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Biz Man Threatens Bawa, Police IG With Legal Action Over Contempt

Story on Page 24

IGP Usman Applauds NASS, Eminent Nigerians Over Passage Of Police Pension, Training School Bills

Story on Page 3



Disquiet Over Kaduna Club As Members Accuse Management Of Misappropriation, Self-aggrandizement

Story on Page 6

INEC Staff Admit BVAS Failed To Transmit Feb 25 Presidential Election Results



Senators who lost reelection bid packing their office gadget and other items yesterday before the valedictory session of the 9th National Assembly. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Two subpoenaed witnesses of the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the February 25 Presidential election yesterday in Abuja, admitted at the Presidential Election Petition Court (PEPC) that the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) failed to transmit results of the election after the collation. The witnesses, Mr. Friday Egwuma and Ms. Grace Timothy both Adhoc staff of the Independent National Electoral

Commission (INEC) said that the BVAS machine allocated to them developed system error immediately results of the Senate and House of Representatives aspects of the poll were freely transmitted.

This is a confirmation of the allegations that has trailed the presidential component of the February 25 election that the results were not transmitted in real time via BVAS in line with the Electoral Act 2022 and INEC guidelines.

In their subpoena evidence, the two workers of the electoral body explained that they had to

Continued on Page 4

Story on Page 4

EFCC Arrests 37 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Ibadan

***Recovers 7 exotic cars, motorcycle, several mobile phones, laptops, others**



SOKAPU Crisis Deepens As National Exco Rejects Suspension By NEC Page 15

Story on Page 3

Arrest Killers Of Professor Ajewole, ASUU Tasks Police

**Says lives of Nigerians should matter to Tinubu*

Story on Page 3

Deputy Gov, Speaker Intervention Saves Anambra Lawmaker Elect From DSS Abduction

el-Rufai's Leadership In Kaduna A Misrule - Senator Shehu Sani

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Senator who represented Kaduna Central in the 8th assembly, Shehu Sani, has described the eight years of All Progressives Congress (APC) government in Kaduna State as years of misrule.

He decried the incessant attacks on him by his political opponents in the state to newsmen in Abuja. Senator Shehu Sani explained, "Gunmen attacked my office and APC thugs were used to trail me wherever I went. They also ordered the military to arrest one of my aides, Bashir Ahmad, in 2017. Bashir was tortured by soldiers to implicate me

in a murder case I knew nothing about."

According to him, the police declined the case when it was evident that it was political.

He said that the eight years tenure of Governor Nasir el-Rufai were characterised by affliction, pure evil and tyranny, adding that the former governor's leadership was a total waste to the state.

Senator Sani appealed to President Bola Tinubu against "unholy romance" and interaction with the former governor.

According to him, el-Rufai's exit is an affliction gone, advising Tinubu to be careful not to bring close to him a habitual and career Judas.

Subsidy Removal: Northern Political Group Backs Tinubu, Says Nigerians Will Benefit More

By; TOM GARBA, Yola

A political pressure group based in the north, Arewa New Agenda (ANA) yesterday, threw its weight behind the recent policy proclamation by President Ahmed Bola Tinubu, which declared an end to the subsidy regime in Nigeria.

Presenting a communique after a two-day Policy Dialogue on the Fuel Subsidy removal, the National Convener of the group, senator Ahmad Abubakar MoAllahyidi, said though the Policy may have its economic challenges, the end will benefit Nigerians.

The Convener said Arewa New Agenda recognizes the pain occasioned by the increase in pump price of petroleum products; but the removal will prevent the diversion and smuggling of gasoline outside the country's borders which bleeds our economy.

"Government must stay on course with its current action; must not give in to blackmail nor capitulate under threat.

"It is the considered position of the policy dialogues as convened by ANA that under the DSDP, imported petrol belongs to the NNPC since it (NNPC) has supplied crude oil to the marketers in exchange for petrol but the marketers usually keep the imported fuel to themselves and sell it to the independent marketers at arbitrary price.

"The removal of subsidy on PMS will among other things: Solve the problem of perennial hardship and the

attendant hardship on citizens. It will put a stop to corruption around the subsidy regime which has made some individuals stupendously rich without industry.

"It will free-up the humongous amount paid out as subsidy for enhance growth in critical sectors of national development Reduce Gasoline Smuggling and Diversion. The removal of fuel subsidy eliminates the unhealthy price arbitrage with neighboring countries", the group said.

While noting that this critical economic activity will require all hands to be on deck for the prosperity of Nigeria, senator MoAllahyidi said salaries and wages of workers in Nigeria is nothing to write home about and needs to be realistically reviewed.

"Dialogue with organized labor must be intensified; we caution labor not to politicize this genuine economic policy activity at this very early stage of the Tinubu administration.

"That vulnerable groups in Nigeria feel the impact of subsidy removal more and they should be first line of consideration in provision of palliatives.

"That dialogue attendees support the decision of President Tinubu on the removal of subsidy and will do everything possible to help actualize the desire for improved life of the ordinary citizens Recommendation/Suggestions", the group said.

Shun el-Rufai's Islamization Claims, Rev Hayab Advises Nigerians

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Chairman, Kaduna State Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Rev. Joseph Hayab on Wednesday, called on Nigerians to disregard the alleged Islamization claims made by the state's former Governor Nasir el-Rufai.

Hayab also stated that el-Rufai's recent remarks about a Muslim/Muslim ticket and President Bola Tinubu's victory silencing his critics and CAN were tactics aimed at advancing his alleged presidential ambitions and promoting division among Christians and Muslims in the country.

The CAN chairman's response was prompted in Arise TV morning show by a viral video on social media in which el-Rufai purportedly stated that the Muslim-Muslim ticket would continue in the Kaduna governorship elections for more than 20 years. The former governor also claimed that Muslim dominance was being replicated at the national level.

Rev. Hayab said, "Some of us that have known El-

Rufai for saying this kind of things, for plotting these kind of issues and for masterminding these kind of issues, many people thought we were just fighting or stopping him for something else. God has helped us for El-Rufai to come out publicly and make Nigerians know who exactly is El-Rufai."

He added, "If you have known El-Rufai for the past 20 years and you watch the video, you will know that this is El-Rufai because El-Rufai has not changed, he has remained a Camelion, re remains a pretence and remains who he is thinking he will outsmart people by playing games, but God has helped us that he openly said his mind."

Hayab further remarked that El-Rufai is living in a fantasy where he can play religious games and possibly become the future president of Nigeria.

The Kaduna CAN chairman said, "You know, since he (el-Rufai) is up to something, he is playing a game and what he would do is to confuse people and set up Christians against Muslims; set up Christians

against the present government, and then he would stand to benefit from it tomorrow. Unfortunately, I will say to him, he has failed from the onset.

"With this, he has actually proved to Nigerians that he is not in the first place fit to be a leader and I think that is one of the problems in Nigeria. We give people power without testing their emotional stability whether they are mentally alright to lead."

According to Hayab, if the Muslim/Muslim ticket has actually succeeded in Kaduna State, "we would not have had the killings, the division, and the problems we have in Kaduna", stressing that there was no success recorded in his administration.

Rev. Hayab said, "el-Rufai is fond of making this kind of allegations and later turn to water it down. In 2015, he said that the Christians in Southern Kaduna did not vote for him, personally, I went to him and reminded the votes he got in Sanga, Jema'a, Kachia and other local governments where he got almost the same votes with the PDP and

that ended the lies and argument and he apologised to me. In 2019, he needed 2/3 in the 23 local government areas and he could not have gotten it without the votes from the Christian dominated local governments."

"el-Rufai is just talking about himself. el-Rufai has no respect for even the Islamic clerics, he is doing everything for himself to get what he wants and not about the religion of the people. el-Rufai is trying to confuse people to set up Christians against Muslims in the present government and then and then stand to benefit tomorrow," he explained.

According to him, "el-Rufai has failed from the onset, he has actually proved to Nigerians that he is not fit to be a leader. The problem in Nigeria is that we give people power without testing their emotional capability whether they are mentally alright to lead."

Rev. Hayab said that Nigerians want a united country and want a leader to lead the country as a people and not by religion or tribe or section, saying that all the good things El-Rufai did in the Muslim dominated areas of the state.



Lagos Commissioner of Police, CP Idowu Owohunwaa (right) condoling the widow of the late AIG, Isaac Akinmoyede (rtd), at the family deceased at Lekki in Lagos. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Arrest Killers Of Professor Ajewole, ASUU Tasks Police

**Says lives of Nigerians should matter to Tinubu*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), University of Ibadan (UI) Chapter, yesterday, tasked the Nigeria Police Force to unravel and arrest the killers of Professor Opeyemi Isaac Ajewole of the Department of Social and environmental forestry Development of the University of Ibadan.

ASUU in a statement signed by the Chairman UI Chapter of ASUU, Professor Ayo Akinwale stressed that in ensuring this, the Inspector General of Police Alkali Baba should assist the Oyo state Police Command with all logistics support needed to unravel and arrest the killers.

The union also tasked President Bola Tinubu to take passionate interest and ensure the security system unmask the faces behind the murder of the Professor of forest economics and urban forestry.

Condemning in totality the gruesome murder of Professor Opeyemi Isaac Ajewole and charged the security operatives to track down and apprehend the perpetrators of this dastardly, ASUU called on the Nigerian state to resolutely tackle the problem of insecurity in the country, apprehend the killers of Professor Ajewole and punish them most appropriately." ASUU maintained, " This is the least tribute that this nation can pay to our fallen hero and friend- Professor Opeyemi Isaac Ajewole."

"We condemn in totality the gruesome murder of our comrade, Professor Opeyemi Isaac Ajewole and charge the security operatives to track down and apprehend the perpetrators of this dastardly act, with a view to unravelling the motive behind the incident as well as bringing the perpetrators to book", it

said ASUU added, " The hearts of every ASUU-UI member are bleeding so profusely as if pierced by swords. Our bones shook so tremendously as if our marrows were naked in the tundra region".

It stressed that the only tribute which the death of Professor Ajewole deserves is that his killers are brought to justice and that Nigerians' lives should matter to the Tinubu presidency, adding, "Professor Ajewole's gruesome murder again reminds us of how valueless human lives have become in our clime."

"Death lurks in all imaginable and unimaginable corners of this country and comes cheaply. The Nigerian populace is constantly assailed by terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, assassination, hunger, unemployment, and many more insidious exterminators of our individual and collective dreams.

"The situation of the Nigerian academics is even doubly precarious; they are prophets without any honour at home. Despite their immense contributions to national growth and development and recognitions in the international circle, Nigerian academia are scorned and shabbily treated by the Nigerian state and the public for being unrepentant patriots. " It is, therefore, disheartening that academics who cultivate, preserve, and disseminate knowledge for the advancement and development of the society will become victims of societal malady to such an extent as to be targeted for elimination"

New Nigerian recalls that Prof Ajewole was gruesomely gunned down by yet-to-be-identified assailants in the evening of Monday, 5 June 2023, in Ibadan, Oyo State.

IGP Usman Applauds NASS, Eminent Nigerians Over Passage Of Police Pension, Training School Bills

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Inspector-General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba psc has commended the National Assembly for the historic passage of the Police Pension Board Bill and the Nigeria Police Force College, Training School and Institution (Establishment) Bill.

The IGP described the passage of the two critical bills as a milestone achievement with positive impact that will redefine the act of policing the country, standardize the training capacity of the Force, enhance police productivity and address the recurring pension related hardship.

In a statement by the Force Public Relations Officer, CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi made available to journalists yesterday, Usman stressed that the removal of the Nigeria Police Force from the Contributory Pension Scheme and establishment of NPF Pension Board is a welcome development and will be resourceful in addressing the plight of Police retirees.



IGP Alkali Baba

Usman, while acknowledging the doggedness and resilience of the National Assembly in the passage of these critical bills, commended the efforts of well-

meaning Nigerians for their support and concern towards the passage of the bills which in no time will definitely attract the assent of the President for their full implementation.

The Police Boss equally commended the steadfastness and patience of the retirees on the age-long battle of the pension palaver and assured that all hands are on deck to make the bills a reality.

Deputy Gov, Speaker Intervention Saves Anambra Lawmaker Elect From DSS Abduction

By; PAMELA EBOH, Awka

Four armed men believed to be operatives of Department of State Services, DSS yesterday, stormed the Anambra State House of Assembly, Awka, in three vehicles and made attempts to whisk away the lawmaker-elect for Nnewi North constituency, Mr. Onyekachukwu Ike.

Information has it that the incident caused panic at the legislative Complex headquarters for over an hour.

According to an eyewitness, "There was panic at the Anambra State House of Assembly as four armed men suspected to be operatives of Directorate of Security Services (DSS) tried to whisk away member-elect for Nnewi North Constituency, Mr Onyekachukwu Ike.

"The armed men drove into the

Assembly complex in three vehicles and grabbed the member-elect after he participated in a valedictory thanksgiving service for the Seventh Assembly.

"They bundled the member-elect into their vehicle and were trying to drive out of the Assembly Complex when security personnel quickly blocked and locked the exit gate of the chamber."

Speaking, on the incident, the acting Clerk of the Assembly, Mrs Esther Aneto and other senior staff said the suspected DSS operatives did not inform them or even the police personnel before trying to whisk away the lawmaker-elect.

A source said, "One of the suspected DSS operatives explain that they had a court order to arrest the member-elect for Nnewi North constituency.

"It took the intervention of the

Speaker, Dr Uche Okafor and the Deputy Governor, Dr Onyeka Ibezim who came to represent the governor at the Valedictory session of the seventh Assembly, before the member-elect was released.

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga said that the matter had been resolved.

"No cause for alarm, it has been resolved. I think it was DSS that was on that mission, but I think everything has been resolved. I was told that the deputy governor and speaker of the house intervened. So, everything was resolved but I don't know the circumstances surrounding serving him(Ike) invitation.

"Since that place is an institution; with the intervention of the police there and the deputy governor, everything was resolved," he added.

EFCC Arrests 37 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Ibadan

**Recovers 7 exotic cars, motorcycle, several mobile phones, laptops, others*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Thirty seven suspected internet fraudsters are now in the net of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital.

According to EFCC, the 37 suspects were arrested recently at Ologolo Estate and Omi-ado areas of Ibadan, Oyo State by Operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC).

The commission listed items recovered from the suspects include seven exotic cars, one motorcycle, several mobile phones and laptops, among others. EFCC identified the arrested suspects as, Ibrahim Adewale Adegoke, Echeta Chidi Oluwabe, Adeyinka Oladaide Monsuru, Adedeji Mojeed Adewusi, Uzuh Samuel Friday, Ibrahim Aliu Olaide, Babatunde Ayomide Yinus, Rahaman Idris, Adeniji Eniade Ebelizer,

Segun Bamidele, Ifemade Haruna, Adeyinka Kola Michael, Adewusi Taiwo Femi, Oyewo Ayomide Solomon, Adebayo Okikioluwa Adeoye, Abiodun Olamijulo Kayode, Collin Ayomide Oyelakin, Babatunde Oluwasegun and Mathew Emmanuel Ogina.

Others include, Echeta Chinedu Junior, Babatunde Abdulmajeed, Badejo Adefemi Emmanuel, Musa Ayinde Olorunisola, Olumoroti Ayobami Segun, Adebayo Isiaka Olajide, Omobolaji Abiola Quwam, Ademola Qodir Alabi, Akinbode Adedolapo Joshua, Ewwiekpoamare Tivere Jackson, Oparinde Sheriff Funso, Olatunbosun Stephen, Samuel Ayodeji Mayokun, Wemimo Adebare Sodi, Oluwale David Dare, Segun Ajewole Abraham, Ajayi Elijah Oladimeji and Gbadegesin Nurudeen Opeyemi.

The commission pointed out that all the arrested suspects will be charged to court once investigations are concluded.



The suspects

INEC Staff Admit BVAS Failed To Transmit Feb 25 Presidential Election Results

By, AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

resort to other means of getting the results across when it became clear that the BVAS machines would not help them.

Egwuma was a Presiding Officer in a polling unit in Abia State, while Grace Timothy served INEC in Plateau State.

Apart from the failure of the BVAS machines to transmit the presidential election results, the two witnesses admitted that voting went smoothly in their respective places of work.

They were led in evidence by Atiku's lead counsel, Chief Chris Uche SAN.

Under cross examination by Mr Abubakar Mahmud SAN, who stood for the electoral body, Egwuma explained he resorted to off line system in place of the BVAS machines.

In her own testimony, Grace Timothy told the court that the greatest challenge she experienced during the election was the uploading of the presidential election results into the I-Rev portal.

The witnesses were also cross examined by Chief Wole Olanipekun SAN,

who stood for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN who represented the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Earlier, Tinubu and APC had vehemently kicked against the bid by Atiku to engage the ad-hoc staff to give evidence in his petition challenging the declaration of Tinubu as winner of the 2023 presidential election.

Atiku in the bid to establish the alleged irregularities against the election had subpoenaed three ad-hoc workers of INEC to give first-hand account of their experiences as they related to the presidential election of February 25.

He had specifically requested them to offer explanations on how the results of the presidential election results were transmitted and carried out.

However, Tinubu, represented by Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN, objected to the use of statements made on oath by the witnesses to be tendered at the Presidential Election

Petition Court (PEPC) in aid of Atiku's petition.

The grouse of Tinubu and the APC was that the statements of the ad-hoc workers were not front-loaded at the time of filing the petition.

Olanipekun, SAN who cited several provisions of the law against the use of the witnesses argued that since they were subpoenaed by Atiku as the petitioner, he ought to have front-loaded their statements on oath along with the petition.

He asked the court to reject the witnesses and discountenance their statements on grounds of violating the provisions of the Electoral Act 2022.

Tinubu's arguments against the subpoenaed witnesses were adopted by Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN, who stood for the APC and Abubakar Mahmud, SAN who appeared for INEC.

However, Atiku's lead counsel, Chris Uche, SAN asked the Court to dismiss the objections on the grounds that they were utterly misplaced and misconceived.

Uche argued that the

objections by Tinubu, APC and INEC were deliberate ploy designed to delay proceedings.

The senior lawyer insisted that the statements of the subpoenaed witnesses could not have been front-loaded along with the petition because they have not been summoned at the time of filing the petition.

He asked the Court to discountenance the objections of the three respondents and hold that they are not regular additional witnesses envisaged in the law cited by Olanipekun.

Although the Court stood down for ruling, the Presiding Justice of the Court, Justice Haruna Simon Tsammani, on resumption, announced that ruling in the objections had been reserved.

Justice Tsammani, however, ordered that the evidence of the three subpoenaed witnesses be taken and the respondents to cross examine them.

Meanwhile, further hearing in the petition has been adjourned to June 9.

Fuel Subsidy Removal: Group Supports Tinubu's Decision

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Rising from an emergency meeting of more than five hundred support groups, The National Coalition of Independent Support groups for BAT & Shettima (NCISGBS) has reiterated support to the federal government on the lingering fuel subsidy removal, urging Nigerians to persevere for a little time and enjoy the policy thereafter.

This was contained in a communique issued and made available to New Nigerian.

"NCISGBS solidly supports the Federal Government's decision to obliterate the continued scam called Petroleum Subsidy.

"That President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his Government should never succumb to the blackmail being surreptitiously hatched by the faceless Oil

Subsidy Cabal in further impoverishing the ordinary citizens of Nigeria.

"That the Coalition commends the President's extraordinary courage and sense of direction in completely consigning this bad dream called Petroleum Subsidy into the trash-bin of Nigeria's history," the communique said.

Abubakar Abdullahi, the President General of Nigeria Coalition of Independent Support Groups who signed the communique, further reiterated the coalition's stance in supporting the Federal Government's efforts in revitalizing and reinvigorating the country's economic architecture.

He however, implored the totality of Nigerians to support the Federal Government in its plan to make Nigeria better.

U-Farm Africa Is A Motivator To Smaller Farmers -- Emir Of Saminaka

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Emir of Saminaka in Kaduna State, Alhaji Ibrahim Sani has said, that the U-Farm Africa Tractors for Grains Initiative is a motivator to smaller farmers to improve their productivity.

He stated this while flagging off a tractors hiring scheme by the U-Farm Africa at Sabon Birni District.

Alhaji Ibrahim Sani said this development will assist the peasant farmers to improve their productivity at the end of the farming season.

The emir advised the beneficiaries of the

scheme to be sincere and pay what they are expected to when due.

He commended the company for this laudable initiative towards improving and encouraging smaller farmers to do more than what they used to produce.

The emir assured the company of the traditional institutions in Lere Local Government Area's support towards achieving their goals on agricultural development among the smaller farmers in Nigeria.

In his remarks, the Country Manager U-Farm Africa, Mr. Olalekan Ilori said their main target is smaller farmers because they are very important to

the company.

He said the tractors are for hiring services, not for sale because they are for grains initiative support to smaller farmers.

According to him, if smaller farmers embrace this technology, the issue of production losses will be history.

Mr. Ilori added that the Micromec Crop Doctor machine was designed for the needs of the smaller farmers with an affordable price for the hiring services.

On the mode of payment, he said a farmer will be required to deposit 20% of the money charged, while the balance is to be settled after harvest.

He said, in the case of a farmer who wants to hire but doesn't have the money, the services can still be made available.

The mechanized inputs are tractor, mini tractors and solar knap sprayer.

Three local government areas are the first beneficiaries they are, Lere, Soba and Kachia Local government respectively.

Some of the farmers, Rabi Isah and Ezekiel Joshua expressed happiness that a new and simple agric mechanization is at their doorsteps.

They commended the U-Farm Africa for choosing Saminaka as one of the beneficiaries of the initiative.



Hajiya Jamila Zanna Muhammad

APC UK's Jamilah Muhammad Commiserates With Party's Deputy National Women Leader Over Father's Death

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Hajiya Jamila Zanna Muhammad has offered sympathy to the Deputy National Women Leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Hajiya Zainab Ibrahim over the demise of her father, a sad incident which occurred a few days ago, praying to the Almighty Allah to expand his grave and give him eternal peace.

In a statement made available to the press while sympathising with the APC National Deputy Women Leader, Hajiya Mohammad described the late Alhaji Abubakar Ibrahim (Sarkin Ayuka) as an accomplished administrator and successful politician who has written his name in gold assuring that he will be sorely missed.

The APC United Kingdom Women Leader while

condoling Hajiya Ibrahim reminded her that "We belong to Allah and to Him shall we all return"..And pray that Allah grants her father Jannah and relief him from grave torture. She also counselled her to Stay strong and have divine faith in Allah.

Hajia Jamila said she was short of words on the news of the demise of the industrious man loved by all who had come across him at one time or the other. In her terms, "I cannot think of anything that will calm you. But I know Allah is here for you. Allah is here for your dear ones too", She prayed.

APC Deputy National Women Leader's father, late Alhaji Abubakar Ibrahim (Sarkin Ayuka) passed away after a brief illness at Federal Medical Centre, Jalingo (FMC), in Taraba State and has since been buried according to Islamic rites.



Atiku's Subpoenaed Witnesses Unsettle INEC, Tinubu, APC At Tribunal

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The decision of the former Vice President of Nigeria, Abubakar Atiku to bring subpoenaed witnesses into the hearing of his petition on Wednesday, unsettled the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), President Bola Tinubu and the All Progressives Congress (APC) who jointly stood their grounds that the witnesses must not be allowed to testify until June 8.

Following the concern of the PEPC on Tuesday that Atiku and the PDP were turning out their exhibits in piecemeal, their lawyer, Mr. Eytayo Jegede, SAN complained that INEC was frustrating their litigation against Tinubu and the APC despite having paid Six Million Naira (N6,000,000) in fees to the electoral body. They consequently applied for and were granted the order to subpoena witnesses at the court's resumed hearing.

At the resumed hearing on Wednesday, Atiku, who was the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate in the disputed February 25 presidential election had called his first subpoenaed witness at the Presidential Election Petition Court (PEPEC) to tender some sensitive documents but the move was vehemently opposed by INEC and Tinubu.

INEC, Tinubu and APC through

their individual lawyers objected to the taking of the evidence of the witness who was said to be an Adhoc staff of INEC.

Lead counsel to the PDP, Chief Chris Uche, SAN, after the admittance of exhibits from 10 local governments in Kogi State, called in one of his listed witnesses who gave evidence on how INEC failed to transmit results in real time "as promised".

Shortly after the end of cross examination of the witness, Hon. Ndubuisi Nwobu from Anambra State, Uche informed the court that the petitioners have three subpoenaed witnesses and went to call the first one, an Adhoc staff of INEC.

However, immediately the witness entered the witness box and barely before he could take his oath, counsel to INEC, Mr Abubakar Mahmoud, SAN, rose in objection to the hearing of the evidence of the witness.

He informed the court that he was only served this morning with the statement of the witness and, as such, would have to study the statement in order to do a thorough cross examination.

His position was shared by Tinubu's lawyer, Chief Akin Olujimi, SAN and APC's lawyer, Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN, who added that he was only served barely 20 minutes ago with the statement and has not seen what it contains.

Responding, Uche argued that



with a subpoenaed witness, they were not supposed to front-load his statement to the respondents, adding that there was nothing strange in the statement of the witness to warrant an adjournment.

Uche pleaded with the court to take at least one of the subpoenaed witnesses so as to judiciously make use of the time allotted it because the adjournment would eat into their allotted time.

Presiding Justice of the Court, Justice Haruna Simon Tsammani, while trying to be considerate, proposed standing down trial for 30 minutes to enable respondents to look at the documents and thereby cross

examine the first subpoenaed witness.

INEC, however insisted that the witness cannot be talking and should not be taken because the witness "is said to be an Adhoc staff of the Commission" and as such he would have to go and look at INEC's records to enable him confirm the status of the witness and prepare adequately. Following the respondents' insistence, Uche urged the court to adjourn till tomorrow for the calling of the three subpoenaed witnesses.

Earlier in his evidence, Nwobu told the Court that the election went smoothly in most polling units he visited, including where he cast his vote, but "magic

started happening" at the Ward Collation Centres.

According to him, results of the election were entered into the forms EC8A at the polling units but were not transmitted real time into the IReV because of the failure of the BVAS machines.

He told the panel that, but for his intervention, some staff of INEC would have been attacked due to their inability to upload results in real time.

"There was no real-time transmission of results as we were promised by INEC," he said.

Meanwhile, further hearing into the petition has been shifted till June 8.

Disquiet Over Kaduna Club As Members Accuse Management Of Misappropriation, Self-aggrandizement

By; IBRAHIMADAMU, Kaduna

Members of a famous recreational centre known as Kaduna Club have accused its leaders of misappropriation and plot to corner assets of the elite rendezvous point for personal gains.

It is obvious all is not well within the club with diverse membership mainly elite, including expatriates.

The brewing crisis could be traced to the decision of president of the club, together with members of the management committee respectively to lease out a chunk of the club's landed property to a private developer to build a shopping mall, an action that enraged some key members into writing a petition to the former Governor of Kaduna State Nasir el-Rufai for intervention in December 2022.

A petition signed by ten members of the club, a copy of which our correspondent obtained during an investigation into the matter contained alleged misappropriation of the club's finances and conspiracy by the duo of the president and management committee members to

take possession of its assets through a firm owned by a member via a questionable concession, according to the petitioners.

The petition noted that the club founded in 1932 as a foremost recreation center, subsequently registered under the Corporate Affairs Commission with a government approved landed property at 18 Muhammadu Buhari Way, Kaduna should be used and maintained for the sole purpose of social and brotherhood activities only.

The petitioners recalled with nostalgia past years in the history of the club when members fraternized with one another in pure and mutual friendship, adding that until owner of Binanci Associates Ltd became a member and connived with with the members of the management Committee (President) of the club to rub members off their cherished possession.

"The action of these people is entirely for personal gain and against the club's business, objective and constitution.

"The unfortunate aspect of the deed is that it stated that the price for the assignment is 90.3 million naira only and seven million

naira had already been paid in an earlier lease agreement without stating when and how the balance will be paid and granting Binanci Associates beneficial owner even without paying the balance.

"Binanci has since completed building the shopping malls and sold out the shops/leased them out without making an attempt to pay up the balance to the club.

"The deed of assignment is without without the governor's consent as required by law while the four trustees who signed the document were those foisted on the club which is to be challenged in the court of law," the document added.

The petitioners faulted the ongoing construction in the name of Kaduna club reconstruction, saying it would encroach and tamper with key recreational facilities such as Lawn Tennis courts site and swimming areas, adding that the embarrassing development had already attracted a demolition notice from KASUPDA.

During our investigation, a tour on the said property by our correspondent, a new shopping mall has been erected and the

entire Kaduna Club properties has been demolished allegedly with the approval of the president, management committee members and those parading themselves as the trustee of the club and also some government agencies in the state.

The members in the petition also accused the management committee members and some parading themselves as trustees of the Kaduna Club of gross financial misappropriation, indiscipline and corruption, disclosing that all activities relating to the account of the club under the president and management committee members had been shrouded in secrecy without accountability and transparency.

They called on the incumbent Governor of the state (who is also the Patron of the club), His Excellency, Governor Uba Sani to look into the issue at the club with a view to saving a relic of capital of old Northern Region by ensuring a proper investigation of all actors involved, their collaborators and allegations made by the club President in one of the club (AGM) meetings against the state's agencies; KADGIS, KADIPA and KASUPDA in order to establish the truth.

April Guber Rerun: 50 Injured Zamfara APC Supporters Cry Out Over Neglect

By: ADAM MUH'D, Gusau

No fewer than 50 All Progressives Congress (APC) supporters in Gummi Local Government Area of Zamfara State who sustained various degrees of injury during the April 15 re-run election have cried out for help, saying they are languishing over lack of medical attention. Investigations revealed that the APC supporters sustained injuries as a result of an alleged attack by People's Democratic Party (PDP) supporters at various polling units during the election and after the election, were left unattended by the party, as well as key stakeholders. Majority of the victims were critically ill and could not afford to have medical attention due to the poor financial status. The spokesperson of the victims, Mohammed Sani Takori whose house was also destroyed during the election, in an interview with newsmen on Tuesday, described the situation as unfortunate, stressing that a party like APC sees no moral responsibility to its members as important. Takori a former member of

the House of Representatives, wondered how APC stakeholders, could not come to the aid of the victims morally and financially to seek for medical attention.

"It is shocking after, we wholeheartedly supported the APC candidate, Ahmad Usman Lancaster as a result of the encounter with PDP supporters, we were seriously injured and nobody cares to look after us," he added.

According to him, majority of the victims could not seek for medical attention due to poor financial status, but are rather languishing at home.

He lamented the nonchalant attitude of the APC leadership at the state level, such as former governors Abdul'Aziz Yari and Bello Matawalle, for their failure to visit the victims even through delegation.

The victims spokesperson, however, appealed to the national leadership of the APC to intervene and compel the state APC chapter and the key stakeholders to do the needful by paying visits to commiserate the victims.

Ogun Security Outfit Apprehends 2 Over Alleged Vandalisation Of Gas Station

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Two suspected vandals have reportedly been arrested in Ogun State over vandalisation of cables in a gas station.

Also, two operational motorbikes were recovered from the suspects.

Our correspondent gathered that the suspects are members of a 5-man gang that invaded a firm named Green Fuel Company, located in Onipanu area of Ado Odo in Ota Council Area of the state and vandalized cables and other items in the company.

They were said to have been apprehended by security operatives attached to the Ogun State Community Social Orientation and Safety Corps, also known as So-Safe Corps.

The State Commander of the Corps, Dr Soji Ganzallo who made the disclosure in a statement by the Director of Information and Public Relations of the Corps, Assistant Commander Moruf

Yusuf, said the incident occurred at about 11:00am on Saturday June 3, 2023.

It reads, "The Ogun State Community Social Orientation and Safety Corps also known as So-Safe Corps has apprehended two men for burgling a gas station in Ogun.

"It was said that at about 1100hrs on Saturday, 3rd. June, 2023, two of the 5 men who burgled Green Fuel Company, Estate, Onipanu in Ado Odo Ota Local Government Area were apprehended while vandalizing cables and other items in the company.

"Ganzallo noted that two motorbikes used for the operation were captured. The motorbikes are marked TRE 461VL (Bajaj) and AAB-495VE (Honda)

"Ganzallo said that the suspects and the recovered exhibit have been transferred to the Nigeria Police, Onipanu Police Divisional Headquarters for further investigation and likely prosecution".

My Administration Won't Tolerate Any Act Of Indiscipline, Thuggery, Hooliganism, Gov Makinde Vows

**Says "we cannot have two governors in Oyo State"*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Governor, Engineer Seyi Makinde on Sunday, vowed that the state government will not tolerate any act of indiscipline, thuggery, hooliganism and any act of violence that can disrupt the prevailing peace in the state.

The governor dropped this hint while speaking at the thanksgiving service in commemoration of his second term in office, held at St Peter's Cathedral, Aremo Ibadan, the Oyo State capital.

According to the governor, there will be no room for thuggery, hooliganism and any act of violence in and across the nooks and crannies of Oyo State

"On the issue of security, there cannot be development when there is no peace. During the election, no one can say he was beaten or molested. I went to the

parks and garages and told them that I will find way to merge them together, but someone said that he cannot work with them", he said.

Engineer Makinde added, "We cannot have two governors in Oyo State. All the bad ones, we will deal with them. We are on top of the situation. You have given me the opportunity of second term. I thank you and God for given me the opportunity to serve another term".

The governor stressed further, "I stand before you today to say that the second term will be better than the first term. I will serve the people to the best of my ability. I want the church to pray that I will finish it strong".

Governor Makinde also cautioned against indiscriminate dumping of refuse on the roads in the state as well as street trading, adding that such will not be tolerated anyone in the state.

Tasking the people of the state to henceforth desist

from dumping of refuses on the roads and avoid street trading, so as to ensure an environment that is safe for investors to invest in the state, saying, the people of the state should adjust their lifestyle in order to ensure a safe environment by desisting from indiscriminate dumping of refuses and street trading across state.

He quickly added that his administration will provide a favourable atmosphere for people of the state to comply with the directive, saying, "We need to upgrade our lifestyle especially dumping of refuses on the median of roads, dumping of refuses at every junction and street trading and we want investors to come".

"If we want Oyo State to rival Lagos, then we have to change our lifestyle. Do not say that Makinde is wicked in this second term. We will provide atmosphere to ensure that people comply."

Among dignitaries present at the thanksgiving service are the Deputy Governor, Barrister Adebayo Lawal, his wife, Mrs Ajibola Lawal, wife of former Governor of Oyo State, Chief Mrs Mutiat Ladoja, Speaker Oyo State House of Assembly, Hon. Adebo Ogundoyin, Chief Judge of Oyo State, Justice Iyabo Yerima, Senator Gbenga Babalola, Dr. Wasiu Olatubosun.

Others included the former Deputy Governor of the state, and the National Deputy Chairman, PDP, Taofeek Arapaja, Ambassador Ronke Adefope, Elder Wole Oyelese, Head of Service, Mrs Olubunmi Oni, Chief Bode Amoo and his wife and Chief Mrs Elizabeth Mojinyinola Akinyele, Dr. Saka Balogun, Chief Sunday Ogunlade, Chief J G Adetoro, Dr. Deji Omole and Mogaji Joseph Tegbe among others



Governor Seyi Makinde at the Thanksgiving Service on Sunday in Ibadan

Kaduna: We're Committed To Advancing Access To Education, Improving Teaching - UNICEF



By ; ALEX UANGBAOJE Kaduna

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has reiterated its commitment to advancing access to education for every child and improving quality of teaching in Kaduna State.

Chief of Operations UNICEF Nigeria, Opiyo Nixon, gave the assurance in Kaduna last weekend, during the opening of the 2023 Access Bank, UNICEF Charity Shield International Polo Tournament at Fifth Chukker in Kaduna.

The 2023 Charity Shield International Polo Tournament is part of a continued partnership between UNICEF, Fifth Chukker and Access Bank Group, to increase access to quality education by orphans and vulnerable children in Kaduna State with a view to giving them a chance for a better and quality life in the future.

The initiative began in 2006, is in line with UNICEF's mandate of advocating for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand

their opportunities to reach their full potential.

The partnership, which targets children and families in greatest need, has been providing support to accelerate access to quality education by disadvantaged children, especially Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in dire need of education in selected communities of Kaduna State.

Under the partnership two schools - LEA Maraban Jos, in Igabi Local Government Area (LGA) and LEA Kakau, in Chikun LGA were adopted and rebuilt, to sustain the provision of quality education to orphans and vulnerable children.

The schools' infrastructures were upgraded including the provision of toilets, water, and other WASH facilities in collaboration with the Kaduna State Ministry of Education (MoE) and Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB).

The initiative, which has put a smile on the faces of the benefiting children and

communities over the years, has significantly improved the learning environment and made the schools safe and conducive for teaching and learning. Specifically, the interventions have increased school enrolment in LEA Primary School, Maraban Jos from 8,469 in 2015/2016 school session to 11,476 in 2016/2017 school year, representing 3,007 or 35.5% increase.

Nixon, noted that access to education constitutes the sustainable development goal 4 and UNICEF is working hand in hand with Access Bank, Fifth Chukker and everyone participating in the tournament to contribute and raise resources to support the education of children in Kaduna State.

According to him, "We are raising resources that will go into advancing access to education, improve the quality of teaching and more importantly ensuring that each child has the opportunity to access education in advance development stages within their lives.

"The funds will be plunge

back into the schools that has already been established because there are still a lot of gaps that do exist in those schools, if you look at the schools, there is need to improve on the number of teachers in terms of pupil ratio to teachers providing services in those classrooms.

"They still need to improve the library and the computer Lab and of course the management of the facility will look into expanding the coverage in terms of additional classrooms.

"The statistics of the school indicates that there are high numbers of children who want to access education in these facility, without expansion, is not going to be possible to absorb all these children.

"So I take this opportunity to encourage other partners to come together, pull resources together and ensure that every child within the community has access to educational facility that provides quality education."

NYSC, NPC, UNICEF To Enhance Digital Birth Registration In Nigeria

By ; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), the National Population Commission (NPC), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have on Wednesday, announced a new partnership aimed at enhancing birth registration in Nigeria.

A statement issued by the UNICEF Communication Officer, Borno State, Folashade Adebayo and made available to journalists in Maiduguri on Wednesday, said the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) solidified the commitment of the three organizations to collaborate and support the digitized birth registration process in 22 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

"This partnership aims to provide a robust framework within which the parties can implement a comprehensive and efficient digitized birth registration process across Nigeria.

"By leveraging their existing resources and facilities, the NYSC, NPC, and UNICEF intend to benefit at least 12 million under-5 eligible children who will be registered as primary beneficiaries.

"Additionally, families, parents, caregivers, communities, households, state and local government areas (LGAs), and ward level administrators will be indirect beneficiaries of this collaboration."

Speaking on this significant collaboration, the Director General NYSC, Brigadier General Y.D. Ahmed expressed enthusiasm, saying, "The NYSC is honoured to join hands with the NPC and UNICEF in this vital initiative. Our deployment of 850 corps members as coordinators and supervisors, spread across 22 states and the FCT, will ensure effective monitoring and supervision of the birth registration process.

"Together, we will strive to achieve comprehensive data collection and availability, supporting increased birth registration coverage in our respective LGAs.

"The NPC, as a key partner, will play a crucial role in ensuring the success of this partnership. According to Chairman of NPC, Honourable Nasir Isa Kwarra.

"We are committed to supporting the recruitment of ad hoc birth registrars at the ward level and ensuring the availability of registration materials to coordinators and supervisors. By distributing protocols, checklists, FAQs, and informational materials.

"We aim to engage local government chairpersons, traditional and religious leaders, and communities to promote the importance of birth registration. Together, we will generate and analyze digitised birth registration data at the LGAs and wards, ultimately increasing birth registration coverage."

According to the statement, "UNICEF, a leading organization in child welfare and development, will bring its expertise to the table to support the digitised birth registration services in focus states.

"Our primary focus will be on providing technical assistance and evidence-based interventions," emphasized Cristian Munduate, UNICEF representative in Nigeria.

"By integrating birth registration into routine health service delivery, conducting the digitalized birth registration process, and increasing awareness through state and community-level campaigns, we aim to ensure that every child has access to and benefits from the essential health and birth registration interventions they deserve.

"Through this partnership, the NYSC, NPC, and UNICEF are committed to promoting the importance of birth registration within the National Youth Corps programs, stimulating increased demand for birth registration services in health facilities and at the community level.

"The collaboration will also foster constructive engagement with local government chairpersons, traditional and religious leaders, leveraging their support to enhance the digitalized birth registration process," the statement added.

Infrastructure: My Administration Committed To Working With Private Sector - Uba Sani

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has said that his administration is committed to working with the private sector and development partners to ensure investment in critical infrastructure in the state.

In an effort to fast track the development

of Kaduna State by attracting huge investments, he held a meeting with the Access Corporation at Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, in Kaduna.

The governor rose from the meeting with a firm commitment to finalizing areas of intervention and fashion a cooperative agreement.

"My administration is committed to

working with the private sector and development partners to ensure investment in critical infrastructure.

"Also, improve the Ease of Doing Business, boost employment through human capital development and make Kaduna State the destination of choice for private capital investment and wealth creation.

"I appreciate the corporation for their strong interest in Kaduna State.

"We shall continue to seek new opportunities and partnerships as we strive to improve the lives of our citizens.

"We have on offer very attractive incentives. The environment is good for business. The people are welcoming," he said.



Accidents: Zulum Urges Nigerian Air Force To Open Diversion Along Old Jos Road Maiduguri

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri
Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum has appealed to the Nigerian Air Force to open the diverted expressway along Old Jos Road at Ngomari Old Airport Area to curtail frequent road accidents in the area has become worrisome and fatal. The governor made the call on Tuesday, when he visited the scene of a fatal accident that led to the demise of some

people, including a top female politician, Hajiya Mallam aged 47. Addressing residents of the community, Zulum at the road diversion along the Jos expressway by Ngomari junction (Air Force Base), said Ngomari junction has been a notorious place for accidents that occur almost frequently and daily. It would be recalled that with the recent incident that occurred on Tuesday which led to loss of lives, the people in the

community have called on Governor Zulum to intervene in order to prevent further injuries and loss of lives along the road being caused by the diversion. Governor Zulum further sympathized with the people of the community for their endurance in the area. He urged them to be patient and assured them that Borno State Government under his leadership will talk to the top officials of the Nigerian Air Force in Abuja to see

how jointly they will work together to open the road to ease movement of vehicles and for public use. The governor however, thanked the Nigerian Military, police, and other security agencies including the vigilante CJTF and hunters for their contributions towards securing the state, stressing that, "it's time to open the expressway for use by the public to reduce casualties in the area."



Why We Dragged INEC, Uba Sani, Others Before Election Tribunal - AA

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Action Alliance, (AA) party has said that it is in court to challenge the 2023 Gubernatorial election results in Kaduna State that brought Governor Uba Sani to office over the unlawful exclusion of the party's governorship candidate from the exercise.

The state governorship candidate in the just concluded 2023 governorship election, Ambassador Suleiman Abdulrasheed, disclosed this while speaking to Journalists at the Election Petition Tribunal in Kaduna on Wednesday.

According to him, the party filed a suit No. EPT/KD/GOV/2023 before the Court between Action Alliance (AA), Amb. Suleimam Abdulrasheed as 1st and 2nd Petitioners and Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC), All Progressives Congress, (APC), Uba Sani and Adam Timothy Sherman as 1st, 2nd and 3rd Respondents respectively.

He said, there was no basis for excluding him from the race, because even though the name Adamu Timothy Sherman is listed above as the candidate of the 1st petitioner at the said election, the said Adamu Timothy Sherman is neither a

member of the 1st Petitioner or was sponsored by the 1st Petitioner, nor did he participated in the governorship primaries organized, yet he is the candidate of the party in the state. Amb. Abdulrasheed added that there is no reason for the 1st Respondent to unlawfully exclude him from the elections, hence the election is thus invalid for non-compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Act 2022 (as amended)

According to him, while AA rejoices with Senator Uba Sani on his victory, however, it faults the INEC processes that excluded him as a governorship candidate from participating in

the election.

He further said his party, AA, has called the attention of the 1st respondent to an appeal filed by a former member of the party, Mr Kenneth Udeze before the Supreme Court.

In the suit No. SC/CV/1259/2022, filed by the said Kenneth Udeze against Adekunle Rufai Omo-Aje and others, Udeze appealed against the judgment that authenticated the emergence of Omo-Aje as the national chairman of the AA. He added that the said Kenneth Udeze who was suspended and subsequently expelled from the party had approached the Supreme Court to appeal the

judgment won by the party's authentic National Chairman, Adekunle Rufai Omo-Aje. Amb. Abdulrasheed noted that INEC deliberately failed to comply with the provisions of the Electoral Acts and also failed to obey court judgements which were favourable to the party.

It would be recalled that the Court of Appeal and several other courts had ordered INEC to upload the names of candidates submitted to it by Omo-Aje on its website and paste same on the notice boards of all its offices. The courts also directed INEC National Chairman, Prof Mamood Yakubu to recognize

Police Arrest, Whisk Former Ogun NNPP Chairman Oginni To Abuja

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Men of the Nigeria Police on Tuesday, arrested a former Chairman of New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), in Ogun State, Olaposi Sunday Oginni.

New Nigerian learnt that the former NNPP Chairman was arrested by the Police following a petition sent to the Inspector-General of Police, Alkali Baba by E.A Igwe & Co, Barristers and Solicitors of the Supreme Court of Nigeria on behalf of the Board of Trustees and active members of New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP).

It was gathered that based on the petition, Police detectives arrived in Abeokuta and arrested the alleged principal suspect, Olaposi Sunday Oginni on Tuesday, detained him at Lafenwa Police Station before he was whisked away to Abuja on Wednesday.

The petition with Ref EAV/ MISC/ 05/1992/2023 dated 20th May, 2023, with the heading: 'Call For The Arrest Of The Culprits And To Subject Them To The Full Wrath Of The Law', saying, "we have been consulted and our legal services retained by the Trustees and active members of New Nigeria People Party NNPP (Hereinafter called our clients) and on whose definite and clear instruction we write you with respect to the above subject matter.

Part of the petition reads, "We are informed by our Clients and we verily believe same that the relevant facts-in-issue are as stated hereunder for your perusal. It is our instruction that these culprits are hell-bent and had conspired amongst themselves to deliberately destabilize and frustrate the activities of New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) at the party secretariat situate and lying at No. 11 Mahatma Gandhi Street, Area 11, Garki Abuja for no justifiable reason save to project their evil plot by attacking the party secretariat".

It stressed, "And maliciously damaged the glasses with persistent threat of dealing with the members of the party and

subjecting their lives to imminent danger occasioned by the mischief of the culprits hence this petition. We are also told that the first culprit being Oginni Sunday Olaposi had in his possession N7.5 Million Cash which he boldly claimed was in his custody an act against the law of the land hence this petition.

Our clients told us the principal culprit and others did divert several millions of naira belonging to the NNPP by the use of the secret account which are manipulation and indexes of fraud and opened for that purpose".

"The culprits by that conduct are running down the party formation and will not stop unless arrested and subjected to the full wrath of the law. The main culprit is guilty of money laundering charges and will not stop in such boasted act unless arrested and subjected to the full wrath of the law. It is our further information that the culprits are also guilty of gun running which most of them used during the just concluded election in some states including Ogun state", it said.

The petition added, "The culprits are also fingered to be allegedly financing terrorism contrary to section 25 of the money laundering Act. It is our further information that the principal suspect (Mr. Oginni) is guilty of obtaining money from several gubernatorial candidates in the just concluded 2023 election under the platform of NNPP and many victims are available to testify at the point of hearing. We are told that the ill activities of these culprits had drastically affected the activities of the NNPP party new caretaker chairman for Ogun state in the person of Prince Ibrahim Adekunle and if the culprits are not arrested many things will go wrong in the party hence this petition".

"The principal suspect (Mr. Oginni) is said to have fraudulently removed party files, computers and printer from the party office supply because he was expelled from the party. The same culprit is said to have fraudulently opened suspicious account in the name of NNPP without

consent of Board of Trustees, made himself and the former treasure



r signatories to the account where many unsuspected victims paid millions of naira which a clear case of criminal deceit and criminal conversion of party fund.

"Our attention has also been drawn to the fact that because of the ill-gotten money in custody of the culprit to the detriment of the party that they diverted the said sum to the allegedly financing of terrorist in some parts of the country and may not stop unless arrested and interrogated properly. The culprits with their mischief are causing fear in the mind of our numerous clients hence this petition.

"Our clients make haste to raise this petition for your intervention because the

culprits are said to be boasting to the hearing of many people that they have the money and contact to sweep under the carpet any complaint against them no matter the nature even if it is heinous crime. We write on behalf of our client and to request that the culprits be arrested and subjected to the full wrath of the law. We count on you".

Contacted, Ogun state Police command Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Omolola Odutola said she could not comment on the arrest of Oginni since he was not arrested by men of Nigeria Police from Abeokuta but from Abuja, and that

Fighting Plastic Pollution A Collective Responsibility For All - Governor Abba

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Kano State Governor, Engineer Abba Kabir Yusuf has described the fight against plastic pollution as fight for all in order to ensure healthy environment free of plastic waste. The governor stated this while delivering his address at the premises of Yusuf Maitama Sule University as part of the commemorations of word Environment day that is set aside by the United Nations to specifically recognise the need for according our environment the requisite attention it deserves, with a view to safeguard humanity annually celebrated worldwide with year's theme " Beat Plastic Pollution".

According to a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, Governor Abba recalled with nostalgia how Kano used to be a land with natural beauty but the effect of indiscriminate dumping of plastic waste is posing threat in the environmental well being of the city.

According to the Governor " Kano is land blessed with natural beauty, however, like many places around the world we are grappling with adverse effects of plastic pollution" lamented the Governor.

Engineer Abba proffered solutions to the menace " we must awareness about

the detrimental impacts of plastic pollution on our environment as well as responsive waste management.

Education is the key to changes behaviours and foster a culture of environmental stewardship through community engagements, schools programs and public campaign. We can empower our citizens with the knowledge to make informed choices and take actions against plastic pollution." Explained the Governor.

Engineer Abba added that to fight plastic pollution in Kano, people need to prioritize the reduction of single use of plastic and businesses, individuals and government institutions to adopt sustainable alternatives such as; re-use bags, bottles and packaging by promoting and supporting local initiatives that provide eco-friendly alternative.

A presentation was made by an Environmentalist, Dr Dahir Hashim on the need for people to play their role in safeguarding and preserving the environment for the well-being of all life on our planet.

At the end of the occasion, the Governor with the support of his deputy and other top government functionaries planted trees at the venue of the occasion and later launched " keep Kano Clean " campaign at Dandago primary school.

2nd Term: Fintiri Appoints New SSG, Chief Of Staff, HoS

By; TINA PHINEAS,
Yola

Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State has approved the appointment of Honourable Awwal D. Tukur as the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), and Dr Edgar Amos as Chief of Staff Government House.

New Nigerian reports that Tukur was a former member of the House of Representatives and served as the Director General of the Adamawa Presidential and Gubernatorial Campaign Council in the 2023 elections, Amos on the other hand, was the the Head of Service.

Following the appointment of Amos, Shehu Isa Ardo who is the most senior civil servant in the state will take over as the new Head of Service. The appointments take immediate effect.

Our correspondent reports that this is the second appointment made by the Fresh Air Governor, after his inauguration for another four-year term.

It would be recalled that Fintiri shortly after his inauguration, announced the appointment of Humwashi Wonosikou as Chief Press Secretary to the governor, being his first appointment after coming back to office for his second term.

Rivers NIS Decorates 56 Promoted Officers

By; RAYMOND
TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Rivers State Command of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) has decorated 56 Senior Officers recently promoted by the board.

A break down of the promotees indicates 27 male and 29 female.

In his address at the occasion, the Comptroller Rivers State Command of NIS, James Sunday enjoined the officers to be selfless, dedicated, committed and patriotic. He also implored the officers to ensure they perform their duties in line with the mandates of the service.

Stating that to whom much is given, much is expected, James emphasised that much was invested on the

officers and much turn over is expected from them in the area of service delivery, skillful and creative disposition, high level professionalism in daily activities as they discharge their duties.

While thanking the minister and the board, he said, "On behalf of the officers, we appreciate the Minister of Interior under whose Chairmanship the promotion was released and the Comptroller General of Immigration Service, Members of the board (CDCFIB) who worked tirelessly to bring the promotion to fruition as a way of incentives and reward for hardwork, dedication and merit in the exams they sat for culminating in the promotion."



L-R: Comptroller Sunday James decorating one of the officers, being assisted by an NSCDC Officer.

Asake Demands Nullification Of 2023 Kaduna Guber Polls

By; AMOS TAUNA,
Kaduna

The gubernatorial candidate of Labour Party in the March 18, 2023 election, Jonathan Asake on Tuesday, asked the Election Petition Tribunal to nullify the governorship election conducted in Kaduna State.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced the gubernatorial candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Uba Sani as the winner of the election.

According to the gubernatorial candidate of Labour Party, the election was marred with irregularities and did not comply with the electoral act.

Labour Party (LP), governorship candidate, Jonathan Asake and the LP lead counsel, Barrister Abah Ejembi and two of his colleagues told court during pre-hearing,

that there was massive votes buying and corruption, asking the court to invalidate the entire process of the election.

Barr. Ejembi while in an interview with newsmen at the end of the sitting, said the governorship candidate and LP petition, with Ref. No. EPT/KD/Gov/2/2023,

before the governorship tribunal, "is asking for the nullification of the March 18, 2023 governorship election, in Kaduna State". He explained, "Our complain before the court is of non-compliance with the electoral act and massive votes buying. In our petition, we asked the court to invalidate the entire process."

He stated that the gubernatorial candidate in the last election is asking the court to nullify the election on the basis of massive irregularities, non-compliance with electoral act and the act of corruption in the process.

Barr. Ejembi said the court sitting was for pre-hearing and dealt with the processes and procedures that would guide the entire process, interns of filing applications, what is required and time that will be used or needed during the hearing of the case in the court.

He said that the sitting also indicated what kind of applications they intend to file, how and what time parties required to file the applications and to respond and the time stipulated by the court.

The matter was adjourned to Thursday June 15, 2023, by Chairman of the panel, Justice Victor O. Oviawe, for the hearing of all the applications that have been filed.

Other members of the panel are, Justice D.A. Damulak and Justice N. Nonye.



Jonathan Asake

NDLEA Set Ablaze Bags Of Skunk, Recovers 76.9Kg Loud Imported From Canada

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has said that it has set ablaze 231 jumbo bags of skunk, just as it recovered 76.9 kilograms of Canadian Loud imported from Canada.

The set ablaze illicit drugs, were said to have been discovered in a large warehouse located at a forest in the community, Owan West Local Government Area of Edo State.

The operation involving hundreds of well-armed NDLEA operatives in the early hours of Tuesday, May 30, followed intelligence that a wanted drug kingpin had stored tonnes of the illicit substance in the forest for distribution to other parts of the country.

The destroyed psychotropic substance weighed 3,003 kilograms, according to a statement issued by NDLEA's Director of Media and Advocacy, Femi Babafemi on Sunday.

Also, the anti-narcotic agency, during a joint examination with men of the Nigeria Customs Service at the Port Harcourt Ports Complex, Onne, between Thursday, June 1 and Friday,

June 2, 2023, seized 76.9 kilograms of Canadian Loud.

The synthetic strain of cannabis were recovered from four used vehicles in a container marked MSDU6686346 which came in from Canada.

The NDLEA spokesperson explained that the request for 100 per cent examination of the shipment followed earlier intelligence received by the Agency on the container.

The statement further read: "In Kano state, two suspects: Ma'aruf Rabi'u and Abubakar Mustapha were arrested on Tuesday 30th May along Zaria-Kano road with 260 blocks of cannabis weighing 139.4kg, while Auwal Ibrahim was nabbed with 38kg of the same substance the following day Wednesday 31st May along Kaduna-Abuja road, same day 35-year-old female suspect, Bilkisu Isiya, was arrested at Birnin Yero, Kaduna in possession of 5.6kg cannabis.

" In Borno state, two suspects: Abubakar Usman (aka Alhaji Mai Kero) and Adamu Yusuf were arrested at Bargu village, Shani LGA, on Saturday 3rd June with 165 blocks of skunk weighing 140.7kg. Their arrest was effected deep inside a fluid

insurgents' environment with military support.

"A female suspect, Hauwa Ibrahim, 25, was also nabbed in the same village with 6.4kg of the psychoactive substance, while another suspect Alhaji Abubakar, 27, was arrested at Njimitilo checkpoint with 4,200 ampoules of pentazocine injection and different quantities of D5 and exo1-5 tablets.

"A 30-year-old suspect, Iroko Wasiu was arrested at a drug joint at Sabo Aba-Owolowo along Oyo-Ogbomoso expressway on Tuesday 30th May and 31.2kg of cannabis recovered from him, while two suspects: Deji Adelabu, 35, and Mutiu Salau, 37, were nabbed the following day Wednesday 31st May in



One of the suspects nabbed with alleged Illicit drugs

Sabo area along Oyo-Ogbomoso road and Awuro Dada area in Orire local government area of Oyo state with a total of 8kg cannabis recovered from them". Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd) commended the officers and men of Commands for their

commitment and synergy with other law enforcement agencies in their areas of responsibility. He urged them and their compatriots across the country to intensify the offensive action against drug cartels while ensuring a balance with drug demand reduction efforts.

Nigeria Will Emerge An Economic Giant With Fuel Subsidy Removal - AFAN President

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The National President All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) Arc. Kabiru Ibrahim has said a new dawn is imminent in Nigeria beyond fuel subsidy removal, blocking incessant leakages and decisively stemming corruption in all its ramifications.

He expressed this in a statement issued on Sunday and made available to New Nigerian Newspapers, stating that Nigerians must adjust from corruption habit to a better disposition.

"The Nigeria's president ability to act in unison to stem corruption whenever and wherever it occurs will put Nigeria among the most economically advantaged nations of the world, considering its abundant resources such as oil, a large youthful population, many mineral resources and land for agriculture.

Arc. Kabiru said, "we are grappling with debt, poor energy resource, poor healthcare facilities and a host of other necessities required for the optimum push to the attainment of economic prosperity which can be traced to mismanagement and corruption."

According to him, the discipline to resist and loath the lure and the mirage of illegitimate largesse gained from political



office will definitely minimize the incident of corruption in the public service and the overall governance architecture in Nigeria.

"Also, it is quite refreshing that we have started to realistically appraise our peculiarities by the removal of fuel subsidy but there are many more issues around corruption that we have to have the courage to deal with decisively," he added. He advised President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to follow through by appointing people on merit, while holding such people accountable for any failure to attain defined milestones within fixed timelines.

"The President must also reward honesty,

probity and selflessness in the public service to encourage sustainability generally.

"In the areas like agriculture, power, the management of the economy, health and public administration the president must put a high bar in the appointment of highly competent people, with a pedigree of hard work and uncommon integrity.

"The examples of China, Singapore and India are everyday reminders of the potentiality of deliberately taking the gauntlet to make a nation to exit economic challenges and to be able to majestically walk into general prosperity".

"The Nigeria of 2023 and beyond cannot afford doing business as usual otherwise it risks total economic failure and near total disintegration".

"I dare say the challenge for all of us is to resist corruption, embrace nation building by working to better our lot as brothers and sisters," he advised.

The AFAN President said the Nigerian project is for all hands to be on deck and not telling fairy tales to future generations.

PSC To Review Status of Police Lawyers, Graduate Junior Officers

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Qualified lawyers serving in the Nigeria Police Force with junior ranks will soon have their status reviewed by the Police Service Commission.

Similarly, junior officers who acquired additional certificates in other discipline while in service will also benefit same gesture.

Chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC) Dr. Solomon Arase made the promise in his office during a courtesy call by the leadership of the Unity Bar, (Nigerian Bar Association, Abuja branch. This was contained in a statement by Ikechukwu Ani, Head, Press and Public Relations made available to journalists on Sunday.

It reads, "The Chairman of the Police Service Commission, Dr. Solomon Arase, CFR, former Inspector General of Police has promised to look into the status of qualified lawyers serving in the Nigeria Police Force and appearing in Courts with the ranks of Corporals, Sergeants and Inspectors.

"He also said the cases of other junior Police Officers who acquired additional certificates in other disciplines while in service will also receive the attention of the Commission.

"Dr. Arase noted that this will give the Officers the required self confidence to perform better.

"He spoke in Abuja when he received in audience the leadership of the Unity Bar, (Nigerian Bar Association Abuja branch).

Bar. Afam Okeke Chairman of the Association who led the delegation had complained that Lawyers who came into the Police as Junior Officers but improved their qualifications are currently appearing and defending cases in Courts for the Nigeria Police Force but still wearing junior ranks.

"The PSC Chairman told the delegation that the Commission may decide to send these categories of Police Lawyers and other junior Police Officers with additional qualifications

on a short Service training after which they would be properly placed as Officers.

He said the Nigeria Police needs the services of more Lawyers stressing that the Commission will come out with a decision that will leave all parties in a win-win situation.

"BDr. Arase used the opportunity of the courtesy visit to call on the Nigerian Bar Association to advise practising Lawyers to stop criminalising civil matters.

"It is wrong and should be discouraged, civil matters should be treated as civil matters and arbitration should serve the parties and the society better.

We should avoid time wasting in criminalising civil matters and sending them to the Police when it can be better handled outside of the Police", he noted.

Dr. Arase called for a robust legal system in Nigeria that inspires the citizens to seek for redress and justice. He noted that Offenders must be arrested and prosecuted to restore confidence in the system.

He informed his visitors that the Commission is setting up a Compliance Monitoring Unit to ensure the Police Complaints Response Units promptly attends to public complaints. This new Unit, he said will be directly under his supervision for effectiveness and efficiency.

The Commission according to him will henceforth ensure that it prevents a system that does not attend to public complaints.

Dr. Arase also spoke of the Commission's desire to collaborate with the Nigeria Bar Association and organise some training programmes on human rights so as to expose its staff Lawyers to a better appreciation of its duties.

He promised the participation of the Commission and its Staff Lawyers in the Law Week of the Abuja branch and the National body's convention in Abuja.

Bar. Okeke, the Chairman of the Unity Bar had earlier congratulated the PSC Chairman on his appointment and pledged the Union's support.

Bichi LGA Congratulates Gbajabiamila On His Appointment As Tinubu's CoS

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Bichi Local Government Council of Kano State has felicitated the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Honourable Femi Gbajabiamila on his

appointment as Chief of Staff to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

According a statement issued to our correspondent by the executive chairman of the council, Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Sabo in Kano, the appointment of Rt.

Honourable Femi Gbajabiamila is fully appreciated by Bichi Local Government Council because the appointment is well deserved.

"Bichi Local Government Council wishes to congratulate the new

Chief of Staff and commends the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for making the best choice that would certainly facilitate national development," the statement concluded.



Gbajabiamila (left) with Tinubu

Nasarawa Varsity To Commence MBBS Next Academic Session

By; SAMSON YAKI, Lafia

The Nasarawa State University, Keffi (NSUK), is set to commence its MBBS programme in the College of Health and Medical Sciences next academic session.

Vice-Chancellor of the university, Professor Suleiman Bala Mohammed gave the assurance during the handing over of the building that will house the College of Medical and Health Sciences.

Professor Suleiman stated that already, Community Health and Health Information Management programmes will commence this academic session, with the completion and equipping of the College of Medical and Health Sciences Complex, the MBBS program will take off from



the next academic session after certification from NUC, Medical and Dental Health Council, and JAMB.

The Vice-Chancellor used the opportunity to thank TETFund and the contractor of the project Messers Goldmark for

executing the project according to specification and delivering the project despite the challenges encountered during the execution of the contract.

In his remarks, the Managing Director of Goldmark Construction Services, Engr. S.A.

Danladi thanked the university management for the opportunity to add value to the University.

According to him, the contract was awarded in 2021 with a completion period of 24 weeks to be handed over in 2022, but due to the delays experienced by COVID-19, the project is delivered in 2023.

Highpoint of the ceremony was the handing over of the keys of the complex to the Vice-Chancellor and a guided tour of the building led by the Acting Director of Physical Planning, Engr. Ahmed Liman.

The College of Medical and Health Sciences Complex was constructed through the TETFund Annual Intervention Project 2017-2019.

SOKAPU Crisis Deepens As National Exco Rejects Suspension By NEC

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The internal wranglings among the National Executive arm of the Southern Kaduna Peoples Union (SOKAPU) seems to have blown into a full crisis which has crippled the once vibrant group, known for defending the interest of Southern Kaduna.

According to sources, the National Executive Committee (NEC) of SOKAPU met in Kaduna on May 13, 2023 and suspended the entire National exco of the union.

This came after the President of SOKAPU, Mr Dio Awemi Maisamari made an opening remarks in Kaduna, in which he indicted himself of failure to lead SOKAPU and tendered his resignation.

This prompted the NEC to suspend the entire exco. And investigation committee was formed. Also, a caretaker committee was inaugurated to run the union for three months.

But the suspended exco, which may be heading to court if the matter is not resolved, according to a source, have strongly challenged its suspension.

In a letter of protest written to the Chairman, Board of Trustee (BoT) of SOKAPU, elder Stephen Bangoji, the aggrieved members wrote that their suspension did not follow due process and as such, they are seeking intervention of the BoT.

A copy of the letter which was obtained by our correspondent is titled: "Request For Urgent Intervention On The Purported Suspension of the CEC By NEC."

The letter stated with an opening: "The Central Executive Committee (CEC) has been embroiled in leadership crisis which has pitched the President of SOKAPU, Mr. Awemi Dio Maisamari, the General Secretary, Mr Stephen Mallan on one side and 13 other members of the exco," the letter noted.

"This development has been previously conveyed to you in which you tried to intervene but to no avail," it went on.

"Some of the areas in which we have had major disagreements with the two are: "Subsuming SOKAPU under one Southern Kaduna Leadership Council (SKLC), which is an aberration of the norm. SOKAPU cannot be under any Southern Kaduna group, without amending the constitution of our great union.

"The President is more loyal to the Community Development Associations' (CDA) forum and CONEACDA in which he has remained the President of Adara Development Association (ADA) and the Vice President of CONEACDA.

"He has also refused to abide by agreed resolutions during exco meetings. He is also fond of unauthorized withdrawals of funds among others.

"Since the coming of Maisamari as SOKAPU President, SOKAPU has never carried out a single activity even with all the serious issues that Southern Kaduna was facing," the 13 members of the embattled exco alleged in the letter.

"Mr Mallan, the GS, has shown shocking

incompetence since he was voted into office in 2019. He has never produced a single minute of our meeting. Aside that, he was absent from his duty post from 2020 to 2022," said the group.

"On the 25th April, 2023, the President convened a CEC meeting in which, again, we had heated debates on several matters. He then announced that there will be a NEC meeting on the 13th of May, 2023 in which matters that we couldn't address at the CEC will be tabled before the NEC. We then agreed that before the NEC, we have to sit and draft an agenda and decide on issues to be tabled before the NEC," said the CEC.

"We arrived the NEC meeting early, hoping that we shall draft an agenda for the meeting. But unknown to CEC, Maisamari had a prepared agenda without consulting with us. We were later to find out that Mr Dio had a meeting with some members of the CDA forum in which the agenda of the NEC meeting was drafted. We were made to understand that the plan was to allow Maisamari to honourably resign while we the remaining exco were to be suspended so as to dent our image," the group alleged.

"When the meeting started, the President made a long welcome remark which was laced with false and malicious allegations against us," the group claimed.

"He admitted that he had failed in his duties and owned responsibility for all that happened under his tenure.

"He even tendered a receipt of N1,065,000 (one million, sixty Five Thousand Naira) which he said was a loan he took from the coffers of SOKAPU, to buttress one of the allegations against him," reads the letter.

"He then tendered his resignation and pleaded that it should be immediately adopted," said the letter.

According to the letter, the confession of failure by Maisamari and his tendering to resign caused a stir at the meeting. The embattled exco said that instead of being allowed to defend themselves, the NEC summarily suspended them, formed an investigation committee and a Caretaker Committee to run the union.

The letter continued: "Sir, may we draw your attention to section 26 (v) of the SOKAPU constitution which reads inter alia, 'no disciplinary measures shall be taken against any member until a disciplinary committee must have given such a member not less than 7 days notice in writing to appear before the committee and such notice shall inform the member of the complains or allegations against/her. No member shall suffer any disciplinary sanction without first having heard an opportunity of appearing before the committee to answer to the complains or allegations made against him/her and to adduce any evidence in defense thereto, if he/she desires."

The letter went on to point out that, "we have not been served with any complaints or allegations against any of us.

"We are also not aware of any petition written against us," the exco said in the letter.

SOKAPU



"We have served SOKAPU and sacrificed for Southern Kaduna to the best of abilities. Under a purposeful leadership, we raised SOKAPU to global attention and we did a lot to improve the wellbeing of our distress people even without any subvention from anywhere," reads the letter.

"We therefore, protest and reject our suspension, because we cannot be punished for the failure of Mr Dio Maisamari without being heard.

"In other words, we are being purportedly punished (suspended) before investigation. We reject such kind of suspension," said the group.

"The formation of the Investigative and Disciplinary committee also goes contrary to section 26(i) of the SOKAPU constitution which reads: 'There shall be a DISCIPLINARY AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE to be constituted by the NEC from among its members and any other member of the union as may deem appropriate on THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CEC.'

"It is therefore, an abnormality that the same CEC which is supposed to recommend the constitution of the committee was said to have been suspended," the group noted.

"Sir, the constitution of the Care Taker Committee also comes short of the constitutional provision of SOKAPU.

"According to section 17 (Vi): 'In the event of the resignation or removal of the entire CEC before the expiration of tenure, the BoT shall in consultation with member association, appoint a caretaker committee in a manner prescribed by this constitution, to handle the affairs of the union for a period not exceeding 3 months, at the end of which a special EC (Electoral Committee) shall be convened for the purpose of electing a new CEC.

"Sir, you can now see that we were supposed to have been investigated first, and if found wanting, assuming the NEC has the powers to remove us, it is only the BoT that has the powers to appoint a care taker committee after due consultation as stipulated by our laws.

"We are therefore, challenging the constitution of the Care Taker Committee

as a constitutional violation and illegal usurpation of our duties.

"Mr Chairman sir, we also want to put you on notice that the said CTC has collected all our cheques and bank document and are working towards changing of signatories.

"Sir, let it be made clear that we wholeheartedly support the investigation of our tenure. We believe that it is a proper thing to be done and we are willing to appear before a properly constituted investigation committee in line with the provisions of our Union's constitution as stated above.

"We the undersigned are pleading for the prompt intervention of the BoT to arrest the drift which SOKAPU is currently facing. We pledge our commitment to the service of SOKAPU and the People of Southern Kaduna.

"Thank you very much as we await your early intervention."

When approached for confirmation, an insider in SOKAPU said that the aggrieved members may already have started briefing a lawyer in the event that a return to the status quo ante is not achieved and a proper process of investigating them is not done.

"The believe that it is a witch hunt all arranged by Maisamari to square up for the resistance the other exco gave him," the source added.

Signatories to the letter are"

1. Comrade Elisha Rosy - Vice President 1
2. Mrs Catherine J Amangs - Vice President 2
3. Comrade Pius Saleh Fadia - Assistant General Secretary
4. Mrs Mary Sheyin - Treasurer
5. Anthony Joshua Nicodemus - Assistant Treasurer
6. Luka Binniyat - PRO
7. Miss Teprik Emmanuel - Assistant PRO
8. Tijanni Hassan - Financial Secretary
9. Solomon Haruna - Assistant Financial Secretary
10. Ali Musa - Organising Secretary
11. Joseph Yakubu - Assistant Organising Secretary
12. CMD Kantiok - Auditor
13. Barr. Yakubu Galadima - Legal Adviser

NYSC, NPC, UNICEF To Enhance Digital Birth Registration In Nigeria

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR,
Maiduguri

The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), the National Population Commission (NPC), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have on Wednesday, announced a new partnership aimed at enhancing birth registration in Nigeria.

A statement issued by the UNICEF Communication Officer, Borno State, Folashade Adebayo and made available to journalists in Maiduguri on Wednesday, said the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) solidified the commitment of the three organizations to collaborate and support the digitized birth registration process in 22 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

"This partnership aims to provide a robust framework within which the parties can implement a comprehensive and efficient digitized birth registration process across Nigeria.

"By leveraging their existing resources and facilities, the NYSC, NPC, and UNICEF intend to benefit at least 12 million under-5 eligible children who will be registered as primary beneficiaries.

"Additionally, families, parents, caregivers, communities, households, state and local government areas (LGAs), and ward level administrators will be indirect beneficiaries of this collaboration."

Speaking on this significant collaboration, the Director General NYSC, Brigadier General Y.D. Ahmed expressed enthusiasm, saying, "The NYSC is honoured to join hands with the NPC and UNICEF in this vital initiative. Our deployment of 850 corps members as coordinators and supervisors, spread across 22 states and the FCT, will ensure effective monitoring and supervision of the birth registration process.

"Together, we will strive to achieve comprehensive data collection and availability, supporting increased birth registration coverage in our respective LGAs.

"The NPC, as a key partner, will play a crucial role in ensuring the success of this

partnership. According to Chairman of NPC, Honourable Nasir Isa Kwarra.

"We are committed to supporting the recruitment of ad hoc birth registrars at the ward level and ensuring the availability of registration materials to coordinators and supervisors. By distributing protocols, checklists, FAQs, and informational materials.

"We aim to engage local government chairpersons, traditional and religious leaders, and communities to promote the importance of birth registration. Together, we will generate and analyze digitised birth registration data at the LGAs and wards, ultimately increasing birth registration coverage."

According to the statement, "UNICEF, a leading organization in child welfare and development, will bring its expertise to the table to support the digitised birth registration services in focus states.

"Our primary focus will be on providing technical assistance and evidence-based interventions," emphasized Cristian Munduate, UNICEF representative in Nigeria.

"By integrating birth registration into routine health service delivery, conducting the digitalized birth registration process, and increasing awareness through state and community-level campaigns, we aim to ensure that every child has access to and benefits from the essential health and birth registration interventions they deserve.

"Through this partnership, the NYSC, NPC, and UNICEF are committed to promoting the importance of birth registration within the National Youth Corps programs, stimulating increased demand for birth registration services in health facilities and at the community level.

"The collaboration will also foster constructive engagement with local government chairpersons, traditional and religious leaders, leveraging their support to enhance the digitalized birth registration process," the statement added

Oba Babajide's daughter Becomes Regent Of Okeigbo

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

The daughter of Oba Oluwole Babajide, Princess Olusola Babajide, has been appointed as the new Regent of Okeigbo following the demise of her father, who was the 17th Ruler and 6th Oluoke of Okeigbo Kingdom.

This was contained in a statement by the Director General, Oluoke Media, Hon Prince Alexander Omojadegbe, made available to journalists.

Princess Olusola Babajide, born on February 27, 1963, in the United Kingdom, completed her primary education at Algernon Primary School in Hendon, London, and Teachers' Training Primary School in Ilesha, Nigeria. She then attended St. Margaret Girls Secondary School in Ilesha, Nigeria. After returning to the UK in 1988, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work and became registered with Social Work England.

As the newly installed Regent, Princess Babajide pledged to continue her late father's legacy. Inspired by his commitment to the welfare and development of the Kingdom, she is resolute in continuing his noble work and ensuring



Princess Olusola Babajide

the prosperity and well-being of the kingdom's residents.

With her extensive

experience, unwavering dedication, and passion for service, Princess Babajide is poised to bring about

positive change, foster unity, and promote the growth of Okeigbo Kingdom as the Regent.

Suspect Caught Stealing Students Phones In Exams Hall Not OAU Lecturer - Management

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

The management of Obafemi Awolowo University, (OAU), Ile Ife yesterday, disclosed that a male young adult caught allegedly involved in stealing phones of some OAU students in examination hall has no link to the University".

Specifically, the University in a statement by the Institution Public Relations Officer, (PRO)

Abiodun Olarewaju, stated that the arrested young adult is neither a lecturer in any of the institution's Departments nor a student of our University

"The attention of the management of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, has been drawn to a viral video where a male young adult was allegedly involved in stealing phones of some OAU students who were in examination hall", he

said Olarewaju added, "While some alleged that he was a lecturer, others said that he was an invigilator. Putting the record straight, the culprit was neither a lecturer in any of our Departments nor a student of our University".

"Actually, he came to the University dressed in a well tailored suit to disguise his intention, he was eventually seen stealing the phones from the bags of students who

were sitting for their examination".

The PRO maintained that "His mode of dressing made those who caught him stealing the phones think that he was a lecturer assigned to invigilate the examination".

"We, therefore, want the general public to disregard, in its entirety, the insinuation that the culprit has any link to the university".

Ndiomu; GbaramatuVoice And Urgency Of Revamping PAP

By: JEROME-MARIO CHIJIJOKE UTOMI

There is no doubt that when late Umaru Yar'adua, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, had a sincere desire to move the Niger Delta region forward in such a way that will protect the rights of future generations of citizens, when he, in 2009 or thereabout, established the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP).

In line with that belief, the amnesty program, going by reports, introduced a number of strategies including educational and vocational skills training of ex-militants as alternatives to violence and militancy in the region. It was particularly reported that the introduction of education and vocational skills training to ex-militants is an innovative approach to transforming one of the major stakeholders in the conflict—youths.

Youths had hitherto been majorly associated with violence and criminality in the region. These approaches have achieved some level of success as violence and militancy have greatly reduced in the region.

That was in the good old days and the teething stage of the programme.

Presently, there are examples with vivid images to support the fact that the Federal Government needs a change in strategy for the Programme to achieve a premeditated objective.

The latest and loudest of such complaint and reservation against PAP came from a special report put together by GbaramatuVoice, a well respected and quietly influential newspaper based in the heart of Warri, the commercial nerve of Delta State, which recently accused Major General Ndiomu, Presidential Amnesty Programme Interim coordinator, of non possession of creative ideas to build on the foundation that his predecessor laid but reputed for generating 'megawatts of excuses which produces monuments of nothingness.

While it frowned at PAP's leadership stoppage of their predecessors' well crafted scholarship scheme that he met on ground, thereby truncating the educational opportunities of many of the ex-agitators,

GbaramatuVoice in that report alleged that some of the student beneficiaries of the scholarship who complained about the out-of-order way the affairs of the ex-agitators were being managed got suspended without following due process, submitting that General Ndiomu led PAP stop the sixty five thousand monthly stipends of ex-agitators that he met on ground without an alternative solution to, or concern on how these youths will survive- a state of affair it concluded has made the region littered with youths that have no training, empowerment, job and stipend.

Going by the above complaint, it is evident that PAP has become a true fork in the road. And in order to take the right in revamping the programme, the President

Bola Ahmed Tinubu led Federal Government must choose the right values and adopt the right perspectives. This is the time for those who see and understand and care and are willing to work to say this time the warnings will not be ignored.

Why GbaramatuVoice's observation must not be overlooked is that it is coming months after a similar concern was raised by Alabo (Dr) Nengi OON, 2nd National Vice President, Ijaw National Congress (INC), where he among other concerns underlined that the Presidential Amnesty Program is failing in its responsibilities because it was executed with militarization, rather than with civilization.

Nengi who spoke at a function put together in Warri, Delta state, with the theme; Presidential Amnesty Programme and Modular Refineries; Towards Sustainable Human Capital Development, stated; "that the Amnesty Program is a Presidential policy that was executed with militarization rather than with civilianization. The program was poorly handled by military elements, which lacked capacity for mediation.

Stakeholders were not given enough opportunities through the Post Amnesty Conference to discuss the best ways to implement the Amnesty Program. The Presidential Amnesty office lacks the personnel with the requisite skills set to manage the Amnesty Programme.

The handlers did not factor-in mediation and conflict transformation. This is sequel to poor strategic conflict assessment of the Niger Delta struggle. Amnesty is no instrument for conflict resolution or conflict management. Amnesty is a general pardon of offence by the government. It is a deliberate overlooking of offenses against a government". He concluded.

For me, what the above tells us is that there is something deeply troubling about the Presidential Amnesty Programme that calls for new leadership and development of a new roadmap that will assist restore its health and vitality.

To catalyze this process, this piece holds the opinion that the Federal Government must appreciate the appointment of a new helmsman for the programme from a rights-based perspective. Government must desist from the current non-participatory approach to such appointments and embrace a broad-based consultative approach that will give civil society organizations operating in the region and the people a sense of ownership over their own issues.

This suggestion is based on a very simple reason.

All things being equal, there is a need to step beyond party affiliations and take a look at the region's fundamental underdevelopment. As clarified by the United Nations Independent Expert on the Right to Development, a development programme directly or indirectly requires a particular process that allows the



President Tinubu

realization of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights and all fundamental freedoms, by expanding the capabilities and choices of the individual.

In the same vein, there is urgent need to partner with Niger Delta base Non Governmental Organization and other development minded professionals in the present quest.

Aside from the age-long belief that if one wants to know about the road ahead, he/she must ask those returning, non-profit organizations working in the region and have been able to establish beyond reasonable doubts that NGOs provide platforms for pursuing the truth, peace, creation and distribution of ideas in the same way that government does for the people.

Again, like other Nigerians with critical interest, I believed and still believe that the viability of such an office depends on the appointment of a development-minded fellow who is respected by the people and lives around the creeks. Those that have in the past coordinated the programmes were all Niger Deltans, but none of them were connected to the grassroots, especially the people living in the coastal areas.

The destiny of the people of the Niger Delta is not in the hands of the 'city boys,' but on the government's ability to summon the political will to appoint somebody who is from the region and accepted by the people. Mr President and his aides need to understand that the old concept of an amnesty programme, with focus almost solely on ex-militants and geopolitics, has to be enlarged to accommodate more of the professionally-trained ex-militants who are unemployed at present, as well as youths who were not of age as of the time the programme was introduced.

The underlying objective of this piece is not to chastise any individual or group. Rather, what is happening is merely an important phase of transition. It is aimed at bringing the obnoxious negative peace in the programme to surface where it can be seen and treated. Just like a boil can never be cured as long as it is covered up but must be opened with all its pus-flowing ugliness to the natural medicine of air and light.

This piece holds the opinion that injustice in the amnesty programme must likewise be exposed, to the light of human conscience and the air of national opinion before it can be cured.

As noted in my previous intervention on a similar topic, the questions begging for answer(s) are; how long was the Presidential Amnesty Programme initially structured to last? How many Ex-Militants were originally enlisted for the programme? How many have been trained? How many are still undergoing training? What stage is the programme; Disarmament and demobilization process, rehabilitation/ training processes, or the Strategic Implementations/ Action Plan for the holistic development of Niger Delta as a region?

How many of the Ex-Militants are currently receiving allowance? What is the amount? Is it the same amount approved right in 2008 or has it been reviewed? What is the fate of those that were youthful then, but today mature adults with families? Are they still dependent on the stipend as approved in 2009 or has the Amnesty Office reviewed such allowances upward to accommodate their new status?

The result to the above question will in no small ways assist act as a compass for the present Federal Government, but in the interim, there are other challenges that need to be addressed before the program can be regarded as fully successful and they are in this order; 'Employment opportunities must be provided for ex-militants, and combatants who have not been accommodated by the program should be catered for, to prevent a return to violence and militancy. With this, ex-militants will become change agents that will spur peace and development in Nigeria's post-conflict Niger Delta'.

Utomi Jerome-Mario is the Programme Coordinator (Media and Public Policy), Social and Economic Justice Advocacy (SEJA), A Lagos-Based Non Governmental Organization (NGO). And could be reached via Jeromeutomi@yahoo.com or 08032725374

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FOR ADVERT BOOKING AND PLACEMENT:
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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Infrastructure: My Administration Committed To Working With Private Sector - Uba Sani

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has said that his administration is committed to working with the private sector and development partners to ensure investment in critical infrastructure in the state.

In an effort to fast track the development of Kaduna State by attracting huge investments, he held a meeting with the Access Corporation at Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, in Kaduna.

The governor rose from the meeting with a firm commitment to finalizing areas of intervention and fashion a cooperative agreement.

"My administration is committed to working with the private sector and development partners to ensure investment in critical infrastructure.

"Also, improve the Ease of Doing Business, boost employment through human capital development and make Kaduna State the destination of choice for private capital investment and wealth creation.

"I appreciate the corporation for their strong interest in Kaduna State.

"We shall continue to seek new opportunities and partnerships as we strive to improve the lives of our citizens.

"We have on offer very attractive incentives. The environment is good for business. The people are welcoming," he said.



Fuel Subsidy and the Nigerian State

Jibrin Ibrahim

IN his inaugural address on Monday, President Bola Tinubu announced the end of fuel subsidy as it would no longer be an item on the budget. On Wednesday, government announced a drastic rise in the prices of petrol from 185 to up to 557 naira a litre depending on location.

It was a shock to the nation and immediately, labour was up in arms demanding for a complete withdrawal. The shock was due to expectations based on government announcements that palliatives would be negotiated and offered to poor Nigerians who would be impacted negatively by the new prices expected to come into effect in July this year.

By jumping the waiting period and announcing very high prices rather than talking in more coy language of deregulating the sector and allowing market forces dictate prices, the Tinubu administration is clearly signalling it's going on war on the matter and it will use overwhelming force – shock and awe – to defeat the opposition, which is virtually all Nigerians.

“The NLC and civil society has to catch up in terms of its analysis of the Nigerian State. Does it make sense to borrow to pay subsidy and threaten our collective future with unpayable debt? Is cheap petrol more important to Nigerian citizens than health, education and social services which are being abandoned for a tunnel focus on cheap petrol? Should NLC win the battle to save the fuel subsidy battle, what would be the implications of that “victory” for hastening the bankruptcy of the Nigerian State? These are the questions that led me to withdraw from my forty-five-year battle to sustain fuel subsidy in our beloved country.”

We Nigerians believe that our covenant with the State is based on the ruling class corruptly chopping our money, our patrimony, and we the people are compensated with the crumbs of cheap fuel. That is why we have always fought the State with determination every time it has threatened to take our crumbs in the form of the cancellation of fuel subsidy. The NLC and civil society are, I believe, ready for the fight. This time, however, yours sincerely would not be on the barricades. I believe that we have lost the battle which is based on getting our share of the rentier state because the Nigerian rentier state lost its battle for life under the Buhari presidency when petroleum rent dried up as criminals overthrew rentier bureaucrats.

Going down memory lane, I still have fond memories of our last battle to save fuel subsidy in 2012. In Abuja, we decided

to call the bluff of the Jonathan administration by establishing BLUF – Building Leverage and Unity on Fuel Subsidy Struggle. We were incensed by the decision of the Jonathan administration to cancel fuel subsidy because of the implications for extremely high costs for transport, food and other essentials. It was, and remains, a policy decision aimed at deepening poverty and the suffering of Nigerians.

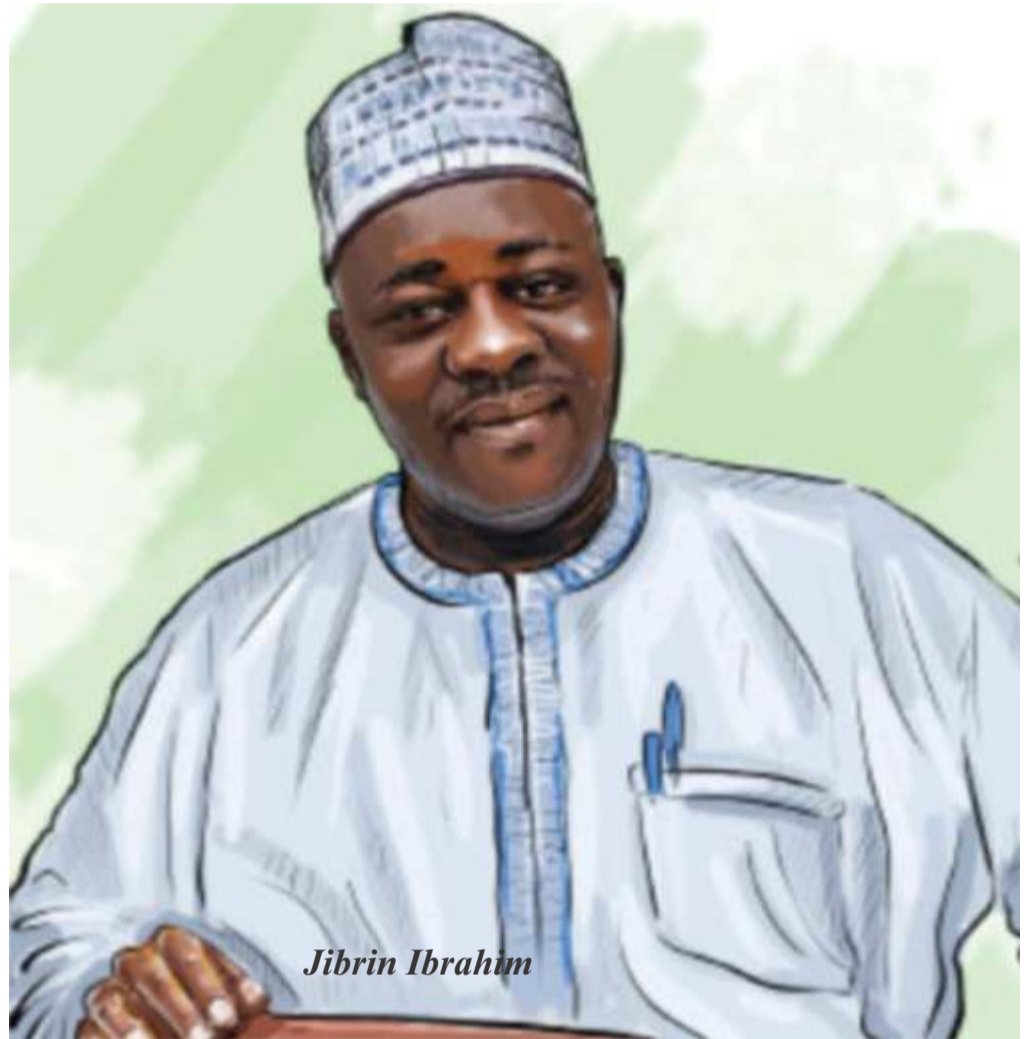
We pointed out that the price of petroleum products had been adjusted eighteen times in the 26 years since the military administration of General Babangida broke the mould by raising the pump price of petrol from 3.15 kobo per litre to 20 kobo per litre in April 1985. Throughout this period, while there have been regular increases in fuel prices, no government has succeeded in completely removing fuel subsidy.

The Jonathan administration, we contended, would also fail because Nigerians will struggle against it and win. We won. The result is that a cabal or regime insiders and marketers have stolen trillions of naira from our national treasury and as former Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala explained, most of the subsidy we have been paying for is not even real fuel brought into the country, its simply looting of the treasury.

Part of what made us angry in 2023 was that the decision of President Jonathan to stop consultations with stakeholders, take a unilateral decision on the issue and then establish a negotiation body after implementing his unilateral decision. We believed that was very disrespectful to Nigerians who felt passionately about the issue. I do hope that the Tinubu administration would be willing to negotiate with stakeholders. The key point in 2012 was that we were able to contest the arguments of the Jonathan administration that the fuel subsidy was unsustainable arguing that petroleum revenue inflows were sufficient to pay for the subsidy if corruption was controlled.

“My final frustration is on the consistent recommendation we have made over the decades that the Nigerian State should fix our four refineries to reduce or even eliminate our dependence on imported fuel. One person that agreed completely with us was a certain Muhammadu Buhari. In 2015, he became President, he was also minister of petroleum for eight years. He repeatedly gave contracts to fix the refineries. None of them are working. He owes Nigerians an explanation. Was the money once again simply stolen under his watch?”

This time, the character of the State has changed significantly. Most petroleum produced in the country is simply stolen



Jibrin Ibrahim

by cabals in charge of State administration and security. The Nigerian revenue flows have dried up and 96% of what comes in is used to pay for debt servicing. This means that almost the totality of the 400 billion naira spent on fuel subsidy each month is borrowed. Allocations for health, education and social services have been largely abandoned to pay for fuel subsidy. As at the end of 2022, Nigeria's national debt was 25 trillion naira or 103 billion dollars. With this unsustainable debt, we are mortgaging the future of our children and grandchildren. If we are foolish enough to continue along that path, the creditors are reading to tea leaves, that we cannot sustain the capacity to pay. This means we will soon reach where Sri Lanka got to of simply not having the ability to even borrow the cash to pay any more.

This Nigerian State is broken and cannot generate the rent to pay for what we and our four neighbouring countries have been enjoying in the form of very cheap petrol. Niger and Cameroon are petroleum exporting countries and deliberately set their petrol price at five times the cost of ours to encourage smuggling of Nigerian petrol for their consumers. We are the big brother and we have subsidised their transport and electricity systems for fifty years but unfortunately, we are broke today and cannot continue.

The NLC and civil society has to catch up in terms of its analysis of the Nigerian State. Does it make sense to borrow to pay subsidy and threaten our collective future with unpayable debt? Is cheap petrol more important to Nigerian citizens than health, education and social services which are being abandoned for a tunnel focus on cheap petrol? Should NLC win the battle to save the fuel subsidy battle, what would be the implications of that “victory” for hastening the bankruptcy of the Nigerian State? These are the questions that led me to withdraw from my forty-five-year battle to sustain fuel subsidy in our beloved country.

My final frustration is on the consistent recommendation we have made over the decades that the Nigerian State should fix our four refineries to reduce or even eliminate our dependence on imported fuel. One person that agreed completely with us was a certain Muhammadu Buhari. In 2015, he became President, he was also minister of petroleum for eight years. He repeatedly gave contracts to fix the refineries. None of them are working. He owes Nigerians an explanation. Was the money once again simply stolen under his watch?

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

The Homosexuality of Cultural Imperialism

By Owei Lakemfa

I MADE acquaintance with a lady, Yeye Akilimali Funua Olade, about 1990. A few months later, my wife and I visited her in Ila Orangun where she was running a rural library, the African Heritage Research Library. She was an American who had studied at Fisk University from 1963-1965, earned a Bachelor's degree in African-American/Black Studies from the San Francisco State University, and a Master of Library Science from the University of California.

"The US message is very clear: that Uganda as an African country has no right to sovereignty; no right to taking democratic decisions even if backed by its people; no right of dissent from the position of the US and that it must accept the culture of America otherwise, it will be subject to sanctions. The African people, as far as the US is concerned, have no right to choose a different cultural orientation, not even sexual. This was one of the main reasons why President Robert Mugabe was harassed and hounded internationally. There were even attempts to arrest him for rejecting the culture of homosexuality."

So, what was she doing in such rustic circumstances? She said she had three children, including two girls and all around the American communities she lived, aggressive forces of lesbianism were on the rise. So, with the agreement of her African-American husband, Ayantuga Olade, she fled the United States. Unfortunately, the forces she ran away from in North America, four decades ago, are on the move in her adopted continent, Africa in the guise of campaigning for workers and human rights.

A drama played out this week when on May 29, 2023, the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament, Anita Among, announced that President Yoweri Museveni had signed into law the new Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 which punishes the financiers and promoters of homosexuality. The law, while generally providing prison terms for violators, also prescribes the death penalty for those who engage children in homosexual acts or spread deadly diseases like HIV/AIDS.

The United States immediately revoked the visa of the Speaker. It did not clarify why she was being punished for the new law; is it for presiding over the parliament, failing to stop about 400 parliamentarians from passing the bill or daring to announce the birth of the new law?

In her reaction, a dignified Speaker Among said: "As Uganda's Parliament, we have listened to our people's concerns and legislated to protect the sanctity of the family, in accordance with Article 31 of the Republic of Uganda's Constitution. As

stated in Objectives 19 and 24 of our national objectives and directive principles of state policy, we have stood firm to defend our people's culture, values, and aspirations."

The US had through its Vice President Kamala Harris warned Uganda of consequences if it dared pass the new legislation. On March 27, 2023, while on a visit to Ghana, our African American sister insisted Africa must support homosexuality because it is a matter the US considers "to be a human rights issue and that will not change... I

feel very strongly about supporting freedom and supporting and fighting for the equality of all people."

"What is clear is that some Western countries view Africa as a collection of weak states on which the culture of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, LGBTQ, can be imposed. Just as we were colonised at gunpoint, so is the dictation of LGBTQ being forced on us under threats of severe socio-economic and political sanctions. Just as the religion was used to lure us into surrendering to colonial bandits, so have funds and positions been used to lure our youths to being evangelists of LGBTQ."

The US message is very clear: that Uganda as an African country has no right to sovereignty; no right to taking democratic decisions even if backed by its people; no right of dissent from the position of the US and that it must accept the culture of America otherwise, it will be subject to sanctions. The African people, as far as the US is concerned, have no right to choose a different cultural orientation, not even sexual. This was one of the main reasons why President Robert Mugabe was harassed and hounded internationally. There were even attempts to arrest him for rejecting the culture of homosexuality.

It is also instructive that while the US is sanctioning Uganda for its new law, it did not take similar actions against its allies such as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Pakistan with worse anti-homosexual laws.

"In Africa, sex or people's preferences are closet affairs, not what you call press conferences about."

The issue arising from the US sanctions against Uganda is not so much about punishing it for daring to enact a law against homosexuality, but trying to recolonise the African continent. In this wise, this is not a challenge against



Uganda alone but the entire African people. Therefore, African countries need to unite and collectively sanction the US. At the very least, every African country should be asked to revoke the visa of at least a dozen or two Americans.

What is clear is that some Western countries view Africa as a collection of weak states on which the culture of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, LGBTQ, can be imposed. Just as we were colonised at gunpoint, so is the dictation of LGBTQ being forced on us under threats of severe socio-economic and political sanctions. Just as the religion was used to lure us into surrendering to colonial bandits, so have funds and positions been used to lure our youths to being evangelists of LGBTQ.

I woke up to this reality in the Trade Union Movement in 2011 when I discovered that some Western trade unions were offering positions and funds to those who will declare and flaunt claims of being gays, lesbians and bisexual.

"When the West colonised Africa, it did so partly under the pretext of 'civilisation'. They assumed that a continent like ours which taught the fathers of Western Civilisation like Plato, are not civilised. Some of their fathers who knew we built the magnificent pyramids which housed mummies, still claimed that Africans live on trees like monkeys. Today some of them still think they are on a mission of civilisation by presenting LGBTQ as human rights."

In one case, I put my foot down that as Acting General Secretary of the Nigeria Labour Congress, such campaigns will not be encouraged. Now, some of our young unionists and activists, for economic reasons or to guarantee the crumbs being passed to them by some organisations, are busy campaigning for LGBTQ as workers' rights. Far from the

truth; workers, at least in Africa, want guaranteed employment, good conditions of service, social protection, guaranteed pension and settled family life. Their concern is not who is sleeping with who.

In Africa, sex or people's preferences are closet affairs, not what you call press conferences about.

When the West colonised Africa, it did so partly under the pretext of 'civilisation'. They assumed that a continent like ours which taught the fathers of Western Civilisation like Plato, are not civilised. Some of their fathers who knew we built the magnificent pyramids which housed mummies, still claimed that Africans live on trees like monkeys. Today some of them still think they are on a mission of civilisation by presenting LGBTQ as human rights.

They conveniently forget that there are collective socio-economic, political and cultural rights which supersedes individual rights. The United Nations recognises individual and group rights and the former cannot be imposed on the collective. The individual comes from the community; therefore, the rights of the community are primary and those of the individual are secondary.

What some Western countries want to do is force the African people into a birth control scheme aware that a marriage between a man and a man or a woman with a woman is unlikely to produce children. It was the same way a drug, Depo Provera, whose approval in the United States had been refused first in the 1960s, and again in the 1970s, was imposed on African women, especially in Nigeria where the women were used as guinea pigs for a dangerous all-cure drug that was widely imposed as a contraception.

While Africans respect the values, traditions and cultures of other peoples, the least we expect is that they should also respect ours.

Tinubu Has Dodged Poisonous Knife By Not Appointing el-Rufa'i – Shehu Sani

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Former federal lawmaker and social activist, Senator Shehu Sani, has described former Kaduna State governor, Nasir el-Rufai as a poisonous knife, saying President Bola Tinubu was wise for not appointing him among his frontline aides.

Sani, described him (el-Rufai) as a divisive political leader, who "always exploits religious differences for his personal gains".

el-Rufa'i had recently incurred the wrath of many Nigerians who

condemned his recent utterances on his decision to run a Muslim/Muslim Governorship ticket in Kaduna State.

Nasir el-Rufai had also boasted that Muslim dominance motivated him to deny Christians a deputy governorship office and claimed that the same Muslim dominance brought the controversial Muslim/Muslim ticket to power at the federal level.

On June 5, 2023 reported that el-Rufa'i was caught in a video saying the Muslim/Muslim governorship ticket in the state would be sustained beyond 20 years by the

grace of God.

The Muslim/Muslim governorship ticket means having a Muslim governor and a Muslim deputy governor as against the belief in some quarters that a Muslim governor should be supported by a Christian deputy governor to be religious sensitive as Southern Kaduna is dominated by Christians.

In the viral video, el-Rufa'i was addressing a group of Islamic scholars and while mocking el-Rufa'i on his verified Twitter handle, Sani said, "If Tinubu had appointed 'Mr Over Sabi' as SGF or Chief of Staff,

he would have sown the seed of discord between the President and the Vice President, speak and move around as more important than the two. Tinubu has dodged a Poisonous knife."

According to Senator Shehu Sani, the unity of this country would remain a myth and an illusion as long as the system condones fanatical leaders who will always exploit the religious differences, fervour and sensibilities of the people for their own personal political expedience.



The chairman House Committee on Aviation. Hon. Nnoli Nnaji (L) with committee members, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Aviation and stakeholders on invitation to the committee to clear some issues at NASS, in Abuja. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

April Guber Rerun: 50 Injured Zamfara APC Supporters Cry Out Over Neglect

By; ADAM MUH'D, Gusau

No fewer than 50 All Progressives Congress (APC) supporters in Gummi Local Government Area of Zamfara State who sustained various degrees of injury during the April 15 re-run election have cried out for help, saying they are languishing over lack of medical attention.

Investigations revealed that the APC supporters sustained injuries as a result of an alleged attack by People's Democratic Party (PDP) supporters at various polling units during the election and

after the election, were left unattended by the party, as well as key stakeholders.

Majority of the victims were critically ill and could not afford to have medical attention due to the poor financial status.

The spokesperson of the victims, Mohammed Sani Takori whose house was also destroyed during the election, in an interview with newsmen on Tuesday, described the situation as unfortunate, stressing that a party like APC sees no moral responsibility to its members as important.

Takori a former member of the House of

Representatives, wondered how APC stakeholders, could not come to the aid of the victims morally and financially to seek for medical attention.

"It is shocking after, we wholeheartedly supported the APC candidate, Ahmad Usman Lancaster as a result of the encounter with PDP supporters, we were seriously injured and nobody cares to look after us," he added.

According to him, majority of the victims could not seek for medical attention due to poor financial status, but are

rather languishing at home.

He lamented the nonchalant attitude of the APC leadership at the state level, such as former governors Abdul'Aziz Yari and Bello Matawalle, for their failure to visit the victims even through delegation.

The victims spokesperson, however, appealed to the national leadership of the APC to intervene and compel the state APC chapter and the key stakeholders to do the needful by paying visits to commiserate the victims.

Subsidy Removal: Northern Political Group Backs Tinubu, Says Nigerians Will Benefit More

By; TOM GARBA, Yola

A political pressure group based in the north, Arewa New Agenda (ANA) yesterday, threw its weight behind the recent policy proclamation by President Ahmed Bola Tinubu, which declared an end to the subsidy regime in Nigeria.

Presenting a communique after a two-day Policy Dialogue on the Fuel Subsidy removal, the National Convener of the group, senator Ahmad Abubakar MoAllahyidi, said though the Policy may have its economic challenges, the end will benefit Nigerians.

The Convener said Arewa New Agenda recognizes the pain occasioned by the increase in pump price of petroleum products; but the removal will prevent the diversion and smuggling of gasoline outside the country's borders which bleeds our economy.

"Government must stay on course with its current action; must not give in to blackmail nor capitulate under threat.

"It is the considered position of the policy dialogues as convened by ANA that under the DSDP, imported petrol belongs to the NNPC since it (NNPC) has supplied crude oil to the marketers in exchange for petrol but the marketers usually keep the imported fuel to themselves and sell it to the independent marketers at arbitrary price.

"The removal of subsidy on PMS will among other

things: Solve the problem of perennial hardship and the attendant hardship on citizens. It will put a stop to corruption around the subsidy regime which has made some individuals stupendously rich without industry.

"It will free-up the humongous amount paid out as subsidy for enhance growth in critical sectors of national development Reduce Gasoline Smuggling and Diversion. The removal of fuel subsidy eliminates the unhealthy price arbitrage with neighboring countries", the group said.

While noting that this critical economic activity will require all hands to be on deck for the prosperity of Nigeria, senator MoAllahyidi said salaries and wages of workers in Nigeria is nothing to write home about and needs to be realistically reviewed.

"Dialogue with organized labor must be intensified; we caution labor not to politicize this genuine economic policy activity at this very early stage of the Tinubu administration.

"That vulnerable groups in Nigeria feel the impact of subsidy removal more and they should be first line of consideration in provision of palliatives.

"That dialogue attendees support the decision of President Tinubu on the removal of subsidy and will do everything possible to help actualize the desire for improved life of the ordinary citizens Recommendation/Suggestions", the group said.

How Otunba Soname Resigned From NPFL IMC

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Proprietor of Remo Stars Football Club of Ikenne, Otunba Adekunle Soname OFR, has resigned his appointment with the Interim Management Committee (IMC) of the Nigeria Premier Football

League (NPFL).

In a letter dated 23 May 2023 and addressed to the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) President, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau, Otunba Soname wrote: "Let this letter serve as my official resignation from the Interim Management

Committee of the Nigeria Premier Football League effective immediately.

"While thanking you for the opportunity to serve on the committee, I wish the Nigeria Football Federation and the Interim Management Committee of the Nigeria Premier Football League all the

very best."

NFF President, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau has since accepted the resignation and thanked Otunba Soname for his robust efforts in the IMC and his continuing contributions to the growth of Nigeria Football



The Chairman House Committee on Aviation, Hon. Nnoli Nnaji (L) with committee members, Permanent Ministry of Aviation and stakeholders on invitation to the committee to clear some issues at NASS, in Abuja. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

Federation Cup: Stephen Keshi Stadium, Asaba To Stage Finale

By: AYO OJEDOKUN Lagos

The Grand Finale of this year's NFF-Tingo Federation Cup Competition will take place at the Stephen Keshi Stadium, Asaba on Thursday June 15, 2023.

The day will begin with the women's final, between cup holders, Bayelsa Queens and multi-titlists Rivers Angels, which is billed to commence by 2pm.

The men's final, between 1978 champions Bendel Insurance of Benin and multi-titlists Rangers International of Enugu, will kick off by 5pm.

Football administrators, promoters, stakeholders and fans are already

looking forward to one of the best finals in both men's and women's versions, with Rivers Angels and Bayelsa Queens the two teams that have represented Nigeria in the nascent CAF Women's Champions League competitions – which underscores their strength on the home front. Bayelsa Queens are the defending champions of the competition, having overwhelmed FC Robo Queens of Lagos in the final of the 2021 competition at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium in Benin City.

The ingredients are there for a fierce contest in the men's final, with Bendel Insurance and Enugu

Rangers having contested two of the most memorable finals in the history of the men's competition.

In what amounted to a stunning result that year, leaving bookmakers holding the short end of the stick, 'Benin Arsenal' dismantled the much-feared Enugu Rangers 3-0 in the 1978 final at the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos. Peter Egharevba scored the first goal through a long range free-kick that silenced the vociferous fans of the 'Flying Antelopes'.

Three years down the line, Rangers exacted their revenge, with the peerless 'Chairman' Christian Chukwu leading the

orchestra from the back as the all-white clad boys from Coal City won 2-0 with goals from Okwuchukwu Obiora and Ifeanyi Onyedika on a sunny afternoon.

Bendel Insurance have been in flaming form this season, unbeaten in the abridged Nigeria Premier Football League season and posting credible performances everywhere. Rangers International were on the backfoot for the larger part of the first half of the season but picked up in the second stanza, and are sure to give their all in the final of a competition in which their love to soar.

Anambra Sports Commission Chairman Gets Nigeria Olympic Committee Appointment

By: PAMELA EBOH, Awka

Chairman of the Anambra Sports Development Commission, Mr. Patrick-Estate Onyedum, has been appointed member of the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) Sports and Environment Commission.

The appointment was contained in a statement released by the Public Relations Officer of the NOC, Tony Neziyanya in Awka yesterday.

According to the statement, Simon Nkom and Bello Suleiman would serve as chairman and secretary of the 16-man commission.

Other commissions constituted were Liaison Commission, Women/Sport Commission, Technica/Development, Marketing/ Sponsorship, medical/Scientific, Sports for All, Athletes Commission, Olympic Education/Culture, OlymP Africa Development, Ethics/Good Governance Commission.

Onyedum who is the immediate past Chairman of the Anambra State Athletics Association was until his appointment, the representative of Southeast Zone in the

Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN).

He started his sporting career as a volleyball and tennis player as a pupil of the Ogbete Primary School, Coal Camp, Enugu.

He also played football as a goalkeeper and played for Works United FC, Enugu, before going to Tokyo, Japan in 1992 on a sporting expedition.

He was active in sports as an Athletics Coach in Italy for about 10 years before retiring in 2006.

In 2016 Onyedum sponsored U-18 Southeast Athletics Championships at the Rojenny Sports & Leisure Centre. In 2017 he sponsored U-16 Southeast Athletics Meet.

In 2019 he sponsored the Team Southeast U-15 contingent to the All Nigeria Athletics Championships in Ilaro, Ogun State.

Onyedum continued to display his love for sports in 2021 and 2022 when he bankrolled the first and second Anaocha Athletics Champion back to back.

In 2016 Onyedum was elected as AAA Chairman and in 2017 he was elected to the board of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria as representative of the zone where he served as Chairman of the Committee on Road Race - Marathon.



Onyedum

How Otunba Soname Resigned From NPFL IMC

Story on Page 23

Katsina Gov Hails Appointment Of Akume, Gbajabimila

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Appointments of Senator George Akume and Femi Gbajabimila as Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) and Chief of Staff (CoS) by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is well deserved and appropriate, Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has said.

Congratulating the two appointees in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim

Kaula Mohammed, Governor Umaru Radda said the appointments are considered throughout the country as a "round peg in a round hole" given their wealth of experience and service to the nation over the years.

Speaking on Chief of Staff, Right Honourable, Femi Gbajabimila, Governor Dikko Radda assured that his deep legislative knowledge and robust administrative experience would ensure the smooth

running of the Office of the President and support the government to provide the required leadership for the development and progress of the country.

"Be rest assured that our prayers and support are always with you as you take on the responsibilities of this high office," Governor Radda emphasized.

The statement further disclosed in a similar message to Senator George Akume, the newly

appointed Secretary to the Federal Government, Governor Dikko Umaru Radda expressed confidence that the new SGF would deliver considering his wealth of experience at both the state and federal levels.

"This is a huge accomplishment and one that we are very proud of Your hard work and dogged determination to get things done right are hallmark of your character over the years," Governor Radda noted.

Accordingly, Mohammed Kaula said the Governor confidently assured that, Senator George Akume as Secretary to the Government of the Federation would bring wealth of experience in discharging the responsibilities of his office.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda prayed that, "We wish you the best and success in your efforts to set in motion the machinery of government to improve the lives of all Nigerians."

Biz Man Threatens Bawa, Police IG With Legal Action Over Contempt

By: EMMANUELAGBO, Kaduna

The Chief Executive Officer, (CEO) Cash Flow Abi Ltd, Dr. Philemon Ibrahim Gora has threatened to drag the Chairman, Economic and Financial Crime Commission, (EFCC) Abdulrasheed Bawa and the Inspector General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba to court if they fail to obey the recent court injunctions.

It would be recalled that the Abuja division of the Federal High Court under Justice Ahmed Mohammed, has given permission to Gora and his financial institution, 'Cashflow Abi Network', to file a suit compelling the EFCC, its Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa and the Inspector General of Police to comply with the judgment of the court in suit No FHC/ABJ/CR/77/2018, relating to his alleged fraud case that got him incarcerated for years now.

Justice Mohammed equally granted leave to the applicants to apply for an Order of Mandamus compelling or mandating the Respondents to withdraw and or discontinue charge Nos. FHC/ABJ/CR/77/2018: FRN vs Philemon Ibrahim Gora & Anor and FCT/HC/CR/203/2018: FRN vs Philemon Ibrahim Gora & 2 Ors in that the aforesaid charges were instituted in contravention of paragraph 14 of the Terms of Settlement adopted as Judgment of this court delivered on 12th July 2013 in Suit No. FHC/ABJ/CS/7/2013 aforesaid.

In addition, the court further granted leave to the Applicants to apply for an Order of perpetual injunction pursuant to

paragraph 14 of the Terms of Settlement adopted as Judgment of this Court on 12th July 2013 restraining the Respondents their officers, servant, agents and any other person deriving authority from the Respondents from trying, continuing the trial, arresting, detaining or prosecuting the Applicants in charge Nos. FHC/ABJ/CR/77/2018 and FCT/HC/CR/203/2018 and other matters related to the aforesaid charges.

Responding to the judgement, in a press statement issued to newsmen in Kaduna yesterday, Gora said that the court's verdict is a symbol of justice for the common man.

He added that the distractions by the anti-graft agency and the Nigeria Police Force, (NPF) is a deliberate ploy to sabotage his efforts for empowering the less privileged in the society.

Gora, said "Over the years, the EFCC in collaboration with the Nigeria Police, unnecessarily exerting charges upon me and my Foundation, whom by every standard had meet up what is required to stay in Business.

"We therefore, concluded that this is not an anti corruption driven case and cannot be part of the moves aimed at fighting corruption or attack fraudulent activity in the Nigeria economy and financial sector but a witch-hunt on the personality of Dr Gora

"It is simply a pure malicious and politically motivated prosecution, keeping me under EFCC locked for more than 2years without bail, it's aimed at undermining my humble background and the humanitarian services, we are offering to the society"



"Those behind my long suffering and calculated incarceration will definitely meet the wrath of God in this lifetime. God has always fought my battles. No matter how much fabricated mischiefs, will not and cannot stand the test of justice."

The humanitarian also backed the Governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Bello, said "just recently, the Kogi State Government accused the EFCC boss, Abdulrasheed Bawa, that no matter how his godfathers try to shield him from facing the consequences of disobeying court order, he must join others in the correctional centre to be purged of contempt.

"They described why the EFCC's laughable excuse for not obeying a court order that committed him to prison for contempt, which the commission gave at a press conference in Abuja, the Kogi State Government noted that unless his conviction was set aside or vacated by

the court or a higher court, he remains a convict.

"We also note that anytime we try to insist in the empowering programme by doing the right thing and why we stand on doing the right thing, the system will always come after us. This is another case of desperation to fight Dr. Philemon Gora, because of his stance on reducing the gap between the extremely rich class and the helpless poor masses.

"The fact remains that hence Bawa, had allegedly been found to be a vindictive tormentor of the innocent and a hater of justice, we expect that, he should comply with the judicial system otherwise, these are enough to make over 60,000 clients of cash flow, for an unending protest.

"We advice that Bawa, should stay on the lane of social justice and fight against corruption in the best way of international practices and not breach human rights at will and whose human rights credentials seems questionable".

