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Presidential Victory: Tinubu Support Group Receives Man Who Trekking From Kano To Abuja



Bilyamin (left) fielding questions from a reporter

By; BASHIR BELLO
DOLLARS, Abuja.

A former member of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council and the Global convener of Tinubu/Shettima Global Support Group (TSGSG), Engr. Muhammad Awal Ibrahim has received Sani Binyamin Danbatta, the man who trekked from Danbatta in Kano State to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja on a solidarity walk in support

of the President-elect Asiwaju Bola Tinubu.

He embarked on a distance of over 400 kilometers to celebrate the victory of the APC candidate in the February 25, 2023 Presidential election.

He said he embarked on the journey to show his passion for the President-elect and also join other well-meaning Nigerians in celebrating the victory.

Binyamin told journalists that he initially embarked on the journey alongside a friend but the friend later withdrew along the way.

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PDP Upturns Suspension Of Senator Makarfi



Makarfi

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The People's Democratic Party (PDP), has described "as null and void", and of no effect, not being consistent with the provisions of the Constitution of the PDP (As amended in 2017) the purported suspension of former Governor of Kaduna State and former acting National Chairman of their party, Senator Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi from the PDP.

A two-page suspension notice which was dated May, 14, 2023, signed by the Chairman, Tudun-Wada Makarfi Ward, Saidu Aliyu and five others, had said that the suspension was as a result of persistent contravention of the party's constitution.

The National Publicity Secretary of the party, Debo Ologunagba, in a statement on Monday, noted that the attention of the National Working Committee (NWC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has been drawn to the purported suspension of former Governor of Kaduna State and former acting National Chairman of their Party, Senator Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, reportedly by the Ward Executive of Tudun Wada Ward of Makarfi Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

According to him, "The NWC, after a thorough consideration of all the

issues raised by the Ward Executive, hereby declares the purported decision and action of the Tudun Wada Ward Executives which borders on issues of discipline, as null and void and of no effect, not being consistent with the provisions of the Constitution of the PDP (As amended in 2017)."

The statement explained that for clarity, Section 57 (7) provides that notwithstanding any other provision relating to discipline, no Executive Committee, at any level except the National Executive Committee, shall entertain any question of discipline as may relate or concern a member of the National Executive Committee, Deputy Governor or member of the National Assembly.

The NWC, according to the statement charged all leaders, critical stakeholders, members, teeming supporters of their party in Kaduna State and the general public to disregard the purported suspension of Senator Makarfi by the Ward being a member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Party.

The statement said that the NWC also charged all party members in Kaduna State to remain united at this critical time especially as the party leadership is progressing in their concerted effort to ensure a comprehensive reconciliation in the party.

Afenifere Warns Of Consequences Of Disrupting Tinubu's Inauguration

**Says allow legal process take due course*

**Lauds IGP, Nigerian Army, US Govt,*

**Frowns against fresh \$800m loan from World Bank*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A Pan Yoruba socio political organization yesterday cautioned that nothing should be done to truncate the May 29, inauguration of the President elect Asiwaju Bola Tinubu.

The Pan Yoruba socio political organization in a statement by its National Publicity Secretary Comrade Jare Ajayi advised, "all those who are aggrieved should be patient and allow the legal process they have already initiated to take its normal course"

According to Afenifere, the journey to the present democratic dispensation has been hectic and therefore, "nothing should be done to truncate it".

Afenifere specifically lauded the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and government of the United States of America (USA) for warning all those who might be thinking of or planning to disrupt the planned inauguration of the

President-elect, Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu, on May 29, 2023."

"Since the conclusion of the presidential election on February 25, 2023 and the announcement of Asiwaju Tinubu as winner of the election, reports are rife of various efforts being made to prevent the inauguration of the president-elect on May 29th", it said.

Afenifere added, "Some even advocated for an Interim Government which has been largely condemned. Apart from the statement made by the Vice Presidential candidate of Labour Party (LP), Dr Datti Ahmed who spoke along that line, one Dr Simon Okeke, Chairman of a non-governmental organization, while addressing the media at Chelsea Hotel, Abuja penultimate weekend, also asserted that inauguration of the president-elect on May 29 'might be an open invitation for anarchy'.

"Four residents of Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) led by one Mr. Ayanegbunam Ubala

Okoye, are presently in court to use the legal process to stop the inauguration".

Afenifere maintained, "it could be that there were other clandestine efforts along the same line hence the warning issued on May 4 this year by the Defence Headquarters of the Nigerian Army to those it described as 'unscrupulous politicians' who were bent on disrupting the May 29 inauguration."

It stressed further that "it appears that those making the move are still hell-bent in their unpatriotic contemplation hence the strong warnings that were again issued separately by the IGP, Mr. Usman Alkali Baba and Mr. Antony J. Blinken, US Secretary of State, on Monday this week. Secretary of State is a very high ranking officer in any country particularly in the US as it is in Nigeria."

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it described as 'unscrupulous politicians' who were bent on disrupting the May 29 inauguration.

"It appears that those making the move are still hell-bent in their unpatriotic contemplation hence the strong warnings that were again issued separately by the IGP, Mr. Usman Alkali Baba and Mr. Antony J. Blinken, US Secretary of State, on Monday this week. Secretary of State is a very high ranking officer in any country particularly in the US as it is in Nigeria."

Afenifere however, cautioned the outgoing government of President Muhammadu Buhari to have a rethink over the \$800 million facility it is securing from the World Bank for the provision of palliatives, saying, "it would be adding more to the already huge debt burden presently put at over N77 trillion according to the government-owned Debt Management Office (DMO)."

Yahaya Bello Bags Global Excellence 'Governor Of Year' Award

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State has won the prestigious Governor of the Year award at the 2023 edition of Global Excellence Awards.

The committee on the awards said Governor Bello was singled out for the award in recognition of his achievements in the growth and development of Kogi State, which had been corroborated by respected national and international organisations, including his unrelenting commitment to human capital development, empowerment, and infrastructure growth in the education and health sectors of the state's economy.

"The commissioning of impactful and first-of-their-kind projects in the state by President Muhammadu Buhari was an eye opener to the extent of development in Kogi State in seven years. On different occasions, the state had also consistently stood out from the crowd in the World Bank's States Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability program, among other first-time feats of the state under Governor Yahaya Bello," the organisers said.

The Awards was organised by Global Excellence, one of Nigeria's leading news, entertainment, and lifestyle magazines in Lagos on Sunday night. Receiving the award on behalf of the governor, the Commissioner for

Information in the state, Kingsley Fanwo, said, "We thank the Global Excellence Communications, Publishers of the Global Excellence Magazine for the Excellence Recognition Award conferred on the Executive Governor of Kogi State, His Excellency, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, as the Governor of the Year."

"Governor Yahaya Bello has delivered landmark projects, including the Reference Hospital that boasts of equipment, many of which are debuting in Africa. The World Class Model Science Secondary Schools, Health Institutions and other critical infrastructure such as roads, marked a year of incredible performance by the phenomenal Architect

of a New Confluence State.

"The Bello Care Program, which has offered near-free medicare to the people is also gradually improving life expectancy in the state.

"It is therefore not in doubt that the Governor is deserving of this prestigious award which he has dedicated to his late mother, members of his team and the entire people of Kogi State for their incredible support over the years."

The convener of the Global Excellence Awards, Mayor Akinpelu, explained that the essence of the recognition was to encourage leaders to do more and challenge others in their chosen careers despite the challenges confronting the country, particularly in the areas of security and the economy.

NERC Moves To Revoke Kaduna Electric's Licence Over Alleged N51bn Underpayment

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory

Commission (NERC) has expressed its intention to cancel its licence after 60 days, over an alleged N51 billion energy under

payment, among others, by Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company (KAEDCO). Dafe Akpeneye, the

Commissioner, Legal, Licencing and Compliance, in a published notice tagged:

NERC/LC/023, dated 15th May 2023, said, "Take note that KAEDCO is hereby given 60 days from the date of this notice

to "show cause" why the electricity distribution licence should not be cancelled in accordance with section 74 of EPSRA."

The report noted that KAEDCO only paid 13.85% of its minimum payment obligation to the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET) and the Market Operator (MO) with a N4.33bn average monthly underpayment, reaching about N51.96bn, according to NERC performance review for 2022.

The report also stated that KAEDCO under-collected its revenues to the tune of N88.75bn as market shortfall, capital investment allowance (N25.33bn) and allowed operating expenses (N11.46bn) during the period.

It explained that after KAEDCO failed to provide a credible plan for the financial sustainability of the utility, it issued a notice of imminent regulatory intervention in March 23, 2023, to the core investors – Africa Export Import Bank, Fidelity Bank Plc and Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) with 14 days to present their plan following NERC highlighted several regulatory interventions for the DisCo.

In April, according to the report, KAEDCO's investors sought more time from NERC without commitment to pay for energy remittance defaults, stressing that NERC with the investors on 14 April, 2023 discussed their final plan proposals and how to reduce their debts by N1 billion in one year with a N2bn stabilisation loan to cut the DisCo's N4.3bn shortfall by N250 million immediately, among others.

The report explained that the firm then submitted the proposed plan by 17th April, pointing out that NERC said it reviewed the plan and it failed to meet the obligations and moves to cancel the DisCo's licence.

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HIS EXCELLENCY AMB. (LT.GEN.RTD) TUKUR YUSUFU BURATAI CFR , GARKUWAN KEFFI, BETARA BIU

North Central Didn't Comment On NASS Zoning - Kwara Gov

By; BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has said that governors from North Central have not made any public statement on the zoning formula for parliamentary positions, denying a media report quoting them as rejecting the position of the party leadership on the issue. AbdulRazaq said the governors, being party leaders from the region, cannot adopt confrontational posture against the party's position but are instead holding strategic

meetings with different stakeholders to secure a better deal for the North Central.

"Media reports that we reject the party's position are therefore a stretch of our approach. They are not factual. We have our channels of communication, and that is what we are exploring," the Governor said in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary Rafiu Ajakaye.

"We are party people and will not make any public statement or do anything that will rubbish its leadership or cause avoidable tension in the polity. That is not our way."



Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq

Kogi Man Kills Stepmother With Pestle After Failed Poison Attempt

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

A man whose name was given as Idris Aminu is believed to have murdered his stepmother, Salamotu Aminu with a pestle in Ihima Obeiba Ebozohu community in Okehi Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The incident in the central Senatorial district of the state happened last Saturday night, while the victim was fast asleep.

Eye witness account told our correspondent that three days earlier, the suspect had attempted to kill the old woman with

poison but she survived the dose.

Confirming the incident, the Kogi State Police Command Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP William Aya said the command has arrested one Idris Aminu for allegedly killing his stepmother with a pestle.

"The lifeless body of Salamotu was discovered by her daughter in her room", the command image maker told journalists, adding that, "our men immediately mobilised to effect his arrest and he is currently in our custody while investigation is ongoing".



Bilyamin (left) fielding questions from a reporter

Presidential Victory: Tinubu Support Group Receives Man Who Trekged From Kano To Abuja

He said he chose to identify with TSGSG because of the passion the support group has for the President-elect, through various means among them political rallies and canvassing and being the only support group with posters in Danbatta Local Government Area in support of Tinubu, as well as their strong grassroots engagement, and the doggedness and hard work of the global convener of the (TSGSG) who received him, accommodated and equally took care of his

medical needs.

According to him, in spite of the criticism and obstacles in the course of his journey, he glorifies God the Almighty for keeping him safe during the journey.

He testified that Kano/Kaduna and Kaduna/Abuja highways have seen some sign of sanity from the security threats and commended the giant strides of the government in tackling insecurity in those axis and around the country to a barest minimum.

He expressed desire to

have an interface with the President elect, to personally and appeal for more security and infrastructural development to his home town, Dambatta and above all, have a selfie-photograph with him before he goes back home to further his studies.

He expressed optimism and hope that Nigeria would be secure, prosperous and united with Tinubu at the helm of affairs.

While receiving him, Engr. Awal said he was

motivated by a desire that young Nigerians are interested in politics and are willing to take action to support their chosen candidates.

He described his trek as a noteworthy demonstration of political activism and love for the president elect based on his humility, track records and dedication.

He promised him accommodation and all other logistics support from now till after the inauguration of the President-elect come May 29, 2023.

Resident Doctors Declare Five-day Warning Strike

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Barring any last minute changes, the Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD), the association would begin a five-day warning strike today.

The five-day warning strike commences today, May 17, and ends on Monday, May 22, this is following the alleged failure of the federal government to meet the demands of

Rising from their extraordinary National Executive Council (NEC) meeting held virtually on Monday, the doctors made the warning strike known.

On April 29, 2023, the association had issued a two-week ultimatum to the Federal Government to implement the agreements or face industrial action and the ultimatum ended on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

In their demands before the federal government, the doctors are demanding

an immediate increment in the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure to the tune of 200 per cent of the current gross salary of doctors.

The Resident doctors in the letter written on July 7, 2022, to the Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire, they are also demanding the new allowances on the review of CONMESS.

The Resident doctors are demanding the immediate payment of the 2023 Medical Residency

Training Fund (MRTF) in line with the agreements reached at the stakeholders' meeting convened by the Federal Ministry of Health.

The Resident doctors are also demanding the commencement of payment of all salary arrears owed to its members including 2014, 2015, and 2016 salary arrears as well as areas of the consequential adjustment of the minimum wage.

Tinubu's Victory: Jaji Trying To Reap Where He Didn't Sow - North West Group

**Disowns claims he contributed to president elect's victory*

By: AUSTINE AGBO EMMANUEL, Kaduna

North West Support Group for Asiwaju, has disassociated itself from Hon. Aminu Sani for claiming responsibility for the votes President-elect Bola Ahmed Tinubu got in North West and Zamfara State during the February 25 general elections. The group while briefing journalists in Kaduna yesterday through Comrade Khalid Shehu Kaoho, said Aminu is a gold digger trying to reap from where he did not sow.

Hon. Aminu Sani Jaji is the House of Reps Member representing Kaura Namoda Birnin Magaji Federal Constituency in Zamfara state and as well as the director of Contact and Mobilization of the

Tinubu/Shetima Presidential Campaign in Zamfara State. He is also one of the leading aspirants for the 10th speakership position.

Reacting to the development, Kaoho said, Aminu's APC victory claim came to them as a shock and therefore, it is imperative for them to react because as critical stakeholders in the Asiwaju campaign, they should know those directly or remotely associated with the victory in all the North-West states and some states in other zones.

He said, Jaji's claim is false and misleading and at the same time tends to discredit the State Governor, Bello Matawalle who was the chairman of the Presidential Campaign Council in the state.

Khalid said, "The attention of the North-West Support Groups for Asiwaju has been called to a video clip in which a certain element going by the name, Aminu Sani Jaji is making dubious claims of being part of those responsible for the electoral victory of the All Progressives Congress APC and it's presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu in Zamfara State.

"We are compelled to react to this blatant false claims because we are a critical factor in the Asiwaju campaign and should know those directly or remotely associated with the victory in all the North-West states and some states in other zones.

"In our capacity as such, the only person that closely identified with our activities and in various

forms, actively supported our every move to promote the Asiwaju and the APC, is the Governor of Zamfara State, Mohammed Bello Matawalle in his capacity as the North- West coordinator of the Tinubu campaign.

"Matawalle was almost the only man who showed real commitment to what we were doing by way of logistics, monitoring and guidance.

"Beyond this untiring support for groups, the Matawalle took the pain as well, to patiently pay personal visits to all the clerics, leaders and elders we suggested, and was able to persuade them to the Asiwaju course.

"At the risk of overstating the matter, we can boldly say that outside of the Matawalle, any other claim and the claimant are

fake, false and a blatant attempt to reap where one did not SOW. "The entity featured in the video is simply an impostor, not known to our group, and never related with us in any way and at whatever material time.

"He must be one of those dubious gold diggers that infest our political environment making capital out of other people's toil and sweat.

"By this, we call on the President-elect to be wary of such political merchants that parade themselves as significant factors whereas they are inconsequential, hypocritical and self-centred.

"This much is proved by the impostor himself when he openly said in the video that he deserves some form of reward from the president-elect and the APC.



NDLEA Operatives Arrest 25 Drug Suspects In Abuja

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Twenty-five drug suspects have been apprehended by the operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in different raids known as drug joints in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Femi Babafemi, the spokesman for the anti-narcotics agency, in a statement on Sunday, explained that New Kuchingoro Internally Displaced Persons Camp located in the FCT is one of the places where the suspects were arrested.

He explained that operatives in Abuja arrested 25 suspects in raids across Tora Bora, Gwarinpa village, Third

Avenue in Gwarinpa, Karamo, Garki Market, Sabongari Bwari and New Kuchingoro IDP camp, within the FCT.

The NDLEA spokesperson further revealed, "Another bid to smuggle into Lagos a consignment of 24kgs cannabis concealed in imported used cars from Canada was again frustrated by NDLEA operatives who seized the illicit substance on Thursday, May 11, during a joint 100% examination of a container marked, MSMU 7412069, at the Prime Connection Bonded terminal, off Oshodi-Apapa expressway."

According to the spokesman, two clearing agents linked with the container, G.O. Njokwu

and Christopher Obialor, have been arrested in collaboration with men of the Nigerian Customs Service.

He also disclosed that two businessmen alleged for cocaine ingestion have both excreted 193 pellets of the illicit drug after three days in observatory custody, saying that were arrested by operatives at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

The statement said that on May 10, the traffickers, Onoh Ebere, 49, and Christian Ifeanyi, 47, were intercepted at the Abuja airport upon their arrival from Uganda via Addis Ababa, onboard Ethiopian Airlines flight ET951.

He said that they both travelled to Uganda and

from there crossed over to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where they picked the consignments before returning to Abuja with Lagos as their final destination.

He added that after days in the excretion room, Ebere Onoh excreted a total of 100 pellets weighing 2.137kgs while Christian Ifeanyi expelled 93 pellets hidden in his stomach with a gross weight of 1.986kgs.

In the same vein, in Zaro bunk on Bama Road, Sabongari and the Sani Abacha Indoor Stadium, both in the Kano metropolis, Babafemi noted that NDLEA operatives also raided two notorious drug joints where 160 suspects were arrested with different quantities of illicit substances.

Police Detains Seun Kuti For Slapping Police Officer

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Seun Kuti, son of late Afrobeat legend, Fela Anikulapo Kuti has been detained by police in Lagos for assaulting and slapping a policeman.

He committed the absurd act on the Third Mainland bridge in the state, as seen in a video that has gone viral on the social media.

Kuti was detained by the police after reporting himself before Lagos State Police Command Headquarters, Ikeja, in company of his lawyer and family representative.

"He has been placed under arrest in line with the law. The Command appreciates the public for their concern and assures that the ongoing investigation will be detailed, transparent, professionally pursued; and justice will be manifestly served for all parties involved

Hundeyin promised that

the command would ensure that justice is served to all parties involved in the matter.

He added that investigations have commenced and the command would be transparent as the prosecution proceeds.

According to the statement, Afrobeat musician, Seun Kuti, in the early hours of Monday, turned himself in at the Lagos State Police Command Headquarters, Ikeja, in company of his lawyer and family representative.

"He has been placed under arrest in line with the law. The Command appreciates the public for their concern and assures that the ongoing investigation will be detailed, transparent, professionally pursued; and justice will be manifestly served for all parties involved



Commandant General, Nigerian Hunter and Forest Security Service, Dr, Joshua Osatimehin Wole (center) along with others Senior Officers observing the national anthem in Abuja on Monday May 15, 2023. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

10th National Assembly Will Work For Unity, Rebuild Nigeria - Yari

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Former Governor of Zamfara State and Senator-elect for Zamfara West, Abdulaziz Yari, has expressed optimism that the 10th National Assembly to be inaugurated in June, will work to ensure the unity and rebuild Nigeria. Yari, in a congratulatory letter to the Senators-elect dated May 13, signed on Saturday, opined that for the 10th National Assembly, the division among Nigerians resulting from religious, tribal and ethnic sentiments

is a narrative that must be changed for the country to move forward in all spheres of life.

He enjoined the 10th Senate to work together with the incoming Bola Ahmed Tinubu government for the full implementation of the 'Renewed Hope' agenda in order to achieve economic growth and transformation in all sectors of the country.

According to the former governor, "You must all think up ways to work towards building a better and united country to make it safe for all. The voyage you are

embarking on is a journey for the unification of Nigeria. This is an opportunity to rebuild this country in the interest of all."

The Senator-elect charged members of the 10th National Assembly to use the opportunity of their election to partner Sen. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the President-elect in achieving the economy agenda of the country in ensuring human capital and infrastructural development of the country.

He also enjoined them to strive to ensure a smooth relationship between the

Executive, Legislature and Judiciary, believing that together in unity of purpose, they could make the country a better place for all and make it march the achievements of advance nations.

While in the Senate, he urged the in-coming members to always be reminded that they are indebted to their constituencies and should work towards attracting developmental projects to their people, stressing that it is the reason they were elected to serve.



Seun Kuti

Ogun NNPP Guber Candidate Expresses Concern Over State Of Infrastructure In Nigeria



Ambassador Ajadi

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in Ogun State in the last general elections, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Monday, expressed serious concern over the state of infrastructure in the country, particularly with reference to the power and aviation sectors of the economy

Ambassador Ajadi who expressed the concern while speaking with journalists, charged the federal government to ensure workable infrastructure for economic growth and people wellbeing.

He emphasized that federal government should wake up to its responsibility of ensuring workable infrastructure for economic growth and people wellbeing describing a disheartening, the near comatose state of power, roads and water facilities in the country, describing it as a strong indictment on those holding the reins of power.

The NNPP governorship candidate wondered why Nigeria with over 200 million people was still talking about 5,000 MW of power supply, whereas countries with fewer populations like Tanzania were already consolidating twenty-hours power supply to their citizens.

He stressed that Nigeria needs to do more in those crucial sectors, to be able to attain real socio-

economic development, adding that his short tourism experience vacating in Tanzania, had redoubled his conviction and strident calls for a focused government in Nigeria across all levels, to make quality governance possible in the country.

"My experience in Tanzania has shown indeed that workable and efficient infrastructure is possible in Nigeria, it only needs the resolve and the right persons. If 24 hours power supply is possible in Tanzania, it should be much more so in Nigeria, not to talk of other associated infrastructure", he said.

Ambassador Ajadi added, "I am using this opportunity therefore, to appeal to our government to prioritise our infrastructure so that the much desired sustainable economic development would become a reality in Nigeria"

Ambassador Ajadi while pointing out that that kind of governance, was possible with putting in key positions, individuals with clarity of vision and sincerity of purpose tasked Nigerian government, to urgently prioritise facilities not just at the airports and other gateways, but at other sectors critical to the nation's socioeconomic development, he said despite being comparatively small, that the Tanzania airport for example, could boast of needed aviation facilities, and a more conducive environment.

Iganna Clash: Makinde Warns Against Reprisal Attack Between Fulani, Yoruba

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Governor, Engineer Seyi Makinde on Sunday, warned against reprisal attack in the fresh clash between some Fulani and Yoruba members in Iganna community.

Engineer Makinde during an on the spot assessment to Iganna town to assess the situation over the clash between Fulani and Yoruba members, warning that his administration would not allow anyone to take laws into his hands and that the people of the community should avoid reprisal attacks as the law will take its cause.

According to the governor, his administration will provide amenities and ensure more government presence in the area, saying, "whether the people here in Iganna are Fulani or Yoruba, what has happened here is a needless waste of lives and

property'.

"No explanation can justify what has happened. What I am saying in essence is that the cycle must stop, and we must not, from this, go on reprisal and all of that. No. I can assure you that we will get to the bottom of this as justice will be done", he said

Gov Makinde added, "We will also bring palliatives because coming all the way to this place has shown me that there must be more government presence in neighbourhoods like this. We will ensure that a few amenities from the government are brought into this neighbourhood so that they can be properly integrated into the Iganna community.

"It could have been more than this if the security agencies did not step in almost immediately. So, I am glad that Operation Burst, the Nigerian Police, Civil Defence, and

Amotekun all rallied round and that is why we have the peace we are seeing at this point in time; otherwise, clashes would still have been going on." Lauding the swift response of the security agencies in the state for their quick response, the governor said the situation would have gone out of control if they had not come out to frontally intervene and that residents of Iganna should embrace peace and stop the circle of violence.

"We have to keep giving enlightenment to our people because the constitution of this country guarantees freedom of movement. As long as you obey the local laws, you can stay anywhere you like in this country. So, we have to learn to live with and tolerate ourselves and be law-abiding. You cannot take the law into your own hands.

"If something has

happens, report it to the police and let the authorities do their work. That is the crux of all of the problems we can see here. Somebody was attacked, but before reporting formally to the authority, you decided to have a reprisal attack. No, this must stop, as it has no place in Oyo State."

The traditional ruler the town, Sabigana of Igan, Oba Azeez Oyemonla Soliu commended the governor and security agencies for their quick response, saying that the incident was unfortunate and called on the residents of Iganna to make room for a harmonious relationship with foreigners in the town.

Spokesman for the Fulani community, Seriki Mahmud Yusuf, who is the leader of the Fulani Youths in Oyo State, said that the community is peace-loving and law-abiding, adding that the crisis was needless.



Engineer Makinde during an on the spot assessment to Iganna town to assess the situation over the clash between Fulani and Yoruba members.

Ogun NNPP: Ajadi Congratulates New Caretaker Committee Members *Says its a new dawn

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The governorship candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in Ogun State in the last general elections, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi on Sunday, hailed the inauguration of caretaker committee for the party in the state

Congratulating the Prince Ibrahim Adekunle led newly inaugurated Caretaker Committee and all NNPP members in the state in a letter personally signed by him, Ambassador Ajadi described it as a "New Dawn"

Ambassador Ajadi stressed in the congratulatory message that the emergence of Prince Adekunle as the Caretaker Chairman of the party is best thing ever to happen in the party presently, adding that Adekunle's competency and intellectual prowess will bring to bear in administering the party.

"Let me congratulate Prince Ibrahim Adekunle and all the party members in Ogun state on the success of the inauguration of the Caretaker Committee and their perseverance and hard work over the years, I equally thank our party's national leadership for their consistency and fair play in the running the affairs of the party", he said.

Ambassador Ajadi added, "The emergence of Prince Ibrahim Adekunle as our party Caretaker Committee Chairman is a round peg in a round hole.

"I, therefore urge all members of our party or their support and to remain committed to be prepared to work for the success of the party and the state at large".

The governorship candidate stressed, "I urge you all to place the party's interest over personal interest. As we welcome the new leadership, I offer sincere appreciation to the national leadership

for providing an energetic and purposeful leadership in Ogun state at a very critical period of the party's history"

Tasking the Caretaker Committees to learn from the mistakes of the dissolved NNPP executives in Ogun state, Ambassador Ajadi charged members of the party home and abroad and those who might have left the party to come back in good faith to pick-up letter of rejoining at their ward levels to support the "New Dawn" of the great party in Ogun State.

"I enjoin those who are now saddled with the responsibility of our party's affair to work harder to position our party for the pressing tasks ahead. While it's true that the people have accepted and adopted our party as the only political party that can move the state forward, we must continuously work to strengthen and reform the party to gain the leadership position in the state."

Women's Dressing Incomplete Without Handbags

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Every woman desires to be seen with a beautiful bag, either by casual dress or dressed for a special occasion on specific outfit. Hand bags make every woman attractive, especially when the bag goes along with the colour of her outfit, hence leather handbags that attract passersby who admire her dressing are more suitable.

A woman who uses expensive handbags will walk comfortably, looking more attractive as she goes out for an occasion or party. According to dictionary definition, a bag is often with a handle or a strap going over the shoulder, used especially by women for carrying money, keys and small personal items such as makeup purse. Most women when purchasing

handbags, choose a stylish and comfortable one, depending on the size which will fit their outings. Some go for designer handbags which are of high quality and these bags have long durability. This is because, they don't get easily worn out and they always come with their designer tags, which beautify them.

Most times, these bags have duration of time to expire. To prevent discolouration and mould, store your bag away from direct sunlight and low humidity. Always keep your handbag in a cool and dark area. Be mindful of exposing it to harmful cleaners, stains, damaged or wet surfaces. Instead, store it in a dry and dark space, preferably in a dust bag.



Kofoworola Jegede Emerges Pioneer Governor For Lions Clubs District 404A-4 Nigeria

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

A public health practitioner, Lion Dr Kofoworola Jegede has been declared the Pioneer Governor for District 404A-4 Nigeria for 2023- 24 Lions Year due to begin on 1st July, 2023.

Announcing the result of a voting process conducted during the 16th Convention of Lions Clubs Multiple District 404 Nigeria held at the International Conference Centre in Abuja, the Multiple Council Chairperson, Lion Princess Obo Edet said all accredited delegates voted Dr Kofoworola Jegede unanimously to emerge the Governor for the new District comprising Ondo, Edo and Delta states.

While congratulating the new District Governor and her First Vice, Lion (Prince) Monday Osadebamwen Okoro and Second Vice, Lion Robinson Omonigho-Okoro, MCC Obo Edet enjoined members of the Global Service Community in District 404A-4 Nigeria to demonstrate their unanimous mandate given to Dr Kofoworola Jegede by supporting her to translate all the thematic action plans of the Lions Clubs to impact communities in states within the District.

In her acceptance speech, Lion Kofoworola Jegede said having been well prepared for the job, she would ensure that District 404A-4 Nigeria becomes the pride of Multiple District 404 Nigeria and a pacesetter for other Districts.

She said: "In the course of my transversing the continents of the World in furtherance of the cause of Lionism, added to my numerous opportunities for trainings in the Multiple District-wide, both as Trainer and Trainee (latest of which is my LCIP Certification as International Trainer), and being mindful of my humble contributions to attainment of goals of Past District Governors, who had given me numerous appointments over the years, I confidently say that I have been privileged to acquire vast knowledge which had prepared me for the task of leadership of our new great District at the highest level".

The pioneer District Governor said her core projects which would target the prevention of morbidity and mortality within District 404A-4 as a result of malnutrition includes: building of a Pediatric Cancer Shelter Home at the Federal Medical Centre, Owo and feeding the hungry.

At the Banquet, the Honourable Minister of State for Transport, Prince Ademola Adegroye lauded the collaborative roles of the Lions Clubs with governments at all levels in

Nigeria evidently demonstrated in Ondo State with the building of a Dialysis Centre, the remodelling and equipping of the Millennium Eye Centre, both at the University of Medical Sciences Teaching Hospital in Akure, the Ondo State Capital.

The Minister who publicly acknowledged several invitations to him to have joined the Lions Club before now by Lion Olumuyiwa Jegede said with the calibre of personalities who are deeply involved in serving the less-privileged on the platform of the Lions Clubs, there will be no further excuse for him not to join the club.

The Honourable Minister assured that he would be on hand to welcome all lions across the country to Akure which he described as the best State Capital in Nigeria in September 2023 during the Public Presentation of Lion Dr Kofoworola Jegede as District Governor of District 404A-4.

"I have been severally invited to join the Lions Club by my dear brother, Lion Olumuyiwa Jegede on whose invitation I'm here tonight, but I had thought my engagements could bring some encumbrances but now I have realised that my membership can further be of great advantage to my desire to serve my people.

"Therefore I will be so delighted to welcome you all to Akure the best state Capital in Nigeria in September during the Public Presentation of our dear sister, Lion Dr Kofoworola Jegede, as District Governor of District 404A-4 Nigeria", the Honourable Minister declared.

Lion Dr Kofoworola Jegede, a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and Lions Certified Instructor, joined the Lions Club over 36 Years ago. She is a retired civil servant in Ondo State and the wife of the Pioneer District Governor of the bifurcated District 404A-1 Nigeria, Lion Olumuyiwa Jegede.

Several dignitaries who witnessed the 5-Day 16th Multiple District Convention which had as theme: Serving in Unity, included, former President of Nigeria, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, GCFR, GCON; the Deputy Governor of Ogun State who is a Lion member, Alhaja Noimot Salako-Oyedele; Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Muhammed Musa Bello, CON; President of Azikel Group Dr Eruani Godbless, CFR and the Group Chief Executive Officer of NNPC Limited, Mallam Mele Kyari, OFR, who was represented by an Executive Director of the Company.





COMMUNITY FOCUS

NTI Centre: RAAF Organizes One-day Orientation Programme For Rigasa Community

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

A pressure group under Igabi Local Gov't Area of Kaduna State, Rigasa Action And Awareness Forum (RAAF) has organized a one-day orientation programme for stakeholders of the community over the recent approval to establish a branch of the National Teachers Institute (NTI) Centre in the district.

The event which took place on Sunday at the Government Secondary School (GSS Makarfi Road) in Rigasa Kaduna District, was organized with the aim of ensuring that members of the community are beneficiaries of the centre and make judicious use of the opportunity appropriately.

Speaking during the event, the national Public Relations Officer (NTI), Malam Yusha'u Ahmad, stated that the creation of a branch of the NTI Centre branch in the district is a golden opportunity for the people of the region who have desire to teach, so that they can be trained in various disciplines professionally.

According to him, the NTI institute under the leadership of its national president, Professor Musa Bello Mai Tafsir, always emphasize on the need for people to create awareness over the importance of the NTI

institute which is responsible for training teachers and it's trying to ensure that it provide qualified teachers in the educational system.

He said, "The NTI Teachers Training Center is not only known in Nigeria but throughout Africa, because it is the only agency responsible for improving the skills of teachers in Nigeria, especially at the primary and secondary levels."

"The National Teachers Institute (NTI) was established mainly because of the pressing need in the country for trained, qualified teaching staff at all levels and to improve the educational system at the primary and secondary levels with the aim of raising the standards of the system."

Similarly, Yusha'u Ahmad explained that the centre provides courses of instruction leading to the upgrade, development and certification of Nigerian teachers as specified in the relevant syllabuses using the distant learning systems.

Commenting on the importance of education and the establishment of the NTI Centre branch, Engineer Aminu Abdulsalam, the Chairman National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools owners in Nigeria (NAPPS) of Igabi Local Government, explained that the establishment



of the NTI Centre will ease greatly in the training of teachers in a simple way that is not even local.

Abdulsalam added that it is a great achievement for the community to have such a progressive Centre in the district, hence a lot of people who are aspiring to become teachers or are practicing have

no clear understanding that there's the need for them to go and acquire the teaching skills needed, and that has the tendency of improving their skills while it absence can lead to destruction of the educational system by providing corrupt education to the children as a result of lack of experience in teaching the students.

Furthermore, regarding the state of the educational system and the challenges been faced, Engr. Aminu complained on how some parents are trying to distort the education system by not allowing their children to complete their studies as the system provides but rather they're seeking ways of promoting them to other levels.

He said, "The Nation Law mandates that a child must study according to 6.3.3.4 system, but nowadays some parents do not allow children to finish their primary school upto class six, before allowing them to go for a common entrance, and if the school owners refuses to accept their request, the parents will end up removing their children while the school owners are in need money to manage their affairs, which leaves them with no other option but rather to follow the parents opinion because some do even request for their children to go for the common entrance right from class four, but the system is not

like that."

On his remarks, RAAF President, Malam Aminu Halilu Umar, expressed joy and gratitude for the efforts being put in place by members of the community and the selfless efforts of the District Head of Rigasa, the Dan Galadiman Zazzau, for ensuring the that the NTI Centre is being establish in the district.

He said, "As an awareness forum and a pressure group in the community, we find it necessary and appropriate to get people informed about the importance of having the center which if it is not taken care of properly and maintained, the opportunity will be given to others who are ready to take care of it, and based on such kind of thought, we find it necessary to hold such awareness gathering at this time."

The new leader of RAAF, who assumed duty recently, Malam Aminu H Umar disclosed that the establishment of the NTI Centre branch in the Rigasa district is an opportunity for the community, mostly especially women in the area who's husbands thought having the main Centre far away from them is a bearer, but now that the distance has come closer to their homes, there's a need for them to embrace it with their two-hands, so as to improve themselves.



Police Warns Against Subversive Agenda, Says Presidential Inauguration Ceremony Sacrosanct

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Inspector General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba has warned political actors with subversive agenda against derailing the May 29, 2023 Presidential Inauguration Ceremony of its dire consequences.

Asserting that the May 29 Presidential Inauguration Ceremony is sacrosanct, the Police boss vowed that anybody that stands in the way will be identified, promptly isolated, and brought to deserved justice in the overriding interest of national security and stable political order.

In a speech delivered at a press briefing on Monday in Abuja titled, "29TH MAY 2023 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IS SACROSANCT. WE WILL DEFEND OUR DEMOCRACY", Usman warned any such persons, regardless of their political affiliations who

continuously engage in acts that are inimical to the nation's democratic and security interests should not be in doubt on the firm determination of the Nigeria Police under his watch to closely collaborate with the law enforcement family and the intelligence community to defend our democracy, keep the internal security order stable and optimally deploy the common unique assets towards guaranteeing the successful conduct of the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony.

He assured the citizens that the democratic and political order remains firm and unwavering, promising that the Nigeria Police will defend the nation's democracy at all costs.

Usman encouraged the International Community not to be swayed by the ill-informed actions of unpatriotic political actors who may be creating false red flags through the social media.

The text reads in part, "Following the successful conclusion of the 2023 General elections, it has been observed that some major political actors that the outcome did not favour, have been issuing public threats that are directed at instigating actions to frustrate the Presidential inauguration ceremony on 29th May, 2023.

"The Nigeria Police and the national intelligence community have been closely monitoring the activities of these political elites



IGP Usman Baba

as well as other elements who have formed themselves into unpatriotic brands whose only fantasy, in recent times, is to subvert our national security interests. In so doing, they seem to be bent on deploying extra-judicial and undemocratic means to truncate our democratic heritage in advancement of their narrow personal political considerations.

"The beauty of democracy lies not just in the freedom of the citizens to freely exercise their franchise within the electoral cycle. It is also hinged on the right of aggrieved political actors to submit grievances on the electoral outcome to the judicial process for consideration.

"The credentials of a true democrat must, therefore, be measured by his or her level of patriotism, and willingness to manifest the culture of submitting to rule of law, peace, democratic values, and the judicial process. These are integral and critical components of the political process.

"It is also expected that a true democrat will subsume his or her personal political ambition under overriding national security and democratic interests of the country.

"Unfortunately, the public utterances of some political actors and their current attempts at inciting public protests with a view to creating national tension ahead of the Presidential

Swearing-in ceremony do not only negate these values, but they are also manifestly subversive, undemocratic, unconstitutional.

"Having submitted their political grievances to the judicial process, it remains concerning that some of the political gladiators are still bent on engaging other extra-judicial means to advance their interest in a manner that questions their overall intentions as well as the patriotic and democratic credentials which they project.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the imperative of peace in our national life cannot be over-emphasized. Sustenance of peace and security is even more expedient at this stage in our national democratic transition. Consequently, while the Nigeria Police, in synergy with other security agencies and the intelligence community, continues to closely monitor the activities of these political elements, it has become expedient to make some clear statements.

Firstly, the Nigeria Police hereby sternly warns all political actors with subversive agenda and their collaborators, particularly, their foot soldiers who they are exposing to political radicalization and extremism to, henceforth, jettison their on-going premeditated attempts to create tension within the national space with intention of derailing the 29th May 2023 Presidential Inauguration Ceremony.

"Secondly, any such persons, regardless of their political affiliations who continuously engages in acts that are inimical to our nation's democratic and security interests should not be in doubt on the firm determination of the Nigeria Police under my watch to closely collaborate with the law enforcement family and the intelligence community to defend our democracy, keep the internal security order stable and optimally deploy our common unique assets towards guaranteeing the successful conduct of the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony.

"Thirdly, we note that the Inauguration Ceremonies at all the national and State levels of government are a critical constitutional requirement for the sustenance of our political order as a nation and the Nigeria Police is duty and legally bound to defend our democratic heritage and closely police the constitutional processes.

"Consequently, I assure the citizens that our loyalty to our democratic and political order remains firm and unwavering. We will defend our democracy at all costs.

"The 29th May, 2023 date for the swearing-in ceremony of the President-elect of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and indeed, other inauguration ceremonies at national and State levels is sacrosanct.

"The constitutional mandates of the Nigeria Police include the

security governance of the processes leading to the inauguration of elected candidates at all levels and the guarantee for the successful conduct of the inauguration events.

"We shall undertake this task optimally and manifestly. Anybody that stands in the way will be to identified, promptly isolated, and brought to deserved justice in the overriding interest of our national security and stable political order.

"Consequently, citizens are encouraged to be mindful of the antics of political elements who may want to manipulate their political passion to advance parochial, undemocratic, and unconstitutional

objectives.

"They should resist such, go about their lawful businesses and prepare to be part of the advancement of our democratic journey as patriotic citizens by freely participating in the inauguration ceremonies, assured that the Nigeria Police have acquired adequate assets to guarantee their protection.

"They are also encouraged to promptly report any attempts by the misguided political elements to infiltrate their ranks and engender political tension in the country for appropriate law enforcement response.

"The international community is, similarly, encouraged not to be swayed by the ill-informed actions of unpatriotic political actors who may be creating false red flags through the social media.

"They are assured that our democracy remains firmly on course, the country's security order remains stable, and the Presidential inauguration will hold as scheduled under a very peaceful atmosphere.

"On a conclusive note, I wish to, particularly, appeal to media practitioners to also be weary of the intents of these political gladiators and resist the urge to deploy their credible media outlets to advance their destabilization plots. Nigeria remains our national heritage and working together, we should continue to advance and place her interests over and above parochial personal or group interests".

NYSC Variety Night: Group Tasks Corps Members To Embrace Entrepreneurship Development For Self Reliant

**Says welfare, happiness of mankind, making life easy top priority*

By; MPKUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

A group whose brand name is popularly known as 'Kamisafe' has tasked corps members to embrace entrepreneurship for self reliance after their service year, urging them to acquire social skills and self confidence which will open opportunities for their survival.

The group also said that welfare, making life easy and happiness of mankind are their top priority. The Country Manager of Kamisafe who also doubles as the Global Digital Marketer, Mr. Mbam Goodluck Ebenezer gave the advice during the NYSC Variety Night designed for the 2023 Batch 'A' Stream 'II' Corps members at Permanent Orientation Camp, MacGregor College, Afikpo North LGA of Ebonyi State.

He said that the motivating factors in their company are safety, welfare and happiness of every human being, which is their utmost priority.

Mr. Mbam therefore, enjoined the corps members to have self confidence, acquire skills, utilize every opportunity in their way that will make them global entrepreneurs and employers of labour.

He further explained that he had similar opportunity in camp,

which he utilized very well and today, with the support and sponsorship of Kamisafe, many schools and NYSC camps across the country have benefited enormously from the products of their company such as: rechargeable torch lights, solar panels, standing fans, hand fans; energy bulbs, among others.

"I have two things that are motivating factors: one is that my company has safety, welfare and happiness of every human being as its priority and that is why we remain in the business of making life easy and enjoyable for all mankind.

"Our products are affordable and that is why you see that we develop, produce and distribute arrays of alternative energy which tend to put or make energy available to all house holds, including the poorest of the poor, in the remotest hinterland. This is why when we see people happy, we get some satisfaction.

"We are the most youth friendly company because if you look at



the background of our products, there is no student that can say he or she will do away with them. Consider the implication of a student having exams tomorrow and not having light to read. Kamisafe provides an easy and alternative power supply for students and every other person to read.

"When I was a corps member, I

had similar opportunity in camp and I know the role it played in my life. This is why my company goes to schools or NYSC camps like this to put smiles on the faces of the youth as well as the staff that made it possible for them to have successful camping here.

"This is why you see that all hierarchy of authority here, went home with a prize. Also, we try to encourage people to develop confidence, and this is why every contestant here was able to go with a consolation prize.

According to Mr. Mbam, the company which was founded in 2004 in China, has lasted for two decades and has branches across the globe, including Nigeria.

"These products have lasted for over two decades. It was founded in 2004, not just in Nigeria, it is a global brand. In every part of the world, our products are known for their super quality because when you talk of the battery, from A to Z that we produce, we do give it the best touch. The capacity of all our products when charged, will last for a long duration, and this is why our products are purely patent, we developed them by ourselves. So, in terms of quality, ours are the best," he boasted.

Also speaking, the NYSC state

Coordinator, Mrs. Bamai Mercy noted that the variety night activities are part of the camp orientation course programmes.

The state Coordinator who was represented by the Camp Director, Mr. Ngwoke Nwokoro explained that the event was packaged and sponsored by the marketing manager of Kamisafe in Nigeria, saying that the variety night is quite interesting and unique.

"This variety night is the climax of all the social events in the camp, we started with dance and drama competitions. They are part of the camp orientation course programmes, I observed that the corps members were quite excited unlike in the past, and the event was well packaged and powered by Kamisafe," she said.

The variety night featured various cultural troops presentations, beauty pageant and Mr. Macho Competition.

On beauty pageant, Miss. Peace Adoga of Platoon 7, took first position, while Miss. Stephanie Adeshoga of Platoon 2, took second position respectively.

Also, Taofeek Ibrahim of Platoon 2, took first position as the strongest man in camp (Mr. Macho).



Delta Police Busts Kidnap Syndicate, Nabs 2 Suspects After N1m Ransom, 2 Cultists, Recovers Firearms, Ammunition

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The breakthrough tactics launched by the new Delta State Police Commissioner Wale Abass has begun to yield fruits as two suspected kidnapers have been arrested after the collection of N2 million before the release of their victims.

Similarly, two suspected cultists were also apprehended same period with firearms and ammunition recovered from them.

Our correspondent gathered that the leader of the kidnap gang identified Emmanuel James 32, and driver of the syndicate one Ejiro Peter, 25, were arrested at different hideouts by operatives of the Command Decoy Squad led by the commander, Asp Julius Robinson acting on credible intelligence.

The Delta State Police Command Spokesperson DSP Bright Edefe made the disclosure in a release on Sunday.

He also disclosed other breakthroughs recorded by the command within the few days of assumption of office of the Commissioner of Police Wale Abass.

It reads, "Sequel to the kidnap of Mr and Mrs Okutonye Efebobore on 27/04/2023 in Ughelli town, and a ransom of one million naira was paid before their release, the Commissioner of Police Delta state, CP Wale Abass _psc_ directed the Command Decoy squad to

embark on an intelligence led investigation and ensure that the kidnapers are arrested and brought to book.

" In compliance with the CP's directive, on 11/05/2023, at about 2315hrs, operatives of the command Decoy squad led by the commander, Asp Julius Robinson acting on credible intelligence gathered, embarked on a sting operation and arrested one Emmanuel James 'm' aged 32yrs of Otor-Udu, Ughelli South LGA, who is suspected to be the leader of the gang.

" On 12/05/2023, at about 0230hrs, the suspect led the operatives to Ejewu community, Udu LGA and arrested the syndicate driver, one Ejiro Peter 'm' aged 25yrs, a native of Kokori community in Ethiopie East LGA. They confessed to their involvements in series of armed robbery, kidnapping operations in Ughelli and Warri which includes the kidnap of Mr and Mrs Okutonye Efebobore on 27/04/2023, at ughelli town and a ransom of one million naira (#1,000,000.00) was paid before the couple was released.

" On 12/05/2023, the suspects led the operatives to another notorious member of their criminal gang whose real name is unknown but fondly called "oh lord" at Egbike area in Udu. The suspect, upon sighting the police, engaged them in a gun duel and escaped through the ceiling of his apartment with bullet injuries. When his apartment was searched, a bag containing a locally fabricated

pistol and three (03) rounds of 7.62 AK47 live ammunition were recovered. Manhunt for the fleeing suspect is ongoing.

" On 05/05/2023, at about 1730hrs, operatives of the Command State Anti Cult Unit (SACU), while on a joint operation with Dragon patrol, safer highway, raiders squad, RRS at Afisere /Ughelli, they arrested the duo of Tega Precious 'm' aged 28 yrs and Ebi Marvelloveous 'm' aged 27 yrs, one revolver pistol two live ammunition were recovered from them. Suspects confessed to be members of Neo black movement (NBM) cult group. The suspects led the operatives to their hideout, where two pump action guns, two double barrel guns, one single barrel gun, and sixteen live cartridges, were recovered. Manhunt for the other members of the gang is ongoing.

" The Command recorded another success on 12/5/2023 in Agbarho when operatives of Agbarho Police station were on stop and search duty when they sighted a red GLK Mercedes benz and flagged down the vehicle, the suspect on sighting the Police quickly highlighted from the Benz GLK 350 with reg. number WWR 441 MD and escaped into the bush. The vehicle was recovered to the station and searched during which, a phone number which turned out to be the phone number of owner of the vehicle was seen, and when he was contacted, he confirmed that the car was stolen from him at gun



The suspects and recovered arms

point on 11/5/2023.

" Similarly, on 11/5/2023 at about 1300 hours, operatives of Dragon 19 and 20, while on stop and search duty along Ughelli-Patani expressway, flagged down a Toyota camry with reg no. ABC 810 DK, the suspect jumped out from the vehicle and escaped into the bush. The vehicle was recovered, and investigations so far revealed

that it was snatched at gun point on 10/5/2023 in Sapele. Manhunt for the suspects is ongoing.

"The Commissioner of Police Delta State command, CP Wale Abass, assures residents that the command will be working round the clock to ensure that anyone terrorizing the state will be arrested and brought to justice

Friends, Allies In Nigeria Felicitate Israel @75

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

As Israel marks its 75th anniversary, friends and allies of the country in Nigeria have joined in the festivity and also paying tributes to the occasion to the Jewish State birthday.

The friends and allies under the auspice of Christian Friends of Israel Nigeria, extended its best wishes to the Jewish Nation for celebrating the birth of a nationhood.

According to Coordinator of the group, Pastor Yusuf David Pama, said when David Ben-Gurion declared Israel's independence in 1948, he announced the birth of a state 'based on freedom, justice and peace', and Nigerians keyed into that. He explained that Jerusalem City is the centre of universal peace as ordained by God, but the enemy for a long time has refused to let her be.

He added that the former President,

Donald Trump's decision to move America's Embassy from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem was not whimsical but based on the Jerusalem Embassy Act passed by

the United States Congress on October 23rd, 1955, which authorized the president to initiate and fund the relocation of the U.S Embassy from Tel-

Aviv to Jerusalem.

Pastor Pama stressed that in the best interest of both Israel and Palestine and the world at large that the original capital city of the Jewish people is Jerusalem and should be left alone. He said that Jerusalem which is the city of peace, and not crises has been attacked 52 times, captured and recaptured 44 times,

besieged 23 times, destroyed twice, yet survived because of the hand of the Almighty God (Yaweh Ellohim), that has given Israel the land as an eternal inheritance.

The Coordinator of Christian Friends of Israel Nigeria, noted that no laws made by men will stop Israel from regrouping in Jerusalem, and that their salvation will come from Jerusalem not Tel-Aviv.

"Until the world body and global organizations acknowledge the peculiarity and uniqueness of the Jewish people and the land of Israel with its divine and spiritual capital Jerusalem, then will stability and peace come upon the nations of the earth.

"Therefore, the Church in Nigeria decides to stand on the side of truth and be with Israel as an ordinance and a command by God," he stressed.



Timi Frank To International Community: Disassociate, Steer Clear Of Tinubu's Inauguration

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A political activist and former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, has urged the international community to disassociate themselves and also steer clear of the proposed inauguration of the President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Frank who described such event as illegal, specifically called on the United State of America, United Kingdom, European Union, African Union and ECOWAS among others, "to as a matter of integrity steer clear from any form of preparations or attendance of the planned inauguration."

In a statement released Monday in Abuja, Timi Frank said it will be in the best interest of the International Community to properly ascertain the mood of the country and allow for all litigations and closure on the outcome of the electoral cases in court before lending support to whomsoever is declared as the authentic winner of the recently conducted elections in Nigeria.

According to the Bayelsa born political activist, save for the voice of reason, the aftermath of the declaration of the Presidential results would have turned sour, but for the timely

appeal by the various opposition leaders to their supporters in seeking redress at the courts as the only constitutional recognized means in challenging an illegality.

He said: "As last minute preparations for the inauguration of an illegality continues to dominate the political and social space in Nigeria, we are poised to advise all intending invitees especially the international community to steer clear from any of such events, as more Nigerians continue to disassociate themselves from being a part of this grand conspiracy foisted on the Nigerian people by dubious state actors, using instruments of coercion and manipulation in subverting the will of the people."

"Never have we witnessed such brazen criminality perpetrated by an electoral empire and the ruling party in disenfranchising the majority of the people by conniving with other agencies of government to ensure victory by all means to a particular candidate.

"The hasty announcement of the Presidential results by the electoral empire, who is also a major accomplice in this regard, came as a shock to many, when the electoral body itself failed to use its own stipulated guidelines in the declaration of results.

"By blatantly refusing to follow

its own procedure in the final declarations of results as announced earlier to all Nigerians by the INEC chief, it will be safe to conclude that the last minute change of plans was the final icing on the cake in ensuring that the will of the people is subverted and truncated by any means necessary.

"In the light of the aforementioned, I would like to call on all members of the international community, especially the US, UK, EU, AU, ECOWAS and others to as a matter of integrity steer clear from any form of preparations or attendance of the planned inauguration.

"Accepting to be present for this all time charade, which is already subjudice will subsequently give credence to this illegality by the various governments which you represent. It will be in your best interest to properly ascertain the mood of the country and allow for all litigations and closure on this matter before you lend your support to whomsoever is declared as the authentic winner of the elections.

"Furthermore, the support for constitutional democracy as practiced by the US, UK and the EU states cannot be overemphasized. Therefore, the international community must



Timi Frank

disassociate itself forthwith from plans to attend any inauguration, until the will of the people is expressly determined by the judiciary."

Frank, Frank, who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), Ambassador to East Africa and Middle East, said any form of congratulatory messages or acceptability demonstrated by representatives of various countries in Nigeria "will further suggest that indeed your governments are accomplices in disenfranchising the good people of Nigeria of a functional democracy as practiced and preached by your

various governments.

"It will be foolhardy and catastrophic to join in endorsing an illegitimate process leading to the forming of a government, which is clearly not in tandem with your values.

"I will like to therefore, seek your understanding in boycotting any of such invitations aimed at undermining our hard earned democracy. Let your voices be made clear once and for all in ensuring that the proper process leading to the declaration of a winner is followed and accepted by all Nigerians in this regard."

Socket CFR Brings Rib-Cracking Laughter To Yola With "Socket Unplugged" Featuring Klint da Drunk

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

After a tense period due to the recent gubernatorial elections, the people of Adamawa State have something to look forward to as Socket CFR brings his unique brand of humor to Yola with "Socket Unplugged".

The event, featuring Nigerian A-list comedian Klint da Drunk, aims to showcase the creativity of the "Land of Beauty" while promoting laughter and socialization among young adults.

As the people of Adamawa celebrate their choice of leadership, Socket Unplugged offers an opportunity to relieve the stress of the past few months and enjoy a night of fun and entertainment with family and friends. Michael Samuel, also known as Socket CFR, is a talented stand-up comedian and entertainer who is bringing his unique brand of humor to Yola, the Adamawa State capital.

Through the event, Socket Unplugged, Michael aims to promote smiles, laughter, and socialization while discouraging young adults from engaging in social vices such as drug



abuse, cultism, cybercrime, and armed robbery. This year's event promises to be even bigger and better than the last, with an expected attendance of over 3,000 young Nigerians between the ages of 17 and 30.

Born in Adamawa State and hailing from the Esan-West Local Government Area of Edo State, Socket is a graduate of Theatre and Media Arts from Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State. He is a stand-up comedian, brand strategist,



content creator, and talent manager who is committed to bringing the community together through live comedy.

In his career as a comedian, Socket has become known for his ability to turn everyday situations into hilarious comedy routines. He draws his inspiration from the people and culture of Nigeria, and his humor reflects the diversity of the country. His unique style has earned him a reputation as one of Nigeria's top comedians.

This year's event will feature Klint da Drunk, one of Nigeria's most popular comedians. Born Afamefuna Igwemba, Klint da Drunk has built a career on his ability to make people laugh with his hilarious jokes and anecdotes. He has performed at numerous events across Nigeria and has won several awards for his work.

Klint da Drunk's appearance at Socket Unplugged is sure to be a highlight of the evening. His unique style of comedy, which combines storytelling and physical comedy, is sure to have the audience in stitches.

Socket Unplugged promises to be an unforgettable experience for all who attend. The event will feature not only comedy from Socket CFR and Klint da Drunk, but also music from top Nigerian artists. There will be food and drinks available, as well as opportunities to meet and interact with other young Nigerians.

For those who are looking for a night of laughter and good vibes, Socket Unplugged is the place to be. The event offers a chance to forget about the stresses of daily life and come together with others to enjoy the best that Nigeria has to offer.

Idoma Journalists Hail Ochi'Idoma Over Otuoke Varsity Chancellor Appointment

By: AUSTINE AGBO EMMANUEL,
Kaduna

Congress of Idoma Journalists, has congratulated the paramount ruler of Idoma Kingdom, His Royal Majesty (HRM) Agaba'Idu, Dr Elaigwu Odogbo Obagaji John, on his appointment as the Chancellor, Federal University Otuoke, Bayelsa State.

The watch-dogs in a statement signed by its National President, Comrade Amos Ebute Mathew and made available to journalists in Kaduna yesterday, said Dr. Elaigwu has made the Idoma race proud.

It would be recalled that President Muhammadu Buhari, appointed the paramount ruler as the new Chancellor and formally presented the appointment letter on 12th May, 2023 at the Ochi'Idoma Palace in Otukpo, Benue state.

Buhari, who was represented by the Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), Arc. Sonny Echono, stated that Ochi'Idoma's appointment was based on his enviable track records, leadership qualities and integrity.

While expressing optimism that the newly appointed Chancellor has garnered enough leadership skills from the palace and various institutions of learning, Comrade Ebute noted that the university will be salvaged within a short period of time under his chancellorship.

He described Elaigwu as a national asset whose contribution to the commitment of Education and the sustenance of peace and stability is not only limited to the Idoma kingdom but the nation at large.

He assured that the paramount ruler will use his wealth of experiences garnered to salvage the university within a short period of time and urged relevant stakeholders in the institution to give him their maximum support at the course of discharging his duties so as to be able to achieve the desired results.

Dr. Elaigwu was born on 27th March, 1969 to the family of Mr. Elaigwu Ekoja in Obagaji the headquarters of AGATU local government area of Idoma in Benue State.

He is a graduate of the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria (1994) with B.Sc honours in Accounting, Master in Business Administration (2012) from Benue State University, Post Graduate Diploma in Education (2015) from National Teacher Institute, M.Sc Accounting and Finance, Nasarawa State University, Keffi and Phd (in view) in Accounting from Nasarawa State University Keffi.

He is also a Fellow of Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria, (FCITN) Fellow Certified National Accountants of Nigeria, (FCNA) Associate member of Nigeria Institute of Management, Group Pastor (Pentecost Group) Deeper Life Bible Church, two term Chairman, Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria, among others.



Police Neutralises Terrorist In Katsina, Rescues 5 Victims, Recovers Firearm

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Ranks of suspected terrorists in Katsina have suffered depletion following the killing of one of them by police detectives in a gun duel. Five women earlier kidnapped by the suspected bandits were said to have been rescued by the gallant police operatives, parties.

Our correspondent gathered that one AK 47 rifle was also recovered during the exchange of gunshots, with some of the terrorists believed to have escaped the scene with gunshots wounds. The Katsina State Police Command spokesperson, CSP Gambo Isah who made the disclosure in a statement on Monday, said the attack occurred at Bajinawa village, Dutsinma LGA.

"On 14/05/2023 at about 2200hrs, a distress call was received that terrorists-bandits, on motorcycles, shooting

sporadically with AK 47 rifles, attacked Bajinawa village, Dutsinma LGA and kidnapped five (5) women. Area commander, Dutsinma, led a team of Policemen to Tashar Ice, a suspected route/black spot, engaged the hoodlums into a fierce gunduel and successfully repelled them.

"In the course of scanning the scene, one member of the terrorists gang was neutralized. The team also recovered one AK 47 rifle and rescued all the kidnap victims.

"Many terrorists are reasonably believed to have escaped the scene with gunshots wounds. Search parties are still combing the area with a view of arresting the injured and/or neutralized bandits.

"The Command enjoins members of the affected communities to report any suspected person found with gunshots wounds to the nearest police station. Investigation is ongoing, please", CSP Isah stated.



Remains of the killed bandit

Be Neutral In NASS Leadership Selection, S'East Group Tells Tinubu

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

South East Unity Movement has implored the President-elect, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, to be neutral in the selection process of the principal officers of the National Assembly.

The group also cautioned politicians against uttering insidious remarks capable of causing ethnic division and violence. Its Chairman, Godwish Kuruma Obi, in a statement, yesterday, noted that the South East would not fold its arms and watch, those he called 'greedy politicians' stock unnecessary regional tensions that would potentially affect our

investments all across the country.

"The South-East Unity Movement is deeply worried by the direction the country is being pushed by power hungry regionalist politicians over the issue of selection of leaders and officers of the 10th National Assembly.

"We find it unfortunate that people who are supposed to be distinguished gentlemen and women trusted with mandates by their constituencies would find it difficult to form leadership for themselves and by themselves without unnecessary interference by vested interests.

"The South-East, in spite of the strident cries of

marginalisation in the way the nation is structured and operated is however more committed to sustainable peace than all the other sections of the country.

"This implies that the South-East would not fold its arms and watch greedy politicians stock unnecessary regional tensions that would potentially affect our investments all across the country." "We therefore urge politicians to tread with caution and play by the rules with fairness to all sections of the country devoid of dangerous preconditions and sinister motives.

"We call on political party structures particularly the party in power to allow the

three organs of government to exercise their constitutionally demarcated roles unhindered." "The National Working Committee of the APC is therefore cautioned against continuous meddling with the leadership affairs with the constitutionally and democratically independent and autonomous legislative arm of government.

"We also caution the President-elect not to be dragged into counterproductive, self-serving conflicts over the NASS leadership. He should take the path of honour by maintaining neutrality and insisting on democratic processes," he said.

Imbibe High Ethical, Professional Standard, Customs ACG Zone A Charges

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Zonal Coordinator Zone 'A' Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Assistant Comptroller General of Customs, Festus Okun has charged officers and men of the zone to imbibe high ethical and professional standards in the discharge of their mandate.

He also implored them to ensure a cordial relationship with other critical Stakeholders, including the regulatory and security agencies.

ACG Okun gave the charge during a familiarization visit to Government Warehouse Ikorodu for "On the Spot Assessment" of the activities at the facility.

The Zonal Coordinator on arrival was received by the officer in charge, Deputy Comptroller Willy Ukpabio, who conducted the Zonal Coordinator and his entourage round the expansive Government Warehouse facility, giving detailed explanations on the operational challenges.

The officer in charge of the facility gave a comprehensive account of their schedule and drew the attention of the ACG to the operations of other Corporations within Ikorodu Lighter Terminal. The Comptroller, Special Duties at the Zonal Headquarters, Yaba, Lagos CS Ukpanah made the disclosure in a release made available to journalists in Lagos.

Ukpanah stated that, "The tour took the Zonal Coordinator to where consignments were constructively warehoused in line with the purpose for which the warehouse was established.

"While addressing the officers, the Zonal Coordinator eulogized them for their commitment

and dedication despite the very challenging work environment.

"Speaking further, the Zonal Coordinator urged them to imbibe high ethical and professional standards in the discharge of their mandate, while ensuring a cordial relationship with other critical Stakeholders, including the regulatory and security agencies.

"He drew their attention to the need to escalate any issue pertaining to their operations which may be beyond them, to his office in line with service protocol.

"The Zonal Coordinator took time off the working unit to hold interaction with representatives of Nigeria Association of Government Approved Freight Forwarders (NAGAFF), Association of Nigerian Licensed Customs Agents (ANALCA), Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Nigeria Police Force (NPF) led by the DPO and others who were on ground to receive the Zonal Coordinator.

"At the session, the ACG sought their support and collaboration with the officers at the terminal and enjoined them to operate within the confines of the law, with strict adherence to the Government Warehouse Standard operating procedures.

"Finally, he advised them to maintain a heightened alert to guard against illegal encroachment by hoodlums and non state actors to the facility as he stressed that security of the facility is very critical at this time.

"The Zonal Coordinator was accompanied on the visit by the Zonal Comptroller Enforcement, Comptroller ESNwankwo, the Comptroller Special Duties, Comptroller Comfort Ukpanah and other senior officers in the zone".



el-Rufai Attends Farewell Dinner For Outgoing Governors

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Only twelve days to handing over to the new incoming government, Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai as well as a host of outgoing and

incoming governors attended the 2023 Farewell Dinner. The farewell dinner for governors, was organized by the Nigeria Governors' Forum held at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

The colourful event was attended by other dignitaries, as well as the Kaduna State Governor-elect Senator Uba Sani.



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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Sanwo-Olu Urges Lawmakers Elect To Prioritise People's Interest

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, at the weekend, hosted aspirants for the House of Representatives Speaker, Hon. Tajudeen Abass, and members of his Joint Task team in their maiden consultative engagement to bipartisan support of the governors.

At the engagement held at the State House, Marina, Sanwo-Olu told the Reps members-elect that the incoming leadership of the 10th National Assembly (NASS) should reflect the diversity of the country, describing both NASS chambers as "people's houses".

The Governor pointed out that the race to fill the principal positions of the parliament usually involved fierce competition that would pit members against one another, but he said the objective for vying for presiding seats in the legislature should reflect the interests and aspirations of the people.

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) has a majority of members-elect in both chambers of the National Assembly and it is expected to form the next leadership. The

party, also, recently nominated Hon. Abass, representing Zaria federal constituency of Kaduna State, as Speaker, and Hon. Benjamin Kalu, representing Bende constituency of Abia State, as Deputy Speaker.

The 10th Assembly is scheduled to convene on June 13, 2023, the same day lawmakers-elect will choose their presiding officers. Sanwo-Olu, who said the unity of the country was more important than the speakership aspirants' ambition, urged Abass and team not to take any member-elect for granted. He said Reps leadership should reflect the yearnings of the people.

He said: "This race to elect leadership in the House of Representatives should reflect the true federal composition and political diversity of the country. Here today, I have seen diverse political parties and representatives from all regions coming together to work as a team in electing the Speaker. I urge you not to stop at this; you should further deepen your engagement and extend hand of comradeship to every member."

"I have observed that despite having the support of the party, you are not resting on your oars and taking anything to chance. I

urge you to ensure that your engagement is total, transparent and inclusive. Other aspirants are eminently qualified to do the same engagement. They are known to us and they will be brought to the room for conversation. Our wish is to ensure that the position of the party is respected and adopted on the Green Chamber when the House convenes."

Sanwo-Olu charged Abass and his team to brace up for the task ahead, urging the speakership aspirant to bring his political experience and academic pedigree to bear if elected. The task before the next assembly, the Governor stressed, is to meet and surpass achievements recorded by the ninth assembly.

This, Sanwo-Olu said, is the minimum expectation from the incoming legislative leadership to justify the level of the support received from the people.

He said: "I have read about Speaker and Deputy Speaker aspirants. Your pedigree and resume speak to excellence. I believe you have what it takes to lead the House of 360 members from diverse backgrounds, so that we can have purposeful executive-legislative engagement and bring about meaningful dividends of

democracy to our countrymen.

"At the end of the day, your aspiration is not about you or your colleagues in the chamber but about Nigerians. The objective must be about joining forces with the incoming administration of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu to make life better for the people, improve economy and strengthen security. Greatest good must be achieved for the greatest number."

Hon. Abass, elected for the third consecutive time, said unity of the country and the House topped his agenda, noting that his teams comprised members-elect across party lines.

The lawmaker said the recently held general elections further caused more divisions within the country, stressing that President-elect Tinubu, whom he described as unifying leader, required to have detribalised Nigerians to be at the helm of affairs in the legislature in order to heal the nation.

He said: "Our agenda is to make sure the country is united to confront the current challenges. We undertake this task of leading the House to create a constructive relationship between the executive and the

legislature that will be devoid of rancour. Where there will be differences, we will ensure issues are resolved through dialogue. Stability of the House is sacrosanct. We will heal the wound, particularly from various contestants in this race."

Abass urged Sanwo-Olu to reach out to governors and other aspirants for the position for conversation that would make the election of presiding officers hitch-free. He pledged he would not fail the party and predecessors.

Hon. Kalu said the Abass-led leadership would project institutional trust in the 10th assembly, adding that the decision of the House would reflect the interests of Nigerians. Leader of the Joint Task, Hon. Bello Kumo, representing Akko federal constituency of Gombe State, said the Abass-led leadership would not compromise the independence of the House.

The lawmaker said the team was not interested in just winning the election, but to have a peaceful 10th assembly.

He urged Governor Sanwo-Olu to speak to his colleague governors about the need to buy into the agenda.

Asset forfeiture: Again, Federal High Court Refuses To Hear EFCC's Stay Of Execution Application Against Yahaya Bello

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

Justice Nicholas Oweibo of a Federal High Court in Lagos, on Monday, refused to entertain an application filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), seeking a stay of execution of the ruling that lifted a forfeiture order on some assets linked to the Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello.

The judge adjourned the hearing of the application indefinitely because the matter is now before the Lagos Division of the Court of Appeal.

Justice Oweibo had, on April 26, 2023, struck out a suit by the EFCC seeking the final forfeiture of the properties on the grounds of provisions of Section 308(1) of the Constitution.

The Judge had held that "given

Section 308 of the Constitution, which provides immunity to a sitting governor from any civil/criminal prosecution, the court lacks jurisdiction to entertain the matter", and the suit was struck out.

When the matter was called on Monday, the EFCC counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo (SAN), informed the court that he had filed an application dated April 27, 2023, seeking a stay of execution of the ruling pending the outcome of the appeal on the case.

But in his response, counsel to the Kogi State governor, Akoh Ocheni, asked the court to strike out the application because the anti-graft agency failed to comply with the rules of the court, which mandates it to file a written address along with the

application.

Ocheni also informed the court that the matter was now before the Court of Appeal as records of proceedings have been transmitted to the upper court.

He argued that the lower court lacked the jurisdiction to continue to hear the application. After listening to the lawyers, Justice Oweibo adjourned the matter sine die to await the appellate court's decision.

The judge had earlier on February 22, granted a temporary forfeiture order following an ex parte motion filed by the EFCC seeking to seize 14 properties located in Lagos, Abuja and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Governor Bello, however, filed a Notice of Intention to oppose and an application seeking the

vacation of the interim forfeiture order.

The Governor, through his lawyer, Abdulwahab Mohammed (SAN), also argued that the property listed were not proceeds of unlawful acts, as they were acquired long before he was elected as Kogi State Governor and could not have been received from Kogi State funds.

He further submitted that the case was in flagrant disobedience to a state high court order, which restrained the Economic or government agency from taking action that may lead to the forfeiture of the properties.

He added that the interim forfeiture order was obtained by either suppression or misrepresenting facts by the

Commission.

The governor also said that the proceeding of the Crime Act could not take effect in retrospect as the property in dispute was acquired before he became Kogi state governor.

He said the validity of the Crime Act is being challenged at the Supreme Court.

In his response, the counsel to the EFCC, Rotimi Oyedepo (SAN), maintained that the applicant had placed sufficient materials before the court to convince the court to vacate the order.

The judge held that given Section 308 of the Constitution, which provides immunity to a sitting governor from any civil/criminal prosecution, the court lacked the jurisdiction to entertain the matter.

IDPs In Akwa Ibom Get Succour As FG Donates Fishing Equipment

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Succour came the way of the Bakassi returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Oron, Akwa Ibom State as the federal government on Monday, donated fishing equipment to them amidst cheers of jubilation and thanksgiving.

Federal Commissioner, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), Hajia Ismaili Ahmed-Suleiman who performed the ceremony on behalf of the government, also presented relief materials to the affected persons.

Hajia Ahmed-Suleiman during the occasion, inaugurated the Oron field office of the commission and a utility vehicle for operations.

She commended the displaced persons for their orderly conduct and peaceful coexistence in the IDPs camp, and assured them that her visit to the area would have a positive impact on their welfare.

According to her, President Buhari is very mindful of the welfare of the citizens, especially the vulnerable ones and urged them not to allow their present conditions to despair them.

"I want to encourage you not to allow the conditions here to affect your dreams. This present condition shouldn't lower spirit, know that tomorrow holds a lot, and with determination, you can overcome the present challenges. I commend your

orderly conduct and for being able to set a peace settlement mechanism without resorting to conflict".

In his address, Mr Cajetan Iheanacho, head of office, Oron field disclosed that, "the refugees location in Akwa Ibom state is spread over sixteen (16) Local Government Areas, but for administrative convenience, it is reduced to seven settlements".

The office head said that since the take off of operations in the area, nearly two years ago, the commission has carried out the identification, documentation and registration of refugees in the state.

"The NCFRMI Akwa Ibom field office in collaboration with UNHCR carried out registration exercise of the refugees in the month of September 2021. At the end of the registration we had a total number of 1670 registered refugees".

He added that the office has been working with other partners in the daily profiling of new arrivals in the state.

"In Oron alone, we have over 200 profiled new arrivals awaiting registration and in Nsit Ubium we discovered over 130 refugees and profiled them. So, far in the entire state we have over 1500 new arrivals waiting registration".

He commented the efforts of other international partners and independent NGOS that have been collaborating with the commission in the state.

On its part, the Akwa Ibom Bakassi Returnees and



Hajia Ismaili Ahmed-Suleiman, federal commissioner, NCFRMI

Internally Displaced Persons Cooperative Association (AKIBARCON) President, Obong Solomon Inyang and Secretary General, Dr Anthony Edem appealed to the federal government to implement the Green Tree Agreement that was signed in 2006.

The group lamented that the non implementation of the agreement has adversely affected the economic and social well-being of the Bakassi returnees and internally displaced persons in Akwa Ibom

state.

He regretted that since the, "unplanned and unprepared return from Bakassi Peninsula in 2008, it was only in 2022 that we started to receive welfare packages and relief materials from the Federal Government of Nigeria".

The group decried the deplorable conditions of about, "75,000 voiceless Bakassi Returnees And Internally Displaced Persons in the State", and appealed to government agencies to make relief materials

available to them on monthly basis.

The association described the visit of the federal commissioner and the flagging off of the fishing equipment as a "milestone", and also expressed gratitude to the federal government for the relief materials donated to them, among items in package included, two engine boats, two wooden boats, assorted food items, blankets, mattresses, utensils and grinding machines.

Ex President Jonathan Commissions Flyover In Ebonyi

*Hails Umahi for extra ordinary transformation of state

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Former President, Goodluck Jonathan has commended Governor David Nweze Umahi for exceptional transformation of the state.

The former President made the commendation, while commissioning the Goodluck Jonathan Flyover, Iyere Edda on Monday.

Also commissioned by the former President, were the Amasiri-Owutu-Ebunwana and the Owutu-Amoso roads in

Edda Local Government Area.

Jonathan, who was accompanied by his wife, Dame Patience, applauded Governor Umahi for his zeal to transform the lives of the people positively.

"It is a pleasure for me and my wife to be here in Ebonyi State today, whenever I come to Ebonyi State, I have always seen that His Excellency means well for Ebonyi people.

"I am very much pleased, each time I see the quality and magnitude of Governor Umahi's

projects in Ebonyi State, I thank God for bringing him at this time, the kind of projects I see in Ebonyi I don't see elsewhere.

"Sometimes, I ask where does he get the money, Umahi is a prudent manager of resources."

Earlier, Governor David Nweze Umahi explained that the Iyere Flyover was named after the former President for his role in the enthronement of the present administration in the state.

"Let me explain to Edda people that this is the mother and mother of Mr. President that God used

to bring us to power so we have to be eternally thankful to them and that is why we have named this flyover after him, we chose this flyover because it was tasked building it.

"There is nothing the heart of a man is set to achieve that he cannot achieve, I was driven by my love for Edda people and people of Ebonyi State."

Former President Goodluck Jonathan and his wife, Dame Patience arrived the state via the Ebonyi International Airport, Onueke.



The 10th NASS And Leadership Recruitment

By; JEROME-MARIO CHIJOKE UTOMI

If there is any perfect example in recent times that demonstrates beyond reasonable doubt that Nigeria is a nation reputed for doing one thing repeatedly and expects a different result, it is the present intrigues surrounding the nomination or better still, selection process of the principal officers of the incoming 10th National Assembly.

For a better understanding of where the piece is headed, it is important, among other things, that the National Assembly is one of the three arms that made up Nigeria's presidential system of government. It is statutorily referred to as the Legislative arm. It is independent from the other arms (Executive and Judiciary) and headed by the Senate President who is assisted by the Deputy Senate President.

The Senate President and his Deputy also work with the Principal Officers in the house including the Majority Leader, Deputy Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Deputy Minority Leader, Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, Minority Whip and Deputy Minority Whip. Same is applicable to the House of Representatives which is headed by the Speaker and assisted by the Deputy with other officers similar to those mentioned above.

Fundamentally, everyone in the National Assembly is, or ought to be, traditionally interested in the day-to-day existence of the average people in the country and honestly work hard to improve their lives by offering selfless service in the offices they occupy.

From the above clarification, it becomes a worrying concern to this piece and other well meaning Nigerians as to why the present interference, distractions and involvements from outside particularly the incoming Executive arm, political parties, ethno-religious groups, region against another, powerful personalities against each other about how the 10th NASS leadership will emerge.

Qualifying the development as frightening is the awareness that this was a similar leadership recruitment interference witnessed by the outgoing 9th NASS. The house is arguably filled with the best trained and most highly skilled in the history of NASS in Nigeria, but could not make laws that enhanced the life chances of Nigerians. It is factually backed that the 9th NASS we have today is



unrecognizable compared to what the nation used to have in the past.

The facts are there and speak for it. There are so many distinguished senators and Honourable members currently serving. Yet, the present legislative arm of the Federal Government operates as if it is subservient of the executive branch.

The mountain of foreign debt incurred by the present Federal Government and approved by the present 9th NASS without recourse to its harsh impact on both Nigeria and Nigerians is another example of glaring NASS leadership failure that must be avoided by the incoming 10th NASS.

Ultimately, while this dangerous politicking and scramble for the soul and leadership of the yet to be substituted 10th National Assembly deepens and flourishes, what, however, made the present situation a very curious one is that an exercise like election of principal officers is constitutionally supposed to be an internal affair within the Assembly. But suddenly against all known logic got characterized by national intrigue, with the ruling party, the All Progressive Congress (APC) taking time to underline the advantages, and otherwise of having a particular lawmaker in a particular position.

Within this period, I have also listened; as well as read different arguments by APC-advocates, outline virtues and attributes in support of the current 'interference' in Nigeria's 10th NASS leadership recruitment process.

While some anchored their argument on the time-honored but deformed political ideology in the country which insists that party is supreme and as a result, the ruling party has the 'right to detect who becomes what in the forthcoming NASS. To others, politics is a game of numbers and rides on the wheels of "to whom much is given, much is expected". To the rest, the Executive arm of government should have every reason to be interested in the principal officers to emerge at the 10th NASS. To this group, their argument is predicated on the fact that Executive input will assist promote a rancor-free relationship between the two arms of the government.

Despite the validity of the above arguments, if allowed to fly, this piece sees in the near future 'a crisis' approaching that will unnerve Nigerians and cause them to tremble. These present fears expressed cannot be described as groundless as there are grains of truth in all of its concerns.

Aside from non promotion of meritocracy, the greater consequences and hidden dangers inherent in the ongoing selection and insistence on 'anointed candidates' by the ruling party without recourse to democratize process and independence of the House, is that in the absence of rigorous accountability, incompetence flourishes, dishonesty encouraged and rewarded.

Viewed broadly, the decision to select, endorse or anoint more than anything else exposed systematized personal interest as well as amplifies the fact that our political players had not carefully read history and

human drama surrounding the democracies of ancient Greece and the Roman Republic. From their actions and inactions in the ongoing debate, it is obvious that as a nation, political gladiators in Nigeria are unaware for example that democracy disappeared in Rome when Caesar crossed Rubicon in violation of the Roman Senate's long prohibitions.

History bears eloquent testimony to the effect that right from the referenced moment, when Caesar unpolitically combined interference with other arms of government with his chief -of -state role, the Roman senate lingered in form and was humored for decades while the Roman Republic and the dream of democracy withered away; and for all intent and purposes, democracy disappeared from the face of the earth for 17 centuries, until its rebirth in the United State of America. This is a great lesson for Nigerian leaders to draw particularly now that the incoming NASS will have members of the opposition in greater number.

Even if the above lesson is ignored, another urgent imperative why Nigerians should be concerned about the increasingly sophisticated efforts to manipulate NASS leadership is predicated on the sensitive role that lawmakers are to perform in the nation's representative and deliberative democracy. If allowed, its negative outcome could set the stage that will selectively control information relevant to collective decision making in a democracy and strip the house of its power to enact masses-

focused legislations.

To, therefore, make the incoming 10th Assembly legislate for the poor, this piece holds the opinion that they must be given free hands to elect their principal officers as interference can set the stage for abridgement of the freedom of the lawmakers and by extension encroach on the rights of the masses.

There is equally an urgent need for incoming NASS members to anchor their election of leaders on competence as against party affiliations and other mundane considerations. This shift in action is important as we cannot solve our political and socio-economic challenges with the same thinking we used when we created it.

Finally, in the words of Thomas Paine as captured in his pamphlet 'Common Sense', we must all recognize that the Law is King and vigilant adherence to the rule of law strengthens our democracy. It ensures that those who govern us operate within our constitutional structures, which means that our democratic institutions play their indispensable role in shaping policies and determining the direction of our nation.

This is the task ahead of the 10th NASS and they must be allowed free hands to elect its leadership in order to achieve this set objective.

Utomi is the Programme Coordinator (Media and Politics), Advocacy for Social and Economic Justice (SEJA), Lagos. He could be reached via; jeromeutomi@yahoo.com or 08032725374k

Pomp At Tiger Golf Club Ibadan, As Okwuokei Wins Golf, Tour Group Kitty

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Air Commodore S.S. Okwuokei has emerged winner of the First Quarter Kitty of the Golf & Tour Group hosted at Tiger Golf Club Ibadan, where the members of one of the most prestigious and respected kitty group in Nigeria's golfing circle the Golf & Tour Group of Tukur Buratai International Golf Resort and Country Club Abuja were thrilled.

The group led by Air vice Marshal CE Aroriode (rtd) also visited orphanage homes in the city with gifts and cash donations as part of the programmes lined up.

The group's leader, in his goodwill message, advised the well-to-do individual in society to give back to the less privileged being one of the cardinal aims of his group so that life can be meaningful to everyone in our society and country at large.

The three days event was filled with beautiful game of golf, exciting dishes, lovely music, social and charity responsibilities, as other members of the group that are composed of serving and retired

military officers and highly placed civilians from all over the country attested to a memorable visit to the city of Ibadan.

Other winners that was announced and presented with mouth watering prizes during the colorful closing ceremony were Ekanem Ekweme, also a member of the kitty group that won in the lady's best net, while, Brig Gen. George Nkenke, Biodun Oyeleke and Folashade Ajala got guest prizes at the kitty. The Chairman planning committee of the tour AVM Yinka Alade while talking to the journalists during the closing ceremony mentioned that the group always takes its tours across the country and all over the world, adding the group picked Tiger Golf Club, Ibadan because of the distinctiveness of its golf course and hospitality of the club, among other consideration.

He said further that the 2nd quarter kitty of the year has been scheduled for the Jaji Golf Club, Kaduna, Kaduna State.

Speaking in the same vein, the Captain Tiger Golf Club, Alhaji Tunde Salami appreciated the Leadership and the entire



members of the Golf & Tour Group for picking Tiger Golf course ahead of the other golf courses in the southwest, saying hosting the prestigious group in his club is one beautiful

accomplishment of his led executive.

He added that the memory of the three days golfing event will linger for so many years in the minds of all and sundry, while

asking the members of the kitty group to see Tiger Golf Club, Ibadan as their home and the club will be glad to host them anytime they visit Ibadan.

Argentina 2023: Bosso Takes Positives From Flying Eagles' 3-3 Draw With Colombia

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Fit-fighting Nigeria battled to a 3-3 draw with Colombia in yesterday's pre-FIFA U-20 World Cup friendly match at the Estadio 20 October in Tristán Suárez, Buenos Aires.

Colombia went ahead in the tie after 26 minutes when central defender Abel Ogwuche put the ball past his own goalkeeper Chijioke Aniagboso.

The seven-time African champions levelled up in the 44th minute when winger Jude Sunday fired a scorching shot from outside the box, but the South Americans were soon back in the lead before half-time after they converted from the penalty spot.

The Colombians, who play in Group C of the tournament against African champions Senegal, Japan and Israel, increased the tally in the 73rd minute to

leave the Flying Eagles panting. But winger Ibrahim Mohammed pulled one back just four minutes later and Emmanuel Umeh, one of the scorers in the 3-2 defeat of Argentine second division team

Almirante Brown on Friday evening, evened things up in the 89th minute.

Head Coach Isah Ladan Bosso was full of warm words for the leadership of Nigeria Football

Federation for organizing the friendly with Colombia.

"We thank the NFF leadership for organizing such a good test for the team. I am happy with the

result. This will booster the team mentally and psychologically for the World Cup starting in a few days. The match has provided us with a stiff test and has also strengthened us for the big task ahead," Bosso said the final whistle.

"We are focused on the big challenge ahead, which is to put up a creditable performance that will match the pedigree of our country at this championship. Our ultimate target is to have a good campaign and with this result, we will be very ready for our first match against the Dominican Republic on Sunday."

The match against Colombia drew the curtain on the Flying Eagles' activities in Buenos Aires, and they will fly into Mendoza on Wednesday afternoon ahead of their first game against the Dominican Republic on Sunday. Their second match, against Italy on Wednesday next week, will also take place in Mendoza.



Volleyball: Nigeria's U-19 Male Team Camps In Kaduna Ahead World Championship

**Coach, players optimistic*



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Ahead of the World Indoor Volleyball Championship billed for Argentina later this year, Nigeria's victorious U-19 Male Team is currently camping at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Kaduna.

The two-week camp which commenced on May 7, has a total of 18 players.

Fielding questions from newsmen who were at the stadium to watch them during training on Tuesday May 16, Coach Adekalu Joseph Adeniyi

explained that the team is camping to prepare for world championship later this year.

"What we are doing is part of preparation. We have been here for nine days, out of two weeks we intend to spend. A total of 18 players are in camp, 12 to be picked," he explained.

According to him, "We are coming back in July with 24 players before the commencement of the tournament in Argentina between August 4 to 13."

He further explained that, "We qualified from Morocco last year in September. We came first,

Egypt second. Nigeria and Egypt would be representing Africa at the tournament.

"We will be going out there to give a good account of ourselves. I don't like to boast but we know we will do well," he said

On the welfare of the players and officials in camp, he heaped praises on the Engineer Musa Nimrod-led Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF).

"I want to give kudos to NVBF headed by Engineer Musa Nimrod. For these players to eat three square meals is not an easy task, but that is what they are

getting. We are given toiletries, the hall is convenient, no distraction for the players unlike other halls.

"For the Federal Ministry of Sports, I want to thank them because they are the platform through which we operate. We thank them for supporting us. We want to thank the Minister, Sunday Dare for supporting us, he is doing well," he declared.

Also speaking, Captain of the team, 18-year old Patrick Anthony explained that they started training since 7th of this month.

"We are all prepared, we are

ready to go out and do well. We are hoping to finish first," he assured.

When asked which of their opponents they would be wary of at the tournament, he said, "Everybody will give us a good fight it is not limited to any special team."

Another player, 17-year old Eliphaz Yusuf, from Adamawa State, said that their coaches are training them well in ensuring they do Nigeria proud.

"By God's grace we will win the gold in Argentina. We solicit players from Nigerians for a successful outing," he said.

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TY Buratai Foundation Congratulates Indimi On His Honorary Degree

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

TY Buratai Humanity Care Foundation has congratulated Alhaji Muhammad Indimi OFR, founder and chairman of Oriental Energy Resources (OER) for earning a Honourary Doctorate Degree of Modibbo Adama University Yola on May 13, 2023.

This was contained in a statement signed by its National Coordinator, Ibrahim Dahiru Danfulani Sadaukin Garkuwan Keffi and Made Available to the press on May 16, 2023.

"Nigeria is indeed fortunate to have such a bold, competent and an astute businessman with a notable presence in the international business arena, he laid the foundation for unprecedented exponential growth and development.

"A humanitarian and a philanthropist who has received numerous awards as well as honorary doctorate

degrees from notable universities in Nigeria, Ireland and the United State," it said.

According to the statement, Indimi established Muhammad Indimi Foundation (MIF), which focuses on vulnerable families through poverty alleviation, fight against hunger, illiteracy and health challenges.

"He has sponsored less privileged and orphans to study at the International University of Africa (IUA) on scholarship in Sudan. Through the MIF, Indimi has empowered and supported people affected by the Boko Haram crisis in the North East.

"He built a 100-unit N600 million housing estate, provided food, clothing, schools and clinics for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by the Boko Haram insurgency in Borno State.

"Muhammad Indimi foundation, has built a 100 unit N700 million modern residential estate in Enwang, Mbo LGA Akwa



Indimi

Ibom State.

"He awarded over 470 scholarships in Akwa Ibom State and created a sponsorship programme for University of Uyo's Department of Petroleum and Chemical Engineering.

"Indimi donated a multi-million-dollar International Business Centre to Lynn University in the United States, which

was named after him," the statement informed.

TY Buratai Humanity Care Foundation also took the opportunity to commend Modibbo Adama University Yola for conferring the honour on the chairman of Oriental Energy Resources (OER).

"These feats constitute a fantastic legacy worth protecting and celebrating". It added.

Group Commends APC, Tinubu For Zoning Deputy Speaker To Abia Lawmaker Kalu

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As the leadership race of the 10th National Assembly heats up, North East, All Progressives Congress Youth Coalition for Better Nigeria on Monday welcomed the zoning of the position of the deputy speaker to the South-East by the party's National Working Committee (APC-NWC).

The coalition specifically described the lawmaker representing Bendel Federal Constituency, Abia State, Benjamin Okezie Kalu, who is the favoured candidate of APC-NWC as "eminently qualified" for the position of deputy speaker in the next

assembly having grown politically over the years.

The convener, Comrade Aliyu Sa'ad Mohammed said the coalition was convinced that Kalu, who is the Chairman, House Committee on Media and Public Affairs possesses leadership skills that would provide a sound legislative procedure for the smooth take-off and running of the government under the administration President-elect, Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

"It is with great delight that we welcome the zoning of the seat of Deputy Speaker of the 10th National Assembly to Hon. Benjamin Kalu from Abia State.

"This is because of his competence, patriotism

and commitment to a prosperous Nigeria through positive synergy between the executive and legislature which we saw in the current assembly.

"Having served as Senior Special Adviser to the then Abia State Governor and now a Senator, Orji Uzor Kalu on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs and later MDGs, the one time Local Government Chairman of Bende Local Government was also student leader whose entire life has been of service to God and humanity.

"The APC National Working Committee could not have made a better choice for the Deputy Speakership than Hon. Kalu even though he is also

eminently qualified for the Speakership of the 10th Assembly.

"We are optimistic that with Hon. Kalu as Deputy Speaker, the Asiwaju Tinubu Administration will get all necessary legislative support to deliver the mandate bestowed on him and our party the APC", Sa'ad said.

The coalition also called on the group of seven (G-7) aspirants in the race for the speakership who believed that Kalu was among the few candidates favoured by both the party and the President-elect, to garner support for him ahead of the electing in the house in a few days to come in the interest of the party.

Volleyball: Nigeria's U-19 Male Team Camps In Kaduna Ahead World Championship
*Coach, players optimistic

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NERC Moves To Revoke Kafuna Electric's Licence Over Alleged N51bn Underpayment

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has expressed its intention to cancel its licence after 60 days, over an alleged N51 billion energy underpayment, among others, by Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company (KAEDCO).

Dafe Akpeneye, the Commissioner, Legal, Licencing and Compliance, in a published notice tagged: NERC/LC/023, dated 15th May 2023, said, "Take note that KAEDCO is hereby given 60 days from the date of this notice to "show cause" why the electricity distribution licence should not be cancelled in accordance with section 74 of EPSRA."

The report noted that KAEDCO only paid 13.85% of its minimum payment obligation to the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET) and the Market Operator (MO) with a N4.33bn average monthly underpayment, reaching about N51.96bn, according to NERC performance review for 2022.

The report also stated that KAEDCO under-collected its revenues to the tune of N88.75bn as market shortfall, capital investment allowance

(N25.33bn) and allowed operating expenses (N11.46bn) during the period.

It explained that after KAEDCO failed to provide a credible plan for the financial sustainability of the utility, it issued a notice of imminent regulatory intervention in March 23, 2023, to the core investors – Africa Export Import Bank, Fidelity Bank Plc and Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) with 14 days to present their plan following NERC highlighted several regulatory interventions for the DisCo.

In April, according to the report, KAEDCO's investors sought more time from NERC without commitment to pay for energy remittance defaults, stressing that NERC with the investors on 14 April, 2023 discussed their final plan proposals and how to reduce their debts by N1 billion in one year with a N2bn stabilisation loan to cut the DisCo's N4.3bn shortfall by N250 million immediately, among others.

The report explained that the firm then submitted the proposed plan by 17th April, pointing out that NERC said it reviewed the plan and it failed to meet the obligations and moves to cancel the DisCo's licence.



Comptroller James