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NDLEA Uncovers Secret Drug Lab In Lagos, UK Bound 3.20kg Skunk Hidden In Native Black Soap

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Men of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have uncovered a secret laboratory where Methamphetamine is produced in Lagos. The duplex is said to be located in a residential community in Ikeja area of the state.

The NDLEA Director of Media and Advocacy,

Femi Babafemi made the disclosure in a statement yesterday.

According to him, efforts are on to apprehend the owner of the house who has since fled.

It reads, "Operatives of the anti-narcotic agency stormed the clandestine lab located at No. 4 Bode Oluwo Street, Mende, Maryland, Ikeja on Tuesday, June 6, after credible intelligence and surveillance confirmed the

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Emefiele: Frank Urges DSS To Arrest CEO's Of NIMASA, NNPC, NPA, FIRS, Petroleum, Others



Timi Frank



The building housing the secret drugs lab uncovered by NDLEA

Throneroom Ministry Boss Apostle Kure Resigns From Kaduna Peace Commission

**Says el-Rufai not sincere, set up commission on diversionary purpose*

**May God raise for us leaders who will truly help us find true peace - Apostle Kure*



Apostle Kure

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Healthcare: UNICEF Renews Investments In Kaduna

By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has assured the Kaduna State Government of its continued support in improving the health outcomes of women and children in the state.

UNICEF's Chief of Health and HIV/AIDS in Nigeria, Eduardo Celades, gave the assurance on Friday, when he and his team from both the regional and country's office paid an assessment visit to health facilities in Kaduna.

According to him, the visit was to enable them assess the situation in the Kaduna health sector with a special interest to see how services are integrated both in immunization, maternal and neonatal health.

"With what we have seen, it's like there's a lot of progress on that regards. And from UNICEF, we want to commit that we are

going to continue supporting the State moving towards a strong primary healthcare system here in Kaduna.

"Kaduna State is one of our priority state. We have been looking into the indicators and we believe that Kaduna have been doing a lot of progress, and with a little bit of support, we can really make the difference.

"Kaduna is one of our 14 priority states in Nigeria. That is why in Kaduna we have 10 LGAs where we are going to do convergence of investments including solarization of health facilities, support to human resources and we really hope to be working very closely with the government of Kaduna State to improve the health outcome of women and children." Eduardo, said.

Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health, Adamu Muhammed Mansur, who received the

team, thanked UNICEF for the support they have been giving to the state, adding that their contributions has made a lot of impact in the health sector of the State.

Team visited PHC Ugwan Rimi, to assess how Primary Health Under One Roof, services are being integrated, met with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and his team, inspected the Integrated Mobile Diagnostic and PHC Service Delivery Outreach Trucks.

Made a site visit to Yusuf Dantsoho Memorial Hospital to inspect Oxygen plant construction and the Newborn care unit upgrade, and also inspected Warehouses housing drugs at the Kaduna State Drugs Supplies Management Agency.

Emphasizing the importance of the Integrated Mobile Diagnostic and PHC

Service Delivery Outreach Trucks, Deputy Director, Public Health in the State, Dr. Jeremiah Dakwo, noted that they are meant to provide services in rural areas.

"The mobile trucks are very important to us because they are mostly used in the rural communities. They are used to conduct tests, especially for epidemic bone disease, communicable diseases.

"Other test that these trucks are used for include; tuberculosis test and also COVID-19. We also have x-ray machine inside them which is used to check people for TB.

"We have other sections that are used for Malaria test, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and the rest of them. So these trucks are very important to us and we hope that from this day, they are going to be used in Kaduna state and the populace would benefit from them" He explained.

Gov Nwifuru Names Female SSG For Ebonyi



Professor Grace Umezurike

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru of Ebonyi State has approved the appointment of Prof. Grace Umezurike as the new Secretary to the State Government (SSG).

This was contained in a statement signed his Chief Press Secretary, Dr. Monday Uzor, stating that the appointment is with immediate effect, and she is to be sworn--in on Tuesday June 13, 2023 at the new Executive Council Chamber, Government House, Ochudo, Centenary City, Abakaliki, the statement informed.

Centenary City, Abakaliki.

"The Governor of Ebonyi State, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru has approved the appointment of Prof. Grace Umezurike as Secretary to Ebonyi State Government.

"The appointment takes immediate effect.

"She will be sworn - in on Tuesday 13th June, 2023

"Venue: Executive Council Chamber, Government House, Ochudo, Centenary City, Abakaliki," the statement informed.



CBN: Tinubu Suspends Emiefele Orders Investigation

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has suspended CBN Governor, Godwin Emiefele.

This was contained in a State

House statement on Friday evening, signed by a director information in the office of the Secretary of Government of the Federation, Willie Bassey.

The governor of the nation's apex bank has also been directed to

hand over affairs of his office to deputy director operations Folashodun Adebisi who would act as acting head of the bank, pending conclusion of investigation of the embattled governor.

The statement added that the suspension of Emiefele was to allow investigation of affairs of the bank under his authority and in line with banking reform of the present administration.



Emiefele



Atiku (left) and Tinubu

INEC Instructed Us Not To Give Election Results Copies To Agents, Another Staff Reveals

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC), Abedemi Joseph on Friday, told the Presidential Election Petition Court (PEPC) that they were instructed by INEC, their employer, not to give copies of election results to political party agents who declined to sign the results.

The witness made the revelation while testifying in a petition filed by a former Vice President of Nigeria and presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar against the election of President Bola Tinubu.

Led in evidence-in-chief by the petitioners' lead counsel, Chief Chris Uche, SAN, Joseph prayed the court to adopt her witness statement on oath as her evidence in the petition against the victory of Tinubu.

Joseph, who was a presiding officer in Niger state during the February 25 presidential elections, told the court that she was satisfied with the process as instructed.

She, however, said that they had instructions not to give out results of the election to party agents who did not sign the result sheet.

Also testifying, a presiding agent in Edo state during the election told the court that she tried in vain to upload the presidential election results to the INEC server.

While another subpoena witness from Kogi state, Grace Ajagbonna also affirmed the peaceful conduct of the election she said she was not happy that she could not upload the presidential election as instructed.

Ajagbonna, responding to INEC counsel as to whether she was happy with the conduct of the election and her work as presiding officer, said, "I was not happy that I was unable to transmit the result to the server."

However, INEC, represented by Abubakar Mahmoud, SAN; APC, represented by Lateef Fagbemi, SAN and other respondents objected to the use of statements made on oath by the subpoenaed witnesses to be tendered at PEPC in aid of Atiku's petition.

Atiku's lawyer, Chris Uche urged the court to discountance their objections and grant their request.

The five-man panel headed by Justice, Haruna Tsammani reserved ruling on the applications. Meanwhile, the Court has adjourned further hearing to June 10.

Concerned Northern Forum Calls For EFCC Arrest, Probe Of Hadi Sirika

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Concerned Northern Forum has called for the arrest and investigation of former Aviation Minister, Hadi Sirika over the Nigerian Air scandal.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Chairman of the Concerned Northern Forum, Ali Muhammad and made available to the media.

According to the statement, the call for arrest of Hadi Sirika followed the recent revelation by the interim MD of the so called "Nigerian Airline" Captain Dapo Olumide, when he appeared before the Senate Committee on Aviation and stated that the Nigeria Air aircraft used for unveiling of the Nigeria Air was rented from Ethiopian Airline.

"No wonder the unveiling was quick, no details were made available, no one has

the eyes to say he saw any features of the plane or anything," the statement explained.

He also made known that the airline was yet to secure an operating licence for full flight operations, disagreeing with earlier declarations of the former Minister, Hadi Sirika.

This explains why the minister was so adamant and insisted on going ahead with the unveiling of the Nigerian Air even when there was a court order acting against that same matter, because it's a half baked project, driven by lies, deception, corruption and personal money benefits to the minister amounting to billions of Naira.

The statement added, "This is deception and breach of trust that should not go unpunished, Hadi Sirika must be brought to face the law. It is also a disregard for the rule of law and entire justice

system to proceed on matter against the order of a competent court of law." It explained that the Minister has acted with so much impunity on several occasions, as if the law cannot get to him, saying that he has continuously operated as a tyrant minister, refusing to listen to no one, the aviation experts, Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON), who advised against this project.

The statement said that the national embarrassment and waste of resources incurred on the country would have been averted if he had listened to advices, yet Sirika went ahead knowing it was a charade, to deceive Nigerians and pocket billions to himself. According to the statement, it is a fraud, very much within the reach of the EFCC and the anti graft agency should as a matter of national urgency, immediately arrest and investigate

Sirika for committing financial and other related crimes, as he has been deceiving Nigerians for eight years and now he is lobbying for ministerial appointment.

The group, therefore, cautioned and called on President Tinubu to not consider him for minister or any appointment in his administration, rather he should be behind bars for siphoning public wealth and covering it with more lies and deception.

It said that the EFCC must not waste any more time in arresting Hadi Sirika alongside all his co-perpetrators that took part in deceiving Nigeria, and shaming it before the international community, they should be investigated thoroughly, and provide reasonable and acceptable answers with respect to Nigeria Air Project or be made to lie on their beds as they have so made it.



30-year-old Man Commits Suicide In Jigawa

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A 30-year-old man, Usman Sani Goga, in the Babura Local Government Area of Jigawa State, has committed suicide.

The deceased was a photographer, said to have gotten married four months ago, but on Wednesday, hung himself in his bedroom at Akula Quarters of the local

government area. CSC. Adamu Shehu, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps spokesman in the state, while confirming the incident, explained that the deceased had dropped his wife at one of his relative's house that fateful day around 1400hrs promising to pick her up later in the evening.

According to him, the cause of the deceased

action is not known, assuring that an investigation is going on to ascertain the reason for committing suicide.

The wife of the deceased while narrating the incident, stated, "Around 1700hrs, I called his phone severally without response; I later decided to take a commercial vehicle. On reaching home, I realised that I was without keys and decided to call

his phone again, yet there was no response."

She explained that with the assistance of the motorcyclist, she got access to the house and then saw her husband's motorcycle parked which was very unusual.

The wife of the deceased added that she hurried inside where she saw his body hanging from a ceiling fan hook in their bedroom.

Subsidy Removal: Kwara Gov Okays Bus Palliatives For Students

**Free transport begins June 14*

By; **BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin**

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has approved the deployment of government buses to support movement of students and workers in public tertiary institutions within Ilorin, the capital city, and its environs.

The bus palliative for the students covering the metropolis is the second phase in the measures by the Kwara government to cushion the effects of the fuel subsidy removal.

The government had earlier reduced workdays for civil servants from five to three every week, while bureaucrats work out other measures for workers that are exempted from the

policy.

"From Wednesday, June 14, some large buses will be deployed to transport students of public tertiary institutions within the metropolis, including those going to the Kwara State University campus at Malete. Further details will be released by the coordinating Ministries, Agencies and Departments (MDAs)," according to a Kwara State Government House's statement yesterday.

"The state government will continue to offer immediate support for the Kwara public as Nigeria permanently transitions to the post-fuel subsidy regime and different steps are taken to bring more ease to the people while growing the economy in a sustainable way."

Kano Government Continues With Demolition Of Structures

By; **AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna**

Demolition of structures built on public places that were allegedly sold out by the immediate past administration of Abdullahi Umar Ganduje has resumed by the Kano State Government.

The resumption of the demolition of the structures is coming barely a few days after former governors of the state, Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso and Abdullahi Ganduje were involved in heated exchanges over the demolitions.

The two former governors had visited President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Friday as the issue of the demolition was raised.

Former Governor Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso allegedly told President Bola Ahmed Tinubu that the former governor had sold out significant places, including mosques and grave yards, but Ganduje on his part told President Tinubu that the demolition

was illegal and dangerous for the state.

In the early hours of yesterday, the demolition continued with buildings to be demolished were shops built by the fence of Sani Abacha Stadium at Kofar Mata, GSS Kofar Nasarawa facing IBB Road and buildings by GGSS Dukawuya, Goron Dutse, according to the list of structures marked for demolition.

According to a source, "the Kano Urban Planning and Development Authority (KNUPDA) under the instruction of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf demolished part of Government Girls Secondary School, Dukawuya, in the Kano metropolis."

The state's Deputy Governor, Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo, stated that the government's commitment to continue with the demolitions of structures built in illegal places.

Emefiele: Frank Urges DSS To Arrest CEO's Of NIMASA, NNPC, NPA, FIRS, Petroleum, Others

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress, Comrade Timi Frank, on Sunday, called on the Department of State Services (DSS) to urgently arrest and prosecute heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal Government under ex-President Muhammadu Buhari, known to have abused their offices through corrupt tendencies.

Frank in a statement in Abuja in reaction to the suspension and arrest of the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emefiele, by the DSS, said other heads of critical government agencies known to have serially abused their offices and allegedly stole the common wealth of the people must be brought to book.

He listed the CEO's to include the Directors General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Bashir Jamo, Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA), Mohammed Bello Koko, Group Managing

Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), Mele Kyari and the Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Muhammad Nami.

Others are the former Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, immediate past Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika and ex-Minister of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajiya Sadiya Umar Farouq.

Frank, who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), Ambassador to East Africa and the Middle East, insisted that failure to arrest and prosecute these suspects known to have used their offices for selfish gain would show that the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration is only out to witch-hunt Emefiele now under DSS custody.



Timi Frank

He added that without moving against the powerful cabal, the Tinubu's administration would have lent credence to insinuations that it is only up against Christian political office holders as recently alluded to by the immediate past Governor of Kaduna State, Malam Nasirel-rufai.

Frank also called on the Tinubu's administration to include beneficiaries of corruption proceeds from the affected MDAs in its list of suspects to be arrested and prosecuted.

According to him, "Those who illegally benefited from illegal allocation of oil blocks and marginal oil fields championed by the

NNPCL and the CBN's Money Redesign Policy must be fished out and prosecuted.

"The execution of the National Social Investment Programme by Hajiya Farouk leaves a lot of questions to be answered. This is the time for Nigerians to know what really happened and how much was used to feed school pupils at home during COVID.

"The recent deception by Sirika who chattered an Ethiopian Airline Aircraft to deceive Nigerians that Nigeria Air has materialized must also be probed. Personal Assistant to ex-President Buhari, Tunde Sabiu must not be left out."

Fake Female Customs Officer In Police Net After Duping Victim N320m

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

A fake female Customs officer is now cooling her heels in police net in Lagos for allegedly defrauding a victim of the sum of N320 million.

Said to be a specialist in defrauding unsuspecting members of the public, the suspect, according to report, has been parading herself as a Customs officer and a Customs clearing agent.

Identified simply as Rakaya, the suspect was said to have been arrested in Abuja by detectives attached to the headquarters of the Zone 2 Command of the Nigeria Police Force, Onika Lagos who brought her back to Lagos.

Our correspondent

gathered that her arrest was consequent upon a petition to AIG Ari Mohammed Ali, who immediately detailed the crack detectives attached to swung into action.

The Zone 2 Police Command Spokesperson SP Hauwa Idris Adamu who made the disclosure in a release at the weekend said the suspect confessed to the crime and claimed she has been in the business for over 15 years.

"After a detailed investigation, it was revealed that the victims were introduced to Rakiya by one Akinwande Kayode'm'(a retired Naval officer) that she should help them procure Auction Vehicles from the Nigerian Customs Service.

"Based on the foregoing,

the sum of Three Million two hundred thousand naira (3,200,000) was transferred to Rakiya's UBA personal account. Immediately the fund was received, she became incommunicado, and it was then dawn upon them that they had been swindled, all efforts made to reach her proved abortive.

"However, after a painstaking investigation, she was arrested at Abuja where Customs ID card and Customs Clearing Agent ID were recovered from her and she was brought to Lagos for proper investigation.

"During investigation, she confessed to have been impersonating as a Customs Officer in order to defraud unsuspecting members of the public and

that she has been in the business for over 15 years.

"She also claimed to have given the sum of one million Naira (1,000,000) to her boyfriend Akinwande Kayode from the Three Million Two Hundred thousand naira (3,200,000) fraudulently obtained from the victims.

"In light of the foregoing, the general public is advised to be wary of the antics of this fraudster who has been swindling unsuspecting members of the public of their money.

"Consequently, investigation is still in progress and the suspect will soon be charged to court on completion of investigation", the police image maker stated.

Subsidy Removal: Gov Makinde Rolls Out Palliatives For Oyo Residents

**Flags off dualisation of 8.3km Akobo-Ojurin-Odogbo Barracks Road*



Gov Seyi Makinde flagging off the road construction

Zamfara APC Condemns Police, DSS Invasion Of Matawalle's Houses

By; ADAM MUH'D, Gusau

The Zamfara State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC), has described the invasion and vandalism of the Gusau and Maradun private residences of the immediate past governor of the state, Bello Mohammed Matawalle by the Zamfara State Police Command and personnel of the DSS as condemnable.

This was contained in a statement made available to our reporter, signed by the state publicity secretary of the party, Yusuf Idris on Friday.

The party described the action as a gross violation of the sacred provisions of section 34, 35, 37, 41, 42 and 43 of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"What exactly might have warranted the invasion

still remains a mystery to the good people of Zamfara State. If the government thinks it has any case against the former governor, why not charge him to court instead of resorting to such barbaric and uncivilized means," the statement said.

The party called on the Nigerian Police Force and Department of State Service (DSS) to as a matter of urgency, take a decisive stand against this misadventure by Zamfara State Government and the perpetrators must be identified and made to face the dire consequences of their action.

"To say the least, the action which is said to have been directed by Governor of Zamfara, Dauda Lawal, is archaic, barbaric, brutal, unacceptable and an illegal trespass on the former governor's

property in Gusau and his hometown Maradun.

"There is no law in the country that gave the police, the DSS or any other security outfit the right to, without notice nor warrant, invade on any citizen's property.

"Similarly, no governor of a state under whatever guise, reason, or purpose has the right to, without notice, invade on other people's property". APC said.

The party attributed the action by the police and the DSS in the state as "acted in error and can be accused of being political in their actions, which we want an immediate arrest and prosecution of the perpetrators."

The party therefore, called on the Inspector General of Police to direct for an immediate investigation and prosecution of those who carried out the illegal act of breaking into the

two residences of Zamfara State APC leader and former Governor Bello Matawalle.

"Currently, the Police have barricaded roads to his Gusau residence and police have been stationed in all the residences.

"The party also calls on the Inspector General of Police to direct the immediate arrest of the stationed police officers and verify why they were deployed.

"The former governor has several times said he has nothing to hide anywhere, but legal means must be deployed before carrying out any action against him or his property.

"We urge the police and all sister security agencies and their agents to tread political grounds with caution as we cannot condone such action, especially in our dear state, which has deteriorating security challenges". They warned.

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde on Friday, announced palliatives to cushion the effects of fuel subsidy removal on the citizens of Oyo State. The governor made the announcement while speaking at the flagging off of the dualisation of the 8.3km Akobo-Ojurin-Odogbo Barracks-Olorunda-Abaa junction Road.

He stressed that the palliatives became necessary in view of the fact that things are getting harder because the subsidy on PMS has been removed.

"We know that things are getting harder because the subsidy on PMS has been removed and this has made transportation cost increase further. Well, I have already set up a committee to look into what we can do about increasing civil servants' salaries but I know that everyone in Oyo State is not a civil servant", he said.

Gov Makinde added, "So, we have decided to deploy more Omituntun buses to ease the transportation worries. I have also directed that there should be no increase in the fare paid on these buses".

"Also, school children and our senior citizens will board these buses at half-price. We will continue to look into other ways of easing the burdens."

Speaking on the road project, the Governor said the "road is vital to the people of Lagelu Local Government Area as it connects Akobo to Olorunda Abaa and it will bring development

to this axis."

"We are here today for the flag-off of the dualization of the 8.3km Akobo-Ojurin-Odogbo Barracks-Olorunda-Abaa junction Road. This road is vital to the people of Lagelu Local Government Area as it connects Akobo to Olorunda Abaa and it will bring development to this axis."

He emphasized that the flag off of the road was the fulfillment of a promise he made to the people of the area during his campaign", saying, "Today, we are keeping our promise by flagging off the construction. You can see that the work has already started.

"The equipment is here and the contractor has promised that it will be completed in 12 months. From today, we are counting 12 months. We have paid 30 per cent to the contractor and we expect that the work will progress.

"I had wanted to just fix the road as a single lane but I know that with the rate at which this axis is developing, dualizing the road is the best. So, that was how we decided to bite the bullet and dualize it once and for all."

The Governor then solicited the cooperation of the people of the community since the dualisation of the road would necessarily result in some houses having to give way to the road.

Promising that compensation to affected people would be prompt, the governor later named the road after Chief Nyesom Wike, immediate past Governor of Rivers State.

Kaduna Deputy Gov Decorates 2 Newly Promoted Police Officers

By ; F U N M I
ADERINTO, Kaduna

Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, on Thursday, decorated two newly promoted Inspectors of Police. The two police officers are part of the convoy of Kaduna State Deputy Governor. Ibrahim Abubakar, the Deputy Governor's Orderly, and Mohammed Abdulahi were decorated with their new ranks by the Deputy Governor, in a

ceremony which was held at the Deputy Governor's office, Government House, Kaduna. Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe and the Commissioner of Police, represented by the OC Operation Yaki, Kasim Bala presided at the ceremony. The officers in uniform and staff of the deputy governor's office witnessed the ceremony, where she congratulated them and wished them well in their new ranks.





The building housing the secret drugs lab uncovered by NDLEA

NDLEA Uncovers Secret Drug Lab In Lagos, UK Bound 3.20kg Skunk Hidden In Native Black Soap

illicit substance was being produced in the duplex building.

At the end of the search, one kilogram of already produced and packaged methamphetamine, quantities of precursor chemicals and other items used for the production of the deadly drug were recovered from the house. In a related development, Babafemi disclosed that operatives at the NAHCO export shed of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos on Wednesday, June 7 intercepted consignment of 3.20kg skunk concealed in native black soap heading to the United Kingdom.

A freight agent involved in the attempt to export the illicit drug, Olowokudejo Oladele Tonyi has been arrested.

Similarly, a bid to export 3,000 pills of Tramadol

225mg concealed inside women hair attachments to Monrovia, Liberia, by a cargo agent, Akinwale Taiwo Bolutife, through the MMIA was thwarted by operatives who arrested him during the outward clearance of passengers at departure gate of terminal 2 of the Lagos Airport.

The statement further read: "In the same vein, officers of the Lagos Command of the Agency the had on Monday, June 5, arrested two suspects: Wasiu Saliu and Afolabi Banjo with 247 kilograms of skunk at Oyingbo, while Tijani Damilola was nabbed at Isheri with 12.5 litres of skuchies and 98kg of cannabis sativa belonging to a fleeing suspect recovered at Akerele area of Agege just as 12.5kg of the same substance was seized from Adebowale Babatunde after his arrest at Mushin on Thursday, June 8.

"In Benue, a suspect, Emmanuel Onah was arrested during a routine stop and search of vehicles at the Vandeikya check point with a total of 61,790 pills of tramadol seized from him on Thursday 8th June, while another suspect, Ikenna Jonathan Udeze was nabbed at Otuo-Agor, Owan East LGA, Edo state with 208kg cannabis hidden in his Toyota Camry car marked ABJ 117MR.

"No less than 235 bottles of codeine syrup weighing 23.5 litres and 1,500 pills of Tramadol and Swinol were recovered on Friday 9th June from Agara Ogbonna, 35, along Owerri - Onitsha expressway, Imo state, just as operatives in Ondo state arrested two suspects: Friday Augustine, 25, and Segun Akintudoye, 20, with 30kg cannabis at B-Ali Junction, Idanre and

10.4kg of the same substance recovered from the home of a fleeing suspect at Oke Odowo, Idanre on Tuesday 6th June when operatives raided some drug joints in the town.

"In Kebbi state, Alin Bala, 45, and Danzaki Alhaji, 52, were arrested on Thursday 8th June at Goran Maiyaki, Gwandu LGA with 5.9kg cannabis and 3,792 tablets of diazepam while 18-year-old Babangida Mande was nabbed on Friday 9th June along Mararaban Yauri-Kebbi road, with 6kg cannabis and 658 tablets of cannabis and 658 tablets of diazepam.

"In Osun State, a total of 115.9kg cannabis was recovered from Adewole Abidemi, 31, who was arrested at Araromi Oke Odo in Ife South LGA; Raji Musa, 25, and Alominile Folashade, 34, nabbed at Gbokuta village in the same LGA on Monday 5th June, 2023.

June 12: Implement True Democratic Culture, AA Urges Tinubu



President Tinubu

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The Action Alliance Party, (AA) has called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, to implement true democratic culture by ensuring that his administration works to protect and defend citizens' democratic rights. National Chairman of the party, Dr. Adekunle Rufai Omo-Aje, made the call in his message to mark the 30th anniversary of the annulment of the June 12, 1993, Presidential elections on 11th June, 2023.

Omo-Aje said President Tinubu can demonstrate his avowed belief in democracy if he selflessly delivers the dividends of democracy to all Nigerians regardless of social status or ethnic, religious and political affiliations. He added that the only way citizens' longstanding aspirations and hope in true democracy, encapsulated in the long-drawn struggle against the de-annulment of June 12 could be met, is when Nigerians can choose their leaders in a free, fair, and transparent process devoid of violence, ethnic and religious hatred.

According to him, the Democracy Day celebrated today, stands as a symbol of Nigerians' steadfast struggle against military despotism for democratic governance.

He added that while it is important to recognize and honour the heroes of this remarkable struggle, as past regimes have done, "we believe that far more important is the need for

Nigerians to fully enjoy their democratic rights in the selection of who governs them.

"They also must begin to feel the dividends of democracy for which they sweated, struggled and died during those long years of street battles and protests against the military rule.

"It has been over 24 years since democratic rule was restored in Nigeria, but it is arguable whether the form of governance that exists in Nigeria today can be described as a democracy or simply civilian rule.

"While there has been some marked progress in terms of a thriving multiparty democracy and regular elections, Nigeria's record of human rights violations has not fundamentally improved.

"Instead, since 1999, Nigeria has experienced systematic attacks on democratic rights, attacks on the opposition, shrinking civic space, arbitrary arrests, illegal detentions, torture and extrajudicial killings by security agents, as well as suppression of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly, violation of the principles of separation of powers, assault on the judiciary and press freedom."

Omo-Aje while congratulating Nigerians on the celebration, said AA will continue to ensure that the dividends of democracy get to the nooks and the crannies of the country and the sacrifice of the actors of June 12 are not in vain.

Dusk-to-Dawn Curfew: Movement Restricted Over Insecurity In Ebonyi Communities

By; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Following the rising spate of insecurity in some communities in Ebonyi State, dusk-to-dawn curfew was placed by the council chairman of Ohaozara LGA, Hon. Chinonso Ajah to rescue the current state of insecurity in various communities.

The communities affected are Okposi, Uburu and Ngwulangwu respectively in Ohaozara LGA of Ebonyi State.

According to the council chairman, all human and vehicular movements are restricted throughout the period of this curfew which starts from 6:00pm on June 8, 2023 till further notice.

"All forms of movements

including activities of motorcyclists and commercial tricycle operators within the areas have been outlawed.

"The people are advised to adhere to this directive to avoid further threat to peace in the council area," Ajah warned.

It would be recalled that there has been series of attacks in Ohaozara LGA during and after the election where a ward councilor was killed during the election, while about three cars were burnt few days ago by unidentified gunmen.

Currently, normalcy has been restored in the areas mentioned above, as people are going about their normal businesses peacefully without fear nor interruption.



Throneroom Ministry Boss Apostle Kure Resigns From Kaduna Peace Commission

**Says el-Rufai not sincere, set up commission on diversionary purpose*

**May God raise for us leaders who will truly help us find true peace - Apostle Kure*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The founder of Throneroom Trust Ministry INC, Apostle (Dr.) Emmanuel Nuhu Kure has resigned from his position as Co-Chair House Of Kaduna Family, a committee set up by the Kaduna State Peace Commission (KAPECOM), to foster peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims in the state.

According to his resignation letter dated June 8, cited by our correspondent on Sunday June 11, he resigned, following the insincerity of immediate past Governor of Kaduna State, Malam Nasir el-Rufai, which was captured in a viral video, where he was promoting one religion above the other.

According to the resignation letter addressed to the Executive Vice Chairman/CEO Kaduna State Peace Commission, he said the viral video which el-Rufai is yet to deny, is contrary to his belief.

"In the backdrop of the viral video statement credited to His Excellency, the now defunct Governor of Kaduna State, Malam Nasir el-Rufai (which he is yet to openly deny) in which he openly thanked one religion over the other and explained why his government discriminated against one side and his wish that the Muslim-Muslim

ticket and religion be entrenched as the sole ruler over Nigeria, which is contrary to my belief and the fairness that my faith teaches me and that, I think, the Peace Commission stands for.

"I hereby tender my resignation as both Co-Chair and Member of this laudable Committee because it is clear that we were set-up to serve a diversionary interest and that we were not meant to succeed," he explained in the letter.

Apostle Kure said, "This may explain why the governor never executed any of our suggestions from our several parleys with him.

"I cannot in good conscience serve in a committee that will promote the disharmony, and the further disintegration of our great nation.

"More so, it is clear that this explains why he arbitrarily proscribed the Atyap Development Association to send warning to the other associations in Southern Kaduna that the same fate awaits them if they try to bring the plight of Southern Kaduna people to the rest of the world," he said.

He prayed that the current government will do things to heal the wounds that this grave statement has brought to Southern Kaduna people and its inappropriate message to all Christians in Nigeria.

"I also pray that the Federal

Government will find a way of discountenancing his views in other to maintain peace and mutual trust between the religions in the country," he said.

He thanked the Peace Commission for the opportunity to serve and to get to know closely the wonderful Muslim leaders with whom he served in that great committee.

"I will always have respect for them and the wonderful job we set out to do, and the sacrifice we all made to try to bring peace, and assure the people of the integrity of government to which I regret today to announce following the speech of His Excellency, that we have been taken for a ride.

"I am available to serve in any capacity that will promote sincere peace in any future proper platform with sincere intentions. I commend the maturity and hard work of the leadership of the Peace Commission from the Chairman, to the Vice Chairman and all the Secretariat staff in their sincere work for peace.

"I will continue to be the bridge of peace between Muslims and Christians in Southern Kaduna and the whole nation and be available to serve in any capacity that will forge the unity of Nigeria.

"May God raise for us leaders who will truly help us find true peace.

"God bless you all and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria," the letter concluded.

Akeredolu's absence raises dust in Ondo, Govt denies cabinet split

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

There have been huge concerns in the last few days over the state of polity in Ondo State following the ill-health of Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu.

Rumour was rife last weekend that the Governor had passed away, but it was immediately debunked by the State Government, insisting that he is alive and not dead as widely speculated in many quarters.

"We have been inundated with calls and messages concerning the state of health of the Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, CON. We had chosen to ignore this wicked fabrication until it appeared that certain persons seek to draw political mileage from the disinformation.

"Though the Governor has been indisposed for sometime, he has been attending to state matters and delegating functions to functionaries of the Government, when necessary. We enjoin the members of the public to ignore the rumour. Aketi is very much alive, the state Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Bamidele Ademola-Olateju said.

This is even as a terse video of 11secs which surfaced online a few minutes after the Governor's death was disproved, doused tension that had enveloped the entire state.

The short video as observed by The Cable, showed Akeredolu and some of his close associates watching the Manchester Derby FA Cup Clash.

Nevertheless, some political watchers opined that the video was contrary to reports that the Governor was bedridden in his Ibadan residence, adding that Akeredolu is looking agile than what was already in the public domain.

As the Government was still grappling to clear the air, a group, Society for Women Empowerment (SWE), upbraided the Deputy Governor, Aiyedatiwa for allegedly beating his wife, Oluwaseun.

The group in a statement by its National Coordinator, Mrs Damilola Charles, accused the deputy governor of repeatedly beating his wife, in the presence of his staff and friends.

Although, Ayedatiwa had since debunked claims that he was fond of beating up his wife.

The Deputy Governor, through his aide said, "It is uncharitable for anyone to claim that the Deputy Governor carried out 'multiple assaults' on his spouse who is out of the country. This is nothing but

political blackmail taken too far.

"The said allegation of domestic abuse is a figment of the imagination of those behind it and their ungodly intentions to cause a crisis in the state had been known for weeks and therefore such falsehood did not come as a surprise.

"While His Excellency reserves the right to privacy on issues pertaining to his family, it is pertinent to state clearly that there has never been any domestic violence between the Deputy Governor and his lovely wife, Mrs Oluwaseun Aiyedatiwa, who at the moment is outside the shores of the country.

"It is not a secret that Mrs Oluwaseun Aiyedatiwa has lived and worked in the United Kingdom for many years before her husband became an elected public official in Nigeria and since then she has been shuttling between the United Kingdom and Nigeria to take care of the home and the children who are also in the United Kingdom."

Meanwhile, the media was awash on Thursday, with reports of Akeredolu's cabinet divided over alleged incapacitation of the Governor.

The report claimed that the Governor's cabinet was divided with some members of the State Executive Council taking sides with the Deputy Governor while some others remained hopeful that Akeredolu will assume duty as soon as he fully recuperates.

But in a swift reaction, the state government condemned the report, saying "this malicious report toes the same insidious path of perfidy already trodden by certain purveyors of speculative hagiography designed to mislead unsuspecting members of the public.

"Ondo State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, CON, is not incapacitated. The finality with which the report concluded on his state of health is most unfortunate. Another online medium had peddled the wicked lie on the demise of the Governor in Germany, when he was resting in Ibadan.

"The cabinet cannot be 'disunited' when directives emanate from the office of the Governor. There is no ambiguity in that respect. Members of the public are enjoined to disregard the wicked rumour of incapacitation.

"We reiterate that the governor has been discharging the functions of his office effectively. Governance is collective. The fixation on the governor is mischievous. There is no crisis in the state. Political jobbers should steer clear.

Uba Sani's CPS Visits Some Media Houses In Kaduna

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

The Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State, Muhammad Lawal Shehu, on Thursday, embarked on a tour of media stations in the state capital.

The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the working relationship between the state government and media organizations, as well as to project a positive image of Kaduna State.

The media stations visited by Mr. Shehu included Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC), Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) Kaduna,

Freedom Radio, and Liberty Radio/TV.

According to a statement by the Spokesperson to the Governor on Public Affairs, Mock Samuel Kure, the tour is a demonstration of Governor Uba Sani's commitment to fostering a healthy relationship with the media and ensuring transparent communication with the public.

During his visit to the media organizations, Mr. Shehu pledged to work towards mending any possible gap that exists in the relationship between the state government and media practitioners.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration in promoting accurate

reportage and projection of a positive image of Kaduna State.

He posited that Gov Uba Sani, being one of those who fought for the enthronement of democracy in Nigeria, has always been a friend of the media.

He further buttressed this point by citing instances where Senator Sani assisted so many media practitioners in Kaduna State long before becoming a Senator.

He emphasized that both the media and government have a common goal, which is to serve the people of Kaduna State, and that they can achieve this goal more effectively by working together.

He therefore urged journalists to be fair

and balanced in their reportage, while also assuring them that their concerns would be addressed by his office.

In their respective responses, the heads of the media organizations visited expressed appreciation for Mr. Shehu's initiative and promised to partner with the state government towards achieving its objectives of taking Kaduna State to an enviable height.

They acknowledged the critical role that a strong working relationship between the government and media plays in fostering transparency, accountability, and development of a state.



PSC Directors Attend Foreign Training On Accountable Policing Oversight, Criminal Justice System

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Better days have begun in the Police Service Commission (PSC) as no fewer than four directors of the commission took part in a just concluded foreign intensive one week training in Accountable Policing Oversight and Criminal Justice System.

The programme was organised by the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa in conjunction with the African Policing Oversight Forum.

The PSC Directors joined 81 others from 21 countries to undergo the training where they were acquainted with topical issues such as international and regional human rights standards relevant to Policing and criminal justice system.

According to a release at the weekend by Ikechukwu Ani, Head, Press and Public Relations of the Commission, the training programme, dividend of the rapid stakeholders advocacy of Dr. Solomon Arase CFR, former Inspector General of Police and Chairman of the Commission immediately after assumption of duty, was also to expose the Directors to Democratic Policing and accountability, national oversight and accountability framework, use of force, basic guarantees around arrest and detention and effective and non-coercive interviewing and prevention of torture.

It also covered exposure on right to life - duty to investigate.

Dr. Arase, an internationally acclaimed scholar and consultant was also a facilitator during the training.

He assured the staff of the Commission that this is the beginning of international and national training programmes aimed at repositioning the Commission towards acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills for carrying out critical effective oversight functions.

He promised that similar trainings will be extended to the Police in areas of respect for the fundamental human rights of Nigerians. The PSC Chairman noted that the training will be continuous and extensive and would also involve exchange programmes

that will develop the self confidence of the Commission staff and the Police Officers in adhering to international best practices.

Meanwhile, Dr. Aase has commended the National Assembly for finally endorsing a veritable law that has removed the Police from the contributory Pension Scheme like their other colleagues in the Security services.

He said the scheme had impacted negatively to their standard of living and exposed them to several health challenges.

"I commend the retired Officers who were resolute and persistently pursued their interest in a civilised manner. The quick assent to the bill will be an icing on the cake and will assuage the pangs of abject poverty they have been consigned to after a meritorious service of their fatherland where some paid the supreme price to ensure security and Public safety in the country".

The Chairman had earlier on Tuesday, 6th June, continued his stakeholders advocacy shuttle with a visit to the Head of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS at the EU Embassy in Abuja where he appealed for support on the area of Police Reforms, training and retraining of Police Personnel on investigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution in order to mitigate cases of human rights violations and pre-trial detention.

This he noted is to entrench the culture of responsible policing in Nigeria.

He also requested for the support of the Delegation for civilian oversight training for Staff of the Commission.

Responding, the Team Lead of the Delegation, Mr. Ruben Alba Aguiler said the Security Sector Reform is a top priority for the European Union, especially in tackling terrorism and all forms of criminality in the country.

He added that the EU will like to be part of the solution, but will like to take a look at the direction of the new administration as it relates to Police and security Sector Reforms.

This, he said is to have a clear and precise idea of the area of partnership. He promised to engage other Development partners to ensure a broader partnership.

Ogwashi-Uku General Hospital Workers Set To Resume Work

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Medical workers at Ogwashi-Uku General Hospital in Delta State are expected to resume work immediately after issues that led to their action have been resolved

Recall that medical doctors suspended work due to an assault by a mobile policeman on one of the female doctors attached to the hospital.

The aggrieved doctors downed their tools since Thursday June 1, 2023, when an NYSC female doctor was assaulted.

Some policemen were said

to have taken a patient to the Ogwashi-Uku General hospital with gunshot injuries sustained while attending a party in the community.

A female doctor, who is said to be an NYSC doctor, attended to the patient, but a mobile policeman became dissatisfied when the doctor tried to explain the need for X Rays and other scans prior to any surgery.

The security operative angered by the slow pace of treatment repeatedly assaulted the doctor who had to be whisked away and hidden by her colleagues to ensure her

safety.

Bothered by the development, His Majesty, the Obi of Ogwashi-Uku Kingdom working with the Commissioner of Police in the state, CP Wale Abass and the Delta State Police Command have been able to uncover the identity of the police officer who assaulted the doctor.

This was after the CP invited representatives of the Obi of Ogwashi-Uku and the Permanent Secretary, Chief Medical Director, and all the medical staff to identify the said police officer.

"The officer was

identified, and CP Delta has instructed that steps be taken immediately so he can face justice," a reliable source said.

The Permanent Secretary is said to have thanked the Obi of Ogwashi-Uku and the police boss for their intervention in helping to resolve the issue.

Meanwhile, the Obi of Ogwashi-Uku has appealed to the CP to post policemen immediately on a permanent basis at the hospital, a request that was immediately granted.

A source close to the king said that the palace will install CCTV cameras and also provide vigilante



Kenechukwu, Bala Become CPs Abia State, Special Protection Unit As IGP Usman Orders New Posting

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The duo of Commissioners of Police, Kenechukwu Onwuemelie and Mohammed Bala have been deployed as the new Commissioner of Police Abia State Police Command and Commissioner of Police in charge of Special Protection Unit, Force Headquarters respectively.

The Inspector-General of Police IGP Usman Alkali Baba ordered the posting of the Senior Police Officers on Friday, according to a statement by the Force Public Relations Officer, CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi made available to journalists at the weekend.

CP Kenechukwu holds a B.Sc (Hons) in Psychology from Anambra State University.

He was appointed into the Nigeria Police Force in 1992, and has served in various operational, investigative, and administrative capacities in Ogun, Imo, FCT, Plateau, and Kaduna State Commands.

He has attended several tactical and leadership courses within and outside Nigeria, including Policy, Strategy and Leadership Course (PSLC), NIPSS Kuru, Jos; International Course for Police Officers (China) amongst others.

CP Mustapha is a graduate of the prestigious Bayero University Kano (BUK), where he obtained a B.Sc (Hons) in Sociology.

He equally holds a Masters degree in Law and Criminal Justice from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria.

He has also attended several management and leadership courses within and outside Nigeria.

The Inspector-General of Police has charged the Senior Police Officers to continue to entrench professionalism and respect for rights of citizens in their new places of assignment.

He equally tasked them to pursue the task of ensuring public safety and security in their AORs with renewed vigor, while calling on the government and good people of Abia State to lend their support to the new Commissioner of Police in his new post.

Abak Member Emerges Speaker Of Akwa Ibom House Of Assembly

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

A two-term member of Abak State Constituency, Rt Hon. Udemé James Otong has emerged the 8th Speaker of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly as the House was inaugurated on Friday.

Otong pulled 20 votes against six scored by his contender, Hon Prince Ukpong Akpabio of Essien Udim State Constituency who is a green horn.

At the inauguration, member representing Itu State Constituency, Rt. Hon. Kufreabasi Edidem was elected the Deputy Speaker unopposed. The Clerk of House, Mrs. Nsikakabasi Orok administered the oaths of office and allegiance to the new Speaker and Deputy, while the Speaker after which administered same to other members.

In his acceptance speech, the new speaker, Rt Hon Otong who was the House Committee Chairman on Health during the 7th Assembly said that the House under his watch would be guided by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Standing Orders of the House in all its activities.

Otong who also said that the 8th Assembly tagged "THE PRAGMATIC ASSEMBLY" would not be a clog in the wheel of progress of the state but rather

a partner in progress for a more peaceful and prosperous Akwa Ibom State, called for support from the people of the state.

"I am here before you to pledge that this Assembly under my leadership shall work in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We shall also work with the Standing Orders of this Assembly and employ due process in our activities in order to serve the overall interest of the good people of our dear State to ensure growth and development.

"The 8th Assembly shall not be a clog on the wheel of progress, rather it shall be partners in progress. To achieve these, we need the prayers, goodwill and support of our people at home and in the diaspora.

"I know as a fact that we are from different constituencies. Nevertheless, I shall work with Honourable Members to ensure that we protect the interest of all constituencies.

"Permit me to add that under my watch, Akwa Ibom Shall be one big constituency where each and every Member shall work for the ultimate good of the State. We shall redefine the concept of effective representation through legislations and resolutions that will guarantee social and economic freedom for the people of Akwa Ibom so as to make our



dear State a model for national development," The Speaker said. For members of the House, he charged them to be ready to discharge their responsibilities which centres primarily on; Lawmaking, Oversights, and Effective Representation to justify the mandate given to them by constituents.

"Distinguished Colleagues, as

we begin our individual and collective assignments, permit me to refresh your minds on the immortal words of Woodrow Wilson who once said;

"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater visions, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to

enrich the world, and you would impoverish yourself if you forget this errand."

Our Correspondent observed the 26-member State House of Assembly which has 22 males and four females is dominated by the ruling peoples Democratic Party (PDP) with Young Progressives Party (YPP) having only two seats of Ibiono Ibom and Ikono.

NSCDC Boss Reads Riot Act Against Oil Theft In Niger Delta, Orders Rejig Of Anti Vandal Units

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Commandant General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Dr Ahmed Abubakar Audi has read the riot act against the activities of oil theft in the Niger Delta region.

Consequently, he has ordered all commandants of the region to immediately rejig their anti-vandal units as a measure to arrest oil theft and vandalism of critical national assets in the areas.

The move by the NSCDC Boss is sequel to the Presidential order to rid the nation's oil sector of economic saboteurs, vandals, criminals, oil thieves, and other nefarious activities inimical to the growth of the sector.

According to a statement by Olusola Odumosu, Director, Public Relations of the Corps, Audi read the riot act at the National Headquarters, Abuja on Friday, where he summoned the concerned State Commandants and gave them marching orders to immediately

rejig their Anti-vandal units as a measure to arrest oil theft and vandalism of critical national assets.

He warned that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, had declared zero tolerance for crude oil theft, illegal oil bunkering, and other frivolous dealings in petroleum products, therefore, anyone found aiding and abetting economic saboteurs will face the full wrath of the law.

"This meeting became necessary to convey President Bola Tinubu's directive on the absolute need to end all sharp practices in the nation's oil sector.

"Oil remains the mainstay of our economy, you must therefore rejig your Anti-vandal Units to end the problem of oil theft in compliance with Federal Government's directives.

"We have a duty to protect our oil

and gas sectors from vandalism and prevent illegal bunkerers from destroying our oil installations, infrastructure and earnings" the CG stressed.

Dr Audi charged the State Commandants to maintain 24 hours surveillance of the oil facilities across the country, work with host communities and gather enough credible information and intelligence to checkmate the menace.

He emphasised the need for safe keeping of all exhibits, security of exhibits centres and strict adherence to the code of ethics and standard operating procedure of the Corps.

The Corps helmsman warned that his administration will not condone any compromise or unethical conducts from any command or personnel, promising to hold any State Commandant accountable for oil theft, acts of indiscipline, breakdown of law and order in their domains.

"As the lead agency in the protection of critical national assets and infrastructure, there is a need to be determined and resilient in the fight against crude oil theft.

"His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is already changing the narrative for good and we cannot afford to let the President and the entire nation down, the CG assured.

Dr Audi charged the personnel on synergy and collaboration with other security agencies as well as critical stakeholders to reduce crude oil theft to its barest minimum.



NBAIS Registrar Seek Prayers, Support From His Families

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria
The Registrar National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS), Professor Yahuza Suleiman Imam has solicited for prayers and support from his family, communities and the general public to enable him deliver on his new assignment. Prof. Yahuza was speaking at reception and prayer organized by his family members on Sunday at Kofar Jatau, Zaria City. He said, without prayers and support, no meaningful achievement can be recorded in any organization. Yahuza added that any success in life has to begin from home which transmit further. The Registrar also appealed to the entire management and staff of the board to give him all the necessary support towards achieving the desire goals that will move the board forward. He said, all hands must be on desk to make NBAIS a role model among the examination bodies. The Registrar NBAIS, Professor Yahuza Suleiman thanked his families, communities that have made the occasion a successful and assured

them that he will do his best on this noble assignment given to him to serve his fatherland. Earlier in his remarks, Garkuwar Ayyukan Zazzau, Alh. Balarabe QqaMusa advised the Registrar to discharge his duty negligently without fear or favour. He also tasked him to work hard and see NBAIS a pointer during his five years as Registrar. Also speaking a father at the occasion Malam Tanimu Umar urged his family and community to pray for Professor Yahuza Suleiman Imam on the task ahead of his new assignment. Umar reminded him of the responsibilities surrounded him which need patience, commitment and hard working. Prayers was offered from different scholars who they said it very important to pray for any success to be achieved. Responding, the Registrar NBAIS Professor Yahuza Suleiman thanks his families, communities that have made the occasion a successful and assured them that he will do his best on this noble assignment given to him to serve his fatherland.



L-R, Chief Whip of the Senate, Distinguished Orji Uzor-Kalu, Vice President Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Kashim Shatima and Senate President Ahmed Lawan shortly after the group photograph to mark the valedictory session for the 9th NASS in Abuja. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

CP Abass Presents Cheques Of Over N33.2m To Families Of Late Officers In Delta



CP Abass presenting cheque to the son of one of the deceased officers



Professor Yahuza Suleiman Imam (middle) recently

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A total sum of N33,275,840 million have been presented to families of deceased police officers who died in line of duty in Delta State, New Nigerian Newspaper has learnt. The cheques, presented to the beneficiaries by the Delta State Commissioner of Police Wale Abass on behalf of the Inspector General of Police Usman Alkali Baba, were part of the Group Life Assurance,

Group Personal Accident, and IGP Family Welfare Insurance Schemes.

The Delta State Police Command Spokesperson DSP Bright Edefe in a statement, said that the cheques were presented on Friday.

" On 9/6/2023, the Commissioner of Police Delta State Command, CP Wale Abass psc, on behalf of the Inspector General of Police IGP Alkali Baba Usman, PSC+, FDC, NPM, NEAPS, CFR presented cheques of

Thirty-Three Million, Two Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred And Forty Naira (#33,275,840) to families of deceased officers who died in the line of duty.

" The cheques issued on behalf of the IGP are parts of the Group Life Assurance, Group Personal Accident, and IGP Family Welfare Insurance Schemes.

" The CP while presenting the cheques appreciated the gesture by the IGP as

the cheques will in no small way act as a boost to the families and also a way of letting them know that though their loved ones are no more, the force did not forget their sacrifices.

" One of the beneficiaries in her remark on behalf of others appreciated the Inspector General of Police for the gesture shown to them and assured that the money will be spent judiciously", the release stated.

Uba Sani Woos Kuwaiti Investors To Kaduna

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has engaged with the Ambassador of Kuwait to Nigeria, Abdelaziz Albisher, in a bid to form a strong partnership between the state and the Middle Eastern nation.

The partnership aims to address social issues and facilitate investors' engagement with the state, thereby fostering economic growth and development as part of efforts to make Kaduna a reference point of investment in Nigeria.

According to a statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State, Muhammad Lawal Shehu at the weekend, it is also expected to bring about significant improvements in the lives of Kaduna State residents by providing better access to essential

services and creating more job opportunities.

The meeting between Governor Sani and Ambassador Albisher took place on Friday June 9, 2023, at the Kuwait Embassy in Abuja.

Governor Sani expressed commitment to promoting sustainable development in Kaduna State by leveraging international partnership like this one with Kuwait.

He is optimistic that these collaborations will help enhance the state's capacity to address social issues effectively and attract more investors, ultimately leading to improved socio-economic conditions for the citizens.

During the meeting, Ambassador Albisher expressed his country's strong interest in collaborating with Kaduna State to tackle pressing social issues and create an enabling environment for investors.

Both parties agreed to hold further meetings to finalize areas of cooperation and put together a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will guide their partnership.

In a related development, Governor Uba Sani met with the Ambassador of the State of Qatar, His Excellency Dr. Ali Bin Ghanem Al-Hajri to reenergize the economy of the state and mobilize additional resources to address its developmental challenges.

The meeting took place at the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Abuja and was attended by Governor Sani's leader and predecessor, His Excellency Malam Nasir el-Rufai.

The purpose of this high-level meeting was to discuss potential collaboration between Kaduna State and the State of Qatar in various sectors to enable the state

government harness additional resources and expertise needed to tackle pressing developmental challenges.

The governor emphasized the importance of fostering strong partnerships with international development partners like Qatar to achieve sustainable growth and development in Kaduna State.

On his part, Ambassador Al-Hajri expressed appreciation for Governor Sani's commitment to strengthening ties between Kaduna State and Qatar.

He assured the Governor that Qatar is ready to support Kaduna State in its quest for sustainable development by sharing its experience and expertise in various fields.

The partnerships with Qatar and Kuwait show how the Kaduna State Government is actively engaging with development partners to reenergize the state's economy and address its developmental challenges.



FG Inaugurates 2 Bollard Pull Tug Boats To Boost Ports Operations

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Two newly acquired state-of-the-art Bollard Pull Tug Boats by the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) were at the weekend inaugurated at the Lagos ports by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Transportation, Dr Magdelene Ajani.

Speaking at the inauguration, NPA Managing Director/CEO Mr Mohammed Bello Koko, said "the state-of-the-art vessels, a three-pronged strategy of people technology, infrastructure and equipment, are part of the fulfillment of the agency's service charter to provide relevant marine crafts to support port security, patrol, surveillance and deliver excellent marine services especially with the commencement of operations of Nigeria's first Deep Seaport, the Lekki Deep Seaport.

"I am greatly delighted and honored to welcome you to this occasion, which is a demonstration of this administration's resolve to position the Nigerian Ports Authority to respond squarely to the contemporary demands of trade facilitation.

"Imbued by our corporate aspiration of attaining hub status by more efficiently servicing domestic cargo needs, winning back transit cargo hitherto lost to our maritime neighbours and positioning to cater to the maritime requirements of our landlocked neighbours, we have deployed a three-pronged strategy driven by people technology, infrastructure and equipment such as the state-of-the-art vessels we are gathered

here to commission today.

"This occasion is part of the fulfillment of our service charter to provide relevant marine crafts to support port security, patrol, surveillance and most importantly deliver excellent marine services especially with the commencement of operations of Nigeria's first Deep Seaport, the Lekki Deep Seaport. Our determination to continuously enhance our operational efficiencies accounts for the purchase of these new 80 Ton Bollard Pull Tugboats christened M.T MAIKOKO and M.T DA-OPUKURO to complement our existing fleet of tugs and recently commissioned Security Patrol Boats (SPBs) and Pilot Cutters deployed to enhance channel security across all our locations."

On the tugboats, Bello-Koko explained: "These neoteric 80ton tugboats are the first of the 2813 Azimuth Stern Drive (ASD) Model in Africa constructed by the world's leading ship builders (Damen) and they possess exceptional Seakeeping Behavior, Superb Manoeuvrability of 360° using the Azimuth Thrusters, fire-fighting capability and Outstanding Towing Characteristics which will enhance the maneuvering of large capacity vessels of 300 Metres LOA and above presently calling at our ports.

In addition to positively affecting the turnaround time of large vessels, their deployment will enable stakeholders leverage the concomitant benefits of economies of scale, especially cost savings.

The NPA boss pointed out that



the deployment of the Lekki Deep Seaport as launch pad for transshipment remains unwavering, adding that the inauguration of the tug boats is an attestation to the NPA management's doggedness and commitment to the noble cause. He assured consignees, concessionaires and other stakeholders of continuous improvement in service delivery from the NPA under his leadership.

Inaugurating the two newly-acquired state-of-the-art marine crafts, Dr Ajani, said the acquisition of the 2813 model of Damen's ASD neoteric 80 Tons Bollard Pull Tugboats, the first of its kind in Africa, had accentuated the determination of the Federal Ministry of

Transportation to boost port operational efficiency.

"My joy derives from the fact that the acquisition of these equipment, amongst many others that are in the works, signposts Nigeria's seriousness to optimize the opportunities inherent in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement to which we are signatory.

"Maximizing the comparative advantages that our maritime assets as a littoral nation confers rests heavily on how much we are able to deepen our efficiencies through the deployment of relevant technology and equipment.

"I particularly want to commend the NPA Management team for delivering on this project in good

time to support the optimization of the Lekki Deep Seaport. This is the kind of efficiency that the Ministry supports its agencies to entrench in the polity and I am happy that we are making progress," he said.

Ajani pledged the support of the Federal Ministry of Transportation to the audacious efforts of the NPA, agencies and parastatals of government towards inter-agency collaborations in the attainment of the overarching goal of making Nigeria a global reference point of excellence in trade facilitation.

He congratulated the NPA CEO, the management and stakeholders for the remarkable feat, expressing the hope of greater accomplishments in the maritime industry.

Senate President: NCM Solicits Tinubu's Support For Yari

By: USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

The Northern Consensus Movement (NCM), has called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to consider supporting the North West candidate, Senator Abdulaziz Yari for the seat of the Senate President of the 10th National Assembly.

A statement signed by the National President of NCM, Comrade Awwal Abdullahi Aliyu explained that the North West produced over 2,700,000.00 votes above all other regions in the country.

The group added that Senator Abdulazeez Abubakar Yari who is from the North West, deserves to be the 10th Senate President, considering the voting contributions from the zone in the just concluded election, which gave the APC victory over all the parties.

"The North gave APC over five million

seven hundred thousand (5,700,000) votes and the North West produced over two million seven hundred thousand (2,700,000.00) votes above all regions in the country, above all, His Excellency, Abdulazeez Abubakar Yari's state produced the highest votes for APC above any other in the federation with over one million (1,000,000) votes.

"The Northern Consensus Movement

(NCM), is soliciting His Excellency, Sen. Ahmed Bola Tinubu the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to support our call to give support to His Excellency,

Abdulazeez Abubakar Yari from North West for the 10th Senate President seat.

"You may wish to recall that, democracy is not all about religion or tribe, democracy is game of numbers and

interest that is why the people from the North prefers voting Your Excellency, Sen. Ahmed Bola Tinubu as their President above all the Northern Presidential candidates.

"We wish His Excellency Sen. Ahmed Bola Tinubu the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, a world class democrat to allow the democratic principles to prevail in the process of electing the 10th President Senate," Comrade Awwal proclaimed.

According to him, NCM is an amalgamation of 593 affiliate member associations, that consists of community base, socio-cultural and economic inclined grassroot associations, that serves as a network of progressive minds from the 19 Northern States and FCT, including associations of Northerners resident in the 17 Southern states that endorses Yari for the seat.



Stop Dabbling Into NNPP Affairs In Ogun State, SW Leaders Warn Aniebonam

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The leadership of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in the South West geo-political zone on Friday, warned Dr. Boniface Aniebonam to stop dabbling into the party affairs in Ogun State. Speaking on behalf of the party leaders in the South West geo-political zone, Prince Ademola Ayoade, said, "there is nothing like founder in political party after registration". According to Prince Ayoade, Aniebonam should stop his plan of running parallel party affairs in Ogun State NNPP, saying, he should also stop fooling the public on the issue of being the founder of the party when it is not a private business. "Not every view or posting should be responding to, because some people talk before reasoning or writing before thinking. How can someone wake up and start insulting us, is time we tell him the truth", he said. Prince Ayoade added, "Political party is not a company or personal property once a political party is registered, it

becomes public property. Aniebonam be warned". New Nigerian learnt that the

warning was as a result of Aniebonam's alleged involvement in the crisis rocking the NNPP in Ogun State, which led to the expulsion of former chairman of the party, Olaposi Sunday Oginni by the national leadership of the party.

After Oginni's expulsion and dissolution of the entire Executives, the national body appointed Caretaker Committee led by Prince Adekunle Ibrahim.

Other caretaker committee members are, Comrade Afuye Oluwatoyin as acting Secretary; Comrade Olowu Omokehinde Olayemi as acting Publicity Secretary; Comrade Oyegbemi Omokehinde as acting Youth Leader and Shefiu Musa as acting Treasurer. Others are, Hon. Foluke Precious Bagbansoro as acting Women Leader; Mrs Riskat Oloyede as acting Financial Secretary; Taofeek Adegboyega as acting Organizing Secretary and Akindele Micheal as acting Welfare Secretary.

Gov Nwifuru Swears-In 21 Special Assistants In Ebonyi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru has sworn-in 21 Special Assistants to assist him tackle security challenges in Ebonyi State.

The governor also said he is well prepared and equipped to tackle all the security challenges in Ebonyi State.

The governor also used the opportunity to swear-in 21 Special Assistants, including Special

Assistants, Senior Special Assistants, amongst others.

The event which took place at the new Government House, Centenary City, Abakaliki, was witnessed by party stalwarts, founding fathers, friends and well wishers.

Governor Nwifuru also charged the newly political appointees to be committed and discharge their duties efficiently as he will hold them responsible for security

issues in the state.

"I am delighted this afternoon for the swearing-in of the new appointees.

"I am aware of the challenges in the state, but we are well equipped to tackle all of them. I do solicit for your patience and support. I have been confronted with a lot of challenges more especially security issues which I know will soon be things of the past. As SAs on security, you are in charge of security issues

in your area. I will hold you responsible for any security bridges.

"The appointment of other principal officers will come within the week and swearing in is on Monday," he said.

Responding on behalf of other appointees, the Senior Special Assistant to the governor, Hon. Felix Okemini promised to ensure security of lives and properties in the state and to justify the confidence reposed on them.



Gov Nwifuru Swearing-in 21 Special Assistants, recently

Think Nigeria Above All Considerations, A'ibom PDP Chieftain Tells Tinubu, Senators Elect

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Akwa Ibom State, Mr. James Iniama has reasoned that for equity and fairness to be addressed in the distribution of principal offices at the national level, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Senators Elect should think Nigeria above all considerations.

In this vein, Mr Iniama called for the Senate Presidency to be zoned officially to the South-South geo-political zone of the country and Senator Godswill Akpabio, whom he described as unifying, experienced and character-tested personality.

The PDP Chieftain and former governorship aspirant in the state, bared his views at an interactive session with journalists in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital, on Saturday.

He stressed the value of Akpabio's loyalty to the Nigeria project and the President Tinubu's governance

agenda as critical to the urgent repositioning of the nation, development of growing youth population and infrastructure deficit.

"It is reassuring of the unity and indivisibility of our great nation to have a patriot such as Senator Godswill Akpabio, a Christian and a Nigerian of the South-South geo-political zone, sit as the President of our Senate". He stressed.

The Estate Surveyor and Valuer with more than 40 years of professional experience, reasoned that the success of Chief Godswill Akpabio as the president of the 10th Senate would as well be of immense benefit to Akwa Ibom in particular and the generality of the South-South region of the country.

The PDP chieftain appealed to Senators-elect and the political class of the six geo-political zones to collaborate in a bi-partisan manner to rally support for Senator Godswill Akpabio as Senate President,

adding, "Akpabio is completing piece of jig-saw of the 10th Senate".

He commended President Tinubu for hitting the ground running in the matter of the PMS subsidy removal and assent to the Electricity and Power Sector Reform Act within 10 days in office.

"I was part of the founding of Action Congress and always trusted President Tinubu's thoughts in those days". Iniama stated.

Speaking on the fuel subsidy, Mr. Iniama wished that the Removal Committee headed by the Vice President would give a deep thought to the possibility of proposing concessions to the air transport sector, as this will make air travel affordable, considering the high level of insecurity on the nation's highways.

James Iniama also spoke glowingly about the Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno for looking at governance beyond party lines with the visit to the President and extending the olive branch to members of opposition parties to join hands and knowledge in building the state.



Dr. Boniface Aniebonam

National Water Resources Bill And NASS Feeble Attempts

By; JEROME-MARIO
CHIJOKE UTOMI

If there is any event in recent times that amply demonstrates that nations succeed or fail and define their essential character by the way they challenge the unknown and cope with fears, it is the Senate's recent and final rejection on Tuesday June 6, 2023, of the controversial National Water Resources Bill, 2023 after it was listed for concurrence on the order paper for consideration and passage.

Very newsy is the awareness that despite wide condemnation, criticism and description by stakeholders as a code that is out of harmony with moral laws, the bill which was first introduced in 2018 spanned both 8th and 9th National Assemblies.

Adding context to this discourse, the Bill as introduced in August 2018 emanated from the Executive arm and, among other things seeks: to establish a regulatory framework for the water resources sector in Nigeria, provide for the equitable and sustainable development management, use and conservation of Nigeria's surface water, groundwater resources and for related matters.'

Going by the content of the bill, it was easy for Nigerians to situate without labour that the greatest ill associated with it lies in its tendency to disenfranchising, and separating Nigerians from ancestral ownership of their water rights and handover same to a set of federal technocrats by confusing Nigerians with the fallacy that "ownership rights to water" is the same as water use rights."

Also working against the bill at that time is the accompanying belief by Nigerians with critical interest that the urge to have the bill passed is driven not by love for having the nation's water resources judiciously managed or for the nation to develop agriculturally as claimed by the lawmakers, but by sectional and parochial interests.

A typical example in support of the above claim is the fact that some pro bill senators in the outgone 8th Assembly used barefaced inaccuracies to mislead the Senate and drum up support for the bill.

For example, it was claimed on the floor of the Senate that the World Bank is waiting on passage of the bill into law to "grant" trillions of naira to develop Nigeria's irrigation infrastructure. This cannot be

further from the truth, as the World Bank would never and cannot ask a nation to deprive her citizens of their inherited and cultural rights to water as a condition for granting loans.

After a very long and sustained outcry by Nigerians, the Bill was step-down.

But before the dust raised by the introduction of such an obnoxious bill could settle, another was up as the 9th NASS in September, 2019, have the bill re-introduced.

Like the experience and reactions by Nigerians when it was first introduced, the Ijaw Youths Council (IYC) threatened that; if the government should reintroduce what they referred to as inimical and

controversial water Resources Bill which was formally stepped down by the 8th Assembly after much public outcry; that Southern Nigeria people will do everything lawful to resist the passage of that inimical Bill which tends to colonise them.

The group in that statement warned that the bill should not be another petroleum laws that have denied the Niger Delta people right to controlling the petroleum resources in their land; And warned that the bill if passed is capable of causing a civil war in the country. This was in addition to other condemnations by Nigerians with critical minds.

What caused serious concern going by what Nigerians were saying, is that the bill viewed from a wider spectrum stands as a telling proof of the Federal Government's insensitivity to the people of the Niger Delta and other water areas.

This fears expressed by the coastal dwellers cannot be described as unfounded as it was a similar Decree 101 of 1992 which is now incongruously dressed up as an act of the National Assembly (Water Resource Act Cap W2 LFN 2004) that robbed every



Nigerian of their water rights as it was hurriedly signed into law by the then military Ibrahim Babangida as his parting gift to Nigerians.

After some moment of debate, protracted accusations and counter accusations, the re-introduced went underground.

But in July, 2022, the Federal Government in its usual manner confirmed that in Nigeria's leadership corridor, once a direction is chosen, instead of examining process meticulously and set the right course; one that will allow us to overcome storm and reach safety before we can progress and achieve our goals, many obstinately persist with the execution of such plans regardless of a minor or major shift in circumstance, as it again made another feeble attempt to have the bill reintroduced.

This particular feeble re-introduction coupled with other persistent inabilities on the part of the now outgone President Muhammadu Buhari led Federal Government, to promptly respond to the socioeconomic need of Nigerians adversely turned public affair commentators, development professional and public policy watchers' to a bunch that keep repeating one topic.

For me, aside from ushering in an unjust law and set the table to truncate the nascent peace currently enjoyed in the country while ushering in another round of hostility as the people are committed to peace by any means necessary but may not be committed to becoming the victims of peace, if the bill was passed and signed to law, it would have turned to be what future historians will certainly describe as a disastrously mistaken decision on the part of both the 8th and 9th National Assemblies.

To succeed in this assignment, the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu led Federal Government must be holistic in approach and practice deliberative democracy. Even if such or a similar bill is going to be introduced in the future, the NASS must pave the way for other stakeholders such as the Civil Society groups, Water experts to fully make their inputs- submit memoranda and possibly be given the opportunity to make a presentation as it relates to this bill.

As noted in a recent but similar intervention, the Government must desist from the current non-participatory approach to development in the Niger Delta

and other coastal areas and embrace a broad-based consultative approach that will give the people of the region some sense of ownership over their own issues.

Instead of taking away their resources, this author is of the view that this is an auspicious time for the federal government to come up with steps that will allocate more power and resources to the state and those at the grassroots.

Most importantly, it will equally be rewarding if the Federal Government aggressively address the issues of youth unemployment in the region, weak regulation on the parts of its ministries and agencies, tackle the oil companies lackadaisical handling of the environment, and ensure compliance with the implementation of the Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMOU) so entered with host communities.

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

NASS Leadership: Group Warns Tinubu Against Interfering

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

With few days to the election of the 10th leaders of the National Assembly (NASS), a group called 'North East Youth Organization Forum' has called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu not to meddle in the affairs of electing the new leaders of the 10th Senate and House of Representatives and give the members total freedom to choose whomever they want.

This call was made by the Chairman of the group, Alhaji Abdulrahman Buba Kwacam while interacting with journalists.

Buba Kwacam further said they have learnt that some elements that don't have Nigeria at heart are on the verge of creating chaos and disarray; "they don't want the development of this country.

"They want to bring disorder, violence and menace. Lack of sincerity and fairness compelled all the terrorism in Nigeria," the group pointed out.

According to him, "Nigeria as a country needs to be ahead of this and we have to use our sense, wisdom and intellect."

He added, "in the upcoming elections next week, we realised that the court's order will be ignored.

"They plan to arrest some of those contesting for the leadership of Senate, and the Speaker of the House Assembly.

"Also, they want to arrest them and release them

after the election, we will not allow this to happen in this country," he alleged.

Kwacam added that the election of the Senate President is between Abdulaziz Yari and Godswill Akpabio; "but they want to ignore the court order and illegally arrest Abdulaziz Yari and later release him after the election.

"We won't allow it to happen. Our eyes are open. We know their pursuits.

"Those who are planning this thing should not throw this country into mess and insecurity because whoever is elected in Nigeria is elected by the will of his people, and no one is forced to vote for someone else," he further warned.

He elucidated that some people didn't want Bola Ahmed Tinubu to be President, but because former President Muhammadu Buhari conducted free and fair elections, Tinubu emerged victorious.

He urged President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to allow the members of the Senate and House of Representatives to elect their leaders willingly.

Kwacam said if leaders of the 10th Assembly are forced on people, the President would face a lot of setbacks in his administration.

He called on the members of the Assembly to not dance to the tune of someone but to elect the leaders that will serve the interest of the people and the nation.

Lagos Govt Intensifies Awareness Campaign On Blood Donation, Safe Blood Transfusion Practice

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

Lagos State Government is targeting increasing its total number of donated blood. At present the total donated blood is at over 115,000 units to 200,000 units.

The government is working to meet its annual blood requirements and the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended estimate of blood requirement per population.

The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye, disclosed this while reviewing scheduled activities lined up by the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Service (LSBTS) to commemorate 2023 World Blood Donor Day in Lagos.

He pointed out that apart from the recorded increase in donated blood in Lagos to over 115,000 units, the LSBTS has been able to screen 100 percent of all units of blood collected in the State.

The Permanent Secretary said that LSBTS also produces blood components including Fresh Frozen Plasma, Cryoprecipitates and Platelet Concentrates from 90 percent of voluntarily donated blood with the decentralization of its storage to ensure easy accessibility.

He said: "LSBTS has adopted a hybrid of decentralized blood services at its blood collection, distribution, screening and certification units with a highly centralized post-collection

blood processing specifically component production as well as regulatory, monitoring, enforcement activities.

"Since the its establishment in June 2004, LSBTS has increased the availability of safe blood, curbed the menace of quackery and improved the quality of the blood provided by the state. Facilitated by Mr. Governor, there has been an increase in the number of voluntary blood donation centres in public and private health facilities with a accompanied strengthening of the haemovigilance program according to international best practices to ensure safe blood processes".

Ogboye also disclosed that the LSBTS has commence the process for complete automation in the screening and certification of blood for transfusion transmissible infections, implementation of the LSBTS Blood Inventory Management System and extended phenotyping of blood group antigens to reduce the incidence of adverse events in blood transfusion.

Speaking on scheduled activities to commemorate year 2023 World Blood Donor Day in Lagos, the Executive Secretary, LSBTS, Dr. Biodun Osikomaiya disclosed that the Lagos State Ministry of Health through the LSBTS will commemorate WBDD with a three-day event comprising Youth Extravaganza; Lagos State Secondary School Student LSBTS facility tour and

Symposium and Scientific Conference.

She explained that the Youth Extravaganza themed "Count Me In: Each 1, Reach 5" will hold at the Red Cross Society Hall Premises, Ebute-Metta on Saturday 3rd June, 2023 adding that Lagos State Secondary School students are also scheduled to come on tour of LSBTS facilities at the headquarters, located within the premises of Gbagada General Hospital on Thursday 8th June, 2023.

Osikomaiya further explained that a Symposium and Scientific Conference to commemorate the World Blood Donor Day will hold on Wednesday 14th June, 2023 at the Adeyemi Bero Auditorium in Alausa Ikeja.

She said: "World blood donor day is a day of global observance, celebrated all around the world on the 14th of June yearly. This event is meant to raise awareness on the crucial need for safe blood and blood products, to thank blood donors for saving lives with their precious gift of blood and to recruit healthy individuals to be voluntary blood donors.

"The slogan for the Y2023 WBDD campaign is 'Give Blood, Give Plasma, Share Life, Share Often'. The access to a secure blood and blood component supply, based on voluntary unpaid donation is vital for all patients including many requiring emergency need and life-long blood transfusions for conditions

such as post-natal hemorrhage, accident victims, sickle-cell anaemia and haemophilia".

Osikomaiya noted that her agency is intensifying awareness, sensitization and advocacy campaign to increase voluntary blood donation to meet the state blood requirement and safe blood transfusion services.

Expressing delight that the effort of LSBTS is yielding the desired result with evident increase in voluntarily donated blood,

She noted that one pint of donated blood can save three lives adding that this is why efforts are being intensified by the State government to meet and surpass the State blood requirement through recruiting and retaining voluntary blood donors.

Emphasizing the huge demand for blood and the need for voluntary blood donation, Osikomaiya disclosed that about 37% of the population are eligible and clinically fit to donate blood stressing that someone is always in need of blood every two seconds.

The Executive Secretary noted that eligible citizens can donate blood by walking into any of LSBTS dedicated voluntary blood donation centers at General Hospital Lagos and General Hospital Gbagada or the voluntary blood donation center at the Accident and Emergency Center, located at the old Toll Gate and the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Ikeja to donate blood at any time.



10,048 Nigerians suffering from Multiple Sclerosis - Prof Yakub

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

About 10,048 Nigerians are suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a combined brain and spinal cord ailment, the Nigerian Society of Neurological Sciences (NSNS), has said.

Professor Yakub Nyandaiti, the Secretary of NSNS, explained that the

Multiple Sclerosis is caused when the body's immune system attacks its own tissues and destroys the fatty substance that coats and protects nerve fibers in the brain and spinal cord.

Speaking in Abuja on Thursday during the MS Awareness Campaign organised by Roche in conjunction with Nigerian Neurologists, said, "MS

affects 30,000 people across Africa, with approximately 2,800 new diagnoses every year."

According to Nyandaiti, MS is a condition that affects the brain and spinal cord, causing a wide range of potential symptoms that include problems with vision, arm or leg movement, sensation or balance.

The Secretary suggested that those with the symptoms should visit their doctors early to improve long-term health. There is presently, according to the secretary, no cure for MS, stressing that signs and symptoms can be ameliorated successfully with several medications and research is still ongoing.

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

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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
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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

Why Salary Increase May Cause More Harm Than Good

By: HASSAN GIMBA

"When you want to help people, you tell them the truth. When you want to help yourself, you tell them what they want to hear." - Thomas Sowell.

This was published here on 14th November last year when the issues of salary increase and Naira redesign were mooted. But it was first written on the 7th of May 2018 and republished on October 1st same year. The first time it was captioned "Salary Increase: Before the harm is done" and the second time, with a little tinkering, it was captioned "Salary Increase: The Implication and Labour's Role."

Two unrelated pieces of information prompted the writing of this piece. First was the statement from the chairman of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), Mohammed Bello Shehu, when he paid a courtesy visit to the chairman of Nigerian Governors' Forum, Governor Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto State in his office in Abuja.

He said the commission had concluded arrangements to review, upwards, of course, the remuneration of public officers in Nigeria. The last time they carried such out for these categories of Nigerians "was in 2008, which makes it even overdue for review," he stated.

The second was the decision by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to redesign the ₦200, ₦500, and ₦1000 notes by December 15, 2022. The apex bank said the existing notes will no longer be legal tender by January 31, 2023.

The CBN governor, Godwin Emefiele, announced on October 26 that 85 per cent of the currency in circulation is hoarded by Nigerians. Redesigning the notes will help prevent counterfeiting and thwart ransom collection by terrorists and kidnapers.

The plan is for the redesigned naira notes to start circulating from December 15 and be used alongside the old notes until January 31, when they will be phased out.

The RMAFC boss bemoaned the inadequate wages of public, political and judicial officeholders, leading to corruption.

His move, he said, was underpinned by paragraph 32(D) of part 1 to the third schedule of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended, which empowers the Commission to determine the remuneration appropriate to political, public and judicial officeholders in the country.

On the other hand, Emefiele's move has the strong backing of the president. President Buhari supported the apex bank's decision when Minister of Finance, Budget, and National Planning, Hajiya Zainab Ahmed, challenged it during a 2023 budget defence session.

As things stand now, none of the above measures can be stopped because of the firm belief in the most powerful office in the land that their time has come. Whatever people will say may not be

enough to reverse the decisions already taken – what the Hausa man will call ihun ka banza. And so, this is just to put things down on record for the sake of posterity.

But Shehu's statement did not just come out of the blues. It was like icing on the cake – after putting sugar in the mouths of other workers. In August, the president had said there was a need for an urgent salary review in the federal civil service owing to the high inflation rate across the world. The country's inflation rate surged to 19.64 per cent in July 2022, up from 18.60 per cent in the previous month, according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

And on August 31, Ekpo Nta, chairman of the National Salaries, Income and Wages Commission, issued a circular to the effect that the president had approved an increment in duty tour allowances (DTAs) for ministers, permanent secretaries and civil servants on grade levels one to 17 with effect from September 1.

According to the circular, duty tour allowances applicable to the permanent secretary/equivalent moved from ₦20,000 to ₦70,000, while those for minister/SGF/HCSF/equivalent rose from ₦35,000 to ₦80,000. The raise went down all the way to level one officers.

A duty tour refers to an official trip embarked upon by a public servant. Nigeria has seen many commissions set up even before independence to consider the nation's pay structure to arrive at an enduring one befitting of an income policy.

The major ones were the Hunt Commission (1934), the Bridges Committee of Enquiry (1941), the Tudor Davies Commission (1945), the Harragin Commission (1946), the Miller Commission of 1947, the Gorsuch Commission (1955), the News Commission, the Elwood Grading Team (1956) and the Mbanefo Commission of 1959.

Others were the Morgan Commission (1963), the Adebo Commission (1970 – 1971), the Public Service Review Commission (Udoji Report) (1974), the Cookey Commission (1981), the Fatai Williams Committee (1990), the Commission on the Review of Higher Education in Nigeria (Longe Commission), the 1994 Review Panel on the Civil Service Reforms (Ayida Panel) (1994), the Vision 2010 Committee Report (1997) and the Committee on Harmonisation of Remuneration in the Public Service (1998).

What this portends is that there will be a considerable increase in monthly cash flow. The recipients have more money coming in, meaning more money to spend. The people involved will now more easily meet their financial obligations. This increased purchasing power in many hands will galvanise production and improve the overall economy.

Productivity, as a result, will get a boost because it will motivate the worker who

gets a pay rise to embrace his work with the seriousness it deserves. Thus, there would be more efficiency and effectiveness in the workplace, ultimately leading to increased productivity.

Prices in Nigeria rise with salary increases, never coming back down. The only exception was when President Musa Yar'adua lowered the pump price of petrol

strengthen the naira. A very strong naira will see market forces pushing down the price of commodities, thereby strengthening the purchasing power of Nigerians. The salaries being currently received will then look very okay. Otherwise, ₦1 million as minimum wage will help no one as long as the naira is weak. Period.



Hassan Gimba
Monday
Column

in 2007.

In 1972, the Udoji Commission proposed a Unified Grading and Salary Structure for the Civil Service. At that time, the naira was worth more than the dollar at ₦60/\$100. The commission increased the annual minimum wage from ₦312 to ₦720, the equivalent of \$1200. As of the time of writing this, \$100 was nudging ₦90,000!

Today, \$1200 will be close to ₦1,080,000. What this means is that the Udoji Commission's minimum wage of ₦60 (\$100 then) had more purchasing power than today's minimum wage of ₦30,000 (\$33 now). Then, just imagine \$100 as the basic monthly salary today! That's some tidy ₦90,000.

Therefore, rather than increase salaries, the government should do all it can to

The government should consider price control if salaries must be increased. While the advantage is that it may lead to lower prices for consumers, the consequence is that it may lead to lower supply and a reduction of quality. However, price stability helps to avoid both inflation and deflation.

Again, reducing salaries and allowances of public officers, especially elected officials and heads of MDAs, should be explored by the government. After all, Nigeria does not have the money to pay university lecturers decent salaries. The saved money can be used to finance the salary increase. This way, the negative consequences will be mitigated.

Hassan Gimba is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Neptune Prime.

Breaking Barriers And Making History: Nafisa Lawal Idris, Northern Nigeria's First Female Data Scientist

By; ABDULLAHI
YUNUSA

In a remarkable feat of determination and talent, Nafisa Lawal Idris has emerged Northern Nigeria's first female data scientist, from Tureta Local Government Area (LGA), Sokoto State.

Nafisa's groundbreaking accomplishments have had a profound impact on her community in Tureta and beyond, by challenging societal norms and paving the way for other women in tech, through positive change that she is driving, resonating far, beyond the boundaries of her hometown.

Her story serves as a beacon of hope and possibility, inspiring young girls to dream big and break free from limitations.

We salute Nafisa for her efforts in creating a more inclusive and diverse tech industry.

As Nafisa continues to chart new territory and make strides in the field of data science, her influence shows no signs of waning.

Her commitment to excellence, tireless dedication and unwavering belief in the power of data will

continue to shape the future of the industry. We eagerly anticipate the groundbreaking contributions she will make and the doors she will open for aspiring data scientists.

Nafisa Lawal Idris is a true trailblazer and we are honoured to recognise her as a visionary leader in the world of data science.

Nafisa Lawal Idris's journey from Tureta, LGA, Sokoto State to becoming Northern Nigeria's first female data scientist is a testament to the transformative power of perseverance, dedication and passion.

Her achievements break down barriers, inspire change and create opportunities for women in the tech industry.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Nafisa Lawal Idris for her remarkable accomplishments, and we are privileged to recognise her as a trailblazer in the field of data science.

Her pioneering spirit and commitment to excellence serve as an inspiration to us all and we look forward to witnessing the continued impact she will make in the years to come.



Nafisa Lawal Idris

“Her pioneering spirit and commitment to excellence serve as an inspiration to us all and we look forward to witnessing the continued impact she will make in the years to come.”

Senator Uba Sani: **Manifold Treasures To Humanity**



Uba Sani

By; YUSUFKACHIA
 It has never been a surprise that Malam Uba Sani has taken unprecedented steps towards continuously progressing on the track of his predecessor of development and human capacity initiative. Knowing the antecedents of Malam Uba Sani, an

activist of the highest repute, whose democratic principles and ethics have engraved in him, the empathy of human freedom and emancipation from hunger, multidimensional poverty and other depressing conditions of the common man. There is no doubt that he

will bring all his past experiences to bear on his policies and egalitarian governance which will inadvertently upturn the scale of insecurity, education, healthcare delivery and human capacity development which he has fought for, for more than three decades.

The best thing that has happened to Kaduna State is Malam Uba Sani. Looking a little bit backward, his sojourn in the Senate has left an indelible mark which will be difficult to beat. Finally, I call on the people of Kaduna State to be patient, forebear and be calm as Governor Uba

Sani has prepared a political menu of delicacies to satiate the good people of Kaduna State irrespective of ethno-religious inclination or gender based considerations. This piece was contributed By Yusuf *Kachia, a political Affairs Analyst*

Kaduna Deputy Gov Hails Partners Over Plans To Provide 4,763 Pupils Free School Uniforms

By; FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna
Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe on Saturday, expressed appreciation to the trio of Access Bank, Fifth Chucker and UNICEF for the project which she said will compliment the state government's investment. The Deputy Governor and dignitaries at the event joined the MD of Access Bank, Mr Roosevelt Ogbonna and Management Staff of the Fifth

Chucker Polo and Country Club to launch Project GIVE, held at Maraban Jos, Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State. The GIVE Project, is a collaborative effort between Access Bank Limited and Fifth Chucker as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The project is aimed at providing free uniforms and kits to 4,763 pupils of the Fifth Chucker/Access Bank Primary school.

Kaduna State Deputy Governor, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, who represented Governor Uba Sani at the event expressed appreciation to the trio of Access Bank, Fifth Chucker and UNICEF for the project. According to her, the project will compliment the state government investment and effort in providing quality education and human capital development. On his part, the MD of Access Bank,

Mr Roosevelt Ogbonna said through Project GIVE, Access Bank is constructing 60 classrooms to provide a conducive learning environment for 12,000 pupils to support Kaduna State Government in addressing out of school syndrome. The Deputy Governor and dignitaries at the event also embarked on a tour of the school where they interacted with pupils in the creative lab and the computer lab of the school.



Anambra Sports Festival: Finalists Emerge From Senatorial Zones

By: PAMELA EBOH, Awka

Finalists on Saturday, emerged from the three senatorial zones in the ongoing Anambra State Sports Festival to represent their council areas.

The 2-day zonal eliminations series were held at Nnewi High School, Nnewi and Isuofia Community Secondary School for Anambra South District, while Chuba Ikpeazu Stadium Onitsha and Otuocha Stadium Aguleri hosted Anambra North Zone.

The Anambra Central Games were held at four locations of, Nnamdi Azikiwe Secondary School, Abagana, St Mary's High School and, St Stephen's secondary school both in Ifitedunu and Sports Club Amawbia.

In the different categories of the sports fiesta, Christ the King College, CKC Onitsha cruised to the final stage in both U13 and U17 soccer game for the male categories.

The school joined to represent Anambra North after its U13 team defeated Community Primary School, Okpoko 7-0 in a game that was meant to determine the first place team.

In female football category, Urban Girls Secondary School, Onitsha defeated Bethlehem Girls College, Fegge 1-0 in the U17 category to advance to the state finals as representatives of Anambra North.

Similarly, the Queen of Angels beat Community School Ebenator 5-4 on penalties to qualify for female U17 football while Nnewi High school defeated Divinity Secondary school 3-1 in male category to emerge from Anambra South.

Christ Redeemer College Amesi beat CSS Oko, 4-2 via penalties in female U17 football while their male counterpart joined in the state finals after beating Community Secondary School Awgbu by 2-1.

For basketball, Nnewi High school advanced to the state finals after walking over their opponents that didn't show up for the final.

In the female volleyball category, Holy Child Secondary school Isuofia and Community Secondary School Isuofia advance to the state finals to represent Anambra South.

For the male counterpart (volleyball), Holy Child Secondary school Isuofia beat Community Secondary School Isuofia 3-2 to represent Anambra South zone in the state final alongside Anambra Central.

Bubendorf Grammar School Adazi-Nnukwu and CSS Akwaeze progressed in the male volleyball event while, Community Secondary School Akwaeze and Rosa Mystica High School Agulu advanced in the female category.

Don Bosco College Obosi and Bubendorf Memorial Grammar School Adazi-Nnukwu are through to U17 male basketball final while Mater Amabilis College Umuoji advanced to the final unopposed.

In the U-17 male finals Bubendorf Memorial Grammar School Adazi-Nnukwu defeated Capital City Secondary School Awka 8-7 via penalty shootouts to make it to the final.

In a post match interview, the CKC games master, Francis Ejiofor, said he was full of joy for his teams return to soccer reckoning and commended the principal of the school for his encouragement and support.

Ejiofor commended the Anambra government and the Sports Development Commission for providing the platform for students to showcase their sporting talents while learning.

He said, "We are doing everything possible with the help of our principal to reclaim that position, we train Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday to ensure we achieve the goal.

"Anambra state, especially the present governor, is doing a wonderful job in sports, one thing I like about this ongoing competition is that they started from the grassroot for the talent hunt.

"We want to lift every soccer trophy in Anambra, we want to be the best to retain our number one position in sports in the state."

The final of the tournament will be held between the 21st and 24th of June, 2023.

AFCON 2023 Qualifier: Peseiro Lists Musa, Osimhen, Simon, 20 Others For Sierra Leone

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Coach José Santos Peseiro has invited captain Ahmed Musa, goalkeeper Adebayo Adedele, defender William Ekong, midfielder Alex Iwobi and forward Moses Simon among others for next weekend's 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying match against the Leone Stars of Sierra Leone in Monrovia.

In-form forward, Victor James Osimhen, whose 31 goals in all competitions for SSC Napoli this season helped the Italian giants to the semi finals of the UEFA Champions League and to their first Italian Serie A title in 33 years, tops the strikers' list.

Osimhen has also recently been honoured with the National Award of Member of the Order of the Federal Republic (MFR) by the Government of Nigeria, and has

received a special ball and jersey from world football-ruling body, FIFA for his magnificent season.

Home-based goaltenders Victor Sochima and Olorunleke Ojo are also called, as well as Rivers United defender Ebube Duru and Bendel Insurance FC midfielder, Divine Nwachukwu.

Defenders William Ekong, Kenneth Omeruo, Zaidu Sanusi, Calvin Bassey, Oluwasemilogo Ajayi and Bright Osayi-Samuel are in, with midfielders Wilfred Ndidi and Frank Onyeka, and forwards Samuel Chukwueze, Taiwo Awoniyi and Kelechi Iheanacho also in the 23-man roster.

The Super Eagles are top of their qualification group with nine points out of four matches, followed by Guinea Bissau's Wild Dogs who have seven points. Leone Stars, who

gave the Eagles a tough run in Abuja on Day 1 of the qualification series before succumbing 2-1, are on five points. Sao Tome and Principe, who play the Super Eagles on the final day of the series in September, are bottom with only one point.

Nigeria and Sierra Leone clash at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Stadium in Monrovia on Sunday, 18 June, as Sierra Leone do not have any stadium in their country approved for international matches.

ALL THE INVITED PLAYERS:

Goalkeepers: Adebayo Adedele (Hapoel Jerusalem, Israel); Victor Sochima (Rivers United); Olorunleke Ojo (Enyimba FC)

Defenders: William Ekong (Watford FC, England); Calvin Bassey (Ajax FC, The Netherlands); Kevin Akpoguma (TSG Hoffenheim, Germany);

Chidiebube Duru (Rivers United); Oluwasemilogo Ajayi (West Bromwich Albion, England); Kenneth Omeruo (CD Leganes, Spain); Zaidu Sanusi (FC Porto, Portugal); Bright Osayi-Samuel (Fenerbahce FC, Turkey)

Midfielders: Joseph Ayodele-Arifo (Southampton FC, England); Alex Iwobi (Everton FC, England); Divine Nwachukwu (Bendel Insurance); Wilfred Ndidi (Leicester City, England); Frank Onyeka (Brentford FC, England)

Forwards: Moses Simon (Nantes FC, France); Samuel Chukwueze (Villarreal FC, Spain); Ademola Lookman (Atalanta FC, Italy); Victor Osimhen (SSC Napoli, Italy); Taiwo Awoniyi (Nottingham Forest, England); Kelechi Iheanacho (Leicester City, England); Ahmed Musa (Sivasspor K, Turkey)



My Administration Will Continue To Create Enabling Environment For Businesses To Thrive - Gov Makinde

**Inspects Fashola Farm Estate, sugar factory, Iseyin-Ogbomoso road*

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan.

Governor Seyi Makinde has disclosed that his administration will continue to create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive in and across Oyo State. The governor said this on Saturday during an on-the-spot assessment of Fashola Farm Estate, Oyo Sugarcane Processor Limited and Iseyin-Ogbomoso-Fapote Road in Oyo town and Iseyin respectively. Speaking with journalists shortly after touring the 1,200 hectare Fashola Farm Estate located in Oyo West Local Government Area of the state, the governor expressed satisfaction on the level of work done, saying, the only business of the government is to create an enabling environment. Stressing that residents would soon feel the economic impact of the project, Governor Makinde enjoined residents of the state to key into the agro-business policy of his administration. "I have mentioned it several times that the only business of

the government is to create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. So, here, it is not government that is doing this, we are only creating a conducive environment for private businesses and the result is what we are seeing", he said. Gov Makinde added, "Well, you have seen the level of activities here currently and I can say I am satisfied. I look forward to when the real business, value extraction will start, where you have trucks going in and out with produce from this farm, and the time is very near. "I want to tell the people that opportunities are being created and they should take advantage of the positive economic activities going on here and key into it because that is what we want to do." The governor pointed out that the project is being driven by Private Public Partnership (PPP) arrangement, assuring that his administration would continue to create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive and that the farm estate



Gov Seyi Makinde during the inspection on Saturday

project cum brown sugarcane processor company would play a significant role in reducing rural-urban migration. "We don't want people moving from the rural areas to urban centres. Now, you can see that facilities are being built around

here and, quite honestly, I don't feel like going back to Ibadan." Ongoing projects on the site include farm houses, farmers lodges, machinery service center, fan milk industry and road network, among others. Also on the farm, are the Young

Oyo State Farmers who were trained in Nasarawa State by the Makinde-led administration under the Youth Entrepreneurship Agricbusiness Programme (YEAP).

Nigeria Air Fraud: EFCC Must Arrest, Investigate Hadi Sirika, Says AYCF

**Vows to mobilise students, CSOs, others to push for action*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Arewa Youth Consultative Forum (AYCF) has called for the immediate arrest of the former Minister of Aviation and for him to be thoroughly investigated on the role he played in the Nigeria Air scandal. A statement issued by the National President of AYCF, Alhaji Yerima Shettima, said that Nigeria is not a banana republic where anything goes, stressing that the likes of Senator Hadi Sirika and his cohorts should not be let go of the embarrassment

caused Nigeria as a nation. Shettima recalled that the recent revelation by the interim Managing Director of the so called "Nigerian Airline" Captain Dapo Olumide, when he appeared before the Senate Committee on Aviation, where he disclosed that the Nigeria Aircraft used for unveiling of the Nigeria Air was rented from Ethiopian Airline was a slap on Nigerian faces, hence perpetrators should not be allowed to go Scott free. He observed that rather than the former aviation minister going round media houses giving

unsatisfactory explanations, the EFCC should wade into the matter urgently by arresting him for proper questioning and prosecution. "President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has already started demonstrating that it is no longer going to be business as usual in Nigeria, he should also go a step further by given an immediate order to the anti graft agency to bring Former minister of aviation, Hadi Sirika to book to serve as deterrent to others going forward. "The action of Hadi Sirika amounts to deception and breach

of trust that should not go unpunished, He must be made to face the law, particularly in the face of absolute disregard to the rule of law and entire justice system by proceeding on the unveiling against the order of a competent court of law. "This national embarrassment and waste of resources incurred on the country would have been averted if he had listened to advices, yet Hadi Sirika went ahead knowing it was a charade, to deceive Nigerians and allegedly pocket billions to himself". AYCF said. AYCF President said, in the

event that the EFCC fails to yield to this national call and do the needful with immediate effect, the forum would be left with no option but to take legal action against the former Minister until he is made to pay for the embarrassment he has caused the country. "We will also mobilize CSOs, activists, NGOs, students and others to take to the streets across the country until he is brought to book. But we hope we will not be pushed to the wall to take such action, enough of this embarrassment, we must get it right in Nigeria".

