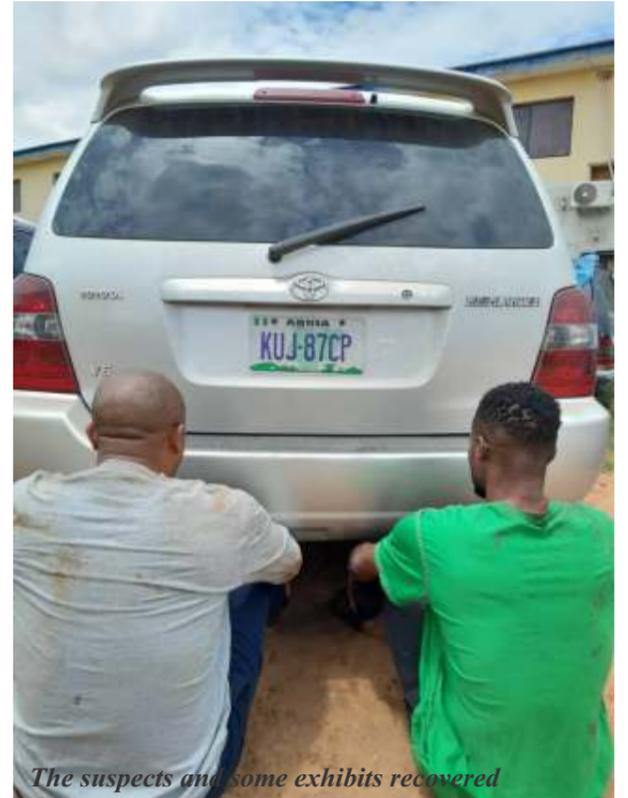
Meanwhile, the command has assured residents that it will leave no stone unturned in the fight against crime and criminality.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge Operations DCP Johnson Adenola, who gave the

assurance, urged residents to avail the command with vital information on the activities of criminals. The command also gave out some dedicated numbers through which it can be reached.

"The DCP operations assure Deltans that the command will leave no stone unturned in the fight against crime and criminality while appealing to Deltans to help the command in the area of information.

"The Police rely heavily on information from the public, and it is expected that any suspicious persons or movements will be



The suspects and some exhibits recovered

promptly reported to the police. "The following dedicated phone lines are available to the public to reach the command, as a quick response contact for any complaint or distress situation during the election exercise: CONTROL ROOM NUMBERS: 1 08026681071

Kaduna: Again, Suspected Bandits Invade Zango Kataf

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Suspected bandits attacked Runji Village, Atyap Chieftdom in Zango Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State and killed one Danladi Duduk.

A traditional leader in Runji Community, Mr. Koniyan Ben, confirmed to New Nigerian that the fresh attack was carried out in the afternoon yesterday and killed the victim, whose residence is close to Anglican Church in the community.

New Nigerian recalls that about three weeks ago, the same Runji village was attacked by suspected militias who killed about

33 people and about 40 houses and other valuables were completely razed down.

He told New Nigerian, "The assailants came through the cover of herds of cattle some few minutes after 2 O'Clock this afternoon and started firing shots using sophisticated guns including a revolver machine gun which scared away all people in the community.

"The attack took only a few minutes after which the assailants rushed back towards the direction of Zango Urban using the cows as cover up and ran away."

Brig. Gen. Timothy Oporum, the Commander of Sector 7, Operation Safe Haven Kafanchan, had warned that the military will not be distracted in its quest to carry out their professional responsibilities of ensuring the protection of lives and properties. He had while addressing community leaders in Zango Urban that the military 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 the whatever guise.

Nasarawa Reps Member-Elect, Congratulates Eggon Ethnic Group On New Aren

By; Samson Yaki, Lafia

The House of Representatives Member-Elect of Akwanga/Nassarawa Eggon/Wamba Federal Constituency, Amb. Jeremiah Umaru has congratulated the Eggon ethnic group on the coronation of its new paramount ruler (Aren), Justice Ahmed Ubangari (rtd) following his selection by kingmakers and subsequent approval by Governor Abdullahi Sule.

In a goodwill message, Umaru, who holds the traditional title of Jakadan Wamba described the coronation as a new beginning for the ethnic group and assured the new Aren of his unflinching loyalty and cooperation to deliver on the job.

According to him, the appointment of Ubangari didn't come as a surprise due to his sterling track records of transparency and accountability while in active service with the Judiciary where he rose to the position of Chief Judge of Nasarawa State.

"As the new Aren Eggon, I pray that God will give you the grace to apply your wealth of experience and God-given qualities in piloting the affairs of Eggon Traditional Council which will no doubt unite the different clans of the ethnic group and all the diverse ethnic groups within and outside your jurisdiction.

"Your Royal Highness, may you enjoy the revered throne of your ancestors. May God grant you wisdom, long life in good

health as you reign and steer the ethnic group in the path of peace, unity and development.

"Once again, Congratulations to the New Aren Eggon and the entire Eggon ethnic group," the message reads further.

The new Aren Eggon was appointed on Friday May 05 to succeed HRH Dr. Bala Abaine Angbazo who died in July 13, 2022. Until his appointment he holds the traditional title of Waziri Eggon.

He was coronated on Sunday May 07, 2023 as the 4th substantive Aren Eggon at the palace in Nassarawa Eggon, Nassarawa Eggon Local Government Area of the State and pledged to lead the ethnic group with the fear of God Almighty.

WPFd: 66 Nigerian Journalists, 3 Media Houses Attacked In 2022 - IPC

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The International Press Centre (IPC) on Friday, alerted that no fewer than 66 Nigerian journalists suffered various forms of attack in 2022.

IPC Programme Officer, Mrs Melody Akinjiyan who made this known while presenting report of attack on journalists in 2022 at the World Press Freedom Day (WPFd) Media Roundtable in Ibadan, said three media houses were also affected by the attack.

Speaking at the WPFd Media Roundtable and Stakeholders' Forum on Journalists' Safety and Protecting Freedom of Expression in the age of Misinformation and Disinformation organised by IPC in partnership with the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Oyo State Council, sponsored by Open Society Foundation, she said the 66 reported attacks was a worrisome rise as compared to the over 40 cases recorded in 2021.

According to the IPC Programme Officer, the

attacks are 24 physical assault, seven abductions, one gun attack, two threats to life, two threats to disclose source/intimidation, one invasion, one media shutdown and one robbery.

Mrs Akinjiyan listed others as one denial of access to information, two harassment, 21 unlawful arrest and detention, one hacking of account and two threats to sanction/payment of fine.

"Of the 66 journalists, 56 are male and 10 female. Among them are 13 print journalists, 26 broadcast, 24 online media practitioners and three others", she said.

Mrs Akinjiyan added, "26 of the journalists are from the South-West, 16 from North-Central, 10 from South-South, six from North-East, four from North-West and 10 from South-East.

"The states where the incident happened are Zamfara, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kwara, Gombe, Taraba, Adamawa, Bauchi, Lagos, Ondo, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, Enugu, Bayelsa, Delta,

Edo, Cross River and FCT Abuja," she said.

Speaking further, the IPC Programme Officer stressed that the various attacks as reported were allegedly carried out by security agencies, political thugs, armed robbers and militant groups like the Islamic State's of West Africa Province (ISWAP).

While tasking journalists to demonstrate greater sense of solidarity in dealing with attacks on media and abuses on rights of colleagues in the profession, Mrs Akinjiyan pointed out that the figure compiled were the only reported of the several unreported cases, urging journalists in the country to share information on attacks with IPC.

The IPC Director, Mr Lanre Arogundade while launching IPC's Centre for Safety and Protection of Journalists (I-CSPJ), disclosed that its goal is to contribute to the future of rights by advocating and promoting the safety of journalists.

Mr Arogundade maintained that the establishment of the

centre is also to create awareness on the imperative of protecting journalists especially as they serve as frontline workers during crisis or emergency situations.

"The overarching framework for the establishment of I-CSPJ is the strategic objective of expanding the frontiers of press freedom in Nigeria and Africa, which journalists' safety is an integral part. The goal of I-CSPJ therefore is to contribute to that future of rights by advocating and promoting the safety of journalists", he said.

Mr Arogundade added, "And creating awareness on the imperative of protecting journalists especially as they serve as frontline workers during crisis or emergency situations".

[07/05, 8:13 am] Jacob Dickson: Participants at the WPFd Media Roundtable and Stakeholders' Forum on Journalists' Safety and Protecting Freedom of Expression in the age of Misinformation and Disinformation in Ibadan on Friday

Gov Sule Approves Retired Justice As New Aren Eggon

By; SAMSON YAKI, Lafia

Nasarawa State Governor, Engineer Abdullahi Sule has approved the appointment of a former chief judge of the state, Justice Ahmed Ubangari (rtd) as the new Aren Eggon.

Engineer Sule gave the approval shortly after being presented with the report of the committee saddled with the responsibility of conducting the selection of the new Aren Eggon, at the Government House, on Friday.

The governor emphasized that, the selection of the new Aren Eggon was carried out in line with the strict policy of transparency under his administration.

He disclosed that, out of the 22 kingmakers allowed by law to select the new Aren Eggon, only three qualified to undertake the selection namely the village heads of Wakama, Wulgo and Aribadu.

"Out of the 22 selectors, only 3 qualified for the selection namely the village heads of Wakama, Wulgo and Aribadu. In line with my strict policy of transparency, I refused to meet any of them and I have instructed all those seeking for this office, about 11 of them, to go and campaign among the three selectors.

"For the first time, they came in here (Government House) today after the election and I used the opportunity to confirm from them whether that is exactly the person they selected. In front of other traditional rulers, they confirmed that that is their selection.

"I asked them if they did that as a result of any kind of influence and they said no. Based on that, I agreed to go ahead and implement the report," he stated.

Thereafter, Engineer Sule presented the selection of Justice Ahmad Ubangari (rtd) before traditional council of chiefs led by the Emir of Lafia, HRH Justice Sidi Bage Muhammad (rtd) for ratification.

"In line with my commitment to be fair, and to approve whatever has been submitted to me, I

submit it to you our royal fathers for your comments before I endorse it finally.

"With this, we have finally approved the selection as was done by the three kingmakers and I want, on behalf of the government, wish the new Aren Eggon a wonderful and successful reign. I pray that he will receive the support of our chairman of traditional council and support of all the other members of the council so he will succeed in his new position," Engineer Sule stated.

Earlier, presenting the report of the selection committee with Mohammed Sani Bala, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Mohammed Sagir A. Nawani serving as presiding officer and secretary respectively, Commissioner for Local Government, Community Development and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon Yusuf Aliyu Turaki, confirmed that the selection of the new Aren Eggon took place peacefully on May 5th, 2023 and in line with the law provided namely PS Legal Notice No.5 of 1981, the Chief Appointment and Deposition Law Cap No. 20, as well as the Appointment of Aren Eggon Order 1981.

"The presiding officer further confirmed that the exercise was conducted peacefully and Justice Ahmad Ubangari rtd scored 2 votes against one vote scored by Dr. James Angbazo during the ballot. "Attached are copies of the nomination papers, ballot papers, result sheets, as well as report of the selection exercise.

"In fulfilment of the requirement of Section 7 (1) of the Instrument for the Selection of Aren Eggon, Justice Ahmad Ubangari rtd is deemed to have been dully selected as the new Aren Eggon," Hon Turaki stated.

He therefore, presented the appointment of the new Aren Eggon, Justice Ahmad Ubangari rtd for approval before the Governor.

The new Aren Eggon succeeds the late HRH Dr. Bala Abaine Angbazo who died in July 2022.

SERG Carpets APC Over Nominees For Elective 10th National Assembly Leadership

**Urges North Central, opposition lawmakers to dislodge APC selected*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Pan-Igbo sociopolitical pressure organisation, the South East Revival Group (SERG) has frowned at the incoming executive's interference in the choice of the elective leadership of the 10th National Assembly through the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), urging opposition lawmakers and the "excluded North Central to work together with other aggrieved political blocs to elect leaders of the 10th National Assembly based on competence, justice and equity."

In its reaction to the nomination of individuals as preferred lawmakers

for various elective legislative offices in the incoming National Assembly, the SERG in a statement signed by its President and National Coordinator, Chief Willy Ezugwu, the pro-Igbo group noted that "the list released by the APC shows clearly that the party has learnt no lesson from its politics of exclusion in since 2015."

The National Working Committee (NWC) of the APC had on Monday announced the zoning of the leadership of the 10th National Assembly.

According to a statement by the National Publicity Secretary of the APC, Felix Morka, the zoning arrangement as reported to the party's NWC, indicated that the Senate

President — Senator Godswill Akpabio (South-South, Akwa Ibom); Deputy Senate President — Senator Barau Jubrin (North West, Kano; Speaker of the House of Representatives — Hon. Abass Tajudeen (North West, Kaduna); and Deputy Speaker — Hon. Ben Kalu (South East, Abia).

The SERG noted that "the announcement of the zoning arrangement after a so-called consultations and meetings held with the President-Elect, Bola Tinubu, and other stakeholders is an effort to impose a rubber stamp national legislative leadership on the lawmakers.

"Micro-zoning the elective offices to

individuals has tactically arm-twisted the members of the National Assembly and denied them the constitutionally guaranteed right to choose their leaders from among themselves.

"The party threw justice, equity and rule of law to the wind by not only excluding the South East from the Senate Presidency but also gave zero allocation of elective slots to the North Central zone.

"We therefore call on the opposition parties and the excluded regions to form a formidable alliance and elect principal officers of the 10th National Assembly in the interest of good governance and the well-being of the masses", the SERG said.

Artificial LP Crisis Sponsored To Scuttle Obi's Weighty Petition At Tribunal - Kaduna SEC

**Suspends three members*

**Insists Tafoki remains Kaduna Chair*



By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The artificial crisis in Labour Party is being sponsored by a political bandit to scuttle their presidential candidate, Peter Obi's petition at electoral petition tribunal.

Public Relations Officer (PRO), Labour Party, Kaduna State, Idris Yusuf expressed this, while reading the resolution of an emergency State Executive Council (SEC), Meeting held in Kaduna on Saturday May 6, 2023.

"Following the sudden emergence of a renegade faction in the Labour Party led by one Lamidi Apapa, our great party is being assaulted by agents of destabilisation and commotion. But, as much as they have tried, it is clear that the vast majority of our party members and, indeed,

the millions of our party supporters are watching the shameful drama carried out by these enemies of democracy with disdain.

"The public should note that the entire drama of indignity going on is being sponsored by an electoral bandit whose main aim is to use a fake Labour Party NWC to scuttle the weighty petition that the Labour Party and our Presidential Peter Obi tabled before the Presidential Election Tribunal.

"The intention is to create parallel structures at the National level and over the states to lend support to the dirty agenda of scuttling the mandate of Mr Peter Obi and Dr Datti Baba-Ahmed in the 2023 Presidential elections," he said.

According to him, "therefore we the State Executive Council of the Labour party in Kaduna

State, having met today, have unequivocally resolved as follows:

"That we totally dissociate ourselves from the illegal and counterfeit group of the Labour Party led by one Lamidi Apapa.

"We hereby affirm and assert our loyalty, support and commitment to the National Working Committee of our great Party led by our lawfully recognised National Chairman, Barrister Julius Abure.

"Consequent upon the above, all appointments and decisions made by the the Apapa group on behalf of great Party remain null and void," the resolution said.

The SEC insisted that for the records, the Chairman of the Labour Party in Kaduna State remains Hon Auwal Tafoki.

"Any other person parading himself in the above position is blatantly committing

impersonation and may face the wrath of the law," they warned.

According to the resolution of the meeting, all identified card-carrying members of the Labour Party who were part of the so-called NEC meeting that took place in Bauchi, Bauchi State Wednesday on May 3, 2022 stand suspended from the party. "Among those identified and affected by this decision are the following:

- i) Hon Bashir Idris Aliyu
- ii) Alh. Ibrahim Sidi Bamali.
- iii) Engr Michael Ayuba Auta.

"These three stand suspended and this decision will be forwarded to the National Working Committee of the Labour Party and other relevant bodies for further actions," the resolution stressed.

They therefore, called on their members and the general public to disregard anyone or group

parading him or themselves as State officials of the Labour Party in Kaduna State outside the duly constituted and recognized state Exco led by Hon Auwal Tafoki.

"Once more, Kaduna State Labour Party is committed to ensuring that the party remains united and becomes the most formidable political platform in the state and in Nigeria that will produce visionary and transformational leaders that will take our country to greater height. We therefore, cannot be distracted by a few disgruntled elements whose major aim is to service their greed to the detriment of the party and the country.

"We therefore, call on all our members and teeming supporters to remain calm and law abiding even in the face of the unwarranted provocation by divisive agents," the SEC warned.



Christian Pilgrimage: NAWOJ Commends Imo Govt For Sponsoring Over 300 Women To Israel, Jordan

**Says women pray for state while on pilgrimage.*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) Imo State Chapter, at the weekend, lauded the Imo State Government under Senator Hope Uzodimma for sponsoring over 300 Imo Women on Christian Pilgrimage to Israel and Jordan, the Holy Land.

Imo NAWOJ gave the commendation in a statement signed by the chairperson of the association, Dr. Dorothy Nnaji, who is among the pilgrims to the Holy Land.

Dr. Nnaji in the statement, stressed that the association, "is truly grateful to the governor for allotting over 300 slots to women in the one thousand pilgrims fully funded by the governor, Senator Hope Uzodimma, to Israel and Jordan".

The NAWOJ chairperson pointed out that there will be total and immediate transformation as a result of prayers offered on behalf of the state at the various holy sites by women in Batch 'A' of the pilgrimage.

She emphasized, "that His Excellency understands that there is connectivity between Heaven and Earth when women pray. Imo women cherish this opportunity to pray for the people and the state.

"His Excellency has saddled the pilgrims with the responsibility

of praying for the state while the women have it taken upon them as their main petition to the holy land to ensure peace and tranquility is restored again in our state as the exercise will enhance our relationship with God as it gives us a formidable background to our faith. The women are grateful to His Excellency, Sen Hope Uzodimma and to God who made it happen.

Also, a member of Imo State, House of Assembly representing Isu state constituency and also a Pilgrim, Hon. Ngozi Obiefule said since the creation of Imo as a state no administration has ever sponsored one thousand imolites to the holy land, and as a mother, she will pray for Imo State because that is the only state that is home for her.

Hon. Ngozi Obiefule maintained that the women will pray and continue to pray believing that God will visit Imo State as she encouraged the fellow women pilgrims to pray for his Excellency Senator Hope Odidika Uzodimma who God is using to move Imo state to an enviable height.

The Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Women Organization of Owerri Archdiocese and also the President of Catholic women Organization of St Joseph Chaplaincy, Imo State University, Owerri, Dr Obiageli Nnamocha, pointed out that she has dreamt and actually desired



Some of the pilgrims from Imo

to be a Pilgrim but all her effort was abortive.

Dr Nnamocha while describing the offer to her now as a prayer answered commended the governor for this gesture and for such rare privilege which she would remain indebted to him as she prayed for the Governor's heart desires to be met as Imo State's peace is surely her prayer

point and petition.

Also, Lolo Chinyere Odimara who could not hide her joy for the opportunity given to her by the state governor as she showered lots of praises and blessings on him and prayed for the betterment of Imo State.

Another pilgrim, Lolo Calista Ogu, prayed that Lord bless Imo state and preserve His

Excellency Senator Hope Uzodimma as he pilots the affairs of the state.

Sites visited in the Holy Land by the pilgrims are Mount Tabor, Church of Nativity, Gethsemane, Chapel of Ascension, Church of Multiplication, Gadara in Jordan, Mount Nebo in Jordan among other Holy sites.

Strengthen Press Freedom In Your Administration, Oyo NUJ Chairman Tasks Tinubu

**Demands justice, compensation for journalists attacked; maimed or killed in line of duty*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Chief Ademola Babalola has charged the President elect, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu to support and strengthen press freedom with his administration

Chief Babalola gave the charge at the weekend, while speaking at a one day Stakeholders' Forum on Journalists' Safety and Protecting Freedom of Expression in the age of Misinformation and Disinformation" held at Kakanfo Inn, Ibadan.

The NUJ Chairman pointed out that the time has come for governments at all levels to do away with any act that can stifle free press and its associated freedom of expression and speech as precursor for the other layers of human rights.

Chief Babalola stressed that the new government of Asiwaju Tinubu "should as a matter of priority revisit the issue of compensation, payable to the families of our compatriots who have paid the supreme price in the line of duty and others harassed or assaulted by agents of the

state"

"This year's WPF, coming few days to the inauguration of a new administration of President-Elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, provides us the ample opportunity to appeal to the impending administration to support and strengthen press freedom", he said.

Chief Babalola added, "The government at all levels must do away with any act that can stifle free press and its associated freedom of expression and speech as precursor for the other layers of human rights".

"I therefore wish to submit that the new government should as a matter of priority revisit the issue of compensation, payable to the families of our compatriots who have paid the supreme price in the line of duty and others harassed or assaulted by agents of the state".

Speaking further, the Oyo state NUJ Chairman stressed, "as journalists, we must at all times uphold the integrity and sanctity of our profession by ensuring that ethics of our profession become our guiding philosophy in our daily lives".

"To this end, I want to urge the President-Elect Asiwaju

Bola Tinubu, as a democrat and advocate of free press to revisit many of the injustices metted to the media industry, especially journalists by instituting a judicial panel of enquiry in facilitating justice for our Comrades attacked; maimed or killed in the line of duty".

Earlier, the NUJ Chairman frowned at the level of misinformation and disinformation in the country, describing it as alarming and that "if Freedom of Expression must be protected, then, all efforts must be emplaced to eliminate or reduce it to the barest minimum"

"The topic of this programme: Protecting Freedom of Expression in the Age of Misinformation and Disinformation, is very apt. The level of misinformation and disinformation in the country these days is alarming. If Freedom of Expression must be protected, then, all efforts must be emplaced to eliminate or reduce to the barest minimum the high rate of misinformation and disinformation, which is also known as fake news".

AFRIMA Demands Justice For Slain AKA, Urges Governments In Africa To Protect Music Stars

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The International Committee of the All Africa Music Awards (AFRIMA), has implored governments of African countries to arrest the growing cases of violent deaths against music stars on the continent, just as it urged the South African authorities to expedite the process of prosecution of the killers of rapper Kiernan Forbes popularly known as AKA.

AFRIMA recalls that the 35-year-old AKA was killed in a cold-blooded shooting on February 10, 2023, at a nightclub in Durban, South Africa and the awards body is demanding that everyone linked to his gruesome murder be expeditiously brought to justice.

President and Executive Producer, AFRIMA, Mike Dada, in a statement, said governments of African nations must make deliberate efforts to prevent violent attacks against music talents, averring that the disturbing trend could potentially erode the gains recorded in the creative industry over the years if not checked.

Dada said the murder of AKA is a wake-up call to governments across the continent to scale up their security architecture to encourage the protection of talented individuals. He suggested that efforts should be sustained to checkmate the proliferation of small arms especially.

AFRIMA said the senseless killing of AKA utterly hurts African creative space, insisting that South African authorities must arrest and prosecute everyone involved in the dastardly act.

"We strongly demand from the government of South Africa to arrest and prosecute all the persons involved in the killing of

AKA to serve as a deterrent to criminally-minded individuals who cut short the lives of talents at their prime. The crime deterrent is for criminals to know that there is a big chance for them to be arrested, prosecuted and convicted; we strongly call for justice to be sufficiently served in this case.

"However, this is also a call to the governments of various countries across the continent of Africa to react to this gruesome killing by addressing the challenge of the proliferation of small arms. The trend of arms proliferation in Africa has had an impact on the continent's internal security, which has led to violence and the deaths and injury of thousands of innocent citizens including our music stars and we encourage steps that will lead to the protection of the lives of our talented stars.

"Our ideals include using the platform of AFRIMA to promote the strength of Africa and tell a positive story of the continent and we believe we can tackle poverty, inequality, unemployment, climate change and other challenges bedeviling our dear continent through music but the lives of creative talents should be protected to fully realise these lofty dreams," he said.

Similarly, speaking on AKA's killing, AFRIMA's Country Director, South Africa, Lekunutu Seboko, said the government of the country must back up its promises and assurances with concrete action by solving the murder case in good time. He believes bringing the perpetrators of the heinous crime to book will deepen the trust and belief in a better future for not only the music stars in the country but all South Africans, where they can feel safe and secure in their homes and communities.

"AKA's sudden death is a deeply

disturbing tragedy and development in South African music; the ghastly manner of his death has had international reverberations and our government must endeavour to bring his assailants to book to prove to the world that we indeed operate a system that uplifts justice and sanity.

"Undoubtedly, the African music landscape is diminished by his untimely death; but it is now the responsibility of South African authorities to ensure that justice prevails.

We understand that some arrests have been made, but the process of bringing everyone connected

to his death to book must be swift because justice delayed is justice denied," he said.

AFRIMA also reacted to the sudden death of another South African rapper Costa Titch who died in March while performing on stage.

Dada said the invaluable contributions of Costa Titch, whose real name was Constantinos Tsobanoglou, and AKA to Africa's creative and music ecosystem would be sorely missed.

He added that African music was yet to come to terms with the sudden demise of the two great artists, describing them as true musical giants whose incredible songs and voices touched countless lives.

He added that AKA set the bar high for South African hip-hop just as Costa Titch took it up a notch and the two superstars



collectively and collaboratively projected African music and culture on the world stage with many songs they did together.

He added that the two music icons were prominent figures in the AFRIMA community, recalling that AKA was a winner while Costa Titch won multiple nominations.

Dada said: "The deaths of AKA and Costa Titch will continue to cause significant reverberations across the African music fraternity because their contributions to the art were simply magical. Their music, messages, and successes gave hope to young Africans mired in poverty, violence, and uncertainty. Their works did not only elevate the hip-hop genre to the mainstream of South African music but impacted the global music audience in a manner that deepened the acceptance of

African music and culture on a large scale.

"Their losses are personal to us in AFRIMA because they have been part of our journey. We recall that AKA won the Best African Collaboration award in the 2015 edition of AFRIMA for his effort on 'All Eyes on Me' which features Burna Boy, Da LES and others, while Costa Titch got a historic six nominations in the recently held 2022 edition. The greatness of their crafts is still being acknowledged even in their graves.

"We are still sombre and sad about their sudden departures. They inspired the whole of our continent; full of faith, courage, and strength, they have left a huge void in the music industry and their invaluable contributions to the African music ecosystem would be missed forever."

Over N22bn Owed By Electricity Customers In Kogi – AEDC

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC), Kogi Regional office has claimed that over N22 billion worth of consumed energy is being owed by electricity consumers in the state.

The Regional Manager, AEDC, Mr. Danladi Baba disclosed this in an interview with journalists on Saturday in Lokoja.

According to him, the customers as a whole, are owing AEDC over N22 billion worth of debt, and every month they add value to their debt.

He said the state government alone is owing N483 million as of April 2023, while other debts are from private individuals, companies and other customers.

"For the past four months in Kogi, we import energy of nothing less than N1 billion but we hardly get N500 million in average every month.

"We encourage our customers to pay their electricity supply debt to avoid the AEDC from being disconnected from the National Grid," Baba said.

The regional manager stressed that regular payment of electricity bills and

outstanding debt would lead to improved electricity supply for customers to enjoy.

He explained that some Electricity Distribution Companies (DisCos), who could not fulfil the obligation of the market, were recently disconnected by the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) from the National Grid.

This he said, is because of their inability to pay for what they imported as energy.

"The obligation of the market is that you must meet up with the payment for the energy that you are taking.

"Thank God the AEDC is not part of those Discos that were disconnected and that is

why we are appealing to our customers to pay up their accumulated bills.

"If care is not taken, the disconnection by TCN from the grid can affect AEDC also," Baba said.

He, however, noted that the drop in the electricity supply in March and April was due to the shortfall in the allocation given to them by TCN from the National Grid.

"We can only dispense to our customers what is being allocated to us. We hope for improvement in the allocation very soon.

"The highest we have gotten in a month is N543 million and sometimes it drops below N500 million", he said.



Lesson From Sudan's War

By Safiya I. Dantiye

PEOPLE heaved a sigh of relief by the arrival of the first batch of Nigerians, mostly students caught in the war in Sudan brought back to the country on Wednesday. They landed at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja in the night. They were three hundred and seventy-six and evacuated from Egypt by Air Peace and Nigeria Air Force (NAF).

Foreign countries have scrambled to evacuate their citizens and buses were hired by the Nigerian government to take the students from Khartoum, Sudan, to Aswan, Egypt, before they would be brought back home.

"Sudan, already a poor country, now, it is being made worse by the war causing displacement, destruction and poverty. Though the leaders of the warring factions are not fazed, they don't care. However, the massive evacuation of foreigners should worry them as they bring money to the economy of the country."

Egypt had also caused a problem by refusing the evacuated Nigerians entry at the border asking for normal visa procedure in this abnormal time. Eventually, after many days, things were sorted out.

Some of the evacuees have told snippets of the ordeal they went through for many days. They suffered thirst and hunger and fear of the unknown. But at last they are home and we hope the rest would be brought back safely as well.

The war broke out in Sudan between government soldiers and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary force, which includes militias controlled by the vice president, on April 15.

Since Omar Hassan al-Bashir was deposed in a coup in 2019, having ruled since 1989, Sudan has not been stable as the civilians that took part in the 'revolution' of removing him have been holding protests for return to civilian rule. The army, from all indications, is not in a hurry to relinquish power. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan is head of the armed forces and therefore the country's president, while General Hamdan Dagolo, better known as Hemeti, is his deputy and the leader of the RSF.

In any case, a war is a terrible thing and may Nigeria not witness it again, that is after the Civil War of 1967-1970. Those that think if Nigeria goes to war they would be insulated and suddenly have their 'own' country to run should take a lesson from Sudan. This is an internal war not an aggression from a foreign country. Someone who had witnessed the Nigerian

civil war once told me that if a war breaks out, you would find yourself in another town while the members of your family would also find themselves in different other places and some may never meet again.

With over five hundred people dead and thousands injured, there are destructions; hospitals have run out of supplies. Even the Sudanese themselves have fled to neighbouring countries of Chad and South Sudan.

Sudan, already a poor country, now, it is being made worse by the war causing displacement, destruction and poverty. Though the leaders of the warring factions are not fazed, they don't care. However, the massive evacuation of foreigners should worry them as they bring money to the economy of the country.

"But no matter what, the African Union should try its best to bring an end to the war in Sudan. It should be up and doing. We should wake up and not wait for others to come and help us. Africa has a lot of problems; we don't need a war."

The cry for revolution as the only way for eradicating 'corrupt' leaders and bringing in 'pure' leaders that would usher in good governance devoid of corruption is a farce. It is romanticism, because as soon as the revolutionists are installed and tasted power, they would sing a different tune and may become more corrupt than the previous leaders they accused of corruption.

They would amass wealth; hold on to power by any means and become the new dictators and terrors that would brook no opposition.

When the war is over, who will rebuild Sudan? Unlike Ukraine that is attacked by Russia and supported by the United State of America in its individual capacity and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), also led by the US as well because it is more like a proxy war between Russia and the West, as such, it would be rebuilt by them; Sudan may probably remain in a perpetual state of getting food and medicine aids, and so on, for decades after the war without recovery.

By the way, where are the regional bodies, and above all, the African Union (AU), people ask?

But no matter what, the African Union should try its best to bring an end to the war in Sudan. It should be up and doing. We should wake up and not wait for others to come and help us. Africa has a lot of problems; we don't need a war.

Health Insurance: Commissioner Seeks Partners Support For Informal Sector Enrollment

By ; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Kaduna State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Amina Muhammed Baloni, on Thursday, tasked Civil Society Organizations, donor agencies and other relevant stakeholders to help drive sensitization for the informal sector enrollment into the state's Health Insurance Scheme. Dr. Amina, noted that the informal sector which accounts for about 99.9% of the state's population, is not on Health Insurance Scheme, a situation she said, is not helping the sector.

She made the appeal during the dissemination of Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) spot check finding for quarter four of 2022, by Kaduna State Maternal Accountability Mechanism (KADMAM) with support from Legislative Initiative for Sustainable Development (LISDEL) and Evidence for Action (E4A MamaYe). According to her, the health sector performance for last quarter of 2022, as presented by the mechanism, was an evidence of the State government's commitment to the health care of her citizens.

"The score card is showing the efforts that the Kaduna State ministry of health and it's other agencies has done in improving the health sector of Kaduna State, though we are not quite there yet.

"We accept that we have some areas we have to improve, this is what I want to leave for the next administration to build on. They will build on what has already been achieved to correct some of the lapses and improve on what has been done.

"I think the team health should be recognized for what has been done, I thank the Governor

especially for his commitment to health.

"The challenges we have with financing is not a lack of commitment by the government, it is generally the economic recession, recall that in years past where there's no recession these funds were released very frequently giving the resources we have for everything." The Commissioner explained. She advised the incoming government to prioritize health because according to her, "this is the basis for which production of the citizens will continue."

She charged all agencies under the ministry to be responsible for the feedback for the referrals system of the BHCPF to improve service delivery, urging them to establish proper reporting system

Dr. Baloni, urged the mechanism and other partners to stick to the ministry's BHCPF checklist to avoid duplication of standard, commending them for their support, adding that if all what the ministry budgeted for health were to be released, the state would have seen wonders in health care service delivery.

The BHCPF performance score card, presented by KADMAM's Evidence Sub-committee Chair, Abdulrahman Mikail, showed that the state government did well in the last quarter of 2022, in terms of governance, coverage and service delivery, except for three aspects of service where the performance was scored 0%.

The survey which was a pilot for BHCPF performance in the state was conducted conducted in the four metropolitan Local Government Areas of Chikun, Igabi, Kaduna North and Kaduna.

According to findings, the state failed to release its 25% counterpart funding

for BHCPF throughout 2022, and did not also release the one per cent equity funds for same period. The survey equally showed that only 34 per cent children under 1 year age accessed immunization during the period.

Earlier in her welcome address, representative of KADMAM, Co-chair, Mrs. Dorcas Adeyemi, thanked the commissioner for always giving the mechanism the requisite support to carry out their responsibilities.

She said their intention is to support government to succeed in delivering quality, affordable and accessible healthcare services to the citizens.

Mrs. Adeyemi therefore, called on the ministry to act on the recommendations made by "ensuring adequate supply of vaccines and consumables to designated facilities in the state. We request Kaduna State Government to release the one per cent consolidated revenue monthly as approved in 2023 budget.

"We are requesting state government to timely release and cashback the 25% state counterpart funding for BHCPF implementation. The state MOH should provide adequate feedback mechanism between primary and secondary health facilities to enhance referral for BHCPF enrollees."

On their part, representatives of E4A MamaYe and LISDEL, Elkana Aliyu and Adedamilola Ademuyiwa, commended the state government for always opening their doors to partners to contribute their support to government efforts.

They promised to continue to support government within their resources to ensure an improved healthcare delivery system.

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

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

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S/NO	SIZE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
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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
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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

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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

Crises In Sudan: The Hajj Airlifts Dilemma, The 3 'Hard' Choices

By ; I B R A H I M MUHAMMAD.

The scheduled signing of 2023 Hajj airlift agreements by NAHCON and the Hajj carriers could not be completed due to the ongoing crisis in Sudan.

The five selected Nigerian airlines namely, Max Air, Air Peace, Azman Air, Aero Contractors, Arik Air and Value Jet promised to further make consultation before they will append their signatures to the airlift contractual agreement.

President Muhammadu Buhari had approved Saudi-based Flynas and other Nigerian airlines including Max Air, Air Peace, Azman Air, Aero Contractors, Arik Air and Value Jet to fly Nigerian pilgrims.

While the first five were selected to fly pilgrims from the 36 states and FCT, Arik and Value Jet were selected to offer chatter services to pilgrims travelling under private tour operators.

When NAHCON invited the airlines for a signing agreement on Thursday at the Hajj House in Abuja, only the Saudi-based Flynas signed the agreement while the representatives of other Nigerian airlines declined.

Flynas's position is based on the Bilateral Air Service Agreement Nigeria signed with Saudi Arabia on the Hajj airlift quota. In the agreement, NAHCON allocated 28,515 pilgrims to Flynas, 16,326 to Max and Air Peace was to transport 11,348 pilgrims.

NAHCON Commissioner of Operations, Magaji Hardawa explained that the conflict in Sudan has put the airlines in a difficult position. He explained that all the airlines will now require longer flight paths to get to Saudi Arabia.

Independent Hajj Reporters, a civil society organization that monitors and reports Hajj had earlier this week via press statement stated that the crises in Sudan may reconfigure the current arrangement put in place by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria to airlift Nigerian pilgrims to Saudi Arabia and called on the federal government to quickly review and find an alternative plan to serve as a backup. Here we are.

The suspension of signing of the hajj airlifts agreement by the Nigerian approved Airlines for further consultations should not come as a surprise to those who truly understand the algorithms



of airline tickets pricing and why the closure of Sudan airspace portend serious challenges for Airlift of Nigerian pilgrims to Saudi Arabia for this year's hajj exercise.

A layman will argue that the airliners have agreed to transport Nigerian pilgrims to Saudi Arabia and that it is none of NAHCON or pilgrims' business how and which route they fly through to reach Saudi Arabia, but the professionals understand that in the aviation industry, not all 2 plus 2 is 4.

First, the entire 2023 hajj airlift plans were structured based on the traditional mode of transporting Nigerian pilgrims via Sudan Airspace to Saudi Arabia. The prices of flight tickets were negotiated and agreed upon based on the flight time of flying via Sudan airspace which is approximately 4:30 minutes flight time.

With the closure of the Sudan Air space, the Nigerian Hajj carriers will require additional 2 hours or more flight time to airlift pilgrims through alternative airspace. That is the odd development in the matter. However, it is extremely disturbing that both NAHCON and the Nigerian-approved

airliners had to wait until the day of signing the airlift agreement before they troubleshoot the negative impact the closure of Sudan Airspace will have on airlifts of pilgrims - particularly, the airliners who are professionals in the aviation industry - or do they think that NAHCON will reflect the difference in the flights time and the financial implications in the agreement after 2023 Hajj fare has been announced and pilgrims have paid?

There seems to be a communication gap which is not desirable at this critical moment especially with less than 16 days to the commencement of Airlift because Hajj air carriers were officially selected on the 7th of April and On April 16, Sudan's CAA notified the world that all air navigation services have been suspended in Sudan's airspace, including above FL245 in adjacent South Sudan, due to 'security reason.'

There is 17 days gap in which the airliners could have drawn the attention of NAHCON to the likely effects this will have on their operations and table what they envisaged. Most importantly, the 2023 hajj fare was tailored to reflect the

number of hours pilgrims from each state will spend before arriving in Saudi Arabia.

For example, Maiduguri to Jeddah is about 1609 nautical miles (2,979 kilometres) with 4 hours flight time, that is why Pilgrims from Maiduguri - Yola axis are to pay N2,979, 000:00 million as 2023 hajj fare. Pilgrims from Northwest zones like Kano, Kaduna, and Katsina are to pay N2,919,000:00 Jeddah to Kano is 1850 nautical miles (3426 Kilometers) with 4:30 minutes flight time. However, Lagos to Jeddah is about 2269 nautical miles (4199 kilometres) with 5 hours and 26 minutes of flight time.

To reflect the flight time, the pilgrims from Lagos are to pay N2,999, 000:00 million as the 2023 Hajj fare. With the crises in Sudan, the airlines will have to take another route that will completely distort the arithmetic of 2023 hajj fare computations, especially on-air tickets.

To me, the likely solution could have been for NAHCON to readjust prices of air tickets as embedded in hajj fare to reflect the flight time for each zone if the Sudan airspace remained closed - a difficult task that disorganized the entire 2023 hajj

plan considering the timeline. This is the dilemma caused by the crises in Sudan as earlier raised by Independent Hajj Reporters. Now that Flynas has signed the airlift agreement, Nigerian-approved airliners may have no option but to accept and signed because the 28, 515 pilgrims that will be airlifted by Flynas cannot be billed by NAHCON and if that is the case, NAHCON cannot as well readjust hajj fare of the remaining pilgrims for the local airliners - unless the Federal Government wades to shoulder the differences as the situation may activate. Yes, and I repeat, NAHCON and the airlines are faced with two immediate hard choices: To review the 2023 hajj fare to reflect the current challenges (a no- go-area - option), for the airlines to accept the unforeseen challenges and take it as part of a business tough call, for the Federal Government to wade in and bridge the gap of contention.

May Almighty Allah wades into the crises in Sudan and makes this year's hajj a success Amen.

Mohammed is the National Coordinator, Independent Hajj Reporters-Nigeria.

Bola Ahmed Tinubu: How Will It End?

By: PRINCE CHARLES DICKSON Ph.D

Often people ask me why I write on certain topics and issues all the time, like bashing the government, and seeing very little good in people in government and government actions and my takes on education, health and power, conflict, politics of ethnicity and more.

My answer is that I do because I believe that such subjects are important for Nigeria and Nigerians as they are for other nations, but when it appears to me Nigerians and our leaders particularly do not react to these topics the way they should, I repeat them in new essays to remind old readers and recruit new ones to participate in the continuing dialogue.

Like we say in local parlance the May 29 don nearly reach, except events of seismic proportion happens, and I know it won't happen at the court, Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu would be President.

He comes on board with so much expectations and with so many problems, such is the fundamental nature of the problems that they have become part of us. However on many occasions we have been provided with the opportunity to get it right but many times we let go of such moments.

The just concluded Presidential polls, presents such moment again, while I have refused to discuss the elections, not as an act of cowardice, but truly, who am I, to discuss, an election many think was fairly accurate despite all the controversies, and many others see as having further divided the nation, or one that has realigned the nation.

There was this young, poor and wretched hunter. His family was nothing to write home about. He was very poor and miserable.

One day, the king of his village died and when they consulted the oracle, this young man was picked to be the next king despite the fact that his lineage has nothing to do with the kingship. On the day of coronation, he wept so bitterly as he could not imagine the crown being put on his poor head.

After the coronation, he asked that an extra room should be built in the palace compound and the things to be kept in that room are just his catapult, hunting boots, hunting dresses and all his hunting instruments.

Anytime he is tempted to be



Tinubu

proud, arrogant, think too highly of himself or talk rudely to his subjects, he will go into that room and once he sees all his hunting instruments and dresses; they remind him of his humble beginning and make him humble the more.

He said that the room was the most beautiful room in the whole palace.

Though what was in that room was not beautiful, they helped him remain humble before God and men. In addition, it also gave him a beautiful and peaceful reign, and perspectives.

Already there is a call for time and patience, how much of it, we have only time will tell, our experience is that the government has to start all over again and the same old music is remixed and a few months after we notice the same old thread in action.

And fearfully, the same issues that the last administration sought to solve or made comic off, are the same ones we will face again.

Bola Tinubu has to, not just by his will but by his powers, thread a new path--or else we may still tow the known path. It is the only road we know for now...road contracts that will be abandoned, commissioning of hospitals without facilities. Schools that

would be neglected, strikes within various sectors of the economy amongst many short and longfalls will characterize the administration with a couple of its own fair share of 'elephant and hippo' projects.

As Tinubu is sworn in, and he prepares his cabinet, I am not one of those that will really bother about whether he has a kitchen cabinet or even has a kitchen in the first place. The fact is that one; the kitchen belongs to his wife, whether as wife of the president or first lady...so I would concern myself to his ministers and yes men, and of course women.

The incoming president must stand his ground, we already are starting on a combination of contradictions, whether it is the people's mandate, with all the ranting and noise, or INEC mandate only posterity will judge.

The fact is that Mr. Bola, will be in the first line of offensive, he will be between making sure it's not business as usual and settling politicians with aggrieved pockets on one hand. Mr. Bola will have to resist the temptation to be Minister for Petroleum, or give Mr. Shetima his veepee the power to be this or that, he should be wary of the politics of senior special assistant or some

commission or body doing something and nothing about one industry or sector.

Whoever he picks, or someone suggests and demands, or the party hierarchy nominates, for whatever position, the administration is already faced with a conglomerate of jobless politicians, jobbers and ex-this and that, who require settlement of one form or the other. Can Bola damn them?

There will be a need to create a balance with intellect, hard work and patriotism in the zoning thing that has led us nowhere. How Mr. Bola is able to come out with any fascinating cabinet that will thrill Nigerians is a big question. For example, the questions to be answered will be what will the Ministry of water resources do differently, as many Nigerians would want to see water run from a tap courtesy of their effort.

Bola Ahmed Tinubu is going to be faced with giving or sharing the bounty for very mundane reasons. Ministers who failed as governors, legislators who contributed nothing and persons who lost elections and others whose father and mother was former this, and former that will be everywhere.

Mr. Bola must stop sharing the cake; he needs to shock

Nigerians by his appointments. This is my admonishment, Mr. Bola...does not have an enviable job but with passion he can make it a worthwhile one and start to leave a legacy. Get off all the talk, because it is cheap and could come back to hunt and haunt him.

Nigerians want ministers, advisers, and aides, legislators that will perform miracles. For a nation that has a very low expectation ratio, for sure we are 'not' asking for the impossible from Mr. Bola considering the rot he has to contend with, but he must importantly often go into that room, seek inspiration from that room, he must tell the truth...he must be transparent, and accountability to man and God, and Nigerians, how it will end—only time tell!

Prince Charles Dickson PhD is the Team Lead, The Tattaunawa Roundtable Initiative (TRICentre)

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Skype ID: princecharlesdickson

My Democracy is Not Your Democracy

By Owei Lakemfa.

WE were gathered. Some intellectuals, social activists, journalists, serving and retired diplomats. The primary issue was democracy. Is it universal and is there just a single, or multiple roads, to democracy? Is the British democracy which calls itself the Mother of Parliaments, superior to the American version; is the latter better than the Australian or the Chinese; is Russian Democracy superior to the Ukrainian? It was Thursday, April 27, 2023 and the venue was the Cuban Embassy on Diplomatic Drive, Abuja.

The out-going Cuban Ambassador, Clarita Pulido Escandel, was presenting the report of the April 19, general elections in her country and explaining Cuban democracy within the context of democracy in the modern world.

A product of the consummate Cuban diplomatic tradition which puts people at the centre, Pulido reminded us that Africa had seven days earlier, lost one of its famous liberation fighters and internationalists, Chris 'Che' Matlhako of South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) and five days later, the United States had on April 25, lost one of its most famous singers and a giant of the Civil Rights Movement, Harry Belafonte. She asked us to honour the duo, not with a minute silence as is traditional, but with music that represents their vocal nature in the cause of liberation humanity. She then played the famous song 'Malaika' (My Angel) a duet by Belafonte and Miriam Makeba, also known as Mama Africa. We rocked to the Swahili hit song which was composed in 1945 by Tanzanian musician, Adam Salim. Makeba had been forced into exile and made stateless by the Apartheid regime. She had stayed in the US and during her first visit to Africa in 1962 had learnt the song in Kenya, sang it at a concert in 1969 and made a duet with Belafonte who had become her mentor. They were two of the sweetest voices on both continents.

"Another point on American democracy is that while majority

Americans are against gun proliferation, the will of the people has not prevailed. A simple answer why this is so, might be because America is a country in which you need to be a millionaire to contest for congress; it is the wish of the rich that prevails. So, to paraphrase Lincoln, American democracy is the government of the rich, by the rich, for the rich."

The Cuban elections into the National Assembly of Peoples' Power had seen the election of 472 Members of Parliament by 68.56 per cent of voters. Miguel Díaz Canel Bermúdez was re-elected as President, Salvador Valdés Mesa as Vice President, Esteban Lazo, as Speaker. Leaders were also elected for the Council of State. The Prime Minister was also ratified and the Council of Ministers appointed. She explained that the system of elections in Cuba is that the populace vote directly for parliament which then votes in the executive leadership. So, democracy in Cuba is a combination of direct and indirect elections.

What is most interesting for me is that unlike Nigeria where the Senator is cumulatively paid some N14 million monthly and the Honourable Member of the House of Representatives is paid cumulatively, some N10 million monthly, their counterparts in Cuba are not paid a dime; neither salaries nor allowances. The Cuban parliamentarian does his normal job after which he attends parliament to make laws. There are those who claim Cuba is not a democracy. This is debateable. I see democracy as a system of government by popular representation based on the vote of the electorate in which the will of the people prevails.

A famous definition which is more a description is by a former American President, Abraham Lincoln, who said: "Democracy is the government of the people, by the people for the people." A Nigerian politician during the General Strike and mass street protests in January 2023, paraphrased Lincoln when he said in Nigeria 'Democracy is the government of the greedy, by the greedy for the greedy.'



America thinks itself perhaps the greatest democracy in the world. However, American democracy did not include the Black people until 1964 when the Civil Rights Movement and international campaigns made it too embarrassing.

Although it is assumed that America is a democracy, not a few are uncomfortable with its kind of democracy in which majority vote is not what counts, some electoral college. In its 2016 elections, Hilary Clinton, with 65,845,063 votes or 48.2 per-cent of the total vote, lost to Donald Trump with 62,980,160 votes or 46.1 per-cent of the votes.

In the follow-up elections, the sitting American President Trump tried to use arms to get himself re-elected. Until today, Trump has not been brought to book, and may well contest the next elections.

Another point on American democracy is that while majority Americans are against gun proliferation, the will of the people has not prevailed. A simple answer why this is so, might be because America is a country in which you need to be a millionaire to contest for congress; it is the wish of the rich that prevails. So, to paraphrase Lincoln, American democracy is the government of the rich, by the rich, for the rich.

"The UK brand of democracy is the West Minister in which the party or a coalition with the highest number of seats appoints

its leader as Prime Minister. Even if the overwhelming majority of the populace do not want the British Prime Minister, but he can win his single constituency seat and please his fellow parliamentarians, he can stay in power indefinitely. There are no term limits in British democracy; Prime Minister Robert Walpole spent about 21 years in office and William Pitt, about 19 years. The shortest-lived is Liz Truss who spent 49 days having been appointed on September 6, 2022 and throwing in the towel on October 25, 2022."

Democracy in Britain can even be more ridiculous than the convoluted American one. It runs a 'Constitutional monarchy'. The government is called 'His Majesty's Government'. There, you have a mixture of monarchism and parliamentarianism. When Prime Minister Cameroun lost direction and his Brexit compass malfunctioned, he became a liability and had to go. His replacement, Boris Johnson was known to be an unreliable politician who had been sacked as a journalist for manufacturing an interview that never took place. By the time his lies including trying to deny attending a social party when the country was supposed to be on Covid-19 shutdown, caught up with him, Britons were fed up with him and he resigned.

The best option would have been for the people to decide through

free elections who should govern them, but their system of democracy does not allow them such freedom until the five-year general election circle is completed or cut short by the governing party. Until then, they must be governed by whoever the parliamentary caucus of the Conservative Party throws up.

The UK brand of democracy is the West Minister in which the party or a coalition with the highest number of seats appoints its leader as Prime Minister. Even if the overwhelming majority of the populace do not want the British Prime Minister, but he can win his single constituency seat and please his fellow parliamentarians, he can stay in power indefinitely. There are no term limits in British democracy; Prime Minister Robert Walpole spent about 21 years in office and William Pitt, about 19 years. The shortest-lived is Liz Truss who spent 49 days having been appointed on September 6, 2022 and throwing in the towel on October 25, 2022. A major drawback of British democracy is that the Prime Minister needs only to be a parliamentarian voted for by only one of its 650 constituencies. So, he does not need to be known or voted for by the rest of the country.

A major issue about democracy is that the world tends to look only at its form and not its content. Democracy should be a system that delivers on the basic needs of the people and not rhetoric and propaganda.

Alleged Internet Fraud: EFCC Arrests 43 Suspects Including Self-styled Police Officer

**Recovers eleven exotic cars, several laptops, numerous iPhones, Apple wrist watches, others*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Forty three suspects, including a self-acclaimed police officer, Tijani Idris Oluwaseun were on Friday arrested by operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) for alleged internet fraud activities.

The 43 suspects according to EFCC, were arrested at Ijebu-Ode and Awa-Ijebu towns of Ogun State following actionable intelligence on their alleged fraudulent activities.

EFCC stressed in a statement that aside the self acclaimed Police officer who claimed to be an officer serving in Ede, Osun State, other arrested suspects include, Dahud Sodiq Temidayo, Emmanuel Chidibe Peter, Alan Joseph Opeyemi, Sodiq Iyanu Babatunde, Abiodun Olukoya Ibrahim, Adebanjo Oluwaseyi Emmanuel, Olokode Ajibola Obaloluwa, Emiade Azeez Ayotunde, Okeowo Oluwadayo Ahmed, Oludare Abdulazez Ajadi, Emmanuel Sunday John,

Also arrested were, Wisdom Alloy, Yusuf

Nurudeen, Kadiri Oluwasegun Sodiq, Daniel Christopher Imlegu, Tijani Babatunde, Abubakar Faruq Oluwapelumi, Oyeneye Jerimiah Abiodun, Clement Temitope, Balogun Olatunji, Akinboyede Idris Olawole, Akinlade Gbemileke and Afeez Lekan.

The anti graft commission listed other arrested suspects as Bankole Timilehin, Akande Olanrewaju, Arowolo Ololade, Kelvin Udanyi, Ayanmo Sunday, Olanusi Bolaji, Victor Ogheneremu, Ogunboye Ayodeji, Emmanuel Ayomide, Ojo Odegebele, Sotunde Tobi, Ayodele Felix,

Festus Akindeji, Jonathan Taiwo Resurrection, Agun Michael Okikiola, Olawale Oluwaseyi Ezekiel, Adeife Adeleke, Taiwo Ayanmo and Aduraja Samuel Olaoluwa.

ing to EFCC, items recovered from the arrested suspects include eleven exotic cars, several laptops, numerous iPhones, apple wrist watches, expensive video games and golden teeth worth millions of naira worn by one of the suspects.

EFCC maintained that the suspects will be charged to court as soon as the investigations are concluded.



The arrested 43 suspects



The identify card recovered from the self acclaimed Police officer



Some items recovered from the 43 suspects

Algeria 2023: Burkina Faso Can't Stop Us, Ugbade Boasts

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Nigeria's U-17 Boys, Golden Eaglets have not come as far as the quarter-finals of the Africa U-17 Cup of Nations to be dumped out of the competition without earning a World Cup ticket, says Head Coach, Nduka Ugbade.

The Golden Eaglets and their officials arrived in Algiers, the capital city of Algeria on Monday, three days ahead of their quarter-final clash with Burkina Faso's Young Etalons at the Nelson Mandela Stadium.

"We had an interesting match with South Africa and it has prepared us well for further challenges in the

competition. We learnt a lot playing Zambia, Morocco and South Africa – all strong teams – in the group phase and that was good furnace for us to be a better squad.

"The quarter-final matches will be very hard nuts to crack because that is the step that earns you the World Cup ticket. None of the four games will be easy. Our interest is Burkina Faso and we are working hard towards achieving success."

Burkina Faso had an interesting last match of the group phase, coming from behind to defeat and dump out Cup holders Cameroon 2-1 in a truly fascinating encounter.

Nigeria also came from behind

twice to edge South Africa 3-2 in a memorable encounter in Constantine, with the five goals scored by different players on the night.

Ugbade added: "We have not come this far to drop out. My boys are focused hard on the World Cup ticket. After that, we can then focus on other objectives."

The match between Nigeria and Burkina Faso begins at 8pm on Thursday.

Victory over the Young Etalons will earn Nigeria the opportunity to go for a record-extending sixth FIFA U-17 World Cup title.

Professionalism, Discipline Take Centre Stage At Lagos Boxing Seminar

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Boxing stakeholders including coaches, managers, promoters and retired boxers have advised the country's pugilists in the paid ranks to be more professional in the trade and make discipline their watchword in order to progress in the sports and become world beaters.

They stated this in the various papers they presented at the just concluded one day seminar organised by the Nigeria Boxing Board of Control (NBB of C) and held at the Brai Ayonote Boxing Gym of the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos.

In his welcome address, President of NBB of C, Dr. Rafiu Oladipo said the seminar became necessary in order to revive the game that gave a befitting and positive image to the country but suddenly started dwindling but was quick to add that he's happy that the present board under his watch are now working relentlessly to improve the game and that the seminar is aimed at educating them on the ethics of the profession so that they'll be at par with other boxers around the world.

Speaking on ethics of the profession, he advised boxers to listen to their coaches and their managers, practice what they tell them, stay focused and avoid wasteful life.

He also reminded them on the need to caution their supporters whenever they lose a fight because no promoter will like to invest his money on an indiscipline fighter.

On boxing rules, General Secretary of the body, Remi Aboderin took time to explain some simple rules to the boxers and the importance of them not moving up in weight when they are not satisfied to be in that weight category just as he also explained the role of promotion and sponsorship in boxing.

Former champion, Segun Ajose in his paper, spoke on the relationship between coaches, managers and boxers. He explained that while the boxers must respect their coaches, the handlers must also reciprocate that gesture because two of them must work harmoniously to achieve result.

He also advised them against taking some locally made drinks which might unknown to them contain some banned substances even as he advised them to control their sexual lives before any fight.

Also speaking Dr. Tajudeen Sule took the boxers on boxing and medical health, advising them to watch what they eat and avoid performance enhancing drugs. He was of the opinion that boxers and their coaches must have regular information on banned substances so that the fighter will not fall victim to doping.

On refereeing and judges the resource person, Segun Adesanya took time to explain to the boxers what they're supposed to do in the ring advising them not to be discouraged when they lose a fight as there is always another day to redeem their pride and image.

Onwuegbu, Shabi Emerge Top In Maiden BON Classic Golf Tourney



The respective winner in the BON Classic Golf Tourney, Olaitan Shabi, (right) and Bose Ngozi Onwuegbu.

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Olaitan Shabi playing with handicap 27 has won in the men's category of the maiden BON Classic Golf Tournament after returning with the best scores of 74, while the CEO of BON Sports Promotion that sponsored the event, Mrs. Bose Ngozi Onwuegbu emerged winner in the women's category with 72 net.

Olayinka Ojo of Tiger Golf Club who doubles as the Chairman of the Planning Committee for the event, emerged with the best gross scores and

88 net in the men's category, while Okunnola Rasheed and Aodonwase ended as first and second runners up respectively.

In the women's category, former Lady Captain of both Tiger Golf Club and Ibadan Golf Club, Mary Okunola recorded 74 net scores to emerge as the first runner-up, while Sala Oise playing handicap 28 with net scores 79, ended as second runner-up in the unique tournament that came to an end on Saturday at the Tiger Golf Club, Fajuyi Cantonment, Ojo Ibadan.

The sponsor, Mrs. Bose Onwuegbu who was the

former Lady Captain of Dolphin Golf Club Lagos in her remarks expressed joy for the huge success recorded at the end of the event, saying the theme of the event is 'Empowering the less privileged', hence proceeds from the tournament will be used to support the less privileged in the society.

"I want to thank all and sundry that had played big roles in making this event a success, but I must specially thank my husband, Navy Commodore MJI Onwuegbu for his constant support and understanding as well as the former managing

Director of Polaris Bank, Innocent Ike that came down to Tiger Club Ibadan for the first time to be part of this event.

"Let me also extend my gratitude to the former Captain of Ikoyi Club Golf section, Dr. Innocent Okoro who hugely supported this dream and my uncle, Hon. Wale Williams. I must also thank the leadership of Tiger Golf Club, led by the Captain, Tunde Salami and the lady captain, Patience Ekwere for their big support", said Onwuegbu who is also a South West zonal representative on the board of the Nigeria Golf Federation.

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Adeleke: Supreme Court Judgment Confirms Our Popularity In Nigeria - PDP

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Peoples Democratic Party, (PDP) yesterday, congratulated Governor Ademola Adeleke on his victory at the Supreme Court. PDP in a tweet from its verified handle, declared that the victory of Governor Adeleke at the Supreme Court further confirmed that the party was popular in Nigeria and commitment to nation building. "Osun State Gubernatorial Election. This victory is a confirmation of our Party's popularity in Nigeria and commitment to nation building. "Congratulations to him, the people of Osun State and the entire PDP family."



Adeleke

FUDMA Approves Automatic Employment For First Class Students

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

The Federal University Dutsin-Ma (FUDMA) in Katsina State, has said that the school's Senate has approved automatic employment for its students that graduate with first class honours.

The Vice Chancellor (VC) of the University, Prof. Armaya'u Hamisu-Bichi disclosed this during the FUDMA's 11th matriculation ceremony on Monday in Dutsin-Ma. No fewer than 6,012 students were admitted into various departments for the 2022/2023 academic session. "Out of the more than 10,000 candidates that applied to this university, today we are matriculating 6,012 students into various departments in their respective faculties.

"Therefore, I share with you the joy of being admitted into your respective programmes of your choice. I once again welcome you all to this wonderful serene academic environment.

"Let me assure you that this university is configured to produce excellent graduates that will transform future societies and demonstrate competitive posture among Nigeria Universities.

"The university places unwavering attention and focus on academic

excellence through effective teaching and learning environment, "the VC assured the students.

He explained that to encourage students to cultivate their potentialities to the fullest, the Senate of the university has approved the following:

"Students who scored a CGPA of 4.50 and above at the end of any academic year are crowned the University Scholars and are placed on the VC's honours list of academic excellent with some privileges.

"Those who earn a CGPA 4.00-4.49 at the end of every academic year will have their names appear on the Dean's list of academic year and shall receive a book allowance.

"The student that graduates with first class honours degree at the end of his/her studies in FUDMA would be offered automatic employment by the University Council.

"To serve as an executive member of any registered society or association whether Academic, religious, Cultural or Social, a Student must have a minimum CGPA of 3.00." the VC said.

He further assured the students that the university would do everything possible to make their stay in the school enjoyable, creative and also to give them all they deserve to do well with a view to preparing them for future challenges.

"While we cherish excellent performances and equally accord rewards to those who utilize those golden opportunities which we pray you are going to appreciate.

"As we matriculate you into your various programmes, by implication, you are part and parcel of the University community, by this also, you will sign an oath to be of good behaviour through out your stay in the University.

"University exists on accepted values cherished all over the world, therefore as a student you need to enjoy the freedom in FUDMA by conducting your daily activities within the accepted laws and regulations of the University and that of the host community.

"There are anti-social behaviours, the University will not condone from any student, no matter the level of his study. As the University rewards a hard-working student on his last day with us, so also we punish, within the laws, someone who breaks the laws on he/her departing day.

"As you are also aware of the security challenges in the country, I urge you to be security conscious and cooperate fully with the University by obeying basic security tips that may be released from time to time," Hamisu-Bichi advised the students.

Algeria 2023: Burkina Faso Can't Stop Us, Ugbade Boasts

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Senate Presidency: Tinubu Will Compensate South East, Back Akpabio - Umahi

By; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor David Umahi of Ebonyi State has expressed optimism that the President-elect, Ahmed Bola Tinubu would compensate the Southeast with other tangible positions for sacrificing the Senate Presidency seat and therefore declared support for Godswill Akpabio to emerge as the next senate President of Nigeria. Umahi gave the assurance on Monday at the Muhammadu Buhari International Airport, Onueke, Ebonyi state shortly after arriving the state from Abuja.

The governor was away on a one-week official tour within the country.

Umahi who told journalists that he decided to step-down his Senate Presidency ambition for Senator Godswill Akpabio, emphasized that he did so in the overall interest of the country. He expressed confidence on the incoming President's favourable disposition to give the South East other juicy positions in his government.

"The president-elect who is going to be the leader of the Party called me, and I consider it an honour for him to have called me, because I consulted him while he was in Paris, and he said we were going to discuss about it.

"So, when he came back, he called me.

"I also accepted for the interest of South East.

"Let it not be as if we are in

opposition all the time. "Politics is all about dialogue; give and take.

"Since we did not get that, we will get something else that is very tangible".

Governor Umahi noted that Senator Akpabio at present enjoys majority support of the senators elect, contrary to insinuations in some quarters.

Asked about the support of Senators for Akpabio, he noted,

"I am not yet a senator, but if you say senators-elect, the majority of them I know, are with Akpabio, and I am Akpabio's campaign coordinator.

"So, if you are talking about the existing senators, may be, but I am not aware."

On the question of being appointed Minister of Works based on his superlative infrastructural performance as a governor, Umahi said:

"I have worked so hard, and I feel it's the time to rest.

"Since I am not senate President, I think it is the time to rest.

"So, I leave that to the President-elect; I leave that to my destiny; I leave that to Southeast; I leave that to the leaders of APC.

"Whatever be the will of God for me and for Southeast, let it come true.

"But if it is for me, I would say that I prefer to be in the Senate, I prefer to rest.

"But if it is a sacrifice I have to make for the interest of South East, for the interest of the country, and for the President elect, so be it.

"But I won't struggle for it; I won't ask for it."