

# New NIGERIAN

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Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 5 No. 158

Wednesday 14th June, 2023

Dul Qadah 25, 1444 AH

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It's not true, we shot in air to prevent attack on our personnel, KASUPDA insists



New Senate President, Godswill Akpabio taking his oath before the NASS, Clerk, Sani Tambuwal during the inauguration ceremony of the 10th NASS, in Abuja yesterday. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

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Yusuf Liman



## Governor Inuwa Yahaya Hails Emergence Of Akpabio, Abbas As Senate President, Reps Speaker



Akpabio



Abbas

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has congratulated Sen. Godswill Akpabio and Hon. Tajudeen Abbas on their emergence as Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives respectively.

This was expressed in a statement signed by the Directorate of Press Affairs Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday.

In a congratulatory

message, Governor Inuwa Yahaya who is the Chairman of Northern States Governors' Forum, also hailed the election of Sen. Jibrin Barau as Deputy Senate President and Hon. Benjamin Kalu as Deputy Speaker, describing the four presiding officers of the 10th National Assembly as courageous, visionary and loyal party men, who possess sterling leadership qualities to lead a united and cohesive Parliament that would work for the progress of the country. He noted that the new leaders have kept faith with the governing All

Progressives Congress (APC) over the years and are capable of engendering harmonious working relationship between the executive and the legislature in the overall interest of the nation.

He expressed optimism that the 10th National Assembly would cooperate and work closely with the Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu-led Executive, the Judiciary and all tiers of government in the task of moving the country to economic growth and prosperity anchored on renewed

hope.

He acknowledged and commended the role of the leadership of the All Progressives Congress and the Progressive Governors' Forum in ensuring unity of purpose and party supremacy in the build-up to the election of the National Assembly leaders.

The governor assured them of the goodwill, support and solidarity of the government and people of Gombe State as they take on the onerous task of presiding over the apex legislative arm, the National Assembly.

## CNPP Congratulates New NASS Leadership, All New Lawmakers

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Conference Of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) has congratulated the new leadership of the National Assembly and all the lawmakers on their inauguration on Tuesday, urging them to prioritise the overall interest of Nigeria and Nigerians in their decisions as they begin to exercise their constitutional powers as legislators.

In a statement signed by the CNPP's Secretary General, Chief Willy Ezugwu, the umbrella association of registered political parties and political associations said that "while party may be supreme, national interest outweighs party interest."

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his party had nominated Senators Godswill Akpabio and Barau Jibrin for Senate president and deputy Senate president, as well as Hon Tajudeen Abbas and Hon Benjamin Kalu for Speaker and deputy

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"The CNPP urges the new President of the Nigerian Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio and Speaker, Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, to ensure that they did not go down in history as

rubber-stamp leaders but consider the interest of the country in any relationship with the executive.

"As one of the three arms of government, there is need for harmony among the other arms but it must not be at the detriment of good governance and rule of law.

"While we congratulate all the lawmakers for a successful inauguration, we call on individual Senators or members of the House of Representatives to consider the interest and well-being of the electorate within their respective constituencies before any decision is taken", the CNPP counselled.



Abbas



Akpabio

## Sign Police Pension Board Bill Into Law, Retirees Beg Tinubu

By: VITALIS UGOH, Calabar

Nigeria Police Retirees under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) have called on President Bola Tinubu to assent the bill for the establishment of the Nigeria Police Pension Board as a matter of priority.

When signed, it would liberate those under the National Pension Commission (PENCOM)-managed scheme from servitude.

The body made the passionate plea in a statement signed by its national coordinator, SP Christopher Effiong (Rtd), made available to newsmen in Calabar.

It would be recalled that the 9th Senate had recently passed the bill for the Establishment of a Police Pension Board, a development that has left the National Pension Commission (PENCOM) defeated in its battle for the Nigerian Police Force to continue under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS).

Describing the bill as a milestone achievement, the national coordinator, who was represented by the Vice Chairman, Cross River State Chapter, SP Iwara Ibiang (Rtd), also urged President Tinubu, the national assembly and members of the public to ignore the press propaganda sponsored by the PENCOM's Director-General, Aisha Dahir-Umar and her agents who are bent on continuing police enslavement, cautioning "mischievous makers and all those who have stood as clogs on the wheels of progress to ground their tools".

The Nigeria Police Retirees under the Contributory Pension Scheme have been so enslaved, impoverished and a lot several dead, while others are facing one form of medical or psychological torture or the other, due largely to the meagre take home pension and gratuity as badly managed by the Pension Commission," they lamented, pointing out that "the present condition of the Nigeria Police Retirees

under the scheme falls short of anything good."

Recounting the PENCOM DG's fiasco during her appearance on the floor of the national assembly to account for the 13.6 trillion Nigeria Police Retirees investment under the scheme, SP Effiong said such is one example amongst many others characterising the mismanagement, ostentatious embezzlement and many other untoward practices bedevilling PENCOM.

The national coordinator, on behalf of the executives, stakeholders and over 44, 300 members of the Police Retirees under the Contributory Pension Scheme across the nation, thanked the 9th Senate Assembly under the leadership of Sen. Ahmed Lawan, especially Sen. Ishaku Abbo, Sen. Haliru Dauda and Rev. Francis Waive for their sense of solidarity, financial and moral support leading to the successful passage of the bill.

Appreciations were also extended to the Inspector-General of Police, Alkali Baba and the Chairman, Police Service Commission, Dr. Solomon Arase for their roles; as well as Mr. Ahmed Isa (ordinary president) of the human right radio & television – Radio Brekete – in sensitising the public over the plight of the Nigeria Police Retirees under the Contributory Pension Scheme through the unconscionable machinations of the Aisha Dahir-Umar-led PENCOM.

Also lending his voice, the body's National Legal Adviser, Barr. Ofem Mbang (Rtd), condemned the unfounded claims by the PENCOM DG and her cronies as "mischievous means to achieve an end," and counter-productive to the welfare and wellbeing of those under the scheme. He called on well-meaning and good-spirited Nigerians to support the fruition of the Police Pension Board, saying that 35 years of meritorious service to the nation should not amount to bondage afterwards.



## Ondo: Deputy Takes Over As Akeredolu Proceeds On Medical Leave

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu of Ondo State, has embarked on a 21-day medical leave and has equally handed over to his Deputy, Hon. Lucky Aiyedatiwa. Akeredolu disclosed this in a letter which has been acknowledged by the state House of Assembly. Speaking through the lawmakers, the Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Olamide Oladiji, explained that the Governor had embarked on a 21-day leave for medical treatment abroad starting from 7th of June, 2023 to 6th July, 2023. According to the letter, Oladiji said the leave which commenced on 7th

of June, extends to 6th July, 2023 due to the Public Holidays on June 12 (Democracy Day) and Eid el Kabir (28th and 29th, June, 2023)

The Speaker who noted that the Governor assured of his prompt resumption after the end of the leave, said he (Akeredolu) has directed his Deputy, Hon. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa to act as the Governor.

Recall that there have been calls from different quarters, particularly the opposition parties in the sunshine state: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Social Democratic Party (SDP), urging the Governor to transmit power to his deputy so as to ensure smooth running of governance.

## Liman Emerges Kaduna Speaker As Zailani Withdraws

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Yusuf Liman representing Makera Constituency has emerged Speaker Kaduna State House of Assembly. The clerk of Kaduna State House of Assembly, Barrister Sakinatu Hassan declared Yusuf Liman Dahiru of Makera Constituency as the new Speaker of 10th Assembly of Kaduna State House of Assembly.

While Munirat Tanimu Representing Lere East moved a motion to elect Liman Dahiru Speaker, it was seconded by Salisu Dan Dada Bala of Igabi East.

The clerk of the House declared Liman Speaker, in the contest which was unopposed.

In a related development, the lawmakers unanimously agreed to elect Henry Magaji of Kagarko as Deputy Speaker of the House.

Earlier, immediate past Speaker, Yusuf Zailani stepped down from the contest, paving way for the emergence of Liman.

In a terse speech delivered earlier, Zailani explained that he was withdrawing from the contest as a sacrifice for the good of the people.

Read his full withdrawal

speech below:

"I, Rt Hon Yusuf Ibrahim Zailani, have come to the firm belief and conviction that, as leaders, time may come in our lives to make sacrifices for the good of the people, and the need for us to unite as a party and minimise rancour and jostling for power. In any case, it is not always about me as an individual, it must always be about the state and the People.

"I have come to the conclusion that to the glory of Almighty Allah and my firm believe in my Governor Uba Sani and his decision, And as the leader of our party, and also in the spirit of patriotism, I wish to announce my intention to step down my aspiration and appeal to my supporters to take this in the interest of unity, patriotism and good synergy between the Executive and the Legislature to give total support to the new leadership of Kaduna State House of Assembly and its Incoming Speaker Mallam Yusuf Liman.

"May Allah Continue to Guide the new leadership of Kaduna State House of Assembly.

"May the Almighty Allah Continue to Guide and Bless our dear State Ameen".

## Be Committed To Nigerian Project, Katsina Gov Tasks Politicians

\*Says Buhari helped in nurturing country's democracy

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has tasked political leaders in the country to remain committed to the Nigerian project.

In a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed, Governor Radda described June 12 as a time to nurture strong Institutions and better masses welfare.

Governor Radda said "this year's Democracy Day celebration should reawaken our consciousness to the exigent task of building a prosperous and egalitarian Nigeria, with strong and efficient institutions of

governance."

According to him the root of democracy has already been entrenched in the country barely 24 years after returning to civilian rule, saying that, "that is why the present set of Nigerian leaders, especially the political class, must strive towards making the country's democracy a model for other African nations.

"There is the need for us to offer the masses a better deal, by providing them dividends of democracy. At a time the country is battling with a myriad of socio-economic challenges, we must do all we can to cushion the hardship of our people," he said.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda expressed gratitude

to former President Muhammadu Buhari for declaring June 12 as Nigeria's new Democracy Day, in 2018, while also bestowing a posthumous national honour on the acclaimed winner of the 1993 presidential election, Moshood Abiola.

He said "Buhari deserves tremendous plaudits for helping to nurture our democratic culture. His declaration of June 12 as the country's new Democracy Day, about five years ago, was a watershed. History and posterity will fondly remember his invaluable service to the nation".

Governor Dikko Radda reiterated the need for Nigerians to be patriotic and remain united, while supporting President Bola

Ahmed Tinubu on his mission to fix the country. He assured stressed his unwavering commitment to fulfilling all his campaign promises with a view to restoring Katsina's lost glories.

"The driving force of our administration will be service to the people, equity, and justice for all. We will run a people-oriented government and resist anything compromising our ability to put our people first," he assured.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda explained that, "I will lead by example, and I expect members of my cabinet and all public servants to do the same. I will be accountable and periodically provide updates on the

## 10th Kano House of Assembly: Kano Governor Seeks For Harmonious Working Relationship

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Kano State Governor, Engineer Abba Kabir Yusuf has sought for the support and cooperation of the legislative arm of government to the executive for harmonious working relationships between the two for the betterment and speedy development of the state. This was contained in a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, made available yesterday.

Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf made the call when he received the new leadership and members of Kano state house of Assembly elected on the platform of New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNP) under the new Speaker Rt. Hon. Jibril Ismail Falgore who called on him at the government house immediately after the swearing-in of the tenth assembly.

The Governor congratulated the new leadership and other members of the house for the inauguration of the



new assembly and prayed to Almighty Allah to guide in the discharge of their legislative responsibilities and relate with other arms of government peacefully.

"We assure you of the readiness of our Administration to work as two arms of government so as to take our dear state to greater heights. Your cooperation is seriously needed in that direction as we are all working for a common goal, that is the repositioning of Kano" said the Governor.

The new Speaker, Rt. Hon. Jibril Ismail Falgore said they visited the Governor to introduce the new leadership and members of the new assembly to him and affirmed the willingness to work with the executive arm to achieve the desired goals. According to Rt. Hon. Falgore "your excellency in not more than two weeks of your administration, what you have achieved clearly indicates your vision and passion for Kano and we are solidly behind you in this appreciable gesture".

Part of the Speaker's entourage were his deputy Muhammad Bello Butu-Butu, majority leader, Lawan Hussani Dala, deputy majority leader, Hon. Garba Shehu Fammar, the Chief Whip Muddasir Ibrahim Zawachiki and other members of the assembly.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
BAUDA - I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Deborah Bauda Binkam, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. HENRY DEBORAH BINKAM**. All former documents remain valid. All Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.



# 103 Feared Dead From Tragic Boat Mishap In Kwara

By ; BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO

A boat conveying no fewer than one hundred persons including a father and his four children has capsized with no fewer than 103 feared dead at Egbu village in the Patigi Local Government Area of Kwara State.

It was gathered that about fifty bodies have been so far recovered from the

incident as at time of filing this report while the incident had reportedly turned the entire local government area of the state into mourning.

The Etsu Patigi, Alhaji Ibrahim Umar Bologi the second who spoke to confirmed that the boat was reportedly overpowered by river waves, leading to the boat capsizing and leaving many people dead, while others sustained varying

degrees of injury.

Alhaji Umar disclosed that about three victims were returning from a marriage ceremony before the sad incident occurred around 3am yesterday morning. The Etsu Patigi disclosed that efforts are on to recover other victims of the boat mishap which he said comprised of four communities.

Alhaji Umar said the state governor AbdulRahman

AbdulRazaq had directed him to engage his subjects to avert future occurrence.

The Etsu Patigi urged boat operators to avoid overloading and called on governments to assist in providing life jackets to support boat operations in the axis of the state.

The spokesman of Kwara State Police Command, Okasanmi Ajayi, who confirmed the incident yesterday.



## Cross River Gov Begs World Bank To Intervene In State's Environmental Issues

By: VITALIS UGOH, Calabar

Cross River State Governor, Sen. Bassey Otu, has called for the intervention of the World Bank to address environmental issues in the state. He made the call on when he undertook an on-the-spot inspection of some erosion sites in the state capital, Calabar.

Otu, who was accompanied on the inspection by the Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey, bemoaned the danger posed to residents of the affected areas, and pledged short to medium intervention to safeguard lives and property.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Emmanuel Ogbache, quoted Senator Otu as saying that the inspection had become necessary for him to familiarise himself with some of the adverse

erosion sites in the state capital such as in Lemna / Federal Agriculture and a failed drainage along Yellow Duke Road.

"We cannot allow something like this in the middle of the town. Looking at this it must have taken a lot of lives, and property. The World

Bank has intervention programs which I intend to follow up with, and this has informed my being here.

"We will take a look at the drawings, see what the existing plans are and work quickly to safeguard those who live around this area," the governor said.

Giving assurance to the residents of the areas visited, he said, "We are here to work for them. Though resources are limited, we are going to work in the short and medium term to assure them that something is being done as against the long term."



Otu inspecting erosion sites within the state capital

## Anthrax: FG Warns Nigerians Against Eating Pomo, Bush Meat

By ; I BRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

The Federal Government has alerted Nigerians on health hazards associated with consuming animal skin popularly known as pomo in the country's parlance and bush meat following outbreak of Anthrax in neighboring nations.

Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Ernest Umakhihe described the disease in a statement as bacterial, adding that it has already wrecked havoc in West Africa subregion by taking lives and landing many others in hospitals.

The disease according to the statement, "affects both animals and man, that is a zoonotic disease. Anthrax spores are naturally found in the soil and commonly affect domestic and wild animals.

"People can get infected with Anthrax spores if they come in contact with infected animals or contaminated animal products," Dr. Umakhihe explained.

He however, added that the pandemic could not be said to be contagious in the sense that it cannot be contacted by coming to close contact with an infected person.

"Signs of Anthrax are Flu-like symptoms such as Cough, Fever, Muscle Aches and if not diagnosed and treated early, lead to Pneumonia, Severe Lung problems,

difficulty in Breathing, Shock and Death.

"Being a Bacterial Disease, it responds to Treatment with Antibiotics and Supportive Therapy.

"It is primarily a disease of animals but because of man's closeness to animals, non vaccinated animals with Anthrax can easily be Transmitted to man through the inhalation of Anthrax spores or consumption of contaminated/infected animal products, such as hides and skin, meat or milk.

"Annual vaccinations with Anthrax spore vaccines are available at National Veterinary Research Institute Vom, Plateau State and is the cheapest and easiest means of prevention and control of the disease in animals.

"However, Infected animals cannot be vaccinated but animals at risk can be vaccinated. So in this present case, there is the need to intensify animal vaccinations along Border States of Sokoto, Kebbi, Niger, Kwara, Oyo, Ogun and Lagos states because of their proximity to Burkina Faso, Togo and Ghana. Other states of Nigeria are equally advised to join in the exercise," he pointed out.

"Infected dead animals should be buried deep into the soil along with equipment used in the burial after applying chemicals that will kill the Anthrax Spores.

## June 12: DIIGL Charges Leaders On Dividends Of Democracy for Nigerians

The Delta Indigenes Initiative for Good Leadership (DIIGL), a human rights group based in Delta, has called upon Nigerian leaders at all levels of governance to prioritize and deliver the dividends of democracy to the Nigerian people.

In a statement titled "June 12: Nigeria's Democracy and Leaders," issued by DIIGL's Publicity Secretary, Comrade Omajemite Don, the organization emphasized the importance of promoting democratic principles in leadership and cautioned against the adoption of authoritarian practices.

DIIGL firmly believes that it is the right of every Nigerian citizen to experience and benefit from the positive outcomes of democracy. These rights and privileges, as stipulated in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, should

be upheld and extended to all individuals without discrimination.

As Nigeria commemorates June 12 as Democracy Day, DIIGL took the opportunity to urge its fellow countrymen to embrace the values of lawfulness, emphasizing the significance of being law-abiding citizens. Additionally, the organization encouraged Nigerians to foster a sense of unity and love among one another, recognizing the strength that such solidarity can bring to the nation.

DIIGL's charge to leaders and citizens alike serves as a reminder of the collective responsibility to nurture and protect the principles of democracy in Nigeria, ensuring that its benefits reach every individual and fostering an environment of fairness, justice, and progress for the nation as a whole.



## Distance Self From el-Rufai, Atyap Community Advises Gov Uba Sani

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Atyap Community Development Association (ACDA) has called on Gov. Uba Sani of Kaduna State, to distance himself from the controversial comments made by his predecessor Malam Nasir el-Rufai in a widely circulated video.

el-Rufai in the viral video, was caught telling some Islamic scholars that the Muslim/Muslim ticket in Kaduna State would be sustained beyond 20 years.

Mr. Samuel Achie, president of the group, made the call during the third edition of the Southern Kaduna Dialogue Series, organized by Tinam's Initiative, a non governmental association (NGO).

Achie emphasized the need for Gov. Sani to establish a clear distinction between his policies and those of former Governor Nasir el-Rufai.

"If Uba Sani must set a mark, in fact, there should be no meeting point between his policies and those of el-Rufai."

"I believe he has the opportunity to forge a distinct path forward, separate from the policies and statements of former governor Nasir el-Rufai," he added.

Also speaking, Jubal Freeman Dabo, a public affairs and social development analyst, passionately challenged leaders to reshape and influence the thinking patterns of the youth.

Jubal said Southern Kaduna youths need to pledge an unwavering

commitment to their homeland, even in the face of turmoil.

"I am Atyap, and we did not inherit cowardice. Even if the entire Southern Kaduna is on fire, I will go in."

"There would never be a reason why I wouldn't go back to my home," he added.

He emphasized the importance of equipping the youth with economic opportunities to keep them engaged and productive.

He stressed that empowering young people through skill development and job creation would not only reduce idleness but also foster a sense of connection and belonging. Jubal encouraged the youth to maintain strong ties with their roots, regardless of their current location or endeavors.

The statement made by both Samuel Achie and Jubal Freeman Dabo, reflect the growing concerns within the Southern Kaduna community, regarding the impact of political statements and the need for leaders to prioritize the well-being of the people.

As the dialogue series continues to address crucial issues affecting Southern Kaduna, the call for political leaders to take responsibility for the security of the people and provide them with meaningful economic opportunities remains at the forefront of discussions.

The Southern Kaduna community hopes that their voices will be heard and proactive measures will be taken to address the security challenges facing them.



Gov Uba Sani

## Debt: Kaduna Female Contractor Appeals To Governor Uba Sani

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

An indigenous company, Messers Bolanle Ogundele Ventures Kaduna, has appealed to Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani to come to her aid and intervene in a debit case between her company and a state government contractor.

The Chief Executive of the company, Mrs Bolanle Ogundele who made the appeal during a press conference on Sunday in Kaduna, alleged that a Kaduna State major contractor, Messers Ronchess Global Resources Limited has refused to pay her company the sum of over 14 million Naira owed her company for the supply of materials since June 2022, despite repeated demands. According to her, her company, Bolanle I Ogundele Ventures supplied to Messers Ronchess Global Resources Limited, through a purchasing order, materials worth over 14 million Naira to the company since last year and the money has not been paid.

"The materials which included sharp sand, hard core granites and stone base were supplied to the company and confirmed by the company," she said. While speaking, she explained further that the alleged refusal of Messers Ronchess Global Resources Limited to settle the debit has exposed her to ridicule from those

her company collected the materials on credit to carry out the supply, due to her failure to pay the money for the aforementioned materials.

"I am one of the suppliers in the ongoing project titled: Kaduna State Road Agency (KADRA) Urban Renewal Road Project. " I did the supplies for Zaria, Danbushia and Sultan Road projects respectively," Mrs. Ogundele explained. She said although, she instituted a civil case before a court to retrieve the money, but up till the time of the press conference, nothing came out of it, alleging that, 'It is because I am a woman, or an attempt to frustrate my efforts,' the female contractor lamented.

Mrs. Ogundele also said that Ronchess Global Resources Limited paid her company some amount of money in April last year and up till now, nothing has been paid again.

"Last payment date was April 15, 2022, with some amount left unpaid of an invoice dated 23 March, 2022, and we commenced new supply between 22 April, 2022 and 25 May, 2022, and up till date no payment was made," she further said.

When contacted, the Chief Executive Officer of Ronchess Global Resources Limited, Mr. Jackson Ukuervo did not deny owning the contractor/supplier, he simply told our reporter, the civil case is before a court.



Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke cutting the tape to declare the two completed building projects, academic staff office complex and 76 rooms hostel accommodation open built by the Uniosun, Osogbo, Osun State. With him from left are Revd Bunmi Jenyo; Osun State Speaker of the House of Assembly Rt Hon. Wale Egbadun; vc, Uniosun Prof. O.C.Adebooye and Osun State Ssg Hon Teslim Igbalaye. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO



# Demolition: Confusion As Chikun LGA Community Accuses KASUPDA Of Shooting 12 Residents

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It's not true, we shot in air to prevent attack on our personnel, KASUPDA insists

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Operation of Kaduna State Urban Planning and Development Authority (KASUPDA) at Sabon Gyero Community, Millennium City, Chikun Local Government area of Kaduna State has left 12 persons with gun injuries including women and children, through their security backup provides by the Kaduna State Vigilance Service (KADVIS).

Addressing newsmen yesterday, the Chairman of JTF Sabon Gyero Community, Uwaisu Yunusa confirmed that the Vigilantes under Kaduna State Vigilante Service (KADVIS) shot twelve persons, while some angry youth were trying to stop KASUPDA from carrying out some demolition at the community.

He said already, he reported the incident to the police DPO in charge of Millennium City and Environs and the victims were taken to Gabasawa Clinic Unguwar Rimi for medical attention.

Uwaisu Yunusa popularly

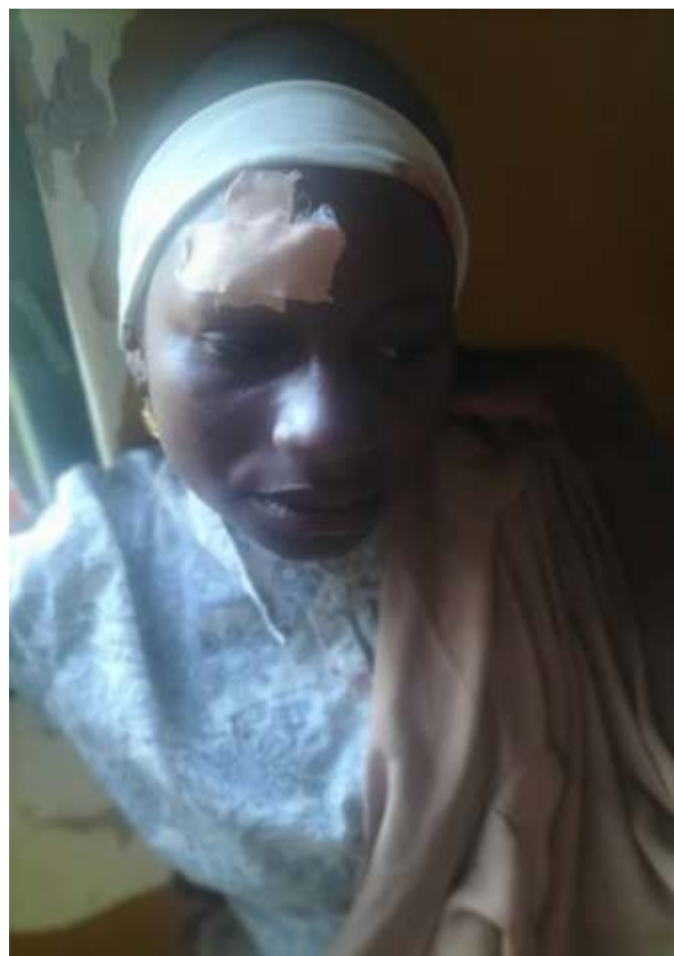
known as Sarkin Samari, lamented that the community of Sabon Gyero used to have a cordial relationship with KASUPDA and other agencies and he doesn't know why KADVIS would aim at innocent persons, including girls and boys under the age of twelve to sixteen with live bullets.

The victims are, Hasat Magaji, Rukayya Lawal, Hamza Bashir, Aminu Salisu, Rukayya Falallu and Sani Nura.

Others are, Rahama Yusuf, Zainab Sani, Abdullahi Lawal, Jamilu Idris, Kamilu Muhammad, Baba Bello and Hafsat Adamu.

When contacted, the KASUPDA team leader in charge of the operation at Sabon Gyero, Yunusa Ibrahim denied KADVIS shot at anyone, adding that their personnel only fired in the air to scare people that wanted to attack them during the demolition.

The sad incident occurred on Monday, while the country was celebrating democracy day.





## Equity Alliance Outlines Successes, Challenges Within One Year

By; SANI ALIYU, Zaria

**A** Zaria based Non Governmental Organization (NGO), the Equity Alliance Chairman, Alh. Magaji A. Baba has outlined successes and challenges encountered by the NGO within the last one year. Speaking at its annual general meeting in Zaria, he said there are many successes and challenges, among which is the securing of employment for unemployed immediate communities members. He said, the organization has championed the fight against injustice in respect of positions in federal government establishments. Magaji A. Baba mentioned that as a result of their petition against Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), the catchment area, many graduates were employed from the area that didn't witness such

for more than two decades.

"The NGO has contributed its quota in ensuring that the catchment area retains the seat of Bursar and Registrar of Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT) Zaria.

"Also, Equity Alliance has influenced the prosecution of a regular rapist known as lili, who resides at Tudun Jukun Zaria," he informed.

According to the Chairman, "Equity Alliance was at logger heads with a board chairman in the Federal

Ministry of Health who suspended an accountant who is an indigene of Kaduna State and we thank Almighty God, the accountant is a Director of Finance in one of the federal hospitals in the nation.

"Equity Alliance petitioned ICPC and Federal ministry of Transport against the contractors of Zaria/Malumfashi Road and Zaria/Pambegua Road for abandoning the projects and as at last year, they were back to site.

"Accordingly, the NGO

has facilitated the planting of 100 trees at the Nigerian College Of Aviation Technology (NCAT) Zaria and 70 trees at the Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (NITT) Zaria respectively.

"We were in court with ABUTH Shika for about 13 months and the case was settled out of court. "Equity Alliance is currently before a high court with Zaria Local Government Area and Nigeria Police, over our struggles against injustice," he added.



## FG Should Empower NIS To Produce Nigerian Passports - Comptroller James

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

**T**he Federal Government has been implored to grant the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) the right to produce the Nigeria International Passport, commonly referred to as the E-passport.

The Comptroller, Rivers State Command of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) Sunday James, made the call in a write up titled, "Domestication of Production of Nigeria International Passport Pros and Cons".

He was of the opinion that Nigeria Immigration Service should be empowered to produce a product it sells to the public.

While citing the Defence Industry Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) where the military hardwares are produced by the DICON under the Defence ministry, he said that the passport booklet itself should be produced directly by NIS with the support of experts pending when the officers will be trained on the operations of the machines for full scale production.

He emphasised that the Nigeria Immigration Service established by the Act has a role to play in the specifics on the passport to be produced, the quality, texture and the regulation of its usage and issuance.

It reads, "The Federal Government of Nigeria should give Nigeria Immigration Service the Agency statutorily mandated by the Immigration Act 2015 the right of first consideration since the Service Issues and Administer the Processing, Procurement and Production of the Nigeria International Passport otherwise known as the E-passport.

"The Immigration Act 2015 Part II, Section 9 subsection (1)-(5), which deals with the power to Issue, procedure for the Issuance, and types of Nigeria Passport, also section 10 subsection (1)-(4) which deals with certain offences in respect of passports.

"Section 11 deals with liability of a recommender or guarantor signing application containing false declaration, Section 12 subsection (1)-(5) deals with a Non-Nigerian citizen attempting or unlawfully possessing Nigeria Passport, Section 13 subsection (1)-

(2) which deals with cancellation or withdrawal of passports by the Minister of Interior, the above citations and assertions point to the fact that having introduced the agency responsible for

Issuance and Administration of the Passport and the process vested on the Agency by the Law establishing the agency and the power vested on the Minister of Interior with respect to passport withdrawal, Comptroller James stressed.

While explaining what the Nigeria passport is and its importance, he said, "What is a Passport: A general definition states that it is an official document issued by a government, certifying the holders identity and citizenship, and entitling them to travel under its protection to and from foreign countries.

"Another definition is that a passport is an official travel document issued by a government that contains a person's identity. A person with a passport can travel to and from foreign countries more easily and access consular assistance.

"A Passport certifies the personal identity and nationality of its holder -Wikipedia. A Nigerian International Passport is your ticket to International travel. The passport allows or guarantees access to consular Services and assistance while abroad.

"The types of passport issued by Nigerian government are ordinary or standard Nigerian passport, Diplomatic, Official, Seaman and ECOWAS Travel Certificates are all forms of passports used to travel either International or Regional as the case may be.

"Nigerian passport on record provides Visa-free access to 46 destinations outside Nigeria, Nigerians also requires Visa to enter 183 destinations in the world. The Nigerian passport is ranked 94th place on the Guide passport index.

"The Nigeria passport ranking relative to other global passports is calculated by adding the number of countries that allow Nigeria Passport holders to enter without a Visa (i.e Visa-free countries) and those that allow Nigeria passport holders to enter by obtaining a Visa on arrival (i.e Visa-on-Arrival Countries) or an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA)".

James disclosed that "There are currently a total of 26 Nigeria passport Visa free, 19 Nigeria Visa-on -Arrival countries, 1 ETA destinations. Altogether, Nigeria passport holders can enter a total of 46 destinations either without a Visa, through a Visa-on-Arrival, or Via on ETA. As a result the Nigeria passport ranks 94th in the world.

## Agbakoba Condemns Emefiele's Detention By DSS

*\*Says development shocking*

By; MATTHEW UKACHINWA, Lagos

**T**he suspension of the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr. Godwin Emefiele, has been described as not surprising because his tenure was way beyond monetary policy.

Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Dr. Olisa Agbakoba, who expressed the view added that he was shocked by the detention of the CBN governor by the Department of State Services (DSS), and therefore, recommends

that the rule of law has to be applied.

Clarifying his point of view, Agbakoba said, "The statutory role of DSS is internal security and I shudder to think what role DSS will play in this matter?"

Stressing that the rule of

law has to be applied in the matter, the senior lawyer, therefore, called on the relevant agency responsible for Emefiele to step forward, adding: "but this excludes the DSS, unless this has security implications."









# COMMUNITY FOCUS

## Kano Chief Press Secretary Honoured In Dawakin Tofa

By: **JABIRUAHASSAN, Kano**

**D**awakin Tofa Model Primary School was agog when the the Chief Press Secretary to Kano State Governor, Malam Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa was Honoured by his friends and political associates on his recent appointment as the spokesperson of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf.

Our correspondent who graced the colourful event, reports that dignitaries from all corners trooped into the field to witness the ceremony

which was peaceful and historical as first of its kind for many years.

Most of those who spoke at the occasion, described Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa as a hardworking person whose choice by the Kano state governor as his spokesperson remains supported by well meaning citizens across the state.

In his remarks, Malam Sule Yau Sule, spokesperson to former Governor of Kano State, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau said that the tasks of competent press secretaries are very tough, full of

challenges, which need extra caution.

He congratulated the new spokesperson for being appointed as image maker to Kano State governor and thanked those who organised the ceremony for recognising their son as one of the figures in Kano State Government.

Other speakers include, Alhaji Mahmoud Bappa Yola, former Director General, Kwankwaso campaign and Kano State Commissioner for Rural and Community Development, Professor

Mainasara of Mass Communication Department, Bayero University, Sani Abdulkadir Dembo former Managing Director Kano Internal Revenue and NNPP stalwarts.

Speaking at the event, Malam Sunusi Ahmed Bature Dawakin Tofa thanked all those who graced the occasion and assured that he would work selflessly for the success of NNPP government under the stewardship of Engineer Abba Kabir Yusuf in order to move Kano State forward.



*Sunusi Nature standing while his citation was been read*



# Zulum Flags Off 2023 Cropping Season Sales, Distribution Of 442 Tractors, 100 Trucks Of Fertilizers

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State has flagged off 2023 Cropping Season Sales and Distribution of 442 Tractors, 312 ploughing and harrowing implements and 100 trucks of MPK Fertilizers yesterday at Borno Digital Farm Center, Muna along Mafa-Dikwa Road Maiduguri.

He directed five tractors to be distributed to each of the 27 LGAs of the state and one tractor to also be distributed to each of the 312 wards of the state totalling 442 tractors which will be sold to farmers through

agricultural cooperative society at the discount rate of 50% on owner occupier basis out of the 1,000 tractors purchased by his predecessor, Senator Kashim Shettima, but could not be put to use due to insecurity in the state.

The governor also said that his administration purchased the 312 ploughing and harrowing implements, which will be distributed to the 312 wards for the benefit of the rural farmers as well purchased 100 trucks for both urban and rural farmers which will be sold at 25% discount rate (75%).

He also directed that an Agricultural Sales and Distribution Committee should

be constituted at each LGA with the Permanent Secretary of State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Permanent Secretary of Borno State Agricultural Programme Development Agency, LGC ruling party SPC Chairmen, LGC Transition Committee Chairmen and Borno State House of Assembly LGC State Constituency members, LGCs Heads of Agriculture among others as members of the committee in each LGA.

He lamented how tractors purchased and distributed to farmers were diverted and sold at the detriment of the rural farmers by unknown middlemen,

politicians and government officials, while warning that anybody found wanting in selling or diverting of the tractors or fertilizers will be dealt with accordingly without fear or favour.

Zulum further assured that his government is ready to serve all and sundry, irrespective of status in the society, but urged the citizens of the state to be patient with the government as it cannot serve all at the same time, but nobody or part of the state will be left untouched or unreachd with basic infrastructure.

He also pledged to acquire more farming implements, fertilizers, seeds and seedlings for farmers for sales and distribution across

the state to boost agricultural production.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Permanent Secretary, State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Bulama Gana commended the governor for prioritizing the agricultural sector of the state by providing farmers in both the urban and rural areas across the state with farming implements, fertilizers, seeds and seedlings at subsidized rates.

He also highlighted on the achievements of the ministry under the administration of Governor Zulum and ongoing agricultural projects and programmes across the state towards enhancing food production and sufficiency.





# Zulum Flags Off 2023 Cropping Season Sales, Distribution Of 442 Tractors, 100 Trucks Of Fertilizers





# X-Raying The New Electricity Act 2023

By; JEROME-MARIO CHIJOKE UTOMI

There exists some points that highlight as impressive the recent reported signing by President Bola Tinubu at the State House Abuja, of the Electricity and Power Sector Reform Act, 2023, which was passed in July 2022 seeking to repeal, and thus becoming the Electricity Act.

Aside consolidating all legislation dealing with the electricity supply industry to provide an omnibus and ideal institutional framework to guide the postprivatization phase of the Nigerian Electricity Supply industry and encourage private sector investments in the sector, the latest legislation is aimed at creating a comprehensive legal and institutional framework to guide the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI).

Expectedly, multiple reactions have trailed this relatively recent development and this should not have come as a surprise. Some have "genuinely interesting" things to say, others do not. To the rest, their most significant concern was the process and experience emanating from past failures.

Pro-new Electricity Act commentators, for instance, believe that considering the strategic role that electricity plays in the socioeconomic development of any nation, there exist strategic reasons as to why the Federal Government must solve the current energy crisis in the country. To them, it is a right step taken in the right direction and it is a hopeful sign of good initiatives to come under President Tinubu led administration.

Despite the validity of the above "interesting comments", there are equally glaring signs that a 'chunk' of Nigerians were not moved by the advent of New Electrical Act 2023. Aside from the fact that what they anticipate from the present government is no longer a new electricity Act but action, progress and result, their fears were further fed by the argument that there may be structural similarities between precious experiences and current proposition by the Federal Government.

Even when this piece believes that the new Act signed by Mr Tinubu promises to consolidate all legislations dealing with the electricity supply industry to provide an omnibus and ideal institutional framework to guide the post-privatization phase of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry and encourage private sector investments in the industry, it is on the other hands believed that Nigerians should not be blamed for the current state of despondency that pervades the new Electricity Act 2023.

For a better understanding of where the piece is headed, the challenge of epileptic power supply in Nigeria can easily be likened to the proverbial cat with nine lives that have survived different administrations. Nigerians on their part are particularly not happy that instead of generating megawatts of electricity, successive administrations have become reputed for generating megawatts of assurances devoid of process and outcome fairness. Electricity generation and improvement-related promises by

successive administrations in the country has become a familiar music hall act.

Undoubtedly, Nigerians in my views are aware that the Power Sector remains very critical to meeting the industrial development aspirations but present disbelief is flourishing because Nigerians have suffered protracted unkempt process and disappointment in the hands of successive administrations and such failures affected the survival of humanity and our nation to the extent that many artisans have been thrown out of work while major manufacturing and textile companies closed shop due to epileptic power supply.

Let's cast a glance at some of these past failed promises.

In January 2022, the Minister of Power, Mr Mua'azu Sambo, (as he then was) assured Nigerians that the federal government was ready to generate 25,000 megawatts of electricity in the country. The Minister of Power, Mr Mua'azu Sambo, disclosed this in Katsina State recently during his inspection of several power transmission substation projects, including the ongoing windmill project located at Lambar Rimi in Charanchi Local Government Area of the state as part of efforts to enhance power-related businesses and other economic activities in the country.

In 2005, the government of former President Olusegun Obasanjo, going by media reports attempted to solve the power problem with the Power Reform Act which provided for the privatization of the power sector. As part of that reform, the then National Electric Power Authority, which was renamed Power holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN, was to be unbundled for privatization. But the reform did not go far before Obasanjo left office in 2007. But before then, a report observed that he had sunk \$16 billion into the NIPP without anything to show for it.

Before the dust raised by such colossal waste and phantom promise could settle, President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (GEJ), in 2010 came up with a similar roadmap for electricity reform in the country.

During the launch of the programme, President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (as he then was), even boasted saying; As President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, I and my Vice President, Arc. Namadi Sambo, GCON, is conscious that what we do with the Nigerian electricity supply industry will go a long way in determining whether Nigeria remains in darkness or joins the rest of the world in the race for development. Our commitment is to bring an end to our nation's stunted growth and usher in the fresh air of prosperity by pursuing a new era of sector-wide reform which is driven by improved service delivery to every class of customers in the Nigerian electricity sector. Promising that with diligent implementation and meticulous application of what this Roadmap provides, we will see an end to the chronic electrical power supply shortages.

In a similar style, Professor Chinedu Nebo, the then Minister of Power, in 2013 told Nigerians and of course the entire world that President Jonathan's power

sector privatization process is on already. Successful bidders, he added, have paid 25 percent of the bid offer. They are expected to pay the remaining 75 percent in less than 90 days after which they would take possession of the distribution companies. Also, Nebo going by reports had said that the handing over of the national integrated power projects, NIPP, would make power supply more stable soon.

Regrettably, as at the time of his departure from office in May 2015, there were neither traces of appreciable increase in power generation or the promised fresh air of prosperity.

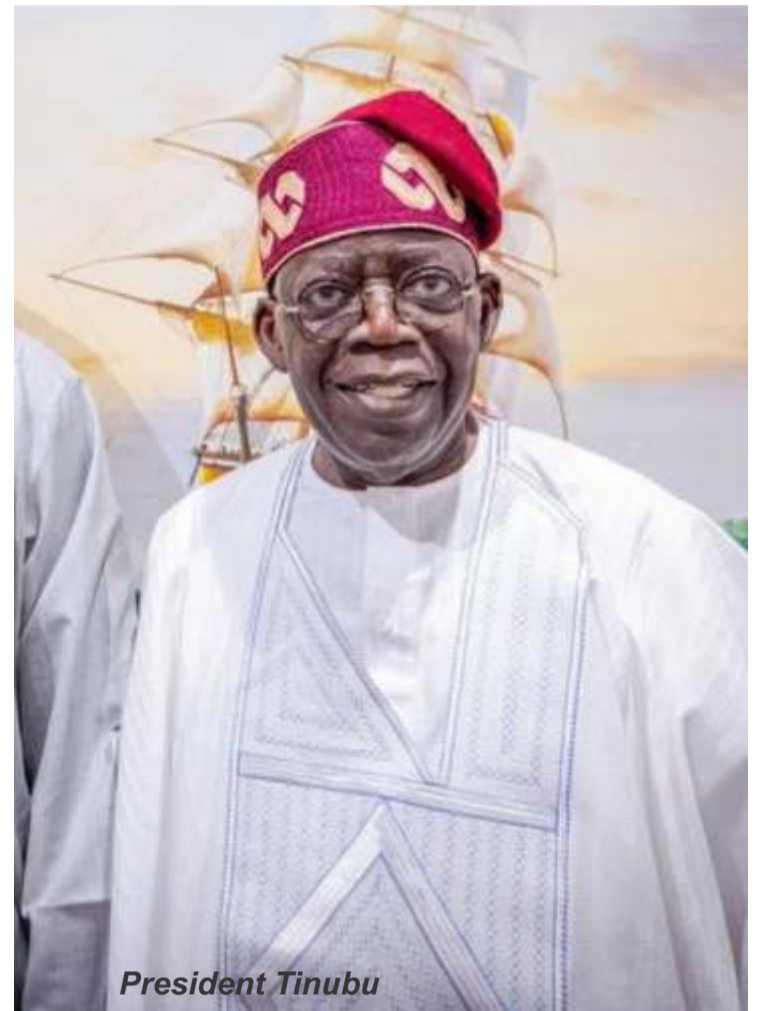
In 2015, the All Progressives Congress led the Federal Government emerged.

The party had in the previous year, as part of its draft manifesto, promised to revitalize the nation's power/energy sector. According to the party, its power supply programme would vigorously pursue the expansion of electricity generation and distribution up to 40,000 megawatts in four to eight years. The party would also work assiduously at making available power from renewable energy sources such as coal solar, wind and biomass for domestic and industrial use, wherever they are visible.

In the year 2020, President Muhammadu Buhari led Federal Government, sequentially launched a roadmap for the nation's power sector.

Without going into specific concepts or approaches contained in that move, the roadmap which according to government sources form a part of the outcome of meeting President Muhammadu Buhari held with a German Chancellor, Angela Merkel on August 31, 2018, will have Nigeria partner with the German government and Siemens, in implementing projects geared towards resolving challenges in the sector, expand capacity for future power needs and supply in Nigeria.

President Buhari continued with the culture of promise/excuses that has in the past 'produced monument of nothingness' during a nationwide broadcast on June 12, 2020, when he among other things stated; The Power Sector remains very critical to meeting our industrial development aspirations and we are tackling the challenges that still exist in the delivery of power through different strategies. We are executing some critical projects through the Transmission Rehabilitation and Expansion Programme including the: Alaoji to Onitsha, Delta Power Station to



President Tinubu

Benin and Kaduna to Kano, 330KV DC 62KM line between Birnin Kebbi and Kamba, Lagos/Ogun Transmission Infrastructure Project, Abuja Transmission Ring Scheme, and Northern Corridor Transmission Project. Our agreement with Siemens will transmit and distribute a total of 11,000 Megawatts by 2023, to serve our electricity needs. Mr. President concluded in that speech.

Today, the President Buhari administration is gone but Nigerians are still waiting for the actualization of his promise and reassurance.

Certainly, while I believed and still believe in the current Federal Government's effort to ensure stable electricity in the country, the truth must be told to the effect that the whole gamut of failures is standing on the tripod of corruption, policy summersault and lack of sincere political will/desire by the nation's handlers to engage best minds to help get the answers and deploy the resources we need to move the sector in the right direction while achieving the result we need as a nation.

This piece further holds the opinion that at the most basic level, it is evident that what Nigerians need is result not new Act, assurance or reassurance; they want to see and enjoy stable electricity supplied at a very reasonable tariff regime.

Most importantly, President Tinubu must not fail to remember that if the present experience becomes superficially similar to traumatic past memories, it can yield incredible power over emotions and can trigger among Nigerians the same fear responses evoked by the original disappointments.

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



# JIFORM Lauds GIZ, Seeks Partnership With NGC On Media Training

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Journalists International Forum For Migration (JIFORM), has lauded the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) on its support for capacity building for journalists covering migration..

It also called for partnership to sustain the effort through the Nigerian-German Center for Jobs Migration and Reintegration (NGC).

The commendation was contained in the report of the recently concluded two-day workshop on sensitization, strategy, and reportage on irregular migration and trafficking in persons organized by the JIFORM for journalists supported by the NGC between 22nd – 23rd, May in Abuja.

NGC is a product of close partnership between the GIZ and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment's Migrant Resource Center (MRC), supporting the Programme Migration Development (PME) being implemented by the GIZ GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Nigeria as part of support for the voluntary return and sustainable reintegration.

Dr Ajibola Abayomi, the President of the JIFORM in a statement while commending the NGC said: "The JIFORM greatly appreciates the NGC, and GIZ for the support. The echoes of the training have continued to vibrate within the editorial rooms of media houses as select-journalists have been turning in reports and stories to justify the capacity building engagement.

"While the JIFORM cherishes this newly consummated working relationship, we remain committed to tackling issues of human trafficking and irregular migration both in Nigeria and beyond. We shall continue to partner with the relevant actors to build capacity for journalists.

"Going by the evaluation of migration

activities in Nigeria, we are requesting continuous engagement of journalists at intervals through knowledge sharing workshops on different focal areas to further strengthen relationships with the NGC targeted at improving migration management" Ajibola requested.

The JIFORM president noted that the NGC's efforts through support and one-on-one advice on employment, business, vocational and educational perspectives in Nigeria between December 2017 and December 2022 were very impactful on many Nigerians.

Record shown that the in Nigeria, the PME has provided over 282,000 individuals support measures to the returnees and the local population, provided almost 60,000 individual consultations, placed over 30,000 persons in employment apart from the over 42,000 business start-up measure, over 133,000 qualifications measures and over 1600 psychosocial supports.

Ajibola, added that the NGC's support for returnee Nigerian- migrants over the years in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was a project worth building upon by the Nigerian government.

Parts of the recommendations at the JIFORM workshop were that the Federal Government should to negotiate decent jobs with the employers of labour in Europe, Asia, America, and other parts of the globe through a well-coordinated regular migration pathway preferably under the watch of the Ministry of Labour and Employment in order to de-market irregular migration and human trafficking markets from the country.

Media houses were urged to encourage more investigative stories on migration while the federal government was also advised to approve arm bearing unit for the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking In persons (NAPTIP) to enable the agency effectively contained



some notorious human traffickers.

It was also recommended that the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) and other government agencies should track illicit funds being raised by human traffickers while the proceed should be plough back into the rehabilitation of the victims.

The JIFORM is a non-profit body with over 300 journalists covering migration across the continents since 2019 and has organized a series of local and international capacity-building for journalists and other stakeholders. Its headquarters is in Lagos, Nigeria.

In 2021, it initiated the annual African Migration Summit held in Ghana in partnership with Nekotech Center of Excellence, Accra, the West African Media Migration Summit in Lome Togo and held its 3rd Global Migration Summit in Toronto, Canada in October 2022.

The body in collaboration with the City University, New York City, US between November 2-4, in Brooklyn hosted an intercontinental migration summit. The JIFORM 4th Global Migration Summit on Migration is slated for October 2-14 in Toronto.

## Borno Assembly Approves 20 Special Advisers For Gov Zulum

*\*Passes 150 resolutions, assents 45 bills*

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State House of Assembly has finally approved 20 Special Advisers for Governor Babagana Umara Zulum, following his executive request letter at the house valedictory session on Thursday.

The motion to approve the request was moved by the House Leader, Hon. Dige Muhammad, member

representing Kala Balge, LGC State Constituency and was seconded by Hon. Ayuba Steven Wakawa, member representing Hawul LGC State Constituency.

In his valedictory speech, the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Abdulkarim Lawan, who presided over the house valedictory session sitting, appreciated the request and respect accorded the house members.

He also commended Governor

Zulum for his cordial working relationship with the house throughout his first tenure in office that existed between the legislature and the executive arm of government in the state in the last four years.

However, the Honourable Speaker listed major achievements of the 9th Assembly to include passage of over 150 resolutions and assented to 45 bills during the house session.

Hon. Lawan further thanked the house members o their support and cooperation during his leadership in steering the affairs of the house while paying tribute to colleagues that lost their lives.

He prayed for success to all members who returned and even those that couldn't return to the house at the polls and God's guidance in their daily endeavours.



# Auto Crash Claims 5 In Ondo

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

No fewer than five travelers lost their lives in a lone accident that occurred in Ikaram Akoko, in the Akoko North West Local Government Area of Ondo State.

While others sustained varying degrees of injuries, it was gathered that the 18-seater bus conveying the victims had one of its tyre busted on high speed, leading to loss of wheel control.

A bystander who noted that the tyre busted along a junction leading to two neighboring communities, said the incident had since thrown the agrarian community into mourning. "It happened very close to a junction leading to Ajowa and Akunnu Akoko, infact tears rolled down today. No one is happy ever since the incident occurred today"

Confirming the incident, the unit commander of Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Ikare-Akoko, Mr Oluropo Alabi, warned

motorists against reckless driving and use of expired tyres.

Efforts to speak with the Chief Medical Director of Ikare State Specialist Hospital, Dr. Ade Idowu were unsuccessful, but a mortuary attendant who didn't want his name mentioned, disclosed that six bodies had been deposited in the morgue while many others were in emergency ward of the hospital.

However, the paramount ruler of Ikaram Akoko Oba Andrew momodu, said the community had approached federal ministry of works and Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), to mount speed breakers around the scene of accident noted for fatal crashes.

I Feel Your Pain, Tinubu Tells Nigerians On Democracy Day

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has identified with Nigerians over the recent hike in fuel price, saying

he understands the bitter plight of the citizenry over the soared price of petroleum.

Tinubu stated this on Monday, while addressing Nigerians on Democracy Day.

The President had in his May 29 inauguration address, declared that subsidy was no more. Shortly after his declaration, queues surfaced at petrol stations across the country.

In his Democracy Day speech, Tinubu admitted that the decision would impose extra burden on the people and assured Nigerians that their sacrifice won't go in vain.

He also adjudged the annulled June 12, 1993 presidential election to be free and fair, while he described the supposed winner, Chief Moshood Kashimawo Abiola, as a symbol of democracy.

"The democracy that will yield right dividends to the people who are the shareholders means more than just freedom of choice and right to get people into

elective offices. It means social and economic justice for our people.

"To the winner of June 12, democracy offers the best chance to fight and eliminate poverty. Thirty years ago, he christened his campaign manifesto, 'Farewell to Poverty' because he was convinced that there is nothing divine about poverty.

"It is a man-made problem that can be eliminated with clearly thought out social and economic policies.

"It is for this reason that, in my inauguration address on May 29, I gave effect to the decision taken by my predecessor-in-office to remove the fuel subsidy albatross and free up for collective use the much-needed resources, which had hitherto being pocketed by a few rich.

"I admit that the decision will impose extra burden on the masses of our people. I feel your pain. This is one decision we must bear to save our country from going under and take our resources away from the stranglehold of a few unpatriotic elements.



Gov Nwifuru

## Nwifuru Mourns Former NUJ Secretary's Departure

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru of Ebonyi State has commiserated the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Ebonyi State Council over the death of its former secretary, Dr. Kingsley Nworie.

The governor described the former NUJ Secretary and Deputy Director of News and Current Affairs with Ebonyi State Broadcasting Corporation as a tragic loss not only to the media industry, but to the entire

state.

The governor also described late Kingsley as a seasoned journalist who discharged his duties with passion, commitment and professionalism and made contributions to the development of the pen profession.

The governor extended his heartfelt condolences to the immediate family of the deceased, NUJ and Nigerian Guild of Editors and encouraged them to take consolation in the fact that their departed colleague lived a good life.

## DEMOCRACY DAY: Buratai Beckon On United Nations To Declare June 12 World Democracy Day

Former Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Tukur Buratai, Rtd, has congratulated, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on the occasion of the 2023 Democracy Day celebrations.

In an official statement made available to journalists, Buratai who also served as Nigerian Ambassador to the Republic of Benin, commended Tinubu and all Nigerians in the historic feat of enshrining democracy in the country. "I congratulate H.E. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the occasion of 2023 Nigeria's Democracy Day Celebrations.

"H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu's emergence as the 16th democratically elected President of Nigeria is another milestone in Nigeria's march to an enduring democracy. Mr President has seen it all in his struggle to ensure democracy takes root in Nigeria. His years in the trenches in the early 1990s

brought him out as a true democrat. Congratulations Your Excellency.

"I also congratulate Nigerians for their resilience since 1999 to ensure democracy is sustained through their votes.

"With President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Nigeria's Democratic saddle, his Renewed Hope Agenda is a sure way to Nigeria's greatness in all ramifications of national development.

"Mr President has started in the right direction. Therefore, it is incumbent on us as Nigerians to support him to achieve his vision.

"Let me also pay tribute to Chief MKO Abiola GCFR for his democratic sacrifice which we are celebrating. This is a clear confirmation that his sacrifice is not in vain. His



President Tinubu and Buratai

spirits of selflessness, patriotism, and unity are worthy of emulation by all democratic leaders nationally and globally.

"Abiola was an international figure who fought for reparation as restitution for the injustices done to the black race worldwide. I, therefore, call on the United Nations (UN)

to declare 12 June every

year as World Democracy Day.

"It is an honour well deserved by Chief MKO Abiola of blessed memory and all lovers of democracy by the international community.

Signed:

Lt Gen Tukur Buratai Rtd Former COAS/Nigeria's Amb to Republic of Benin

## IGP Usman Reiterates Drive For Specialisation, Expertise

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Inspector-General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba, CFR, has reiterated his commitment to entrenching professionalism in the Nigeria Police via sustainable promotion of specialization and fixing of trained experts to take charge of NPF's specialized sections. He listed them to include the Legal Section, Forensic Unit, the Cybercrime Unit, Public Relations Department, Gender Unit, Medical Services, among others.

In a release by the Force Spokespersons CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi on Sunday, the IGP maintained that this is paramount to ensuring that square pegs are fitted into square holes for efficiency and effective discharge of policing duties to the public.

He made reference to some laudable achievements of the NPF under his administration including the excising and massive expansion of the Cybercrime Unit, the massive construction of specialist

hospitals and acquisition of medical facilities for the Medical Unit, the digitalization of the Force Legal Section, the digitalization of personnel records under the Force Secretary office, enhanced aerial and marine operations, improved Police Animal Section, digitalized Central Motor Registry, establishment of the NPF Construction company assisting in Construction and renovation of barracks and facilities, amongst others.

The Inspector-General of Police has however assured that the process, which has been institutionalized, will be continuous and deliberate to achieve a total overhaul of old systems and patterns in the Police to give way for a full digitalization in no distant time.

Usman stressed that this would greatly improve investigations and intelligence gathering activities of the Police for a more robust and result-oriented interaction with the public.





## Youths' Lack of Hope in Nigeria

By Safiya I. Dantiye

JUST recently, I was in the midst of some young women doctors who were lamenting how they couldn't get work in government hospitals and also how they couldn't get residency to specialise.

They now work in small private hospitals that they don't regard as much, since their aim is to specialise, especially in gynecology.

"The irony is that some state governments sponsor medical students abroad but when they return, they refuse to employ them, in spite of complaints that there are few doctors in government hospitals. The fact is that they don't want to spend money on their salary. But if these young people go abroad, they are accused of being unpatriotic."

"I studied out of passion, but the Nigerian government has disappointed me," one said.

But then, there were stories of their friends that work in government hospitals with poor pay.

Therefore when the outgoing speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, said many young Nigerians have lost faith in the country, he couldn't be more apt.

Speaking on Wednesday at the valedictory session of the ninth House of Representatives, he said, "Too many of our young people have lost faith entirely and are choosing in droves to seek their fortunes and their futures in other lands."

"We are losing some of our best and brightest, and if we don't act now, the consequences of this loss will shortly become painfully evident," he added.

It is not however strange to hear such lamentations from leaders, some may even proffer solutions to many problems facing the country, but implementing them is another matter altogether.

While the youths are eager to work and contribute to the progress of their own country, they get the shock of their life at the reality on ground.

Some are armed with the best results imaginable but are roaming the streets jobless, while some make do with any job to make ends meet.

At the end, some blame our educational system that it is based on theory with no practical skills, yet these best brains that cannot get work here may get job abroad in their field of study and excel there.

And that is when Nigeria may lay a claim to them, while if they had been here, their brains and talent would have been wasted.

"We should do away with corruption and give opportunity to those that deserve them. We should not accept a situation where there are so many qualified young

people to fill vacancies, but the vacancies are not filled for years, or filled with ghost workers that usually happen from the top officials to steal government's money."

The irony is that some state governments sponsor medical students abroad but when they return, they refuse to employ them, in spite of complaints that there are few doctors in government hospitals. The fact is that they don't want to spend money on their salary. But if these young people go abroad, they are accused of being unpatriotic.

"I have to take care of myself, my family and my parents apart from extended family members, so I have to look for where to make money. I cannot spend many years studying rigorously and expect to be paid peanuts," a young doctor said.

In any case while these best brains are disenchanted and feel betrayed by Nigeria, politicians are getting a lot of money as salary and allowances and God knows what else. They and their families live in opulence, even those that didn't have money before they got into office are suddenly transformed.

So it is not as if the system is hostile to everyone, some get the upper hand and not necessarily for having the best brains.

"To stop young Nigerians from losing faith in the country is to make them feel part of it, be given opportunity and not to make them feel as if they are a nuisance and a burden while they are welcome abroad to offer their expertise."

To bring sanity into the system is to have the will to do so and do it. How come you train doctors but you cannot employ them or if you employ them, you keep them redundant in some cases?

We should do away with corruption and give opportunity to those that deserve them. We should not accept a situation where there are so many qualified young people to fill vacancies, but the vacancies are not filled for years, or filled with ghost workers that usually happen from the top officials to steal government's money.

Gbajabiamila also said, "The government must ensure that the economy is healthy, vigorous, growing and that all Nigerians will have equal opportunities to succeed through their labour, hard work and ingenuity."

Maybe. But only if it is so, that it is not another rhetoric that anybody can dish out as we are not lacking in such fantastic ideas.

In this regard to stop young Nigerians from losing faith in the country is to make them feel part of it, be given opportunity and not to make them feel as if they are a nuisance and a burden while they are welcome abroad to offer their expertise.

## Straightening The K-leg Of June 12, Thirty Years Later

BY OWEILAKEMFA

Today is exactly 30 years after the June 12, 1993 presidential election which were annulled by the Ibrahim Babangida military regime.

On June 18, six days after the election, my media colleague and brother, Kayode Komolafe, came to my house with a copy of the full election results being uploaded by the electoral commission.

Businessman and friend of Babangida, Chief Moshood Kashimawo Abiola, had won the election with 58 per cent. Then, on June 23, 1993, Babangida announced the annulment of the election, claiming there had been vote-buying. The annulment of an election generally perceived to be the freest and fairest in the country's history, set off six years of bloody resistance against continued military misrule.

A narrative gives a lot of credit to politicians for that glorious resistance which led to civil rule on May 29, 1999. This does not reflect the complete history of that struggle. There were actually three eras of that war corresponding to the regimes of Babangida, Shonekan and Abacha, and the political class was virtually absent in the first two.

The civil movement whose expression vibrated in the voice of towering lawyer, Alao Aka-Bashorun, was convinced that the military was merely deceiving the populace with a bogus transition programme. After a layer of presidential hopefuls had been swept away by military fiat, Abiola and Bashir Tofa were allowed to contest the June 12 election. While Abiola and his group thought they could persuade the military to de-annul the election, the civil movement which had started off in 1990 as the National Consultative Forum, NCF, transformed into a broad national coalition of anti-military forces which included student, youth, professional, market, community and civil society organisations. It was renamed the Campaign for Democracy, CD. Its transition leadership passed from Aka-Bashorun to the medical doctor, Beko Ransome-Kuti.

The CD began mobilising for mass protests across the country to force the military out. But it had two challenges. The first was how to contain the murderous military and minimise the inevitable casualties. The second was how to persuade the political class that did not want to confront the military, not to side the regime. To overcome the second challenge, CD leaders, including Beko, Olisa Agbakoba, Frederick Fasehun, Femi Falana and I held meetings with Abiola to get a commitment that even if he would not support the nationwide protests, he should at least not denounce us.

The protests were overwhelming across the country. In Lagos where we hoped to get some 50,000 protesters, the streets were clogged with millions of people.

The Babangida regime panicked and ordered its Army Chief, General Sani Abacha, to take back the streets by force. Abacha led a long military convoy into Lagos which opened fire on all human beings in sight beginning with youths who were playing football in Apakun/Toyota, Oshodi. That July 6, 1993, the Nigeria Medical Association compiled a figure of 118 corpses brought to the general hospitals in Lagos. They had gunshot wounds with most shot in the back which indicated they were running away when shot. Despite these huge losses and the arrest of many, including Beko and Gani Fawenmi, we continued the protests. Tragically on the day of the massacres, Abiola denounced us in a public statement. He said his mandate was given without bloodshed so he did not want

to reclaim it with bloodshed. Two weeks later, we asked Nigerians to sit at home, and the nation's streets were deserted.

The continued defiance by the populace, forced the Babangida regime to hand over to a military contraption called the Interim National Government, ING, headed by Ernest Shonekan.

Its primary purpose was to organise new elections supervised by the compromised military. But Abiola said the June 12 election was like a derailed train; so until it was cleared, no other train could use the tracks. He turned to the CD to stop the new election process. Beko, Fasehun and I met Abiola's representative, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu in his office. It was decided that I coordinated the disruption of the ING's voters registration and review exercise which was necessary for the planned election. We succeeded in doing so across the country and the tottering ING which was later declared illegal by the courts, just needed a push to collapse. But Abiola disagreed with our plans to employ the mass to force the ING out and install him. The alternative he went for was a military coup by alleged pro-June 12 Generals like Oladipo Diya, Chris Ali and Abacha.

We disagreed with the coup and after he met new Head of State, Abacha with Diya and Tinubu as witnesses, we met and warned him to stop his support for the new regime, including his agreement to provide it credible politicians as ministers. But he told us that Abacha was a dwarf, and to greet a dwarf, one had to bend down to his level. It was after it became clear that Abacha and his gang were not going to de-annul the June 12 election and swear him in as President in accordance with their understanding, that the politicians joined the struggle to oust the military from power. It was in that process the National Democratic Coalition, NADECO, coalesced.

NADECO itself had origins in the meetings of the CD and old experienced politicians led by Chief Alfred Rewane with Chief Anthony Enahoro as Deputy. Others included Chiefs Ayo Adebajo, Ajise and Cornelius Adebayo. After Rewane was murdered in his Ikeja GRA residence where we used to meet, Enahoro led an expanded group and we began meeting mainly in Abiola's house with Alhaja Kudirat Abiola as hostess. Despite Abacha's murder of Kudirat, and many like Enahoro, Dan Suleiman, Wole Soyinka and Tinubu forced into exile, the forces that would see the backs of the military had been born.

Let me on this day, pay tribute to two virtually unacknowledged heroes of the democratic struggles. Prince Ademola Adeniji-Adele who was crucial in keeping Abiola safe when the military dictatorship declared him wanted, better dead than alive; and who contributed funds to keep the streets alive for June 12. His undoing was that he later joined the Abacha transition programme. Then there was Chief Rasheed Abiodun Gbadamosi, economist, writer and an assumed apolitical industrialist who when the goons closed in on Abiola, and people were afraid to give him shelter, took the June 12 presidential election winner to his Victoria Island home. One night, when it appeared his home might be compromised, Gbadamosi got Abiola to climb the fence and shelter in the adjacent premises which he also owned.

My salute to these heroes and heroines and hundreds like Bagauda Kaltho who lost their lives in the struggle for democracy in Nigeria.



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## ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

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

### TECHNICAL DATA

#### 6 COLUMNS

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

### POLITICAL RATE

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

### LOOSE INSERTS

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

### CLASSIFIEDS

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

### SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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



# VP Shettima Didn't Disparage Northern Muslims

By: ABIOLASOLA

During an interactive session with senators campaigning for the emergence of Senator Godswill Akpabio and Senator Barau Jibrin to lead the 10th Senate, Vice President Kashim Shettima emphasized the nation's current political structure and made a case for the emergence of a Southern Christian and a Northern Muslim as the fairest balance to promote inclusivity at the centre.

Vice President Shettima's statement was motivated by a profound awareness of the divisive factors within our great nation and was in harmony with the governing party's pledge to ensure inclusivity across all regions and among all groups. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has wholeheartedly reassured the country of his dedication to providing every group with equal representation, which has resonated with the Vice President who shares the same commitment to this honourable endeavour.

Unfortunately, the Vice President's remarks during the parley with the senators, yesterday, have been stripped of context and mischievously circulated as an attempt to minimize the suitability of Muslim contestants in the race for the Senate leadership. The remarks have not only been taken out of context but also misinterpreted to suit an agenda that sabotages our collective bid for unity.

What Vice President Shettima advocated during the meeting was that, considering Nigeria's President and Vice President are Muslims, it would not be ill-advised for the lawmakers to choose a non-Muslim contestant, even if against a more qualified Muslim option, in order to achieve balance. It is alarming that such an unambiguous plea has been unfairly misconstrued to imply that the Vice President said the most incompetent Christian candidate is superior to a Muslim candidate. One can understand why this absurd interpretation would be found



Shettima

distressing and hijacked by those with a malicious agenda to push.

Vice President Shettima's position reflects the stance of the APC, which has not only assigned the leadership of the House of Representatives to the North-West but has also designated the position of Deputy Senate President to be held by the same region. At the time of the Vice President's remarks, approximately three contenders for the Speakership race had withdrawn their candidacy to support the candidate from the North-West. This well-considered balancing strategy aimed to mitigate the potential for crisis within the country, particularly by those anticipating the domination of

leadership from the same religious faith in all branches of government as a signal.

It would be illogical for the Vice President, who is himself a Muslim and an essential member of the community, to second-guess the competence of fellow Muslims in a nation headed by a Muslim President who has demonstrated unmatched leadership qualities, on the strength of which they were elected under the banner of the APC last February.

The Vice President wishes to distance himself from the wrong and dangerous inferences drawn by the public from his remarks. While some are made innocently and without mischief, there are entities that have seized on the

story to cause further chaos that transcends the realm of power politics. This weaponization of our divisions is why the Vice President appeals for inclusivity to prevent any agenda designed to undermine the new government and Nigeria as a whole.

Before the media interface, the Vice President became aware that some entities and individuals were covertly pushing for Muslim leadership of the National Assembly with the sole aim of using the instance to legitimize their grievances against the Nigerian state and to prove to their communities that they have been marginalized and must rise to cause chaos. This sheds light on the paradoxical situation

where the same lawmakers who opposed a Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket are now actively campaigning for political arrangements that would result in Muslims occupying all the highest four or five positions in the country. The covert intent of their actions is evident to astute observers of our politics. This is the dimension to which our politics has descended, a dimension that does not align with President Tinubu's and the APC's vision of a Nigeria for all, which is the promise that propelled this government to power even when some interest groups attempted to mischaracterize the APC ticket.

The senators who met with the Vice President are known as the Stability Group, a group of 77 patriots who have signed up for the Akpabio/Barau ticket and believe the pair would represent the interests of the nation and the party. The group is neither an ethnic nor religious group but a collection of well-intentioned senators with a convincing solution to Nigeria's stability dilemma, as their name implies.

The Vice President remains grateful to the media outlets that have seen through the mischaracterization and have been able to provide context to those who missed it. We are at a critical point in our nation and cannot afford to lose our focus because of mischief-makers obsessed with starting a fire where there is none. Vice President Shettima remains grateful to those who have read beyond newspaper clickbait and those who have given him the benefit of the doubt and remain allies for the betterment of the country.

Abiola Sola is the Director of Information, Office of the Vice President, The Federal Republic of Nigeria.



# Nigeria Air and Hadi Sirika: Understanding the Failure of the Buhari Administration

By Jibrin Ibrahim

ONE of the clearest symbols of the failure of the Buhari Administration was former Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika, trying to pool the wool over the eyes of Nigerians presenting a hastily repainted Ethiopian Airline plane chartered for the trick at high cost to claim that he had delivered on his mandate of delivering Nigeria Air before the end of his mandate. The tragicomedy was not funny because Nigerians knew about the billions spent on the project with nothing to show for it. Maybe the big question was why was he reappointed to deliver on this mandate when he had been given the opportunity in the first term of the administration but had failed miserably?

“Part of the problem was that the same Minister Hadi Sirika had refused to inaugurate all the governing boards of the parastatals in the aviation sector despite repeated admonishing from the President, the APC party chairman and the Central Working Committee of the ruling party. He therefore single-handedly run the entire aviation sector. This meant that he was all powerful and it pleased him that he was master.”

For his failure, he was promoted from junior to senior minister in 2019 and his “empire” carved out of the Ministry of Transport so that he would have sole authority on the matter. The signal was clear, the reward for failure under Buhari was promotion.

It would be recalled that in September 2018, Hadi Sirika's Nigeria Air project was suspended by the Federal Executive Council (FEC), dashing the hopes of many Nigerians that would have loved to see a Nigerian Carrier that we could proudly call ours to ferry us around the world and make a lot of money as British Airways, Emirates, Air France, etc. are making out of our resources. We know the difficulties of government ownership of airlines and what led to the liquidation of Nigeria Airways in 2004 so when Minister Hadi Sirika announced in December 2015 that his strategic objective as Aviation Minister was the establishment of a private sector successful national airline for Nigeria, I put him on my “I like” list. With the suspension of the project and the knowledge that it was all Hadi Sirika's fault, I feel bitter because he could have succeeded if he had consulted

widely and planned well. Instead, he conducted one of the most opaque attempts to establish a project in Nigeria with no information, almost no consultations and absolutely no transparency. His second failure is even more painful even if it was expected.

I have followed the airline issue closely and noticed that between December 2015 and July 2018, Minister Hadi Sirika on numerous occasions assured Nigerian that the project was on course but he never gave any details on what was being planned. I noticed that a lot of aviation stakeholders were asking question on what the plans of the minister was but there was no response. It became clear that for him, the airline was his personal project and he did not see the need to discuss with stakeholders and create a consensus on the best strategy to adopt.

Given the total information blackout from the Minister, a lot of speculations arose that he was planning to use the assets of Arik and Aero Airlines taken over by AMCON to start the new line. Others speculated that he was begging Qatar Air and/or Ethiopian Airways to come and set up an airline for us. Speculation became the sole mode of engagement because the minister refused to engage with anybody.

It was only in July 2018 at the Farnborough International Air Show in the United Kingdom that Hadi Sirika announced that the name of the proposed new National Carrier is 'Nigeria Air' and that the proposed national airline would be unveiled before the end of 2018. Then came the bombshell – government would invest \$300 million in the new venture and own only 5% of it. With great fanfare, he then launched the logo of the airline for which he had paid some foreign company \$600,000 and multiple criticisms arose. The most effective, I recall, was the tweet by Mustafa Chike Obi, former Managing Director of AMCON who tweeted out on 21st July 2018 – why was Nigeria paying \$300 million for only 5% of the new carrier while Air France/KLM had paid \$286 million for 31% share of Virgin Atlantic?

“For his second term from 2019, boards were not even appointed for the parastatals in the aviation sector to please him. President Buhari made it a one-man show. In his last two weeks in office, Sirika reorganised the entire ministry, added aerospace to it,

appointed new managing directors and boards for the parastatals. Clearly, having served and failed for the eight years he was there, he decided to stamp his mark of failure on the future of the aviation industry.”

The tweet went viral and there was massive reportage in the media that the minister was planning a scam. It was in this context that the next day, the minister announced that the entire bill for the start-up would be borne by government, which would have 100% and

not 5% ownership and would subsequently sell 95% to the private sector. It was incredible that even at that stage, Hadi Sirika was not willing to share basic information on the strategy for the establishment of the airline. After assuring Nigerians for three years that the project would be 100% private, he turned it to 100% government project and did not even want to tell Nigerians.

Part of the problem was that the same Minister Hadi Sirika had refused to inaugurate all the governing boards of the parastatals in the aviation sector despite repeated admonishing from the President, the APC party chairman and the Central Working Committee of the ruling party. He therefore single-handedly run the entire aviation sector. This meant that he was all powerful and it pleased him that he was master.

“It was symptomatic of the Buhari regime that for all these failures, he was promoted and asked to deliver the same mandate he had failed to perform earlier. Currently, Nigerians are correctly calling for a probe on Sirika's second failure. President Buhari may be the only human being that could believe giving him four extra years would produce a different outcome. Today, we are still in stage one of



Jibrin Ibrahim

the five-stage process of establishing an airline after eight years work by Hadi Sirika.”

For his second term from 2019, boards were not even appointed for the parastatals in the aviation sector to please him. President Buhari made it a one-man show. In his last two weeks in office, Sirika reorganised the entire ministry, added aerospace to it, appointed new managing directors and directors and even boards for the parastatals. Clearly, having served and failed for the eight years he was there, he decided to stamp his mark of failure on the future of the aviation industry.

In 2018, it was the Economic Management Team (EMT) led by the Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo, that examined the Nigeria Air project and discovered with consternation that the minister had committed the government to major and immediate investment to set up the carrier despite knowing full well that the project had not been budgeted for. Meanwhile, somehow, \$8.8 million preliminary cost had apparently been provided by government. What the money was spent on had not been explained up till now.

It was symptomatic of the Buhari regime that for all these failures, he was promoted and asked to deliver the same mandate he had

failed to perform earlier. Currently, Nigerians are correctly calling for a probe on Sirika's second failure. President Buhari may be the only human being that could believe giving him four extra years would produce a different outcome. Today, we are still in stage one of the five-stage process of establishing an airline after eight years work by Hadi Sirika.

The real issue about Sirika was that he was close to the President and therefore could act with impunity, fail in his assignment and remain in power while running the ministry as a personal fiefdom. How could the President even consider major structural re-organisation of the ministry in his last week in office knowing full well that the Tinubu administration was coming in? The bigger picture of course is that the lack of scrutiny extended basically to all other ministries and in the coming weeks and months we will start learning details of how other ministers ruled and ruined the country. May accountability return to governance.

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



# If Obafemi Awolowo Were President Bola Tinubu

By Owei Lakemfa.

**C**HIEF Obafemi Awolowo, affectionately called Awo, was the programmatic politician who had change as mantra and believed that politics must serve the mass of the people. His philosophy of governance was encapsulated in the slogan: Life More Abundant (LMA).

“Awo would have started by stating the rationale for his contesting the presidency, repeating the fundamentals of social welfare and why the people are entitled to the basic needs of life. If there are obstacles to achieving these, he would state them and explain how his administration intends to overcome them. He would relate his past services and political alliances to the future he hopes to take the country, and invite the people to share his dreams.”

In turn, his followers had so much trust in him that some lost their lives in the streets while defending his legacy when he was imprisoned from 1963 to 1966. Some of his followers so revered Awo that they swore he sometimes appeared in the moon. On such occasions, the faithful crowded the streets to catch a glimpse of him in the moon.

Awo brought so much development to the Western Region when he was the Premier from 1954-1959 that his administration became the yardstick by which other regions were measured in the First Republic.

Progressive politics in Nigeria was championed during the colonial times by Herbert Macaulay who challenged the British colonialists and defended the people against bad governance. Awo came to symbolise that progressive trend in Nigerian politics. However, despite his best efforts, he never became president which was why when he passed away in 1987, Emeka Ojukwu described him as the “best President Nigeria never had”.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is one of the politicians who identify with Awo. He tried to immortalise him, among other ways, by transforming the detention facilities in Lekki, Lagos where Awo was held into a museum, library and foundation.

As President Tinubu was sworn in on Monday, May 29, 2023, I imagined what Awo would have said if he were in the former's shoes.

Awo would have started by stating the rationale for his contesting the presidency, repeating the fundamentals of social welfare and why the people are entitled to the basic needs of life. If there are obstacles to achieving these, he would state them and explain how his administration intends to overcome them. He would relate his past services and political alliances to the future he hopes to take the country, and invite the people to share his dreams.

“Awo would have announced plans to reduce the cost of fuel, make local refining of petroleum products a cardinal principle, ordered the arrest and immediate prosecution of those who profiteer from fuel subsidy, including the various companies and persons who the House of Representatives Inquiry of 2012 established to have fraudulently received subsidy payments.”

Right from the podium, he would declare free education for all Nigerian children; how and when the current 18 million out-of-school children would be in school and a plan to eradicate illiteracy in the country. Awo would have announced free health services for all Nigerians and an integrated rural development. He would have rolled out time-specific plans for mass employment based on his programme of production; the same way his Action Group party built the industrial base of the Western Region by developing industrial areas such as in Ikeja, Yaba and Apapa, and linking some by railway with the Lagos Ports.

Pensioners would have been assured that pension would be a first-line charge and that the elderly would not regret old age.

Awo would have announced which type of loans to take and which would be rejected as well as probe all loans taken in the last two decades with a view to recovering misappropriated funds and jailing the culprits.

He would have announced an end to budget padding and legislators awarding contracts to themselves in the name of constituency projects.

Awo would have announced plans to reduce the cost of fuel, make local refining of petroleum products a cardinal principle, ordered the arrest and immediate prosecution of those who profiteer from fuel subsidy, including the various companies and persons who the House of Representatives Inquiry of 2012 established to have fraudulently received subsidy payments.

Apart from the recovery of stolen public funds, he would have ordered the recovery of so-called bad debts, the repayments of trillions of naira used to bailout banks, paid to privatised electricity companies, owed by private businessmen and indefensible tax exemptions. Also, he would have ordered that fraudulently privatised public entities should be recovered.

“Awo would have announced definite steps to restructure the country and ensure that all nationalities, no matter how small,



would have a sense of belonging. He would commend the actions of Tinubu when as Lagos State governor, he created new local governments in the state which he styled development centres. Awo would announce plans to make local governments real governments and not mere centres for elites sharing the country's funds.”

On foreign policy, he would have let it be known that Nigeria is once again taking its pride of place in Africa with an African-centred foreign policy, and, that it would be no satellite to any power. Nigeria, he would have announced, is on its way to join the BRICS countries to build a brave New World where no nation is oppressed. Alongside mass housing, Awo would also have announced mass new prisons and expansion of some current ones as his administration would make crime, punishment and social justice, a principle of state policy.

He would reiterate the fact that only the best and most competent from all parts of the country will be appointed into government, and that the cost of governance would be drastically cut, not by retrenching workers, but by reducing bureaucracy to the barest minimum. This would entail eliminating ministers of state who are mere spare tyres for actual ministers, and merger of functions such as those of the presidential spokesman and information minister. Indeed, where the three arms of government – the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary – have their individual spokespersons, it is incongruous for a separate person to be appointed to speak for 'government'.

He would have announced the decision to merge the Police, Civil Defence, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related offences Commission, Federal Road Safety Commission and the Vehicle Inspection Office.

Awo would have asked the Directorate of State Security and the various strands of

intelligence to merge, and also merge the offices of the National Security Adviser, Chief of Defence Staff and Minister of Defence.

“If Chief Obafemi Awolowo were President Bola Tinubu on the day of inauguration, the Nigerian people would be in no doubt that change indeed has come.”

On security, he would have given the military marching orders to retake all villages and towns occupied by bandits, terrorists and foreign militia and the return of the Internally Displaced Persons to their ancestral homes.

He would have made it clear that government will neither side nor encourage one set of combatants against another. The former Premier would have announced the mobilisation of the general citizenry to defend their homes and communities while plans for state police will begin immediately.

Awo would have announced definite steps to restructure the country and ensure that all nationalities, no matter how small, would have a sense of belonging. He would commend the actions of Tinubu when as Lagos State governor, he created new local governments in the state which he styled development centres. Awo would announce plans to make local governments real governments and not mere centres for elites sharing the country's funds.

Awo, in rounding off his inaugural speech, would vow to pay true allegiance to the Nigerian people and a relationship based on trust. He would have said that a day of reckoning has come for those who short-change the country, and, for the people, a new dawn with the old giving birth to the new.

If Chief Obafemi Awolowo were President Bola Tinubu on the day of inauguration, the Nigerian people would be in no doubt that change indeed has come.



# Okumagba Receives CAC Certificate, Retains Firm Control of Super Eagles Supporters Club

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

It was wild jubilation over the weekend, as members of the Super Eagles Supporters Club who stayed true to the club's constitution and stayed away from the charade of an election purportedly held in Abuja some months back, finally regained ownership and rulership of their Club via a Government backed Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) document of incorporation.

The document, a certified true copy of the certificate of incorporation dated and signed by the Registrar-General of the Corporate Affairs Commission on the 9th of June 2023, affirmed the 10 Trustees of

the club as being the bona-fide Owners and Directors while re-confirming the removal of the names of the dissidents who tried to hijack the day to day running of the club albeit, illegally.

For emphasis, the Trustees of Super Eagles Supporters Club Abuja incorporated on the 7th day of June, 2018 have been changed by resolution dated 6th day of June, 2023 as follows:

"JOSEPH ANI, CHIGOZIE NNADI, CHIBUZOR ANYAORA, OBADIAH DIJI, NNAOMA CHIGBU, DAUDA ALLI, DERE BUWAGHAN, OLUSOLA OLADEJO, OWOLABI AYO, VINCENT OKUMAGBA," the

certificate of Incorporation clearly stated. The likes of Johnson Dagana, Sam Pirar, Catherine Edum, Ibeakamma Okechukwu, Ijeoma Okechukwu and Olutoye Orishabiyi have now been removed from the list of the Trustees of the SESC, the certificate affirmed.

Vincent Okumagba is the Founder and President of SESC.

He was FIFA Fan Leader for the World Cup, Qatar 2022. He left on a medical tourism abroad and some people tried to hijack the club from him.

They have been suspended and normalcy has returned", Chief Chibuzor Anyaorah

the Deputy Vice President of SESC explained to this reporter over the telephone.

It would be recalled that Vincent Okumagba only a fortnight ago, emerged as the 1st Vice Chairman of the African Football Supporters Association (AFSA). and the Delta born FIFA Fan Leader will be leading out 100 members of the Super Eagles Supporters Club to Australia and New Zealand for the FIFA Women's World Cup this summer to cheer the Super Falcons all the way at the Mundial.



Super Eagles supporters

# Okoro Badminton Tourney Ends At Ikoyi Club

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Over 20 badminton players featured in the maiden edition of the M. I. Okoro Associates American Badminton Tournament held at Badminton Section of Ikoyi Club over the weekend.

The competition was part of efforts to develop the sport and give more playing time to members of the section.

Sponsor of the event, Meckson Okoro said his love for badminton motivated him to sponsor the championship even as he urged other corporate bodies to support government to develop sports in the country. "Sponsoring this championship is part of our corporate social responsibility, aside that it's also aimed to assist in the development and growth of badminton in Nigeria.

"It's important I appeal to both the government and private sector to fund the

sport so as to produce more professional players who will stand the test of time and represent the country well at international competitions", he said.

Chairman Badminton asection Ikoyi Club, Thomas Adeoye says the club has been working with the Badminton Federation of Nigeria in raising worthy ambassadors for the country.

"We are not relenting on our efforts to grow the game in the country and that's why we're partners in progress with the federation in different areas in order to build a vibrant sport' he said.

The participants were full of praises for the sponsor while calling for more of such tournament.

Winners got medals, trophies and gifts for their efforts.





# Denver Nuggets Are 2023 NBA Champions

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Denver Nuggets beat the Miami Heat 94-89 in Game 5 of the 2023 NBA Finals to win their first-ever NBA championship.

In front of a sold-out crowd at the Ball Arena, two-time NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP) Nikola Jokic was awarded with his first Bill Russell NBA Finals MVP award. Jokic became the first recipient of the trophy, also becoming the first player in NBA history to put up 600 points, 190 assists and 269 rebounds in a single postseason, leading the playoffs in all three categories. The Serbian averaged 30.2 points, 14.0 rebounds, 7.2 assists and 1.4 blocks over the five games of the Finals series.

"It's good. It's good. We did a job. I think we played the best basketball, I'm not going to say in the postseason, but I think we were there playing the best basketball. Today we didn't make shots, but still, we defend," Jokic said. He put up 28 points, 16 rebounds and four assists last night.

The Nuggets finished the regular season as the number one seed in the Western Conference, defeating the Minnesota Timberwolves, Phoenix Suns and Los Angeles Lakers to win the Western Conference Finals, before beating the Heat in five games and lifting the Larry O'Brien Trophy this morning.

"You know, Pat Riley said something many years ago. I used to have it up on my board when I was a head coach in

Sacramento, and it talked about the evolution in this game and how you go from a nobody to an upstart, and you go from an upstart to a winner and a winner to



a contender and a contender to a champion, and the last step is after a champion is to be a dynasty. So, we're not satisfied," said Nuggets head coach Michael Malone after the game. "We

accomplished something this franchise has never done before, but we have a lot of young talented players in that locker room, and I think we just showed through 16 playoff wins what we're capable of on

the biggest stage in the world." The Nuggets have finished their postseason with a 16-4 record and the celebrations will continue when the championship parade gets underway in

## Engr Nimrod, Sports Enthusiast Commended For Changing Face Of Nigeria's Volleyball

By: TOM GARBA, Yola

Engineer Musa Nimrod, a sports enthusiast has received accolades for supporting the cause of the Nigeria's volleyball teams across the country.

The commendation was expressed by many fans of Kaduna volleyball team who spoke with our correspondent on Monday, while training at the Murtala Square.

According to them, Nimrod has been a pillar in the area of sports, since he took office as the president of the Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF) in 2018, there have been positive changes in Nigeria's volleyball scene.

Rabiu Musa, one of the commentators said that Nigeria's volleyball under the leadership of Nimrod has experienced growth and progress that has never been witnessed in the past.

He stressed that, "prior to Engr. Nimrod's ascension to the top spot in Nigerian volleyball, the sport was barely given attention, but it is much better now than it used to be.

"There was no structure, no organization and volleyball was only played in a few select parts of the country. The national teams hardly participated in international competitions and if they did, they hardly made any significant impact.

"But that was then. Today, Nigeria's volleyball is on the rise. Engr. Nimrod has made sure that volleyball is not only played in the major cities, but also in rural areas.

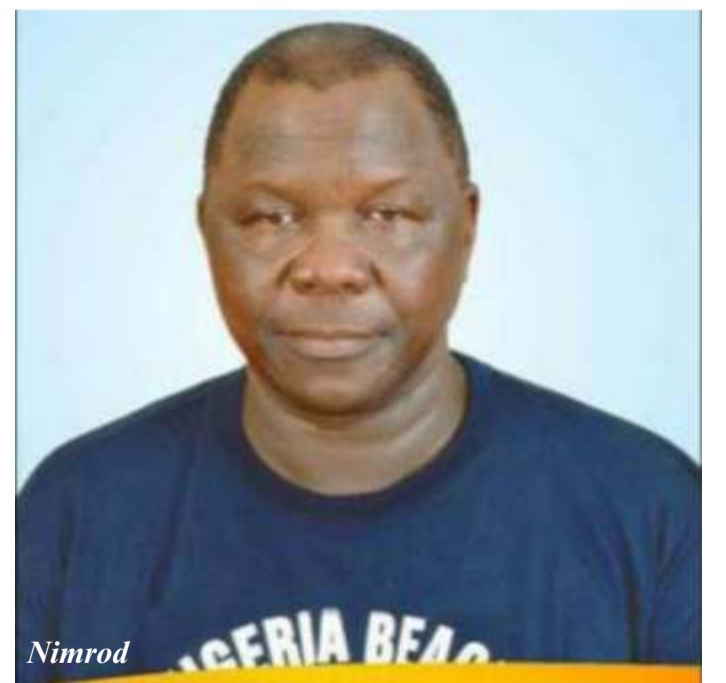
"He has ensured that all states in the country have their volleyball teams. He has established a structure that allows players to participate in various leagues and competitions.

"One notable achievement that was recorded under Engr. Nimrod's leadership is Nigeria's impressive performance at the Africa Under 19 Championship. The country has won the championship three times since 2019. This is a feat that has not been achieved by any other African country in recent times. Engr. Nimrod's efforts have propelled Nigeria's volleyball to greater

heights and it is now seen as a sport with a great future.

"Engr. Nimrod has proven himself to be a game-changer in Nigeria's volleyball. He has brought about a new dawn in the sport, which is evident in the increasing interest and participation of young people in the game. The progress that Nigeria's volleyball has experienced in the past few years, is a testament to his passion and dedication to the sport.

"Engr. Musa Nimrod's contribution to Nigeria's volleyball cannot be overstated. His leadership has repositioned the sport and has made it more competitive and accessible to young people in different parts of the country.



Nimrod

"We hope that he continues to inspire and lead in his capacity as the president of the Nigeria Volleyball Federation. We say, Engr. Nimrod, you too much," he said.



**Okumagba Receives CAC Certificate, Retains Firm Control of Super Eagles Supporters Club**

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## Speed Up Issuance Of International Passports To Nigerians, Olubadan Tasks NIS

\*Says bonafide citizens are entitled to and to access it should not be cumbersome

**By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan**  
The Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba S Lekan Balogun yesterday, tasked the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) to speed up actions on the issuance of International Passports to deserving Nigerians, Oba Lekan Balogun gave the task in Ibadan, while playing host to the new Comptroller of the Nigeria Immigration Service in Oyo State, Mohammed Tukur Umar, at his Alarere residence. According to the Olubadan, waiting for months to access International Passport does not portray the organization in a very good light, saying, "International Passport is a document that all bonafide citizens of a country are entitled to and to access it should not be cumbersome"

Oba Lekan Balogun charged the new Oyo NIS Comptroller to leverage on the new Passport Office opened in Oyo Alaafin in the state about two months ago to speed up actions on the issuance of the very important document and eliminate the frustration being faced by the residents.

"We have a lot of complaints arising from the delay in obtaining the document. I want to appeal to you to use your good offices to ameliorate the sufferings of our people", he said.

The Olubadan added, "I must also commend your Service on the efforts at tackling the problems of illegal immigrants and human trafficking. With the dawn of a new era birthing in Nigeria under the new President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, it is very hopeful that all the factors breeding the twin problems would be tackled"

The Oyo State NIS new Comptroller, Mohammed Tukur Umar lauded Oba Balogun for his efforts to ensure that peace reigns in his domain and pleaded for more of such, especially in the area of sensitization of people in the evils inherent in harbouring illegal immigrants and human trafficking.

The New NIS Comptroller in Oyo State while assuring Oba Balogun on his observation on the seemingly delay in issuance of International Passport urged for patience on the part of



Olubadan of Ibadanland receiving the NIS Comptroller in Oyo State yesterday.

Nigerians seeking to travel abroad to make sure they get the right documents, "It is the inalienable right of anybody to 'ja pa', but, in doing that, please, let's do so with the right documents", he said

Umar also pleaded with Oba Balogun to use his influence through his members of Advisory Council, Mogajis and Baales to sensitize the residents on the control of borders to checkmate the activities of illegal aliens as well as those

encroaching on border communities.

"We are doing our best in these areas, but, we will achieve our maximum success with your support and cooperation which is part of the reason for this courtesy call",

## APC UK Rejoices As Akpabio, Abass Emerged National Assembly Leaders

**By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

As the Nigeria National Assembly gets new leadership, the All Progressives Congress (APC) United Kingdom chapter has sent a congratulatory message to the new leaders, wishing them a successful tenure and extending their unwavering support and readiness to work with the new leadership to achieve the best for their country and smoothen the running of the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. A statement issued in London, made available to our correspondent by the publicity secretary of the party in the United Kingdom, Jacob Ogunseye praised the resilience and commitment of the former Governor of Akwa Ibom State

and former Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Distinguished Senator Godswill Akpabio, who was successfully inaugurated as the President of the Nigerian 10th senate and affirm that the Senate President truly can stabilize the National Assembly. According to the statement, Sen. Akpabio represents one the best in his generation with the required experience having served as a minority leader in the Senate, a governor and even as a minister in the executive arm, no doubt, he will turn the tide around and work assiduously to ensure the best for our dear country.

The statement also described the emergence of the member representing Zaria Federal Constituency of Kaduna State, Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abass as the



Speaker of the House of Representatives a victory for party supremacy and national

patriotism. The statement says further that the party in the UK is ready to work hand in hand with the House of Representatives to bring the best out of Nigeria.

In his own words, the Chairman of the APC UK, J K Adebola applauds the process that led to the emergence of the new leadership; he described the process as the best in our time.

"The apparent free and fair process further affirms the deepening of our democratic system. The system is a further sign that our democratic system is growing, with the new administration, we are confidently getting to the Promised Land".

Adebola urged the new leaders to see their new positions as an opportunity to serve our dear country in higher callings. "I want to urge our new National Assembly leaders to see this new task as a calling that comes with higher responsibilities, Nigerians await your cooperation with the executive arm to drive home the needed development our nation craves through quality representatives and positively impacting laws, the statement concluded.