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el-Rufai Sacks 2 Traditional Rulers, 3 Village Heads

By ; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor Nasir el-Rufai has approved the deposition of the traditional rulers of Piriga and Arak Chiefdoms, His Highness, Jonathan Paragua Zamuna and His Highness, General Aliyu Iliyah Yammah, respectively.

A statement signed by the Commissioner of Local Government, Hajiya Umma K Ahmad, stated that the two traditional rulers cease to hold their respective offices from Monday, 22nd May 2023. The statement said that the depositions follow recommendations from the Ministry of Local Government in line with the provisions of Section 11 of the Traditional Institutions Law No. 21 of 2021.

According to the commissioner, "the District Head of Garun Kurama, Mr. Babangida

Sule, will oversee the affairs of Piriga Chiefdom, pending the appointment of a new chief, while the Council Secretary has been directed to initiate the process for the appointment of a new chief.

"Mr. Gomna Ahmadu, the Council Secretary of Arak Chiefdom, will oversee the affairs of the chiefdom and also initiate the process for the appointment of a new chief."

According to the statement, "the government found unacceptable the response of HH General Iliyah Yammah to the query regarding his appointment of four district heads, contrary to the one approved for his chiefdom, and his non-residence within Arak chiefdom."

"The deposition of HH Jonathan Zamuna follows the recent communal clashes between the Gure



and Kitimi communities of Piriga chiefdom in Lere LGA, and his non-residence within the chiefdom," the statement added.

The statement also announced the immediate disengagement of the village heads of Aban, Abujan Mada and Anjil in Arak Chiefdom.

President Buhari Commissions Kajola Wagon Assembly Plant

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

President Muhammadu Buhari on Monday, commissioned Kajola Wagon Assembly Plant in Ogun State.

The wagon assembly plant, which has been completed, has a locomotive and rolling report.

It has the capacity to produce 500 wagons per year of open wagons, container flat wagons and box wagons.

"Out of 368 various types of wagons needed and awarded to Messrs CCECC (China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation), about 220 wagons of the existing rolling stock procurement contract are to be produced at the Kajola plant pending when the plant would be transformed to full wagon manufacturing plant," Buhari explained.

He said the establishment of the Kajola Assembly Plant was a Corporate Social Responsibility by Messrs CCECC Nigeria Limited in the Lagos-Ibadan Railway Modernization Project - being a section of the Lagos-Kano Railway Modernization Project.

The President pointed out that with his approval, the Ministry of

Transportation signed an Agreement in March, 2018 with Messrs. CCECC as Direct Foreign Investment (DFI) by the company in compliance with the Presidential Order No. 5 to promote companies' involvement in infrastructure development and transfer of technology to Nigeria.

"Expectedly, the Federal Government is to facilitate the establishment of the plant by providing enabling environment and necessary support in terms of Tax Waivers, Utilities (Power and Water Supply), Access Road and Rail Sidings etc. This responsibility was carried out meticulously by the Nigerian Government," the President stated.

The ground breaking ceremony of the Wagon Assembly Plant was performed by the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo GCON, on November 8, 2019 as part of the effort of the Federal Government in the promotion and development of local capacity in Assembling and Manufacturing of Rolling Stock, as well as a means to generate employment and boost economic opportunities for the citizenry.

Buhari highlighted other advantages of setting up the plant, stressing that it is the potential to be provided by

the on-going rail projects in the country and Sub-African Region which will generate significant demand for Nigeria's Rolling Stock.

"Having said that, I am glad to announce to you that we are here to commission the completed Kajola Assembly Plant here in Ogun State and to further inform you that the first set of Wagons assembled here in Nigeria is being rolled out for further deployment for freight services.

"With the milestone achieved, we are seriously working to open the first University of Transportation in Daura, Katsina State. The intension of this University is to ensure adequate turn out of graduates, technicians, artisans, researchers on different areas of transportation especially railway transportation to guarantee the sustainability of the massive infrastructural provision of this administration on rail transportation.

"We therefore, expect that very soon graduands of the University of Transportation Daura and returnees from various Universities in China that were awarded scholarships by Messrs. CCECC will occupy their pride of place in the Kajola Assembly Plant," the President elaborated.

Nigerian Police, South Australian Authorities Apprehend Serial Fraudster In Abuja, Recover 60,000 AUD

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Operatives of the Nigeria Police Force - National Cybercrime Center (NPF-NCCC) have successfully apprehended one Ogenevowero Emefeke, a 37-year-old resident of Guida Area of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for pulling-off an elaborate fraudulent scheme on an Australian National and recovered the sum of sixty thousand Australian Dollars (60,000.00 AUD) from the suspect.

This is coming on the heels of actionable intelligence made available by the South Australian Police Department (SAPOL).

The suspect, in a written statement during Police interview, freely admitted to having committed the fraud and several others dating back to 2021.

This was contained in a release by the Force Public Relations Officer CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi made available to journalists on Monday.

According to the statement, "In unmasking his modus operandi, investigation reveals that the suspect and his cohorts usually adopt pseudo identities of renown International celebrities, carefully select their victims through different social media platforms, lure them into an attack popularly known as "Romance Scam", and after gaining their trust,

subsequently play on their emotion to swindle them of their resources. Investigation further revealed that the victims are usually vulnerable men and women in desperate search for emotional comfort and fame.

"The Inspector-General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba CFR, while applauding the new wave of anti-cybercrime achievements recorded by NPF-NCCC under the constructive leadership of the Director National Cybercrime Center, DCP Ifeanyi Henry Uche, via collaborations with international anti-cybercrime agencies, charged the Center to sustain the drive.

"In the same vein, the IGP urges members of the Public to exercise restraint in engaging in Businesses and Relationships with individuals whose real identities have not been physically verified. While the processes to repatriate the recovered fund to the victim through the Australian Consulate is being perfected, the suspect will be charged to court upon the conclusion of investigations.

"All complaints or information bordering on cybercrime can be sent to the NPF NCCC through its e-reporting portal - <https://incb.npf.gov.ng/> or @NPF_NCCC across all social media platforms, and via mobile on 09168343711".



The suspect

Buhari Unveils Dangote Refinery, Expresses Confidence In Accelerated Economic Growth

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The much publicised Dangote Petroleum Refinery in Lagos has been commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari, just as he expressed confidence in the ability of his successor to sustain the framework of public private partnership policies to accelerate the pace of our economic growth and development.

Speaking at the occasion attended by Heads of State from Ghana, Togo, Niger, Senegal and a representative of the President of Chad, the President described the feat as a significant milestone for Nigeria's economy and a game changer for the downstream petroleum products market in the entire African region.

"This mega industry we are commissioning today is a clear example of what can be achieved when entrepreneurs are encouraged and supported and when an enabling environment is created for investments and for businesses to thrive.

"I am confident that my successor, His Excellency

Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, will sustain the improvement in our economic and business environment and strengthen the framework of our public private partnership policies to accelerate the pace of our economic growth and development.

"I am happy to leave our economy in very competent hands," he said.

The President who commended Alhaji Aliko Dangote's leadership in executing the 650,000 barrels per day refinery urged other entrepreneurs to emulate his example in driving economic growth and realizing Nigeria's economic potential.

He stressed the need for African countries to come together, integrate their economies, eliminate trade barriers, and rally their populations to achieve Agenda 2063 for the continent's prosperity.

"I urge and encourage our other great entrepreneurs to emulate this iconic Nigerian industrialist and join the Government in accelerating our growth in order to realize our country's globally recognized economic potential.

"When I travel around Africa and

meet and engage my brother Heads of State (and I am delighted some of their Excellences are here) I often sense a quiet expectation that our country is blessed with resources and human capacity to lead Africa's rise to economic prosperity and the attainment of Agenda 2063 - 'The Africa we all want.'

"But to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063, Africa must come together - we must integrate our economies, eliminate barriers to trade and energize our youthful population to scale up our productive capacity.

"We must create necessary conditions for our private sector to grow and partner with the public sector to accelerate economic growth across the continent.

"We must not allow outside powers to use some of our leaders to destabilize our economic and political trajectory," he said.

President Buhari acknowledged the visionary investments made by the Dangote Group, under the leadership of Dangote, in transforming Nigeria's economy

through its involvement in critical industries such as cement and fertilizer.

He noted that investment in these sectors have played a crucial role in shifting Nigeria from heavy import dependence to becoming a net exporter.

President Buhari acknowledged that Nigeria's economy has faced significant challenges over the years, including deficits in economic infrastructure, insurgency, and external crises such as the Global Financial Crisis, oil price collapses, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Russia-Ukraine war.

"The consequence of these challenges constitute a severe strain on our economy, limiting Government's ability to provide basic infrastructure without resorting to huge borrowings.

"Our Government, therefore, took the decision to focus attention on creating an enabling environment for the private sector to thrive and fill the enormous gap in investments not only in infrastructure but also in all critical sectors.

"We recognize that without the active participation of the private

sector and a strong commitment to public private partnership, our economy would continue to remain severely challenged and our economic growth impeded.

"Government therefore, will and should continue to provide an enabling environment and encourage innovative public private partnerships in all sectors of our economy," he said.

The President emphasized the administration's commitment to this approach, citing Executive Order 007 of 2019 which facilitated the rehabilitation/construction of many roads by private sector investors using a Tax-credit scheme.

"It is my hope that the succeeding Administration will continue to apply such innovative schemes in partnership with the private sector to accelerate the provision of critical infrastructure in particular roads, power and gas pipelines," he said.

Alhaji Aliko Dangote emphasised the refinery's role in fulfilling the group's corporate vision of promoting self-sufficiency and global competitiveness.



Buhari Unveils Dangote Refinery, Expresses Confidence In Accelerated Economic Growth

"We have built a Refinery with a capacity to process 650,000 barrels per day (plus 900,000 tonnes of polypropylene) in a single train – which is the largest in the world. We have selected the best plants and equipment and the latest technologies from across the world.

"Our products slate is designed to meet the highest quality standards and high-value products including Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), Automotive Gas Oil (Diesel), Aviation Turbine Kerosine (ATK); all of Euro V Standards that will enable us not only meet our Country's demand but also to become a key player in the African and global market.

"Our coastal location and offshore loading and offloading (SPM) facilities with a capacity to receive all our crude oil supplies and evacuate up to 75% of our liquid products give us direct access to the rest of Africa and the global market for exports. In addition, 80 percent of our production can be discharged through trucks nationwide."

He disclosed that the huge investment of over \$18.5 billion in this industry was prompted by the company's desire to support and contribute its quota to the Federal Government's sustained effort to transform the economy and reposition Nigeria as the leading nation in Africa, and a respected member among emerging economies in the world.

According to him, apart from ensuring a consistent supply of high-quality fuels for the transportation sector, the refinery will provide essential raw materials to a wide range of manufacturing sectors, including plastics, pharmaceuticals, food and beverages, packaging, construction, and more.

He further stated that the refinery's operation and related businesses would generate a substantial number of job opportunities, while the downstream supply and distribution of its products would significantly contribute to the absorption of labor, potentially benefiting hundreds of thousands of individuals.

"Once our plant is fully on stream, we expect that at least 40% of the capacity will be available for export and this will result in significant Foreign Exchange inflows into the country.

"Overall, we are committed to operating our Plant in line with international best practice requirements, recognizing the importance of protecting the environment, and putting in place stringent environmental, health and safety policies to ensure that the refinery operates in a safe and sustainable manner," he assured.



Ogbe's Suit Withdrawal Speaks Volume Of Unity In Benue South - David Mark's Daughter

**Says its time to focus proactive legislative duties*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Honourable Blessing Onuh, has enjoined politicians to resist the culture of filing frivolous petitions that could distract public office holders from delivering the dividends of democracy to the people.

The Lawmaker representing Otukpo/Ohimini Federal Constituency on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC), gave the charge at a world press conference in Abuja yesterday, pointing out that elections are over and is time for political stakeholders to begin to work together irrespective of political leanings.

Onuh, while acknowledging that elections petitions was an essential part of our democratic process, however warned that culture of filing frivolous petitions against political opponents was a distraction.

The Federal Lawmaker was reacting to the recent withdrawal of the suit instituted by Hon Alex Enokela Ogbe, against her victory in the February 25th National Assembly election.

Recall that Hon. Ogbe had on Friday, May 19th 2023, announced his decision to withdraw the case instituted against Hon.



Blessing Onuh

Lady Blessing Onuh, the APC and INEC in the 2023 election petition tribunal.

The candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in a statement personally signed himself, stated that the difficult decision was for the general interest of Otukpo Ohimini people.

Ogbe, while congratulating Lady Blessing Onuh, vow to offer his support and assistance to her where needed for the betterment of the people.

"We are using this medium to make known our intention to withdraw the case instituted against Hon. Lady Blessing Onuh of the APC, the APC and INEC in the 2023 election petition tribunal.

"We have taken this difficult decision for the general interest of Otukpo Ohimini people who we seek to serve.

"We will offer support and assistance to the house of representatives member elect Otukpo Ohimini where needed for the betterment of the people of Otukpo Ohimini.

"We pray God gives her the strength to meet the desires of the people of Otukpo Ohimini for which she represent," he stated.

Onuh while applauding Mr. Ogbe's decision to withdraw his petition, described his action as political maturity which speaks volume about the unity in Benue South.

The lawmaker who however, maintained that she won the February

2023 election conducted in a free and fair contest, enjoined him to work together with her and all Idoma progressives in the progress, unity and development of Otukpo/Ohimini Federal constituency.

In her words, "I acknowledge the withdrawal of the suit instituted against my victory by Mr Ogbe. However, I must state categorically that I won the February 2023 election conducted in a free and fair contest.

"I view the decision of Mr Ogbe as an act of political maturity which speaks volume about the unity in Benue South. I urge politicians to avoid frivolous petitions which is a distraction.

CSO Urges Governors-elect To Avoid Political Changes That May Disrupt 2023 Hajj

By; JABIRU A HASSAN, Kano

A group, the Independent Hajj Reporters has urged governors-elect to sustain the ongoing Hajj operation in their various states by avoiding unnecessary political changes that may disrupt the successful completion of the 2023 exercise.

The airlift of Nigerian pilgrims will begin on Thursday May 25, about four days to the inauguration of the new president and state governors across the country.

IHR, a not-for-profit civil society organization that monitors and reports Hajj activities in Nigeria and Saudi Arabia, disclosed this in a statement signed by its national Coordinator, Ibrahim Muhammed made available to our correspondent yesterday.

The statement said, "While we congratulate and welcome the newly elected governors, we strongly appeal to them not to alter the ongoing operational structures in their various states to avoid disrupting the ongoing 2023 operational blueprints that may eventually create confusion during the airlifts of our dear pilgrims.

"It is noteworthy that arrangements for all Hajj services have been completed while NAHCON, states Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Boards, Hajj air carriers and other service providers have mapped out strategies on how the exercise will be executed."

The CSO observed that there is currently serious apprehension within Nigeria Hajj industry that some of the incoming governors may replace some of the critical pilgrim boards

officials in the middle of the airlift of pilgrims, thereby disrupting the operational ecosystem.

Independent Hajj Reporters, therefore, urged the incoming governors to be sensitive to the plight of the pilgrims who have paid their savings to perform the Hajj ritual, "whenever they decide to effect some changes in the administrative algorithms of the pilgrims' boards.

"Our concern is the pilgrim's welfare. We appeal to the new governors to be circumspect in taking any decision so as not to jeopardise the smooth hajj operations."

"The closest Hajj officials that can be reached by pilgrims are the state pilgrims boards officials - who registered the pilgrims, conducted enlightenment, facilitated the issuance of their visa, distributed bags and uniforms to them.

"These operational activities gave the local pilgrims officers direct contact with the pilgrims and at most times, they knew the pilgrims by name. The consequence of distorting the state pilgrims' board's administrative structure is that the Executive Secretaries to be appointed will immediately come with their own teams to replace the local pilgrim's assistants - who had earlier created an interactive bond with the pilgrims.

The CSO said the appeal is expedient because of the peculiar nature of the 2023 airlift occasioned by Sudan's civil war.

"At this time, any politically motivated decision must be well-thought out not to disrupt the smooth hajj operation," the statement said.

EFCC: Supreme Court Cautions FG Against Harassment Of Kogi Officials

By; ADO ADEBOYE, Akure

The Supreme Court has cautioned Nigeria's anti-graft agencies against harassing officials and associates of the Kogi State Government pending the determination of a suit instituted by the Attorney General of Kogi State against the Attorney General of the Federation challenging the constitutionality of Acts establishing some anti-graft agencies, including the Proceed of Crime Protection and Prevention Act 2022, and their applicability to the state.

The Acts mentioned in the Originating Summons include those establishing the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU).

When the matter came up before the full panel of the Supreme Court yesterday, May 23, 2023, Counsel to the Attorney

General of Kogi State, Abdulwahab Muhammed, SAN, drew the attention of the Court to the continued harassment and even arraignment of associates of Kogi State Government in various Courts despite the pendency of the Suit that was filed in February, 2023. Chief A.A. Adeniyi, SAN, also represented the plaintiff (Kogi State AG).

However, Counsel to the Attorney-General of the Federation, T.A. Ghazali, SAN, who was in Court, strangely claimed not to have been served the Originating Process.

The full panel of the Court, led by Hon. Justice Amina Augie, in reaction to the concerns raised by Counsel to the plaintiff (Kogi AG), was unequivocal in making it clear to all parties that once a dispute had been submitted to the Court, and in this case, the apex Court of the land, all persons and authorities in Nigeria are expected to stay further action and await the outcome of the suit.

The court therefore, advised parties to stay further action on the subject of

litigation pending the outcome of the suit and adjourned the hearing of the substantive originating Summons to October 10, 2023.

The Attorney General Of Kogi State had, in February, 2023, in Suit No. SC/178/2023, approached the Supreme Court vide an originating Summons to invoke the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to determine the Constitutionality of the EFCC Act, the ICPC Act, the NFIU Act, the Proceed of Crime (Prevention and Management Act) 2022.

He contended that, going by the pronouncement of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in the case of Joseph Nwobike V.FRN to the effect that the United Nation Convention Against Corruption is the precursor to the EFCC, NFIU, ICPC and Proceed of Crime (Prevention and Protection) Act, and that these laws, having not been enacted in consonance with Section 12 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), are unconstitutional and have no applicability whatsoever to Kogi State under whatever guise.

Dangote Refinery To Roll Out Products Before End Of July

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Dangote Refinery and Petrochemicals has been commissioned in Lagos on Monday, with first refined petrol product expected to hit the Nigerian market before the end of July.

Chairman of Dangote Group Alhaji Aliko Dangote gave the assurance in his remarks at the official commissioning of the 650,000 barrels-per-day Dangote Refinery at Ibeju-Lekki in Lagos. He said the facility has a capacity to process 650,000 barrels per day of crude oil (plus 900,000 tonnes of polypropylene) in a single train.

"We have selected the best plants and equipment and the latest technologies from across the world.

"Also, the products slate is designed to meet the highest quality standards of high-value products including Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), Automotive Gas Oil (Diesel), Aviation

Turbine Kerosine (ATK); all of Euro V Standards that will enable us not only meet our country's demand but also to become a key player in the African and global market," Dangote stated.

He said that the country's coastal location and offshore loading and offloading (SPM) facilities with a capacity to receive all its crude oil supplies and evacuate up to 75 per cent of liquid products, offers the facility direct access to the rest of Africa and the global market for exports. He also said 80 per cent of the refinery's production can be discharged through trucks nationwide.

"This commissioning ceremony is just the beginning of a great journey, a milestone in a new and exciting trajectory for the Downstream sector of Nigeria's Oil and Gas Industry. It is our firm commitment that we will replicate in this sector, what we have achieved in the cement and fertilizer

markets, where Nigeria transitioned from being the largest importer of these products to a net exporter.

"Beyond today's ceremony, our first goal is to ramp up production of the various products to ensure that within this year, we are able to fully satisfy our nation's demand for high quality products to enable us eliminate the tragedy of import dependency and stop, once and for all, the dumping in our market of toxic sub-standard petroleum products. Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, our first product will be in the market before the end of July this year," Dangote

Also speaking at the occasion, Vice President-elect, Kashim Shettima said that the Dangote Refinery shows that Africa is not only about poverty. Shettima said this at the unveiling of the Dangote Refinery at Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos, on Monday.

During his speech at the refinery's inauguration, the politician urged other

businessmen and entrepreneurs in the country to follow suit.

He said, "I acknowledge and commend the government and people of Lagos State for creating an enabling environment for this project to come to reality.

"This project commenced in 2017 when President Muhammadu Buhari was at the helm of affairs of this great nation and was completed under his stewardship.

"I want to assure the Aliko Dangote Group that the incoming administration will do whatever is possible to keep and sustain the tempo of this project.

"Africa is not all about the crisis in Sudan, deprivation and destitute or insecurity. I hope the CNN, BBC, and Sky News of this world will be around to give maximum coverage to this function."

The Dangote Refinery complex is located in the Lekki Free Zone area of Lagos.



Dangote Refinery

My Physical Presence In Commissioning Business Outlets A Motivating Factor - Masari

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Governor, Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari has said that his physical presence in commissioning business outlets established by individual was to encourage others to copy.

This he said, is in realization of its advantages in providing direct employment to the teeming youth in the state.

The governor was speaking when he

led the commissioning of Al-Mu'azzam Global Link Headquarters and Petrol Station on Katsina - Kano Highway in the metropolis.

The governor congratulated the chairman and Chief Executive of Al-Mu'azzam Global Link, Alhaji Ibrahim Usman Sarki for establishing the petrol station.

The head of the family and the father of the chairman of the petroleum

company, Alhaji Usman Sarki expressed gratitude to the governor for leading the commissioning of the project.

Chairman and Chief Executive of Al-Mu'azzam Petroleum Global Link, Alhaji Ibrahim Usman Sarki said that establishing the petrol station is in response to clarion calls by the governor to set up business outlets that can provide employment to more young men in the state.

May 29: Ebonyi CP Warns Against Protest, Breakdown Of Law, Order

**Threatens arresting law breakers*



CP Faleye Olaleye

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Ahead of May 29 inauguration in Ebonyi State, the Commissioner of Police, CP Faleye Olaleye has warned that no form of protest or breakdown of law and order shall be tolerated before and after May 29 inauguration for the sake of security of lives and property.

A statement issued by the command's Public Relations Officer (PPRO), S P

Onome Onovewakpoye explained that intelligence report indicates that some group of people are planning to embark on protest to disrupt the peace and security of the state, advising the aggrieved persons to have confidence and wait for the outcome of the tribunal's verdict over the matter.

CP Olaleye, enjoined members of the Public to be law-abiding, shun all forms of violence and cooperate with Security Agencies as measures have been put in place to protect lives and property of the Citizens.

"The Commissioner of Police, Ebonyi State Command wishes to notifies the general public that all forms of Protests before, during and after the May 29th 2023 inauguration by any aggrieved party or

supporters on the just concluded Gubernatorial, National and State House Of Assembly elections will not be tolerated.

"This is on the backdrop of Intelligence report that some Persons or group of Persons are planning to protest, thereby causing insecurity in the State.

"The Commissioner Of Police advises that aggrieved Persons/group of Persons should have confidence in the Court and as such, they should wait for the Outcome of the tribunal verdict on the cases already in Court.

"Consequently, the Command will not hesitate to deal decisively with any person(s) or group of Persons who violate this order or deliberately cause the breakdown of law and order in whatever manner or form. Those culpable will be arrested and made to face the full wrath of the law as Police Operatives have been deployed strategically and directed to ensure full enforcement.

"In view of the above, the Commissioner of Police, CP Faleye S. Olaleye psc enjoins members of the Public to be law-abiding, shun all forms of violence and cooperate with security agencies as measures have been put in place to protect lives and property of the citizens." The statement assured.

Uba Sani Bags Best Nigerian Senator Award

Less than two years after emerging as the overall best in the Senate's Top Ten Bills Productivity Index, Senator Uba Sani has just been named "overall best Senator" by Order Paper in Abuja.

The lawmaker, who is now the APC Governor-elect of Kaduna State was first declared among the "Top Performers on Bills Sponsorship for North-West Geopolitical Zone" under "Most Valuable Parliamentarians Hall of Fame Awards organised by OrderPaper Nigeria" in July 2022.

It would be recalled that Order Paper Nigeria, an independent organisation, is focused on monitoring the legislative activities of the National Assembly for effective service delivery to citizens.

Reacting to the award, days before his exit as Senator of the Federal Republic and now Governor-elect of Kaduna State, Uba said he was quite delighted and "deeply humbled by the fact that my efforts in the 9th Senate have been closely monitored and assessed by not just my discerning constituents and colleagues but perhaps, Nigeria's most credible legislative watchdog, Orderpaper Nigeria."

He expressed excitement over his recognition as the "Most Valuable Parliamentarian



(MVP) Of The 9th Senate" describing it as "purely as a result of my toil and sleepless nights in the Senate which culminated in several bills including those of them that have since been signed into law by the President, His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR."

The outgoing lawmaker explained that he felt fulfilled by the Order Paper organisation's "credible assessment of my efforts in the 9th Senate and I say a big thank you. This recognition clearly shows that our impactful legislative interventions have

not gone unnoticed."

Going further to identify the premise of his award, Senator Uba said: This recognition is bestowed on me purely on merit. The facts used by Orderpaper to assess me and indeed other lawmakers in the 9th National Assembly are easily verifiable. They are, in fact, public knowledge."

He also emphasized that he did not and "could not have lobbied for this recognition" adding that "For this, I am extremely glad to accept and own this honour done me by the very profound team at Orderpaper Nigeria."

He hailed the "pioneering efforts and painstaking approach by Orderpaper Nigeria," adding that "it attests to the fact that hard work pays and that Nigerians actually notice good and selfless leadership".

"I am confounded by the professionalism and thoroughness of the team at Orderpaper led by the very cerebral Mr. Oke Epia. I have since learnt that the selection process the organisation followed was extremely methodical and spanned over three years of painstaking data-driven research and routine

monitoring of the activities of all the members of the 9th National Assembly. The process of assessment and selection, I have found out, received inputs from some of the best minds in academia, civil society, international partners, and other critical stakeholders. This is truly commendable.

"I am humbled by the fact that of the 469 lawmakers, I emerged as the overall best performer. This is both gladdening and most encouraging.

"It is even more so because as I assume office as the Governor of Kaduna State on May 29, by the grace of God, I am going to be very conscious of the fact that well-meaning and credible organizations like OrderPaper Nigeria are watching and assessing me very closely. This is the kind of check or monitoring our leaders need in every tier of governance. Please keep up the good work.

"It is my hope that this induction of my humble self and other deserving legislators into the Hall of Fame will spur other legislators to strive for excellence. It is all about making impact," the lawmaker said.



Governor Inuwa Yahaya Emerges Northern States Governors' Forum Chairman

*Pledges to bequeath verile organisation that propels better future for Northern people
 *Says "We must work to ensure adequate exploration of huge oil, gas, solid minerals deposits in North for the benefit of our people"

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has been elected as the chairman of the Northern States Governors' Forum (NSGF).

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Tuesday May 23, 2023, the governor was unanimously elected by the 19 Northern governors during their forum's meeting held on Tuesday at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja.

Governor Inuwa takes over from Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State with effect from 29th May, 2023.

In his acceptance speech, Governor Inuwa promised to justify the confidence reposed in him by his colleagues across party divides.

He emphasized that the good legacies of the Forum will be sustained to bequeath not only virile organisation, but a better future for the people of the north at the end of his tenure as chairman of the Northern Governors Forum.

Inuwa assured his fellow Northern Governors that in line with the objectives of the Northern Governor' Forum, he will strive to sustain the strides left behind by his predecessors.

He said the focus of the NSGF on economic development will be the driving force of the Forum while his chairmanship lasts.

He observed that the region is challenged by insurgency in the North East, ethnic and religious crisis within the North Central as well as farmers/herders clashes and the subsequent effect of banditry and cattle rustling among others.

The new NSGF chairman noted that in spite of the social and economic challenges confronting the northern region, the Forum has made tremendous impact and has changed the tide for the betterment of its people.

He remarked that since the focus of the NSGF is built on addressing such social challenges, the Forum, under his leadership will do everything possible to ensure that they are addressed in the Interest and benefits of the people.

"We will work hard to ensure that we catch up with the rest of the country, possibly with the developed parts of the world so that our people will feel the impact of good governance we all pursue".

He expressed delight with the commencement of drilling activities in the Lake Chad Basin which has brought to three drilling sites in the North to include Kolmani in Gombe and Bauchi and the one in Nasarawa State.

He assured that the forum will see to the actualization of the exploration of the large oil and gas deposits in the North for the benefit of the people.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya noted that the

Northern region of the country is sitting on not only oil and gas deposits. but solid minerals which the forum has no reason not to exploit and put to use for the benefit of the people.

The Gombe State Governor used the occasion to thank the outgoing chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum and Plateau State Governor Right Hon. Simon Bako Lalong for his administrative ingenuity despite numerous challenges in his state in particular and the North in general.

He said the NSGF will continue to work with past leadership of the forum in order to consolidate on the gains so far recorded and to properly place it on the smooth trajectory of social cohesion, economic emancipation and infrastructural development.

The outgoing chairman and Governor of Plateau State, Simon Bako Lalong, said Governor Inuwa was elected to chair the NSGF in view of his experience, sterling leadership qualities and commitment to good governance.

He urged him to bring to bear his pedigree of excellence in running the affairs of the Northern Governors Forum.

Giving synopsis of his stewardship, the Plateau Governor said the past four years have been eventful just as they were challenging in various sectors.

He said the forum had to deal with many issues that affected the northern states individually and the region as a whole.

"As you are all aware, our region for the most part of the period under review continued to face serious challenges with the incidences of kidnapping, banditry, terrorism and other violent crimes that impacted negatively on the lives of the people and the economy of the entire region. However, with our collective and individual efforts coupled with the support of the Federal Government and security agencies, we were able to do our best to contain the situation.

"Without the series of meetings and engagements we held, our people would have been thrown into deeper hunger and despair as the threat by criminals restrained them from engaging in farming which is the main economic activity of the region.

"Although we have not overcome this challenge completely, we have substantially improved the situation. We hope that the incoming Governors and those continuing their second terms will work together with the Federal Government to ensure the region is secure".



Makarfi, el-Rufai, Uba Sani, Ashiru, Ekene, Others Bag NLA Awards

By: AUSTINE AGBO
EMMANUEL, Kaduna

The Executive Governor of Kaduna state, Malam Nasir el-Rufai and the state's Governor-elect Senator Uba Sani have bagged Nigerian Leadership Award (NLA) 12th edition.

Privileged Magazine and Communications Nigeria Limited, conferred on Governor el-Rufai the award in Kaduna at the weekend as Infrastructural Man of the Year, Uba Sani as NLA Political Champion of the Year, alongside Member-elect for Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency, Hon. Ekene Abubakar Adams as Political Gladiator in the area of Human and Societal Development.

Others who bagged the prestigious award include, a former Governor of Kaduna State, Mohammed

Ahmed Makarfi, gubernatorial candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Rt. Hon. Isah Ashiru Kudan, NLA Female Politician of the Year, Hon. Murjanatu Suleiman Shika, among others.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Executive Officer, Privileged Magazine and Communications Nigeria Limited, Hon. Victor Matthew Bobai, said the award aims to encourage leaders who have contributed their quota to both human and national development.

Bobai said that the awardees were carefully selected based on their track records from the various areas of specialisation after which an online voting was conducted and winners emerged.

He stressed that the firm discovered that the

achievers have been doing a lot of things unnoticed and that triggered them to bring them to the notice of the public so that their efforts can be widely celebrated.

Speaking on behalf of the awardees, ex Governor Makarfi said he is delighted to emerge NLA Man of the year.

Makarfi who was represented by Comrade Faisal Ahmed, said the former governor cherishes the award because this is the only way those who made indelible marks can be recognized.

In the same vein, the Female Politician of the Year, Hon. Murjanatu Suleiman Shika, said she felt honoured, by the award.

Murjanatu disclosed that the award is for all women making contributions to nation building in whatever capacity

especially those in the world of politics.

She said, "I feel great, I feel honoured and I am encouraged that someone is watching what am doing and that's quite appealing."

"This award as best Female Politician of the year is to all women out there. It also mean to the female counterparts that you can do it in the most decent ways possible and you can also make your achievements count.

"So am equally so happy with it. What I have always done, i will keep pushing for the voice of the females and keep making our voices count and keep making sure that whatever we stand for is achieved.

She also said that the APC government in Kaduna State has given women the opportunity to thrive in politics, urged the incoming administration to carry women along for all inclusiveness.

Yari A Bridge Builder, Deserves To Lead 10th Assembly - Arewa Group



Yari

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

While describing former Zamfara State Governor, Abdulazeez Yari as a bridge builder, a group, Arewa Educational Foundation, Youth Development & Political Research, has charged all new and returning Senators to consider electing him President of the 10th Senate.

The group expressed this in a statement signed by its President, Yusuf Makarfi, made available to newsmen in Kaduna on Tuesday May 23, 2023.

"Senator Yari is a truly democratic and far sighted leader with enormous intellectual resources that could guide not only the Senate, but the nation to the heights of socio-political economy.

"Looking back at his antecedence which everyone in Nigeria knows, we all unanimously without fear or favour stand beside Senator Abdulazeez Yari and endorse him for the President of the Senate.

"We also call on the entire Distinguish Senator- Elect to stand by him in the most decisive moments of our

political history..

"Senator AA Yari is loyal, humble, committed and an exceptional bridge builder that would unite the nation," the statement said.

They said that with various contestants throwing in their towel for the seat of the Senate President in the 10th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the association; which is patriotic and deeply rooted in integrity and good governance, observes that in the spirit of equity, Yari should be given the chance.

"In the spirit of equity and justice which this association was founded upon, we have finally decided on the preferred candidate to lead the 10th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and also support the President in development, peace building initiative and unifying the hallow chamber.

"By all standard of democratic measurement, His Excellency, Senator Abdul' azeez Abubakar Yari (Shatiman Mafara) stands tall and above all those that are clamoring for the coveted seat of the Senate President," the group declared.

Umahi Commends Nigerian Army For Safeguarding Country

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA,
Abakaliki

The Governor of Ebonyi State, Engineer David Nweze Umahi has commended the Nigerian Armed Forces for their sacrifices in securing the lives of Nigerians.

Engineer Umahi made the commendation during the induction of colour parade at the Nkwegu Military Cantonment, Abakaliki, yesterday.

The governor while appreciating the Chief of Army Staff for his manpower assistance to the State, appreciated men and officers of the Army especially the fallen officers for their sacrifices in winning the

war against insecurity.

"Let me commend very highly the Cantonment Commanders for their solidarity to us since coming on board, they have not only fought insecurity to a standstill, they have defeated insecurity to 95 percent, so I am very happy with the service Chiefs.

"You have been very peaceful with the battalion here and working very peacefully with other security agencies, especially the Police.

"There is no amount of appreciation that will be enough to those who have paid the supreme prize to protect us.

"I want to appreciate the Chief of Defence Staff who is my good friend

for his efforts at keeping the Nation together as one."

Engineer Umahi used the opportunity to commission a saluting dais built by the Cantonment Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Sunday Atomode.

Governor Umahi had on arrival at the Cantonment inspected a guard of honour mounted by a detachment of the Army.

The Cantonment Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Sunday Atomode presented gifts to the Governor as a mark of appreciation of his support to the Army over the years.

Alleged Corruption: Arewa Coalition Calls For EFCC Chairman's Resignation

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Coalition of Arewa Civil Society Organisations has called on the EFCC Chairman, Mr Abdulrasheed Bawa, to resign or be fired over alleged corrupt allegations.

The chairman, Coalition of Arewa Civil Society Organisations, Adamu Aminu Musa, in a statement on Sunday noted that Abdulrasheed Bawa's resignation at this point in time is sacrosanct in other to save the reputation of Nigeria before the eyes of the world.

The statement alleged, "The fourth executive Chairman, Mr Bawa has been at the centre of so many corruption allegations even before his appointment as the Chairman, which was believed to be surrounded by so many controversies and mysteries."

The statement added that Bawa operates like an emperor, using his office to intimidate, harass and force people to do his bidding, the banks, other government agencies and innocent Nigerians with backing

from his God Father, the Attorney General.

Adamu Aminu also alleged that Bawa forced the DG of NIMASA into sponsoring his family members to study abroad, adding that Mustapha and Hassan Bawa are fully sponsored by NIMASA to study Mechanical Engineering and Marine operations from 2022 to 2026 and 2022 to 2025 respectively, at the Centurion University of Technology and Management, Bhubaneswar, India.

He alleged that the EFCC chairman intimidated and harassed the NCC into giving his elder brother (Bashir Bawa) a job while he himself, employed another member of his family Yazid Bawa into the EFCC, Lagos Command.

He opined that it is shameful, betrayal of confidence, and unheard where the person leading an anti-corruption crusade is grossly engulfed in corruption.

The statement alleged that Mr Bawa travelled to Saudi Arabia

for lesser Hajj with family members and close relatives, lodged in, a very luxurious hotel that cost the humongous amount of \$300,000 for the period of the trip.

The statement stated that in December 2022, the EFCC announced its plan to sell forfeited properties and early 2023 bids were made for those properties, saying that six (6) of which were successful but no details of this bid has been made public.

World Book Day: Lagos Library Board Enjoins Schools/parents To Teach Mother Tongues

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Lagos Library Board over the weekend, joined their counterparts from across the world to celebrate the World Book day, with the theme, "Indigenous Languages". The day which was marked inside the Adeyemi Bero hall of Alawusa Secretariat, Lagos, produced goodwill messages.

Invited schools across the states also dramatised on the theme, "why Mother Tongue Must be encouraged in schools curriculum."

According to the permanent secretary, (OSAE), Mr. Adeniran Waheed Kasali, representative of the Special Adviser on Education, Barrister Tokunbo Philip Wahab, he urged all schools across

the states and by extension the country to imbibe the teaching culture of local languages during class period.

"This we must take a cue from countries like, India, China, Pakistan among others were their mother tongues has been their source of development today.

"Therefore our schools should now allow this to take the center stage of their teachings," he stated.

In his welcome address earlier, Director Library Board, Lagos State, Oyadipe Asimiyu Amoo, commended the Lagos State Government for throwing its weight on the subject matter, saying this will go a long way in recognising, developing and boosting the economic accordingly.

Other present were, Mrs Folashade Salako, representative of the Permanent Secretary,

PMO, Dr. O.A. Aina, Director, Agency For Mass Education, Ms. Kalesanwo.

Director, Admin and HR, OSAE, Mrs. Oluranti Fadipe, and Mr. Taiwo Bogunjoko, Retired Director, Library Board.

Also present were, Mr. Richard Mammah, President, Network of Book Clubs and Reading Promoters in Nigeria, Mr. Oladipo K. Paul, an Author, Ms. Josephine O. Ogufere, an Author, Ms. Funmi Ilori and CEO, iRead mobile Library Network Mr. Olubayode Treasure-Olawunmi.

Highlight of the day, witnessed the presentation of school bags and books containing Nigeria's indigenous languages to the 12 invited schools from across the six districts of the state, namely: District One

Shasha Community Senior High School, Alimosho.

Iju Senior High School Ifako Ijaye District Two

United Senior High School, Ikorodu.

Ojota Senior High School, Ojota.

District Three

Eko Akete Senior Grammar School, Lagos Island.

Girls' Academy Senior School, Lagos Island.

District Four

Birrel Avenue Senior High School, Sabo Yaba.

Sari Iganmu Senior Secondary School, Apapa.

District Five

Ojo Senior High School, Ojo

Tin Can Island Senior High School, Ajeromi.

District Six

Isolo Senior High School, Isolo

Ikeja Senior High School, Ikeja.

Rivers Police Neutralises 2 Suspected Kidnappers In Gun Duel

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Two suspect kidnappers have met their Waterloo in a shoot out with police operatives in River State, as two were shot dead in a gun duel.

One AK47 rifle and 18 live ammunition were reportedly recovered from the bandits.

The Rivers State Police Command Spokesperson, SP Grace Iringe-Koko made the disclosure in a statement at the weekend.

It reads, "C4i Intelligence Operatives of the Rivers State Police Command in the early hours of Friday 19th May, 2023, raided a suspected kidnappers' hideout at Oyigbo/Igbo-Etche Forest.

"The operatives were acting on actionable intelligence gathered on the kidnapping gang. Upon sighting the Police team the hoodlums opened fire on them. During the gun duel that lasted for about an hour, the gang leader, who was later identified as Aka Blacky, was fatally wounded. Another suspect identified as Peter Nwafor 'm' was shot while trying to escape.

"The two suspects were taken to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital where they were confirmed dead by doctor on duty. Their corpse have been deposited at the UPTH Mortuary.

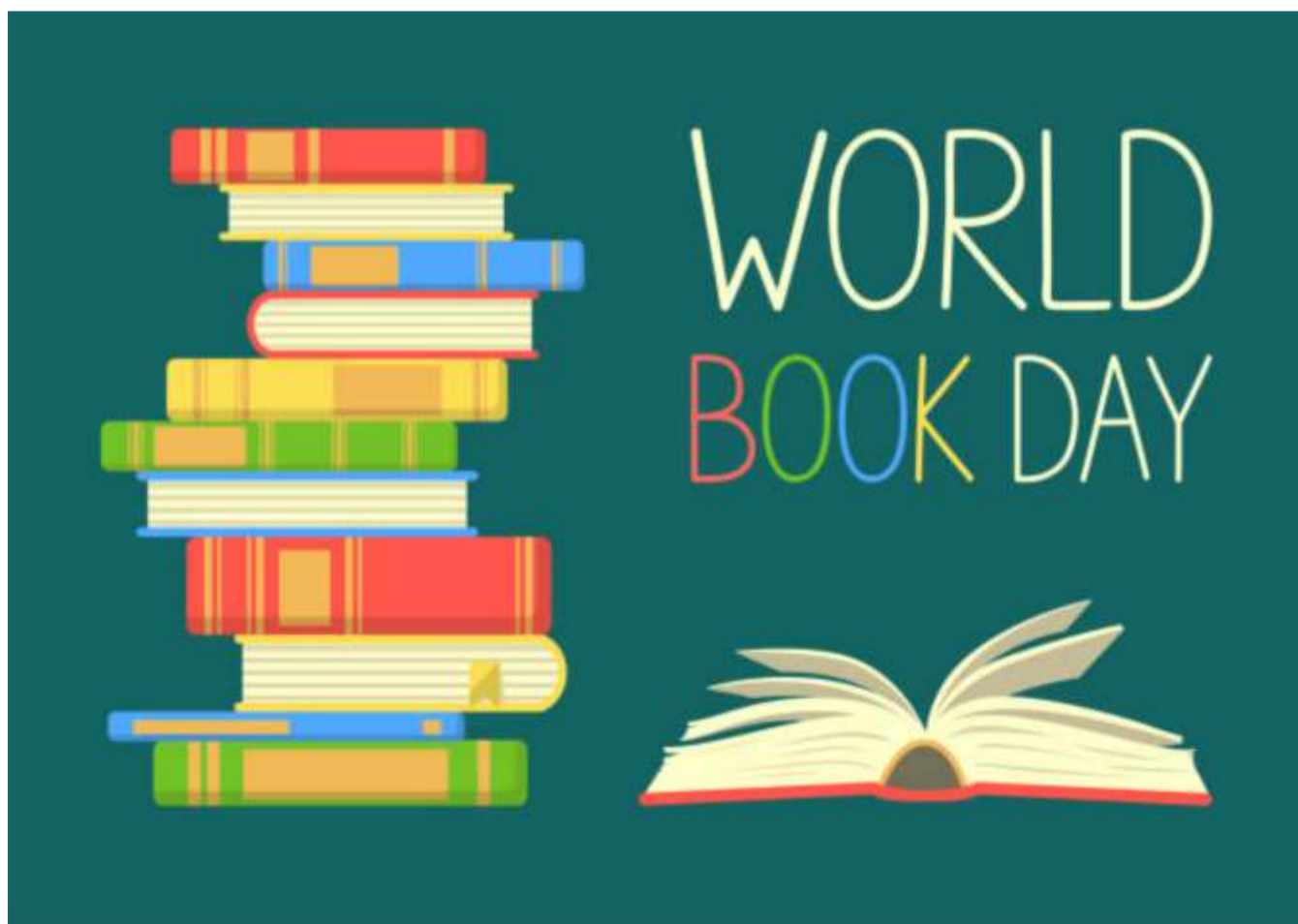
"The gang was linked to the kidnap of a woman and her daughter on 18th March, 2023 along Garrison, Port Harcourt. It would be recalled that two members of the gang had earlier been arrested.

"Exhibit recovered at the scene include 1 AK47 Rifle and 18 Live Ammunition.

"Meanwhile, residents of the state are advised to remain supportive, law-abiding, and vigilant and promptly report acts of crime and criminality to the nearest police station or by calling the command's emergency hotlines on 08032003514 and 08098880134".



IGP Usman Alkali



Anti-Party: Kogi APC Suspends Ward ExcOs In Igalamela/Odolu LGA

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Kogi State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) has suspended the entire executive officers of all the wards in Igalamela/Odolu Local Government Area of the state for alleged anti-party activities.

In a statement issued on Saturday and signed by the Kogi APC State Secretary, Joshua Onoja, the suspension and dissolution were sequel to the accusations of financial inducement to weaken the

party in the state.

It reads, "The Kogi State Chapter of the All Progressives Congress has received disturbing reports of gross violation of the constitution of the party by Ward and Local Government Executives of the party, who ordinarily should be the custodian of the sanctity of our party's constitution.

"Allegations of anti-party activities and financial inducement to weaken the party have been established as some executives of the party are under very serious

investigations.

"To this end, the entire executives of the party in Igalamela/Odolu Local Government Area from the Wards to the Local Government level are hereby dissolved."

Meanwhile, the party said a caretaker committee would be constituted immediately to pilot the affairs of the party in the affected council as it directed all suspended officers to hand over all party materials in their possession to the state

secretariat in Lokoja.

The leadership of the party warned the sacked officers to desist from parading themselves as executives.

The officials of the party from the wards to the local government level in Igalamela/Odolu Local Government Area are hereby directed to submit party materials in their possession to the state secretariat in Lokoja and cease forthwith to operate as executives with immediate effect.

I Have No Regrets Leaving PDP For APC - Senator Balogun

*Says Makinde begged him with second term ticket, he rejected

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Senator representing Oyo South Senatorial District, Senator Kola Balogun has hinted that he has no regrets leaving the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the All Progressives Congress (APC) despite not securing second term ticket to the National Assembly.

Senator Balogun who dropped this hint on Saturday while featuring on Fresh FM 105.9FM live interview programme "South West Political Circuit" also said Gov Seyi Makinde begged him to come back to the PDP and picked the party's Senatorial ticket after he left the party but that he rejected the offer.

The APC Senator stressed that the governor offered him the ticket before the primary which produced Mogaji Joseph Tegbe as the PDP candidate for the election in Oyo South Senatorial District.

"What may not be known to most people, the general public, is that at a point after I left the party and there was this controversy on whether what he did was right or wrong, he actually sent for me to come back and take the ticket. That was before the primary that produced Joseph Tegbe (the PDP candidate for the Oyo South Senatorial District in the 2023 elections)," he said.

Senator Balogun added, "Gov

Makinde actually sent someone to my wife- a lady- to please tell me to come back and take the ticket. I was in Abuja. My wife called me and said the governor said I should come and take the ticket. But I said I don't want the ticket anymore. I said 'no, he can keep his ticket. I am gone, goodbye'. So, that was what happened at that time"

"My life is not only about being a Senator. I have been something before I became a senator. By God's grace, I will continue to be something after being a senator. I said what, that (going back for the ticket) means is that I will be subjected to public ridicule within a space of one month to be jumping from PDP to APC and back to PDP, all in the name of a senatorial ticket."

He maintained that he had no regret leaving the PDP for the APC despite the fact that he failed to secure the ticket of his new party to seek a return to the National Assembly.

"I have no regrets leaving

PDP. I will not do anything different, leaving for APC. What you may not know is that, that was the most unexpected thing to happen, not just by me but by a lot of PDP members, leaders and followers.

Speaking further, Senator Balogun stressed, "this was because the governor (Seyi Makinde) and I were really close. He was always telling whoever that cares to know that there was no vacancy in Oyo South Senatorial District", saying, "but you know, politics is a long concentric circles of intrigues. 24 hours is a long time in politics. You think the deal is done, is sealed, but you wake up the next day, something else is happening. So, things happened that changed the colour of that arrangement,"

Senator Balogun stressed that a lot of PDP senators were upset with Governor Makinde about the decision to withdraw his second term ticket, saying, "Senator Gabriel Suswam told me he saw him somewhere and asked why he should do that."

"This is because when (Prince Uche) Secondus was the PDP National chairman, the National Assembly PDP Caucus and the National Working Committee, the state governors and senators are not usually friends. There is always this unhealthy rivalry between governors and Senators. But mine was different.

"Each time my colleagues were talking at such caucus meetings about their terrible experience with their governors, I was the only one that was saying my governor and I were close and we were truly close."

There was a day we, Senate Committee on the Army, came on an oversight to Oyo State, led by Senator Ali Ndume. We didn't tell the governor that we were coming. Ndume said, 'we are going to a PDP state, I don't know if the governor will receive us'. I said, 'why not?' Senator Balogun added, "I called the governor, he picked it and he said, 'please come' and he received us. They were surprised. One of my colleagues, Senator Hassan Gusau, the immediate past deputy governor of Zamfara State, now made a comment- before the camera. My governor, I want you and your senator to keep the relationship going because this is the first time I will see a governor and his senator working together'. He said this to him in the Governor's Office.

Our Hospital Demolished With Patients Dragged Out, Shiites Cry Out

*Say 7 other buildings demolished yesterday

*Call on public to prevail to prevent bloodshed

*Say their group is not IMN

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria, have condemned the early Sunday morning demolishing of eight property linked to their members within Kaduna metropolis, with one of the affected buildings, a hospital, which had patients on admission.

Briefing the press yesterday in Kaduna, the Islamic group called on well meaning Nigerians to prevail on Kaduna State Governor, Malam Nasir el-Rufai to abandon the planned demolition of 40 other houses linked to their members.

Reading the text of the briefing on behalf of the group, Mal. Aliyu Umar said that, "We cannot fold our hands, we must talk. We are bonafide citizens of Nigeria. el-Rufai is not a bonafide citizens than me. He is bastardizing everybody," he said.

According to him, "A leaked memo written and signed by the Director General, KASUPDA (Kaduna State Urban Planning and Development Authority), I s m a i l U m a r u P S / O F F / 7 A / Z I / 3 3 8 (Pg 71), dated 20th April 2023, addressed to the PPS (Principal Private Secretary of the Governor), through the Commissioner, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Kaduna State, on the above subject matter is relevant

"It is noticed from the memo, 48 structures belonging to the Islamic movement is earmarked for demolition across the state; 1,860 security personnel will be involved and N20,253,500 will be the cost of the demolition exercise.

"The sinister motive is to particularly clamp down on the Islamic movement once again. To cover up the deception for the exercise, 7 other locations were earmarked, but

"None of those locations

will cost up to

N2,500,000 and NONE

will require above 180 security personnel to execute! The total cost approved for the exercise is

N29,523,500 and the

total security personnel required is N2,510," he said.

He explained that from the memo, the acronym

'IMN' is

alien to the Islamic

Movement under the

leadership of Allamah,

Sheikh Ibraheem Zakzaky

(H) and members of the

movement have their

various hard earned

properties/structures as

citizens of the Federal

Republic of Nigeria.

"We wrote a rejoinder /

release on Thursday 18th

May, 2023 requesting the

Kaduna State

Government and people of

conscious to prevail on the

El-Rufai Government to

stop the unholy

demolition exercise few

days to handing over to

allow for peace and

tranquility. Copies were

dispatched to the Kaduna

State, Commissioner of

Police, DSS, Speaker



Sheikh Ibraheem Zakzaky

purpose of this demolition exercise it to again subjugate and oppress members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria. We view this as an act of provocation and suppression that tantamount to the infringement of our fundamental human rights as citizens and indigenes of Kaduna State.

"Furthermore, we would

like to seize this opportunity to call on the

Government to release the

International passport of

our leader, Sayyid, Sheikh

Ibraheem Zakzaky (H) and that of his wife, Malama

Zeenatudeen Ibrahim, without further delay to

enable them seek medical treatment abroad. We also

demand for the release of

hundreds of our members that are in

detention centres across

the country," he said.

Speaking outside the text of the briefing, he alleged that immediately they finished demolishing the

hospital, they went to their school, descended and demolished everything.

"From there, they went to another school in

Tidunwada, a storey building, which they went and brought down

"They went to Kawo a brother's house, who has

the picture of Sheikh Zakzaky pasted there, that was his offence, his house was brought down," he explained.

Speaking further, he alleged that their leader, Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky has been detained 11 times, taken to court nine times, since 1979 till date.

"He always wins. He has never been convicted, always defeating the government.

"This time he was discharged, all the 500 members accused were discharged," he pointed out.

He said that they are not violent, and they will continue to follow the path of peace by seeking justice at the courts.

"Why must he take that position as if he is above the law.

"We are calling on people of conscience to prevail on them to stop.

"They said 48 structures would be demolished, already eight are down, they should stop to prevent bloodshed.

"People may want to react. Enough is enough, this must stop. Since 2015, there is no month they won't kill our members. We are not IMN. We are Islamic Movement in Nigeria, but we are not IMN, otherwise, you can call us the Shiites if you like," he declared.

Buhari Flags Off NNPC Wadi-B Oil Drilling In Borno

*NNPCL GMD says new approach to drilling required

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

President Muhammadu Buhari has finally yesterday, flagged off crude oil drilling campaign at Wadi-B 1 Tuba Village, 35 kilometers away from Maiduguri City, off Monguno Road in Borno State which was prospected in 2017, but work on site was suspended due to Boko Haram insurgency and its attendant security threats.

He also said that the oil exploration if successful, will improve security, electricity energy and prosper socio economic growth and development of the state in addition to other opportunities in addressing unemployment and low economic growth and development.

President Buhari who made his speech virtually, appreciated the people and government of Borno State, while commending the traditional institution for their roles and the Nigerian military for restoring peace in the state and region

at large.

Buhari further commended the management and board of the NNPC and the Upstream Service Limited, for the evaluation and campaign.

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State while flagging off the oil exploration project on behalf of President Muhammadu Buhari, said that his administration will do everything possible to support the staff and management of NNPC to actualize the availability of crude oil in the state and Lake Chad Basin.

Zulum further assured of his government's full support at all times, towards realization of the prospective crude oil, while commending the Nigerian military for their efforts and support in protecting lives and property of the citizens, while restoring peace in the state against the insurgency.

He also appreciated the support and

concern of President Buhari towards the people and government of Borno in terms of material and non material items distribution of food, funds and security to the state.

The governor also recognized the support and role of the traditional council in the restoration of peace process, development and progress of the state in synergy with the government policies, projects and programmes.

The Chairman, NNPC Governing Board, Senator Margery Chubo Okadigbo assured the people and government of Borno State of the corporation's readiness and willingness to realize the oil exploration prospect, while thanking President Buhari for his support and approval for the return of oil exploration to the Lake Chad Basin.

She also pledged that the corporation will continue to explore other areas and states to boost oil and gas prospects drilling in

the interest of national development and growth.

The Group Chief Executive Officer NNPC, Mele Kyari in his remarks, said that the company is optimistic that the drilling exercise would help in its efforts to bring prosperity to the people through the elimination of energy poverty which is threatening Africa's biggest economy.

According to him, the NNPC had stopped drilling in Wadi-B in 1995 because successes were weak and findings made during the period were not in commercial quantity.

Kyari said, "We understood very clearly that we need to understand the basin very well. We need to have a different approach to exploration activities in this very basin and that is why NNPC and our partners, the Ministry of Petroleum Resources and the current Upstream Regulatory Commission decided to embark on massive reevaluation of all the frontier



Buhari Flags Off NNPC Wadi-B Oil Drilling In Borno

*NNPCL GMD says new approach to drilling required

basins in the country.

“Now we are much more confident, we believe that this campaign will be successful and that this campaign will take us to the ultimate objective which is to increase the reserves of our country and also create opportunities around us. We believe that the time for oil and gas to vanish is still far away.

“We believe that oil and gas will continue to be principal in determination of the prosperity of our country of course more especially, providing energy security for our country. And this can't happen unless we have access to the resources and we are able to convert them into value and of course a new approach to doing this that is practical which is what we are doing in the Kolmani area.”

According to the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), the Wells have total depth of 14,000 feet, while the NNPC Enserv also said geologists have seen many potential reservoirs and

the company is set to prove that the hydrocarbon there could be oil, gas or both as Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) has resumed oil exploration in the Lake Chad Basin in Borno state before the corporation stopped the process.

The Executive Director, Frontier Exploration Services at NNPC, Mukhtar Zanna, said NNPC using ACME Rig 5 will be drilling 14,000 feet into the Wadi-B well to get oil and associated gas.

“We are optimistic because we have read the data, also we have new technology. Following the demographic data, we added new emerging technology and deployed, including assessment detection, magnetic technique.” while the EDzf, Exploration Services at NNPC, Aminu Maitama, was hopeful of an oil find, saying. “So, we believe in this location, we are going to report oil and gas in commercial quantities.” Zanna said.

According to officials of the NNPC Energy Service Ltd (ENSERV), the project is being done under NNPC Frontier Exploration Service for the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, NUPRC, nothing that, exploration had earlier commenced in 1976 and continued until 1996 with the processing of 33,000km of 2D Seismic data which identified three prospective sub-basins (Gubio, Maiduguri & Baga/Lake Area).

Between 2008 and 2018, NNPC processed 1,962.20km² of 3D Seismic data; in 2014, it suspended the Seismic Acquisition Operations due to insurgency. NNPC in July 2017 also announced the halt of the exploration activities after some workers recorded insurgency attacks.

The fresh drilling is part of the scramble for oil and gas deposits in Nigeria's frontier basins.



WRAPA Task Stakeholders On Implementation, Passage Of VAPP Law, GEO Bill In Kaduna

By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Women Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA), has tasked all stakeholders in Kaduna State working to ensure reduction in cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV), to work harder until the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law is fully being implemented in the State.

Mohammed Maifada, Senior Programme Officer of the organization who gave the charge in Kaduna, during a public campaign for the prevention and accountability for Violence Against Women and Girls and the effective implementation of the Kaduna State, also urged them not to relent in making sure that the Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) Bill, is equally passed to law.

According to him, despite efforts by both donors and all stakeholders, much success has not been recorded in terms of the use of the VAPP Law in trying cases of GBV in the State.

He said the movement of GEO bill has been back and forth as the status of the bill is currently not known after stakeholders re-presented back to government. Maifada, disclosed that though, WRAPA has been at the forefront of pushing advocacy for passage of the bill and full implementation of the VAPP Law, but the project under which that is being done is gradually winding down as such, there would be need for stakeholders to begin to think of a sustainability plan.

He noted that the meeting was an avenue to re-access the level of commitment by the various

stakeholders; what they have done and still doing and what structures are being put in place to sustain the campaign.

The Senior Programme Officer, however commended the stakeholders which comprises Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Lawyers, Police, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Traditional and Religious, Vigilante Groups, etc for their efforts urging them to build on the successes so far recorded.

WRAPA is supported by the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) to implement a two-year project titled "Legal and Social Empowerment Program on Women's Rights in Kaduna and Plateau States". The project seeks to achieve the effective implementation of the Model Laws, which seeks

to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls and promote equal opportunities for beneficiaries of the project intervention, (women and girls).

On her part, the State project Officer, Barrister Bukola Ajao, explained that a lot of progress has been made by stakeholders in the state in terms of sensitization and awareness creation, as many people have now become aware of the existence of the VAPP Law in the state.

She said victims of GBV are now gradually coming out to seek for help because of the information being shared everywhere.

Ajao, added that the establishment of an SGBV Coalition in the State is one of the stakeholders sustainability plan to ensure the model laws are fully functional in the State.

Akwa Ibom Digitizes Public Service

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Akwa Ibom State Government has stepped up its efforts to revolutionise the operations of the civil service and end the duplication of personnel records.

Unveiling the digitized system in Uyo yesterday, the state governor, Mr Udom Emmanuel said the digitalisation which consists of the Human Resource Management and Asset Records of the state public service will make the management of over 29,000 workers easy with just a click of button on the computer.

Emmanuel added that the desire to digitize the civil service is in compliance with the dictates of the 21st century, adding that it would revolutionise the operations of the civil service and end the duplication of personnel records.

"When I came into office, I had the challenges of workers, pensioners coming to do verification. I said not in the 21st century can we be going through all these? Seamlessly, there can be a process that from the day you are applying into the civil service, you can just run through until the day you leave this earth, and that is what we just launched today.

"I challenged my people that I would not leave office with what I inherited. The day I leave office, I must hand over to my successor, a full digitized civil service, at least starting from the human resource manager which is a major challenge.

"So with what you are seeing here today, if we are advertising for a vacancy, say in the civil service, once you click and apply, the system would automatically assign you a number, and that number would be like your social security number. In other developed nations; that is the number you would use until you are out.

"With that number, you apply, and they would invite you for interview, through that number you would be employed, you would retain that number. That number would be your file number, that number would be the number that will follow through your promotions, different grades, different salary steps until you get to where you retire.

"Once you retire, automatically that number would be assigned to your pension account. So you don't need to go back into series of verification exercises again. So seamlessly, that would be well monitored," he stated. Speaking on how the digitized operations work, the Head of Civil Service, Elder Effiong Essien said Governor Emmanuel mandated the task of digitizing the civil service in 2021.

Essien stated that though it

was a tedious task, it was achieved, adding that the human resources management system of the operation is a solution to the management of the human resources from entry into the service to retirement.

He explained that the operations consists of self service, human resource data management, performance management and recruitment, noting that it is operational in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and all employees of government can login with their particulars.

"I feel excited and fulfilled that the Human Resource Management System (HRMS), and the Asset Management System (ARS) which you envisioned and directed for implementation in 2021 is a reality today.

"The configuration of the system and the digitisation of the Human Resource Management and Asset Records of the state government has been completed and the solutions are live.

"It may be of interest to know that having to dig up files and other personnel records that have been dormant in the deep for years, dust, sort, invert, record, index, verify, scan each page; label, merge and upload the data into the system for nearly 29,000 workers were quite time consuming. We thank God that the effort has yielded the expected result.

"In addition to digitization of the records, hands-on training for state executive members, permanent secretary, directors, registrars and 243 trainers, that is train the trainees from all the MDAs have also been achieved.

"Today, the systems are ready for inauguration and officially go live. The human resources management system is a one stop solution for the management of the human resources from entry into the service to retirement.

"It comprises four main application modules namely: self service, human resource data management, performance management and recruitment. The solution is deployed in all the MDAs and is open to all the employees of government to login with their particulars.

"General employee operations include request for correction, leave application among others. Records of 24,630 of the main service has been captured and uploaded with allowance for more capturing as data arises.

"The Asset Management System has been deployed to 106 MDAs with a total of 530 authentic and authorized users. The application is open for patronage from all MDAs, though not all employees are authorized to operate it," he explained.



Governor Udom Emmanuel unveiling the Digitalized public service

Trader Bags Two-year imprisonment for dealing in hemp In Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A Federal High Court in Kaduna, sentenced Ismail Mustapha, a 37-year-old trader, to two-year imprisonment for unlawful possession of Cannabis sativa (hemp). The judge, Hadiza Shagari, passed the sentence on Mustapha

after he pleaded guilty to the charge on Friday.

The judge, however, gave Ismail Mustapha the fine option of N50,000, saying that the convict was a first-time offender.

Shagari warned the convict against indulging in such illicit business after serving his jail term, assuring that the court would not be lenient on

him if found guilty next time.

Justice Shagari ordered the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency to destroy the hemp in the presence of the chief registrar of the court.

Mustapha was arraigned by the NDLEA on one count of possession of illicit drugs by the NDLEA prosecutor, Mr T. J. Atserheg, who told the

court that the convict was arrested by the NDLEA officials on May 10, 2023 with the substance.

The prosecutor tendered some documents in evidence as well as some remnants of the substance, saying that the offence contravened Section 11c of the NDLEA Act, Cap 30, Laws of the Federation, 2004.

Kaduna Catholic Archdiocese Combats Climate Change, To Plant 20,000 Trees In 5 Years

By: JACOB ONJEWU DOCKSON

As part of its efforts to fight deforestation and climate change, the Catholic Archdiocese of Kaduna has concluded plans to plant 20,000 trees by 2027.

The Catholic Archbishop of Kaduna, Most Rev Matthew Man-Oso Ndagoso during the tree planting campaign flag off on Sunday in Kaduna which was organized by Justice

Development and Peace Caritas (JDPC), Commission for Environment and Archdiocesan Pastoral Executive Council (APEC) said, "we have caused damages to the mother earth, the damages which we have caused, at least something can be done about it by planting trees.

"We are trying to see how to start healing the injuries we have caused the mother Earth, what can we do to renew the face of

the earth? So, we are encouraging Nigerians to start planting trees especially during this raining season".

He also encourage children to join in planting trees, noting that children still have a long way to go, "children are success of tree planting, the future belongs to them, he said.

Archbishop Ndagoso who is also the vice president, Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) reiterated that

Nigerians should develop the habit of planting especially economic trees, adding that they are sources of income.

The Coordinator, JDPC, Kaduna Archdiocese, Rev Fr Joshua Achir said that the church wants to plant 20,000 trees within the next five years, starting this year.

"We want to plant 20,000 trees in five years, 4,000 for each year, we just started the campaign

with 2,500 trees, it is hoped that next Friday, it would be stepped down to the communities". He explained.

On her part, the Chairman, Care of Environment Commission, Archdiocese of Kaduna, Catherine Ishu said, "we are sensitising Nigerians on the importance of planting trees, we are also forming children groups that will water this trees that have been planted".



Timi Frank To Buhari: Sack NDDC Board Before Leaving, Over Infighting, Corruption Allegations

**Urges EFCC, ICPC to launch probe*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A political activist and former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, has appealed to President Muhammadu Buhari to sack the Board and current management of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) due to various accusations and counter accusations of corruption within the commission.

Frank said these counter allegations and infighting between the Management team and the Chairman of the Board of NDDC has once again opened up the ugly chapter of the past, where the infighting ends up derailing the overall performances of the commission thereby, short-changing the people of the Niger Delta, yet enriching some with personal gains.

In a statement released to newsmen Monday in Abuja, the Bayelsa born political activist also called on the anti-corruption agencies to quickly intervene and launch probe into some of the revelations of corruption allegations made by the Board against the Commission's Managing Director.

According to Frank, the inability to properly defend the 2021, 2022 & 2023 budget in unison at the Senate is a clear testament to the fact that the board lacks the basic prerequisites to oversee the affairs of the NDDC.

He said the people of Nigeria Delta had hoped that the new board would grow to become the hope and fresh air to the region, "but alas we're confronted with the same dilemma of corruption allegations and counter accusations by those responsible in managing the resources of the people.

"It is clear from the foregoing that the inability to work in unison for the overall good of the people will render the activities of the Commission in



Timi Frank

jeopardy."

The statement added that the people of the Niger Delta are tired of being the scape goats whenever these infighting arises because of greed and selfishness.

"Following recent revelations of corruption in the NDDC and counter accusations of mismanagement between the recently inaugurated board and management of the commission at the Senate, it will be safe to conclude that the primary objective of piloting the affairs of the commission has suffered yet another setback in the twilight of this new management board.

"Furthermore, the fact that this expose, is coming at a time when all hands are supposed to be on deck in midwifing the rebirth of a new NDDC is very worrisome and embarrassing.

"Instead of harmonizing the blueprint for building a sustainable commission saddled with the responsibility of delivering first class interventions to the people of the Niger Delta, the NDDC is rather confronted yet again with

weighty allegations of corruption by members of its own board whose tenure only began less than 5 months ago.

"The startling revelations by the Chairwoman and counter accusations by the Managing Director and his team has once again left a sour taste in the minds of all genuine stakeholders in the Niger Delta project.

"Most shocking is the allegation of inflating the MD's imprest and the operation of several accounts as confirmed by the Executive Director Finance & Admin rather than maintaining a single account as stipulated by the Federal Government under the Treasury Single Account (TSA).

"Going by these embarrassing scenarios of distrust and the inability to properly harmonize working relationships between the board and its members, it will be safe to recommend a total dissolution of the board to give way for a more proactive and people's oriented board to midwife the NDDC into a world class intervention agency.

"It is noteworthy that even after a forensic audit was

carried out by the FG, paving the way for the smooth operations of the Incoming board, we're still confronted with the same quagmire bedeviling the commission."

Frank, who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), Ambassador to East Africa and Middle East, called on the National Assembly, EFCC and other anti-corruption agencies to thoroughly investigate the accusations.

"I'm therefore calling on the National Assembly and the EFCC to urgently investigate these accusations of corruption in the NDDC by the board and come up with its findings for a proper recommendation to the Federal Government.

"We have had enough of these embarrassing situations in the NDDC and the Niger Delta at large and every stakeholder has a responsibility in speaking out at this time whilst ensuring that the proper image of the Commission is maintained in delivering the dividends of the region to the people."

Northern Group Calls On EFCC To Distance Self From Matawalle Of Zamfara State

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Northern Consensus Movement (NCM), has said that it been observing with keen interest the recent happenings and "blatant abuse of power and privilege demonstrated by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission against the personality of Governor Bello Matawalle of Zamfara State".

This was expressed in a statement jointly signed by National Director Projects & Organization, Yusuf Garba and Director Youth Organization, Alhaji Abdulkareem Bayero.

"Imperatively, it is necessary to clearly and unequivocally state here that; the EFCC is not a political wing of our democratic set up and should be unbiased and non - prejudicial in the discharge of its responsibilities and not witch - hunting or remote control Agency.

"The action of EFCC against Gov. Matawalle is clearly geared towards political desperation, witch - hunting and bent toward acting a script of some political opponents that are not in the books or symmetric with Governor

Bello Matawalle and want to tarnish and dent his political image with unsubstantiated corruption charges which have lately become the hallmark of which the EFCC is define," the statement said.

They explained that to set the record straight, while it is true that everyone in the government and outside of it has skeleton in cupboards, "we have taken a tour of Zamfara State and have witnessed the unprecedented developmental initiative and projects Governor Bello Matawalle put in place which are far beyond his predecessors and all developmental studies have also shown that his human resources capacity development is unbeaten by his predecessors.

"Most importantly, we call on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) with strong voice to thread with caution the issue of Governor BELLO Matawalle for peace and other vital economic developments to be concluded by the ebullient Governor instead of the Commission to engage in a wild goose chase which will ultimately be part of one of their many witch-hunting cases."



Malawalle

Medical Director Applauds Family Physicians For Effective Service, Calls For Gov Intervention

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The Head of Department, Family Medicine at the 44 Army Hospital Kaduna, Dr. Paul Odumu has said that Family Physicians play a significant role by being the heart and center of healthcare delivery for the development of the health sector.

Dr. Paul Odumu who is also the Chief Executive Officer of a Christian Missionary Group, Odumehaje Christian Medical Mission (OCMM), stated this in an interview with newsmen to mark the World Family Doctors Day that is observed every May 19, in Kaduna.

He explained that being the first point of contact for patients seeking medical care,

they were also instrumental in delivering personal, comprehensive and continuous care to patients.

According to Dr. Odumu, Family Physicians are well trained in the areas of care, treatment and referral of patients to other specialists, who eventually return to them for continued care, and treatment.

He pointed out that, the primary and secondary care givers also give home care to patients, noting that, in Nigeria, the Family Physicians were trained to give eighty percent care, to eighty percent patients, using eighty percent of their time.

The medical philanthropist posited that with the long lasting relationship, it made

it easier for them to understand the medical history of their patients, lifestyle and social circumstances which enable them offer personalized care and effective support.

According to Odumu, it's pertinent to note that, Family Physicians take a holistic approach to health-care that cut across the physical, emotional, social and psychological wellbeing, as they focused on preventive care, screening and Early detection of illness to effective treatment. The Medical Director with the 44 Army Hospital Kaduna, is advocating for a holistic and routine medical examination in addition to embracing a positive lifestyle by the citizens to promote a

healthy nation for growth and development.

Dr. Odumu on the issue of mass exodus of doctors in search for greener pastures abroad, enjoined government to equip the medical sector with adequate health facilities capable of tackling the myriads of health challenges in the country.

He also called on government to embarked on massive training and retraining of Family Physicians and other health personnel toward building their capacity with the requisite skills and knowledge that would enable them deliver effectively in the sector for sustainable growth and development of Nigeria.



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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

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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

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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

Forestry Research Institute DG Has Rekindled Hope Among Staff - Joint Union

***Urge him to make institute envy of research institutes in Nigeria**
***Tell Buhari, Minister to ignore his critics**

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The Joint Union Action Committee of Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), Federal College of Forestry Mechanization, Afaka Kaduna, has hailed the Director General, Professor Zachariah B. Yaduma for what they described as innovative leadership that has motivated and inspired staff of the institute.

They expressed this at a press briefing held on Saturday May 20, 2023, at the institute, with the text read by Chairman, Joint Action Committee, Comrade Isaac J. Maisamari.

"We are confident, based on the evidence of the work the new Director General has done so far, the hope he has rekindled among staff, the renewed motivation his leadership style and personality brings, that after his tenure, the history of FRIN will be in two halves, FRIN before the coming of Associate Professor Zachariah B. Yaduma and FRIN from the time of Associate Professor Zacharia B. Yaduma," the joint union said.

According to them, "God bless you if you are still alive then, you will testify that FRIN from the time of Associate Professor Zachariah B. Yaduma will be greater, more honourable, more productive, than FRIN before him.

Finally, on behalf of all the Staff and Unions in FRIN and her Colleges, we congratulate the game-changing Director General and wish him a successful and productive tenure.

From the text of the briefing titled, "IT IS A NEW DAWN IN FRIN AND WE ARE BLESSED TO WITNESS IT" the Joint Union Action Committee said that it was held in support of the laudable appointment of Associate Professor Zachariah B. Yaduma as Director General / Chief Executive Officer of Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN).

"We invited you to this press conference today to share with

you, our colleagues in FRIN and Colleges and thus the whole world, the good news that a breath of fresh air is blowing across the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, FRIN.

"You would recall that on April 1st 2023, Dr Zachariah B. Yaduma was appointed and two days after, he assumed office as the second Director General of Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), after the pioneer DG, Professor Adeshola Adepoku.

"For the records, Dr Zachariah B. Yaduma is an Associate Professor of Ecosystem Management (Wildlife Conservation and Management). For his education, he obtained a National Diploma (ND) in Forestry, at the Federal College of Forestry, Ibadan, in 1985. he did not stop there," they recalled.

According to them, he went on to obtain a Bachelor of Technology in Forestry and Wildlife Management in the year 1997, at the Federal University of Technology, Yola, followed by Masters of Science (M.Sc) in Ecosystem Management (Wildlife Conservation and Management), in 2002 and then to crown it all, a PhD in the same course, the same university, ten years later (2012).

"There is no question that the new Director General is an eminently qualified Academic and Researcher with many years of experience both in the academia and ministry. He is level-headed, unassuming, God-fearing and a detribalized visionary.

"He worked in the Ministry of Agriculture, Yola, from 1991 to 2004, Asmau Farms Nigeria LTD, 2004 to 2009, then Ministry of Environment, Yola, from 2009 to 2014, and afterwards he transferred his services to Modibo Adama University of Technology, MAUTEch, Yola, where he was imparting knowledge to both undergraduate and post graduate students at all levels and impacting lives, until his

appointment as Director General on 1st April, 2023. No doubt, this man is a round peg in a round hole.

"It may interest you to know that in his less than 2 months in office, he has since toured round most of the Colleges and outstations of the institute and wherever he went, he gave hope to the staff who chanted "Light has come" in his support.

"From every indication, Associate Professor Yaduma is a man with the vision that FRIN needs dearly at this point in her history. For instance, when he visited Federal College of Forestry Mechanisation, Afaka, the kind of radiant faces that resonated that day moved many to tears of joy," they noted.

They said that it was the topic of conversation for more than a week at the college, the fact that there is a new dawn with a lot of promise.

"Scripture is clear, "when the righteous are in power, the people rejoice".

"According to a quote in the Soldier's Handbook, "No man is a leader until he is ratified in the minds and hearts of his men."

"On the evidence of what was witnessed across FRIN Colleges and Outstations during the tour by the Director General, we make bold to say that he is ratified, through and through, in the hearts and minds of men and women of FRIN. If you find an exception, it is on account of resistance to change not on account of a lack of promise of a better and brighter future in FRIN which the new Director General brings with him, and even symbolizes.

"Presently, the spirit of the average FRIN staff is high, readiness and motivation to work under the new, God-sent Director General, is there for everyone to see," they pointed out.

Therefore, they categorically and unequivocally threw their weight behind him and urged him to ignore all distractions and focus on seeing through his laudable vision of making FRIN the envy of research institutes in Nigeria. With the help of God, we look forward to



Prof Zachariah Yaduma

working side by side with him for the common good of FRIN and its colleges.

"At this juncture, we urge Mr President and the Honourable Minister of Environment to ignore all calls against the newly appointed Director General.

"His appointment will be fondly remembered for decades to come by staff of FRIN as the best gift of the Buhari-administration to us. We likewise enjoin the Leadership of the National Assembly (both Senate and the people's parliament, the House of Representatives) to dismiss all calls against his appointment.

"We extend the same appeal to the incoming administration and the 10th National Assembly. We can now breathe, please do not take the oxygen away.

"Fellow staff of FRIN, for too long we cried for a day on which we would have a Director General who has our welfare at

heart, both for those alive and those who die in service - since everyone must one day honour the appointment with death, and today God has answered our prayers by sending Associate Professor Zachariah B. Yaduma, whose three key concerns are WELFARE, WELFARE, and WELFARE.

"Unless our prayers in the past were hypocritical and dishonest, what we need do now is to unite and give the new Director General a chance, then back our support with both prayers and useful counsel for him to succeed. If he succeeds, we succeed.

"If, however, we focus on the minor issues and pull him down, his failure will be upon us. There is no success without unity, unity is strength, division is weakness. Remember, according to J.K. Rowling, "We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided." The joint union advised.

Rebuilding Our University System

By Jibrin Ibrahim

Last Friday, I gave the Convocation Lecture at Modibbo Adama University in Yola. The theme was the Nigerian University System and the Public Good: Pathway to Recovery. I addressed the problem of declining finances of the university system, which makes it difficult for the universities to recruit and above all to retain quality staff, engage in research and provide a conducive atmosphere for learning and research. I also addressed the more complex story about the corruption of Nigerian society in general but particularly insidious in the university, which created a mentality of looting and wanton exploitation in whatever situation people find themselves.

“The university cannot serve the public good if it is perpetually on strike. The addiction of ASUU to the strike option as the only way to promote its interests has to stop. ASUU strikes have become part of Nigeria’s national strife and trauma. Enormous working days are lost regularly due to strikes. Over the past twenty years, public universities have been closed for five years due to strikes. As Emmanuel Emmanuel, the best all-round student said in his valedictory speech, in his “final year”, there were 18 months of strikes – do the maths.”

University students’ enrolment has had an immense increase since its inception. It started from barely 100 in 1948 to 3,681 in 1962 to 7,697 in 1965-66; to about 17,750 in 1972-73, to about 250,000 in 1994. Over the past two decades, there has been an incredible growth of student numbers. Currently, there are 1,855,261 undergraduate students in Nigerian universities out of which only 102,500 are in private universities.

Meanwhile, the university landscape has been transformed significantly with the dramatic growth of private universities where lecturers are not allowed to join the union.

Nigeria’s national educational policy is based on the premise that the greatest investment that a nation can make for the quick development of its economic, political, social and human resources is education. It is considered to be the greatest force that can be used to bring about change. It is in this context that the Nigerian Constitution defines education as a public good that the State has an obligation to provide to citizens in an equitable manner as enunciated in Article 18 of the Constitution.

The problem with the constitutional policy is that successive governments since the Ibrahim Babangida regime have simply refused to place it on the policy agenda. They neither believe in it nor are they ready to implement it. There has been no national conversation on sustaining or reformulating the policy and the occasion of the in-coming government is an opportunity to place it on the public agenda.

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has however been very committed to it and has worked very hard for over four decades to sustain it. The public good was defined essentially as – FREE AND HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION PAID FOR BY THE STATE. The arrival of radical unionism in the university system meant their engagement was no longer focused on catering for the advancement of the staff welfare of academics but also to have a greater voice in the operations of the Nigerian university system and the affairs of the nation at large. ASUU radicalism has however left the society behind on the theme of education as a public good.

“The strikes have seriously affected university calendars’ over the decades and generations of students have lost one to two years of their lives waiting for their lecturers to return. The strikes have shortened teaching weeks and the

capacity of lecturers to cover the course outline thereby contributing to the decline in the quality of graduates. Precisely because of this impact, wider sections of the elite have taken their children out of public universities to private universities where ASUU is not allowed to operate so there are no strikes, and lecturers teach and cover the course outline.”

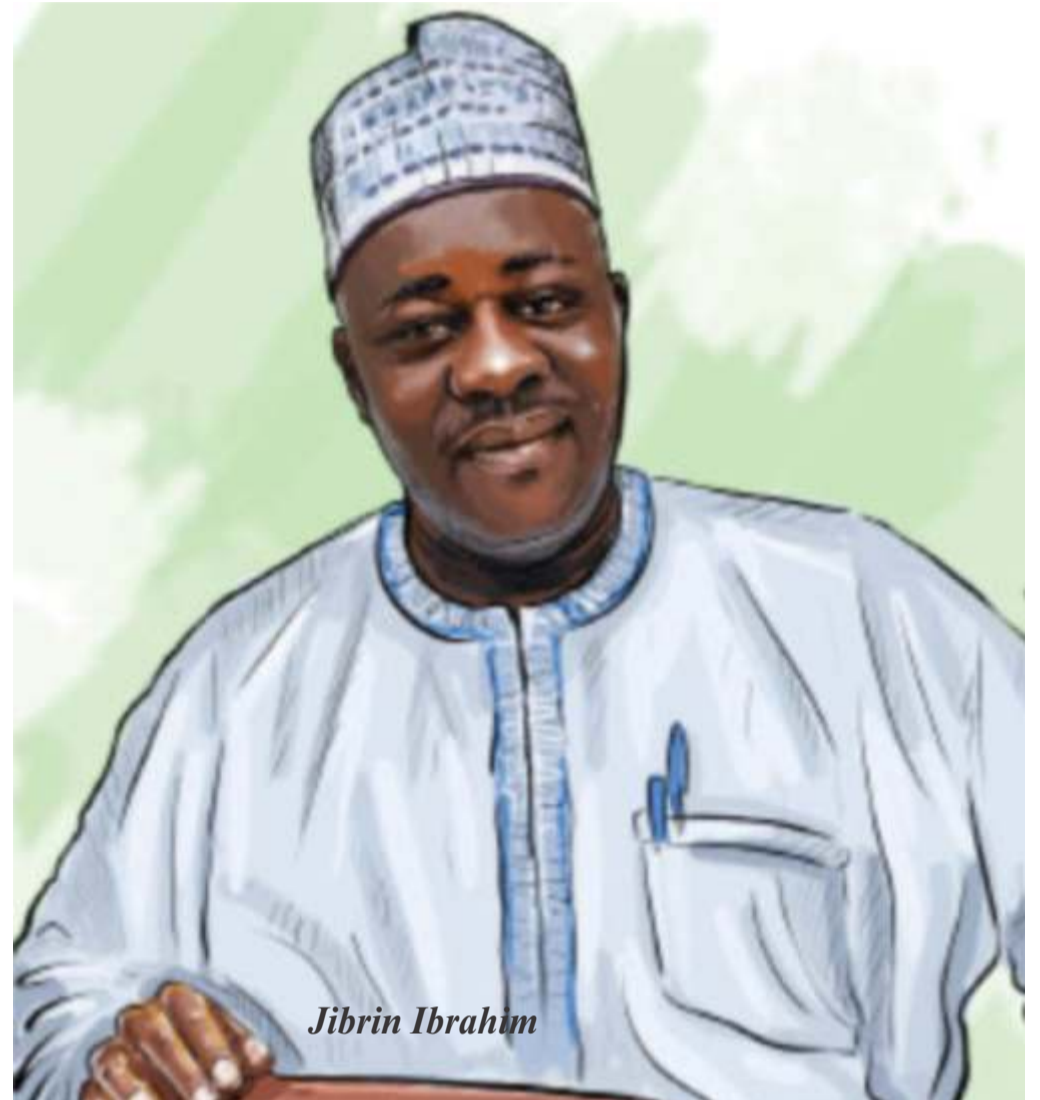
The university cannot serve the public good if it is perpetually on strike. The addiction of ASUU to the strike option as the only way to promote its interests has to stop. ASUU strikes have become part of Nigeria’s national strife and trauma. Enormous working days are lost regularly due to strikes. Over the past twenty years, public universities have been closed for five years due to strikes. As Emmanuel Emmanuel, the best all-round student said in his valedictory speech, in his “final year”, there were 18 months of strikes – do the maths. These long strikes have been sustained for a very long time because ASUU has the power and capacity to organise them without consequence to its material interests as eventually they do not work for the said periods and they get paid for the period which most academics use to work in private universities. The capacity to carry out long strikes, keep students at home for three to six or eight months at a time and get them to put pressure on parents and the government of the day to sign a deal is an apparent sign of strength.

Successive presidents have all been forced to sign deals, but signing is the simple issue, implementation has always been the bane of policies in Nigeria. It could be argued that in reality, ASUU is weak because it’s too focused on grandiose victory called an AGREEMENT that often yields little in real results. This state of affairs might be changing. After an eight-month strike from February to October 2022, the Government refused to pay lecturers the backlog of salaries for the period they were on strike. This might signal a change in the balance of forces. If government maintains its refusal to pay, ASUU will understand that long strikes are not always the best forms of industrial action.

“The Nigerian Government has not reflected on its philosophy of education for 50 years. Since ASUU started negotiating with the federal government in 1982, the union has always had a position paper but government has never had a position. It simply ducks blows from ASUU and threatens or cajoles them to reduce their demands. Government does not even brief its own negotiating team on the principles upon which it should negotiate with ASUU because it does not have any. A good example was the last three government teams – Wale Babalakin, Munzali Jibril and Nimi Briggs – all had their recommendations rejected by the government that appointed them. ASUU puffs and rants about disrespect of government to negotiated deals it signs but the Nigerian Government was never an interlocutor because it never had a position to negotiate from, so all its moves are tactical rather than strategic.”

The strikes have seriously affected university calendars’ over the decades and generations of students have lost one to two years of their lives waiting for their lecturers to return. The strikes have shortened teaching weeks and the capacity of lecturers to cover the course outline thereby contributing to the decline in the quality of graduates. Precisely because of this impact, wider sections of the elite have taken their children out of public universities to private universities where ASUU is not allowed to operate so there are no strikes, and lecturers teach and cover the course outline.

As more elite take their children out of the public system, the unintended consequence is that increasingly, governments have less commitment to rebuilding the universities



Jibrin Ibrahim

because their children are not there, they are in private universities within or outside the country. The fact of the matter is that family budgets have transformed drastically over the past three decades with considerable percentages of the family budget devoted to expensive private education for children from the nursery to the tertiary levels. In other words, public education has been abandoned to the children of the poorest in society.

“A responsible government would have placed the current reality on the table for a national debate. They have not done this. The central task today is to get the government to engage the subject of education as a public good in today’s context. My key recommendation is that the in-coming government should immediately produce a Green Paper on Education as a Public Good which would then be presented to a National Conference on Education as a Public Good.”

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The context today is that the rentier State has collapsed and massive corruption and oil theft have wiped out petroleum revenues. Over the past decade, public expenditure has been

based on massive borrowing and the country is now in a debt trap. The State is no longer capable of funding quality education for all. Nigerians know it and they decide for the education of their children. ASUU is stuck in the context of the political economy of the 1970s and 1980s.

A responsible government would have placed the current reality on the table for a national debate. They have not done this. The central task today is to get the government to engage the subject of education as a public good in today’s context. My key recommendation is that the in-coming government should immediately produce a Green Paper on Education as a Public Good which would then be presented to a National Conference on Education as a Public Good. Key issues would include the following:

- Making our educational system fit for purpose;
- Developing a national strategy to Bring Back Our Students from foreign universities;
- Enhancing equality and access to education;
- Funding of education, including payment of tuition fees and scholarships;
- Ending the regime of permanent strikes in our universities;
- Addressing corruption in the education system;
- Ending Sexual Harassment in tertiary institutions
- Raising academic standards

We should all lobby the incoming administration to immediately review the constitutional, legal and policy framework for higher education or simply the education system. The conference itself should be proceeded with stakeholder meetings where issues are discussed.

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

Adamawa Assembly: Hon Bathiya Set For Speakership To Defend People's Mandate

By: TOM GARBA

The 2023 elections ended with many surprises and successes for both losers and winners.

In Adamawa State, it is no doubt that winners have emerged in a keen contest for the State Assembly and Governorship elections of Match 15.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has formed the majority in the Adamawa State House of Assembly (ADHA) with the All Progressives Congress (APC) as the minority party with the follow-up lawmakers. The Speaker vacuum created by the incumbent, Rt Hon Iya Abbas Aminu as a result of the Senate seat he won during the last Presidential/Senatorial elections for Adamawa Central, makes it very interesting for who becomes the next Speaker of the Adamawa Assembly in the coming days.

Going down memory lane, the past speakers of the House were elected based on the records of their achievements in the second term and the zone or area which is most suitable to have him or her emerge.

The contest at the moment is between Honourable Bathiya Wesley and others, who might be interested in the third position in the hierarchy of Adamawa State leadership.

Hon Bathiya is one of the youngest lawmakers, who is having the ranking status of a second-term lawmaker from the Hong Constituency of Hong Local Government area of Adamawa State.

The promising young politician has since inception hit the grounds running with his people-oriented bills, which are today's laws. He passed many resolutions and contributed in no small measure to the policy of the Adamawa State Government under Rt Hon Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri as the sitting Governor. Bathiya is contesting to be Adamawa's next Speaker, not by chance or happenstance, it is because of the deliberate efforts he is making in helping in developing Adamawa State and his performance as the house Committee Chairman on Education, Tertiary and Professional Institutions.

It is on this committee that Bathiya built a vibrant

legislative life with fruitful grape vine building people around and outside Hong Constituency with verifiable constituency projects, self-sponsored community-based projects, laws, bills, and contributions on the floor of the House.

The people of Adamawa State have seen and taken notice of the strengths and weaknesses of the seventh Assembly under the leadership of Rt Hon Aminu Iya Abbas. All eyes are on the assembly now, how they will go about the current formation of the eighth assembly.

To many out there, the House does not have a choice other than Hon Bathiya Wesley, whose political radiant glory is shining in his favour. As it is commonly said, "When preparation meets opportunity:

Those that stay ready and prepared during this time will rise again". Bathiya prepared his way down to becoming the next Adamawa State Speaker through his effective service delivery of the mandate given to him by the people of Hong Constituency. His last four years were a job well done and they decided to pay him back with a second-term.

In this second tenure, the people of Hong already consider him the lucky one as an opportunity is laid before him to go and conquer because he is well prepared to continue well the job of his predecessor, Rt Hon Iya Abbas.

Bello Saidu, a constituent of Hong during a heated debate on one of the social media platforms (WhatsApp), argued that Hon Bathiya is one of the



Honourable Bathiya

best lawmakers the constituency ever produced.

He said the young legislator has a political field and well-watered gardens of love for the people and does not show sentiments of whatsoever type. Bello's views are suggestive to say if Bathiya becomes the next Speaker of Adamawa State, the Land of Beauty will be everywhere around it fresh and people shall know no dryness or barrenness.

He revealed how Bathiya is ready to help Rt. Hon Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri in changing the narratives of Adamawa to flourish in all seasons and the state will enjoy divine increase with ease because a good leader is on the throne of leadership.

"Adamawa will gain more, there will be huge gains, not losses, once Bathiya is allowed

to serve as a Speaker. The impact will be great in all sectors of the state's economy because he has the backing of the people and God's divine strength, favour and sustained wisdom will figure him out for the noble task ahead," Bello said.

In his four years of stewardship to the people of Hong, Bathiya has proven beyond any shadow of a doubt that he cannot be a rubber stamp Speaker. His knowledge about people and governance is one of a kind, he is a thorough breed Man of the people and a classical example of a good Speaker-Governor relationship in the building of Adamawa of the people's dreams.

He is a good idealist, with a realistic approach to solving the myriad problems of the general masses. He is the best

man, the only man standing for the people's lives. Their needs can be made in bringing and birthing out legislative ideas for the government of Governor Ahmadu Fintiri. It can be no one else, it can only be Bathiya to drive the Adamawa State House of Assembly to Another pinnacle of leadership.

He has it all, in terms of leadership qualities. His experience can be counted to give the best, the young man is an all-rounded leader. Support him to have an Adamawa of our dream.

My best wishes to Mr Bathiya. Tom Garba. B.Tech, MA, FIMC, FBDFM, SPSP Is a Journalist, a political analyst, and an opinion writer. He writes from Yola-Adamawa State.

WAFU B Tourney: Falconets look Forward To Another Big Win Against Togo

By ; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos Jumoke Alani and midfielder Chinyere Kalu were also among the goals as the World Cup quarter-finalists steamrolled the girls from Niamey on Sunday. Victory over the Togolese today, will assure the Falconets of a place in the semi finals, which is why they will pull no punches right from kickoff by 6pm at the Baba Yara Stadium. On Sunday, the Falconets will be up against Burkina Faso in the last match of Group B, scheduled for the Paa Joe Stadium also in Kumasi. Hosts Ghana head Group A which also has the Republic of Benin and Cote d'Ivoire.

Still thrilled by their 7-0 spanking of the U-20 girls of Niger Republic in the opening match of Group B of the WAFU B U-20 Women Championship ongoing in Kumasi, Nigeria's Falconets cannot wait for today to fire from all cylinders once more, against their Togolese counterparts, in order to reach the tournament's semi-finals before their match against Burkina Faso on Sunday. Forward Opeyemi Ajakaye, who won a FIFA U-17 World Cup bronze medal with the Flamingos in India last year, turned up with a hat-trick, and defender

Different Stroke Of Abeokuta Golf Club Hosts Maiden South/West Inter-Kitty Group Tournament

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The capital city of Ogun State, Abeokuta, will come alive this weekend, while playing host to the Twelve Kitty Groups across different golf clubs for a golf tournament tagged, "Clash of Titans", organized by Different Strokes of Abeokuta Golf Club.

The event according to the

Captain of Abeokuta Golf Club and a member of Different Strokes, Basohun Ladipo Adegbite, will be exciting as the golf course of the Club is ready to host one of the most competitive tournaments in the history of golf in the South-West geo-political zone of the country.

"The kitty groups are expected in the city by Friday 26, for their practice rounds and to

enjoy the cocktail party organised by the host group", said the Captain.

He added that "the closing ceremony and the presentation of gifts and medals will take place at the beautiful premises of the Abeokuta Golf Club immediately after the game on Saturday 27th with good music and delicious dishes".

The Chairman of the 2023

Planning Committee, Tony Gbegbaje also explained to newsmen that the tournament will be thrilling, challenging, entertaining and very interesting because it will be more or less an inter-club competition and an avenue for kitty groups to show their strengths and meet other kitty groups in the zone.



Argentina 2023: Bosso, Eguavoen Assure Of Flying Eagles Good Result Against Italy

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Italy's U-20 boys were on rampage in a rapturous first half that saw Brazil eventually crumble to a 2-3 loss in Mendoza on Sunday, and since then, the name on

The Italians set up a structure that was magnificent and with a near-full house at the Estadio Malvinas Argentina roaring them on with vintage support, they swarmed all over the Brazilians and did a perfect job of scoring three goals in 45 minutes.

However, Head Coach Ladan Bosso has assured that Nigeria's Flying Eagles will not be immersed in admiring the moves of the Italians but would rather take the fight to the youthful Azzurris in today's clash between both teams at the same venue.

"We stayed back after our match against the Dominican Republic to watch the Italy match against Brazil, and we took a lot of notes from there. The Italians have the midfield machinery to outrun any team that is flustered by their pace and organization, but we will know how to deal with that.

"We have the boys who can neutralize their mortal armoury and deliver some blows of our own. Wednesday's encounter will be interesting. We will respect them but we don't fear any team at this championship."

Technical Director of the NFF,

Augustine Eguavoen said that the manner in which the Flying Eagles set up on Wednesday, and the level of concentration and adherence to game-plan, would matter a lot on the day.

"The Italians are a good side but nothing is given in football until a match is played and ends. It is about the set-up, about the structure of your team and how much you bring to bear what you have noticed about the other team. I'm happy our coaches saw the Italians play the Brazilians and it is now left for us all to put our heads together and devise a winning plan."

The Italians top Group D ahead of the Flying Eagles only as a result of having scored more goals, and the race to the Round of 16 is already fierce with Brazil most likely to edge the Dominican Republic in the other match of the pool on Wednesday evening.

"Our mantra is full concentration and once we achieve that and follow through with our game-plan, we will get a result," added Bosso.

Nigeria and Italy tango at the Estadio Malvinas Argentina as from 3pm local time (7pm Nigeria time) today.



NFF Executive Committee Member, Sharif Rabi Inuwa (left) with NFF General Secretary Dr Mohammed Sanusi (second left) and Technical Director Augustine Eguavoen (fourth right) addressing the Flying Eagles before their win over Dominican Republic on Sunday.

Mai Mala Buni Victory: TY Buratai Academy Win Title After Beating Gwange United

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

TY Buratai Academy beat city rivals, Gwange United on penalties to win the Sarkin Yakin Garkuwan Keffi Football Competition at August 27 Stadium Damaturu in a dramatic and fiercely-fought match.

The essence of the competition was to celebrate Governor Mai Mala Buni and the All Progressives Congress (APC) victory from the just concluded general election as well as a way of appreciating his plans for the development of youth in the state

The competition was solely sponsored by an indigenous son of Yusufari Local Government Area of Yobe State, Engr Hassan Muhammad, Sarkin Yakin Garkuwan Keffi, Matawallen Arewa.

No fewer than 13 teams participated in competition, were Gwange United and TY Buratai Academy qualified for the final.

Sarkin Ado lashed home the winning kick from the spot to make it 7-6 to Los Blancos after the

contest had finished 0-0 with neither side able to find the net in full time.

TY Buratai Academy Goalkeeper, Ezekiel was voted Player of the Match in the final by the technical team, who praised his crucial saves at critical moments during the game.

He also made an extraordinary save to deny opponents at the final kick of the penalty shootout.

A large crowd thronged the August 27 Stadium Damaturu on Sunday to watch the final match. Prizes were awarded

after the final whistle, with the first position going home with a trophy set of jersey, football and one hundred thousand Naira (N100,000) alongside gold medals to the players and crew.

The second position went away with a trophy, football, jersey, fifty thousand Naira (N50,000) and silver medals to players and crew, while the third position went home with jersey and football.



**Mai Mala Buni Victory:
TY Buratai Academy
Win Title After Beating
Gwange United**

Story on Page 23

Proffer Workable Solutions To Scourge Of Irregular Migration. NIS Boss Tasks Journalists

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

The Comptroller General of the Nigeria Immigration Service (CGI), Isah Jere Idris, has charged media practitioners in the country to use journalism skills to inform the public on the ills of Irregular migration and also investigate.

He gave the charge at the opening ceremony of the 2-day JIFORM's workshop on sensitization strategies and reportage on Irregular Migration and human trafficking held in Abuja on Monday.

"I have taken note of your contributions in Migration Management since 2019 especially in capacity building for journalists. Also noted is your information on the fourth edition of the JIFORM Global summit which is scheduled to take place from October 2 to 14, 2023 in Toronto, Canada.

"You can in turn proffer workable solutions to this scourge and other problems which can facilitate regular Migration.

"I have taken note of your contributions in Migration Management since 2019 especially in capacity building for Journalists. Also noted is your information on the fourth edition of the JIFORM Global summit which is scheduled to take place from 2-14 October, 2023 in Toronto, Canada", the NIS Boss said.

Represented by Assistant Controller General (ACG) Ngozi Odikpo, the acting Deputy

Comptroller General Migration, the CGI Isah Jere, thanked the NGC for identifying with journalists in the country.

He encouraged JIFORM to work with local and International Organizations whose primary mandate is to promote safe and Regular Migration like International Organization for Migration (IOM), FIIAPP, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Also speaking at the occasion, the immediate past Comptroller General of Immigration Service, Muhammad Babandede said "it is pertinent that the media enlighten the populace about the dangers of irregular migration, TIP and SOM through. An example of using entertainment to sensitize the public about the negative impact of these vices, is the production of a Television series titled.

"The Missing Steps", which is a collaborative effort between IOM Nigeria and the Swiss Federation: the script of which I developed. However, a lot still needs to be done, because a large portion of the population is still ignorant of the dangers and menaces of these vices. This is where the media needs to have a robust strategy for effective enlightenment as well as dissemination of information on the perpetrators."

Tolulope Olaiya who represented The Team Leader of the NGC, a programme under the German Corporation for International Development

(GIZ), Ms Sandra Vermuijten, which implements the "Returning to New Opportunities of Programme" of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) said the agency would continue to support the JIFORM capacity building initiative for journalists.

Tolulope, the Abuja Coordinator of the NGC said the organization appreciated "the central role the media plays in shaping public awareness about the issues of migration. Words carry more significance beyond the pages they are printed on; they could have devastating effects on victims of human trafficking, for example; they could also open the public's eyes to false hopes that are peddled by bad actors.

"There is no doubt that this two-day workshop aimed at enhancing the capacity of journalists on evidence based reporting and a better understanding of migration management will contribute to broadening the knowledge of journalists on migration issues to present migration reportage that positively influences and impacts migration policies and implementation in the country.



L-R: Comptroller James Sunday of Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Rivers State; Rtd Comptroller Mannir Yari; Dr Ajibola Abayomi, the President, Journalists International Forum For Migration (JIFORM); Assistant Controller General (ACG) Ngozi Odikpo, the acting Deputy Comptroller General of Immigration, the representative of the Comptroller General NIS, Isah Jere; Ex-NIS Comptroller General NIS and CEO of Sure For You And Resettlement Initiative, Muhammad Babandede OFR; Mrs Ovie Maureen, Head Migrant Resource Centres (MRC), Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment and Mrs Tolulope Olaiya, NGC Coordinator, Abuja.

"Our programme, the Programme, Migration for Development (PME), is implemented by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in close partnership with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, particularly its Migrant Resource Centres. The programme is part of the BMZ support for voluntary return and sustainable reintegration.

"Between December 2017 to December 2022, the BMZ programme has provided over 282, 000 individual support measures to returnees and the local population, provided

almost 60,000 individual consultations, placed over 30,000 persons in employment, provided over 42,000 business start-up measures, over 133,000 qualification measures and provided over 1600 psychosocial support services."

Other speakers at the workshop were, Dr Ajibola Abayomi, President of JIFORM; Comptroller NIS Rivers State, James Sunday, Vincent Adekoye, National Press Officer, National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking In Persons (NAPTIP), and Mrs Ovie Maureen, the Head of Migrant Resource Centres, Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Abimbola Davis To Release 'Secret Of The Cricket' To Commemorates Tinubu's Inauguration

By; **AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos**

Commemorating the inauguration of the administration of Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, a strategic thinker and an avid advocate of the African Culture and tradition, Abimbola Davis has picked May 29 for the release of his latest literary work, a book with title 'Secrets of the Cricket'.

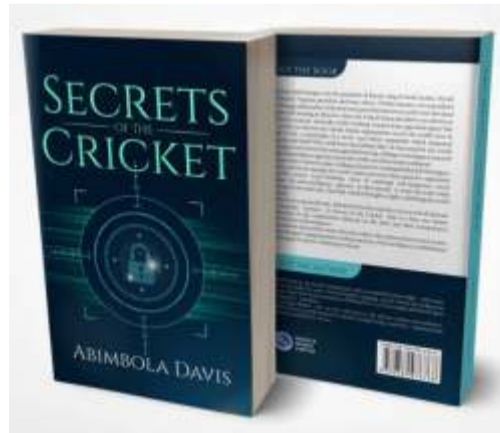
The award-winning poet and accomplished playwright with many books to his credit disclosed this to New Nigerian on phone, that the president-elect is an astute politician that has left

his footprints on the sands of time and that the book serves as honour to him and everything he stands for.

Speaking about the book, Davis said, "this latest work is a jaw-breaking story of espionage and dangerous covert operations by some intelligence agencies in their pursuit to maul the truth, while unraveling it at the same time.

"The truth, which if brought to light could bring the world to its knees".

In his usual suspense style, Abimbola Davis expertly wove



a web of intricate and intriguing narrative in Secrets of the

Cricket that is a fine one-volume manifestation of the complexities inherent in the dark and ultra manipulative underworld of world intelligence.

Otunba Davis is also the Chairman governing council of the International Psychometric Centre (IPCentre), Ibadan with primary focus on the Tertiary Education sub-sector of the Nigeria

Education Sector where it designs and integrates detailed psychometric studies curricula as separate General Studies Courses into the existing Benchmark Minimum Academic Standards for all classes of Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria.

The Ibadan High Chief writes both in English language and in Yoruba, his indigenous language.

Some of his books include Just Thinking (Vol. 1 & Vol 2), Ayangalu, Abobaku ati Ogota Ewi, Kaninkanin and others.