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Make Improved Livelihood For Nigerians Top Priority, NNPP Chieftain Tasks Tinubu

Asks FG to accede to N200,000 minimum wage by the Labour unions

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Ogun State governorship candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in the last March elections in Ogun State, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo yesterday, asked President Bola Tinubu to make improved livelihood for Nigerians a top priority of his administration.

Ambassador Ajadi in a statement, stressed that the improved livelihood for Nigerians is sacrosanct and should be more people-focused economic

policies to reflect the current realities in the country.

According to him, President Tinubu and the 36 state governors should work together on how to assuage the plight of Nigerian workers and ordinary citizens with President Tinubu and the Federal Government to acceding to the proposed N200,000 minimum wage by the labour unions in the country.

Ambassador Ajadi maintained that it is worrisome that ordinary Nigerians including low-income earners were struggling with harsh



From left: Group Head, Channel Operator, Sterling Head Office, Abubakar Soyemi; Group Head, Energy, Dele Faseemo; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transportation, Lagos, Engr. Abdulhafis Toriola; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Engr. Shola Shasore; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Omobolaji Gaji; and the Group Head, Transport and Renewable Energy, Sterling Bank Plc, Olabanjo Alimi; during the launch of Nigeria first Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Lagos by Sterling Bank Plc. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

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CSO Commends President Tinubu For Returning Hajj Commission To VP Office

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Independent Hajj Reporters (IHR), a civil society organization that monitors and reports on Hajj and Umrah activities in Nigeria has commended Nigerian President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu for returning the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) to the office of the Vice President.

President Tinubu gave the approval on Tuesday shortly before traveling to Paris, France to attend a global financial pact summit.

IHR in a statement on Friday, signed by its National Coordinator, Ibrahim Mohammed says the decision is a welcome one because it will free the commission from unnecessary bureaucracies and provides efficient time management in the implementation of hajj policies.

"It is our belief that returning NAHCON to the office of the Vice President, which is in line with its establishment act

will afford the commission the opportunity to fast track their operations with little or no delay," the statement said.

The CSO also said it is particular delighted that the commission is returning under the supervision of the current vice president, Kashim Shettima, a man, it says that has a track record of doing well for Hajj pilgrims from Borno state while he govern the state for eight years.

"The Vice President had always taken special interest in the Hajj affairs of Borno state and was always personally involved in ensuring that pilgrims from the state perform Hajj in a state of tranquillity. He always ensure that everything needed by the pilgrims are provided and on time.

"It is our belief that the VP will replicate this and do more at the National level, which will in turn see Nigerian pilgrims enjoying the best of services they pay for," the statement said.

Detectives Sweep Lagos Traffic Robbers, Cultists, Apprehends 32

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Efforts of the Lagos State Police Command at ridding the state of criminal elements have recorded further boost following the arrest of no fewer than 32 suspected traffic robbers and cultists. Various offensive weapons which include hammer, axes, locally made double-barrel, twenty-two live cartridges, two expended cartridges, two 9ml live cartridges and a locally made pistols were recovered from the suspects.

Eleven out of the suspects, alleged to be traffic robbers, were apprehended by operatives attached to Badia Police Station, led by the

Divisional Police Officer CSP Ayoola Olawole.

They include Kasim Ibrahim, 20, Sharafadeen Isiaka, 25, Kingsley Okpolo, 42, Toheeb Dauda, 19, Al-Amin Ahmed, 19, Waheed Fisaur, 19, Ariyo Taofeek, 20, Quadri Azeez, 22, Ibrahim Ajomagberin, 27, Ibrahim Ali, 29 and Babagana Ulama, 24.

According to report, the suspects were caught in the act while attacking motorists under the Ijora bridge leading to Apapa Wharf.

The Lagos State Police Command Spokesperson SP Benjamin Hundeyin who confirmed the arrest at the Command Headquarters Ikeja on Thursday, said they will be arraigned in court immediately after the

parade.

Commenting on the suspected cultists, Hundeyin, who paraded the suspects on behalf of the Commissioner of Police Idowu Owohunwa disclosed that eight were arrested at Ipakodo in Ikorodu area of the state.

He identified them to include Akinwale Abiodun 31, Shola Salawokara, 36, Adewunmi Adeniyi, 33, Ganiu Gbadamosi, 37, Nojim Kasamotu, 32, Abraham Abuba, 39, Agoro Ariyo, 18 and Awotehinde Sikiru, 39.

Hundeyin explained that three others were nabbed in Oshodi area of the state, with one identified as one Oluwatosin Adebimpe, 31, popularly known as Seventy, arrested in Itire area of Isolo.

Identifying the two others

as 39-year-old Razak Agbabiaka and 32-year-old Saheed Olaolokun, the police image maker hinted that investigations showed that the suspects have been operating across the state and environs and causing unrest for a period of time.

The police spokesperson hinted that the Commissioner of Police had charged the police tactical units to take battles to the doorsteps of cultists, which led to the arrest of three notorious cultists in the Isolo area of the state.

He also disclosed that the tactical unit of the command arrested another set of suspects in the Magbon Area of Badagry, adding that one of them identified as, Ademefun Jamiu, 27, is a cultist in Abattoir.



Weapons recovered

Insecurity: Movement of Vehicular Movements Restricted To 6:00pm -7:00am In Ebonyi

*Ban placed on mining operations

By; MKPUMA EYINNA, Abakaliki

Following the recent declaration of curfew in various communities in Ohaozara Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, the council's Chairman, Honourable Chinonso Ajah has relaxed the curfew and vehicular movements to between 6:00pm to 7:00am against the earlier ban which starts from 6:00pm to 6:00am.

He also placed ban on mining operations in the area to further stop activities of hoodlums.

In a recent statement issued by the council's chairman on the current security situation of

various communities in Ohaozara LGA, it was stated that vehicular movements have been restricted between 7:00am to 6:00am, except people trekking to their destinations.

Hon. Ajah explained that, "it is pertinent that we note that the curfew is a product of necessity aimed at checkmating the incessant killings and attacks on communities.

"Following the recent declaration of curfew and ban on vehicular movements in the local government area from 6pm to 6am. I wish to gratefully appreciate our traditional rulers, clerics, town union presidents, village chairmen and the law

enforcement agents for their level of compliance. It is a proof of your support for my administration's security policy aimed at ensuring the safety of lives and property of an average Ohaozara person.

"In as much as I regret the inconveniences and untold restraints that this curfew may have brought to our people, it is pertinent that we note that this curfew is a product of necessity aimed at checkmating the incessant killings and attacks on our dear community. I sincerely regret the inconveniences."

The council chairman further noted that the curfew has helped the security agencies to carry out

their investigation effectively and efficiently.

He also used the avenue to place ban on all mining operations in all the communities since it has been identified as a den of robbers.

"However, this curfew has helped the law enforcement agents to narrow their investigations, while ensuring that the perpetrators are brought to book. It is on this premise that we are placing a ban on all *Mining Operations* in the local government area effective from today. All mining sites are hereby closed as it is observed to be a den of some hoodlums.

"In addition to that, the curfew is

limited to restriction of motorcycle and tricycle movements in the local government area from 7pm to 6am. Vehicular movements and human trekkers are allowed within the curfew hours.

"I thank you my good people of Ohaozara, most especially, our traditional rulers and other stakeholders for their commitment in ensuring that this policy is obeyed.

It would be recalled that recently, curfew was placed on all the Communities in Ohaozara Local Government Area of Ebonyi State as a result of rising spate of insecurity in the area, which has been brought under control.

Lagos Police Recovers Stolen Vehicle In Kaduna, Apprehends 2 Receivers

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos.

Detectives attached to Lagos State Police Command have recovered a stolen vehicle in Kaduna State, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt.

Two receivers of stolen goods were also said to have been arrested in connection with the crime. The breakthrough, was consequent upon a discreet and intelligence investigation by the detectives which led them to Kaduna, where vehicle

and the suspects were arrested.

Our correspondent gathered that the vehicle, a Toyota Hilux was carted away by armed robbers in Ilupeju area of Lagos, in connivance with one of the security guards.

The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, CP Idowu Owohunwa made the disclosure on Thursday at the command's headquarters, Ikeja, while briefing newsmen on the breakthrough recorded by the command.

Represented by the Police Public Relations Officer SP Benjamin Hundeyin, the Police Commissioner said, 'The Toyota Hilux was actually on a car stand, and two people came in the middle of the night to rob and cart away this vehicle. It later turned out that one of the robbers is actually a security guard employed by the owner of the car stand,' he said.

"On the day of the robbery, he was off-duty. He, however, connived with one other to come and rob the place leaving the

security on guard seriously injured while they took away the Toyota Hilux', Hundeyin explained.

'We swung into action immediately we got the information, and we were able to recover the vehicle in far-away Kaduna State and also arrested two receivers in whose custody we found the vehicle.

"The main perpetrators are on the run, but we are closely monitoring their location, and very soon, they will be apprehended."



The recovered vehicle

INEC Not Producing All Certified Copies Of Governorship Election In Kaduna - PDP

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), has not produced all the certified copies of the March 18th Kaduna State governorship election result sheets that declared Senator Uba Sani winner.

A Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Oluwale Iyamu who is one of the lead counsels to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)'s Governorship candidate, Mohammed Ashiru, stated this at the tribunal sitting in Kaduna on Thursday.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Victor Oviawe, therefore,

adjourned the case to July 4, 2023, between Isa Ashiru of the PDP, Governor of Kaduna State, Uba Sani, All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Independent National Electoral Commission.

According to Iyamu, it would be untidy and improper to tender them (result sheets evidence) in a piecemeal format, stressing that it was better to go back and extract those forms from the INEC before making proper presentation to the tribunal.

He explained that the documents required for the pursuit of the petition largely are result sheets and other processes available only in the

official custody of INEC that is also a party to this suit.

Iyamu further explained, "We have applied for certified copies of all the forms, particularly the result sheets of all the polling units from the beginning to the end so that we can take our case in a manner that is proper."

He assured that nothing was wrong with the case, saying that it is just a matter of ensuring that things are done properly as they have asked for those documents and they are believing they shall get them as INEC is a public authority.

Chief Duro Adeleye, SAN, who is lead counsel to second respondent,

Governor Uba Sani while speaking to newsmen shortly after the proceeding, explained that the petitioner's counsel sought for an adjournment for them to put their documents in order, saying that it is because they had issues with their documents.

He expressed satisfaction with the tribunal, saying that it has been working in line with the procedures.

The PDP claimed that the last governorship election was manipulated in favour of the incumbent governor and therefore challenged the victory of the Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani of the All Progressives Congress.

Gombe Governor Hails President's Chief Of Staff, Gbajabiamila At 61

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON of has felicitated with the Chief of Staff to Mr President, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila as he clocks 61 years yesterday.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available to our correspondent yesterday.

The Governor, in a goodwill message, extolled the virtues of the former Speaker, describing him as a great patriot, truly progressive, and distinguished leader who has brought to bear his academic, political and legal acumen in his decades of service to the nation and contributing in deepening democracy to the admiration of all well-meaning Nigerians.

"On behalf of the government and people of Gombe State, I wish to join the family, friends and associates of the our amiable Chief of Staff to Mr. President as he turns 61 years today.



Gbajabiamila

"It is our sincere prayers that Almighty Allah in his infinite mercy will continue to guide, protect, and shower His endless blessings on the Speaker of the 9th House of Representatives with more wisdom and good health as he continues to serve the nation, now as Chief of Staff to the President and Commander-in of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR".

Kukah Centre Tasks Kaduna Residents On Peaceful Coexistence

By; NONYE JULIET EKWENUGO, Kaduna

The Kukah Centre in collaboration with Global Peace Foundation and Health Justice Development and Peace has urged Nigerians to embrace peace, love and religious tolerance.

Speaking at a one-day conference in Kaduna on inter-religious dialogue with the theme; 'Seeking Common Ground for Collaboration in a Community', Rev Fr Sixtus Ladi Onuh said there was urgent need for Nigerians to embrace peace with one another irrespective of tribe or religion.

According to him, Nigerians must find a way of living together, build trust among themselves and also show compassion to people of other faiths. He called on the stakeholders to see how they can engage the youth to be more meaningful to the society.

Fr Onuh also called on religious leaders to douse tension and find a way of teaching the right doctrines to adherents.

Earlier, the co-executive directors at the Inter-faith Mediation Centre (IMC),

Rev James Muvel Wuye and Imam Muhammad Nurayn Ashafa, said the two religions preach peace, adding that Nigerians are brothers and sisters in humanity.

They urged Nigerians to see one another as friends, not as enemies, nothing that they were all created by one God.

Northern coordinator of Global Peace Foundation, Sheikh Halliru Abdullahi Maraya who spoke on 'Inter-religious Dialogue as an Instrument of Peace for the Common Good of the Society' urged Nigerians to respect one another's religions and beliefs.

He appealed to religious leaders to stop preaching disunity among their members, and rather preach peace and unity.

The Programme Officer, Kukah Centre Kaduna Office, Methodius Karfe urged Nigerians to live together in peace and harmony.

Christian and Muslim stakeholders at the conference advised Nigerians to cultivate the spirit of tolerance, forgiveness in the interest of the national unity.

Bill/Melinda Gates, AATF Join Forces To Accelerate Research Into Staple African Crops

By ; J A C O B O N J E W U D I C K S O N

Bill & Melinda Gates Agricultural Innovations (Gates Ag One) and the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) are to partner to strengthen research into improving staple crops grown by millions of African farmers.



Bill Gates

AATF works across more than 20 countries in Eastern, Southern, and West Africa to develop innovations that address low agricultural productivity and support improved livelihoods for smallholder farmers. For instance, AATF has released five new hybrid rice varieties adapted for African conditions that have increased yields from three tons per hectare to 10 tons per hectare.

AATF also coordinated a global partnership towards the development and release of pod borer resistant (PBR) cowpea in three West African countries, which contains a gene that produces a protein lethal to the biggest pre-harvest pest, the Maruca pod borer. With climate change increasing the spread of harmful insects to new areas, the development provided farmers with an additional tool for climate adaptation.

"We're excited to forge this new partnership with Gates Ag One to build on our efforts and results to date that have contributed significant advances in agricultural productivity across Africa," said Dr. Canisius Kanangire, Executive Director at AATF.

AATF, which was established 20 years ago, manages Public-Private Partnerships for the transfer of innovative technologies to increase access to the latest innovations by smallholder farmers in Africa. An estimated 65% of the world's arable land is in sub-Saharan Africa, yet yields are currently only around a third of the global average.

"AATF is a leading player in the sector that works to develop adapt and commercialize agricultural technologies that boost smallholder farmers' productivity and climate resilience," said Joe Cornelius, CEO of Gates Ag One. "We're excited to be partnering with AATF to bring innovations to farmers across Africa to bolster yields and food security."

Gates Ag One, a non-profit affiliate of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was created to leverage advances in global crop science to serve the growing needs of smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The organization invests in early scientific discoveries to accelerate the development of improved crops that can close the yield gap.

Bill & Melinda Gates Agricultural Innovations (Gates Ag One) is a non-profit organization that accelerates breakthrough agricultural research to meet the urgent and neglected needs of smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Out of the conviction that all lives have equal value, Gates Ag One serves the interests of smallholder farmers, who are most exposed to climate shocks yet lack the access that others have to the latest agricultural innovations.

Gates Ag One works to level the playing field and empower smallholder farmers to transform their agricultural productivity, nutrition security and climate resilience. Learn more at gatesagone.org.

AATF is an international not-for-profit organization that is empowering smallholder farmers across Sub-Saharan Africa with a wide choice of agricultural innovations that contribute to food and nutrition security to generate health and wealth for their families and communities.

Established in 2003 as an African-led entity, AATF works with public and private partners across the full food value chain to access, develop, deliver and commercialize innovative technologies that bring meaningful change to Africa's agriculture.

AATF is driven by a vision of a prosperous and food secure Africa, one where millions of smallholder farmers can transform African agriculture with the same innovations that are transforming food production around the world.

AATF believes the farmers in Africa will become globally competitive through use of the best technology, optimal agricultural practices, strategic product value addition and boosted access to efficient markets within and outside Africa.

Kaduna Network To Strategize On Ensuring Taxpayers Get Value For Money

By ; A L E X U A N G B A O J E, Kaduna

group, Tax Justice Network (TJN), promoting a fair, just, equitable and progressive tax regime in Kaduna State, has resolved to strategize on ensuring taxpayers in the state get value for their money.

Rising from its quarterly review meeting on Saturday, the Network said they are building alliance with the government to ensure that government reinvest the money they are collecting from the citizens back to the system in form of development so that the citizens can feel the impact.

The network is made up of civil society organizations, organized private sector, individuals and media partners that has been engaging issues related to Tax Justice. The network has been

advocating for equity and inclusive prosperity that will foster social and economic justice through an equitable and fair tax system that holds public officials and service providers accountable.

Coordinator of the Network, Simeon Olatunde, in his remarks, noted that the essence of the meeting was to discuss issues around tax and other related matters and what they have done in previous months and plan for the next quarter of the year in the interest of the citizens.

He added that the meeting was also meant to provide opportunity for members to learn, review and deliberate on what has happened and the way forward, have a better understanding of how the network works and get acquainted with the new Finance Act; especially for new members.

"There is need to re-strategize on how to

engage and learn more about taxation, know who we are and what we are supposed to do to support the government for the benefit of the citizens." Simon said.

Speaking on taxation and its purpose, Obafunso Rahman, Immediate past Chair of Charter Institute of Taxation of Nigeria, Kaduna District, said paying tax is a way of citizens contributing to the running of government for their own benefits.

He emphasized that every citizen must pay tax because every expenses by the government is drawn from taxes, adding "every citizen must contribute to government through payment of tax for the development of public goods and services.

"This money is what government use for services like security which every other aspects of the economy is hinged on. It is also used to

develop infrastructure in education, health and other sectors. Also invested in businesses to generate employment.

"Evading tax therefore, means that government can not take care of the livelihood of the citizenry. And if you evade tax, you can be punish for it."

On his part, Chinedu Bassey, who spoke virtually from the Network's Abuja office, urged the Kaduna team to synergize with the state tax administrator and ensure that the relationship is very cordial for better results.

"You need to constantly be reeducated on issues of taxation, get acquainted with tax laws and policies, keep abreast with data on taxes so that when government is taking any decision about taxes, you will know why they are doing it and what to do about it". He advised.



Gov Makinde Kick Starting Omituntun 2.0 In Top Speed - Oyo PDP

**Lauds first batch of commissioner designate*

By ; B A Y O A K A M O, I b a d a n

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Saturday, commended Governor Seyi Makinde for kick-starting Omituntun 2.0 in top speed by transmitting first batch list of Commissioner-designate to the state Assembly.

PDP in a statement by its Oyo State Publicity Secretary, Engr Akeem Olatunji, described Gov Makinde as the game changer of Oyo's contemporary political landscape.

According to Oyo State PDP, while other states are still trying to settle down in office, Governor Makinde has already started out the race to actualizing

sustainable development agenda on high note without delay.

"The PDP in Oyo State was not surprised by the speed on which Omituntun 2.0 started out because the man behind the wheel is not only the engineer of modern Oyo state but also the game changer of our political landscape", it said.

Oyo PDP added, "It is therefore, noteworthy to specially commend GSM like we fondly call His Excellency, Governor Seyi Makinde, over his speedy nomination of Commissioner-designates and transmitted same to the legislature for necessary scrutiny and approval".

"It is important to note that while other states were yet settling down for governance, Oyo state under the leadership of GSM is already in high speed as evident in the recent road project flag off in Lagelu and commissioning in Ona-Ara".

The party stressed, "As the ruling party in the state, we have no tiniest atom of doubt that Omituntun 2.0 sustainable development agenda will be more successful than the first term and we urged all at both government and party levels to give one hundred percent of everything to make the vision of GSM for this second term becomes a monumental success."

Farounbi Lectures EOB's Royal Sky Media Academy Students On Ethics

By; AYO OJEDOKUN,
Lagos

A media icon, who has contributed tremendously to the development of the media industry in the country, Ambassador (Dr) Yemi Farounbi while featuring as Guest Personality of the Month at the broadcasting school, Royal Sky Media Academy, established by the popular anointed presenter, Enitan Olusegun Bamidele (EOB) tutored the students on ethics.

The former Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Philippines and Cambodia, described the media as a bridge between the governing bodies and the general public, and considering this vital role of the media in the society, there is need for ethical issues.

Dr. Farounbi who spoke for almost two hours, focused much on the principles guarding broadcasting saying, "whether a journalist is covering sporting events, entertainment news, or current affairs, they have a collective responsibility to abide by a code of ethics to avoid conflicts of interest that may compromise their integrity or impartiality". He averred that, "as we are experiencing a media revolution during this era of digital-first news, journalism is more democratized, interactive and instantaneous than ever before. Anyone with an internet connection can open Twitter and make a statement that others may perceive as truth.

"As a result, professional journalists have an even greater responsibility to champion the truth, disprove fake news, and fact-check trending narratives to ensure the public have access to reliable information online", said the veteran journalist and ace broadcaster.

He added that, "a journalist

should promote universal principles of human rights, democracy, justice, equity, peace and international understanding, and should not copy, wholesale or in part, other people's work without attribution or consent".

While giving the vote of thanks, the Dean, Academic Programme of the school, Olufemi Timothy Ogunyejo thanked Dr Farounbi saying, "we express our sincere appreciation for the professional and insightful presentation you delivered today Friday 16th June, 2023. Your expertise, wealth of experiences and exposition were truly commendable, and we found your presentation to be incredibly engaging".

"Sir, we were not only dazed but also dazzled by the way and manner you structured your content in an easy to understand manner which made it easy for everyone to grasp the key concepts. Furthermore, your deep understanding of the subject matter was evident as you expertly addressed various questions and concerns from the audience", Ogunyejo noted.

Also speaking, the proprietor of the broadcasting school described the former ambassador as an icon of many parts.

He prayed to God to grant him long life and good health to continue to serve humanity, saying Farounbi's scholarly attainment and his excellent work in the media industry distinguished him from his peers.

He however, appreciated the humble disposition of Dr. Farounbi for not minding coming to the less than one year old institute, saying his presentation must have left a lasting impact on the students, while thanking him for his exceptional presentation.

CDS: Tinubu Putting Round Pegs In Round Holes - Atyap Community

By; ISAAC ODEH,
Kaduna

The Atyap Community Development Association (ACDA) has while congratulating Major General C.G. Musa as Chief of Defence Staff, hailed President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the choice, describing it as a round peg in a round hole. ACDA expressed this in a statement by its President, Samuel T. Achie, made available to our correspondent on Friday June 23, 2023.

"The Atyap Community Development Association (ACDA), received with gratitude the cheering news on the appointment of Maj. Gen. Christopher Gwabin Musa an illustrious son of Zango Kafaf LG Kaduna State as the Chief Of Defence Staff (CDS).

"This appointment is well deserving and an indication that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu means well for our dear country, the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"I commend the President for this bold step which I believe is putting round pegs in round holes that will further solidify Nigeria's Unity and strengthens the nations coexistence," the statement said.

On behalf of the Atyap Community Development Association, Achie



Gen Christopher Musa CDS

therefore, congratulated the CDS on the appointment.

"The appointment never came to us as a surprise as your track record in the Nigerian Army both within and outside Nigeria stands you out for this feat. ACDA pray for God's guidance and protection to enable you give Nigerians the long desired peace in the nation.

"It is not going to be an easy task, but we are also confident that you are well able to surmount these challenges God helping you," he said.

ACDA used the medium to thank President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for finding their illustrious son worthy of his trust to work with in that capacity.

"I assure Mr. President that you will never regret this singular decision.

"As President of ACDA, I wish to also commend the Governor of Kaduna State His Excellency Senator Uba Sani, for identifying with the appointment of the CDS, which is an indication that the CDS will be given all the necessary support to succeed in this

assignment.

"To the Zangon Kafaf Local Government Chairman, I say congratulations to what the Lord has done for the entire LG. to our father the Agwatyap, and to all those that felicitate with this appointment, I say congratulations to all of us and prayed God to bless and spare our lives to witness that celebration of total peace and security in Nigeria, Kaduna State and the Southern Kaduna region in particular."

I Will Not Spare Anyone That Fails To Deliver, Gov Nwifuru Tells Appointees *Swears-in 35 commissioners in Ebonyi

By; MKPUMA
ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru has sworn-in 35 commissioners in Ebonyi State and assigned portfolios to them to start discharging their duties immediately.

The governor warned that he will not spare any commissioner that fails to perform responsibilities.

The swearing-in of the new exco members which took place at the new Government House, Centenary City, Abakaliki, was witnessed by political

stalwarts, stakeholders, friends and well wishers.

Addressing the newly sworn-in commissioners, Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru urged them to live up to expectations and discharge their duties effectively, warning that anyone that fails to carry out his duties effectively, will be shown the way out immediately as there is no room for laxity.

Among the newly sworn-in commissioners are: Engr. Stanley Lebechi Mbam - Works and Transport; Dr. Leonard Uguru - Finance; Dr.

Matthew Nwobashi - Lands and Survey; Prof. Omari Omaka (SAN) - Tertiary Education; Prof. Nwogo Obasi - Market Development & Parks; Elijah Okwu Oko Udu - Skills Development & Job Creation; Prince Etta Uka Ude - Internal Security; Hon. Victor Chukwu Uzoma - Environment; Jude Chikadibia Okpor - Information and State Orientation; Mr. Chidi Onyia - Solid Minerals and Ogunzofia Nwali - Commerce and Industry. Others are, Mrs. Aligwe Ann - Human Capital Development; Prof. Paul

Awo Nwobashi - Education (Primary & Secondary); Mr. Uchenna Igwe - Local Government & Chieftaincy Matters; Dr. Ben Odo Uruchi - Justice (HAG); Stanley Ifeanyi Ogbuewu - Culture and Tourism; Dr. Donatus C. Ilang - Boarder Peace & Conflict Resolution; Dr. Mrs. Obichukwu Ngozi - Aviation; Mrs. Chinwe Okah - Budget and Planning; Dr. Moses Ekuma Nnanna - Health; Hon. Richard Ugo Idike - Youths and Sports and Barr. Mrs. Felicia Nwankpuma - Women Affairs.

FCT Ex-Minister Story On 200 Million Official vehicle Not True

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Contrary to the news making rounds in one of the national dailies that the FCT ex Minister of State, Dr Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu outrightly refused to return the official SUV Prado Jeep, said to be worth about N200 million used during the period she enjoyed some constitutional privileges, our correspondent gathered that the news was untrue.

According to one of the FCTA top management officer who wants to remain anonymous, the ex Minister returned all vehicles in her possession and were parked at the FCT Minister's official log in Life Camp and the Director of Protocol took delivery of them.

The source further stated that, the ex Minister husband is a very well to do man and the wife has no reason whatsoever to refuse to return an official vehicle, this is just an attempt to discredit her. The source further hinted that, her two aides in



Dr. Ramatu Aliyu

question, Special Assistants on Special Investment Programme (SIP) letter of appointment as FCT Focal Person expires in August and Special Assistant on Climate Change is one of

staff of FCTA working in Development Control before her appointment. Speaking on the issue of lobbying to become one of the president aides, he said, "she has been a diehard supporter of

President Tinubu even when people were castigating him, she remained loyal to him, if the president deems it fit to reward her loyalty, I don't see anything wrong in it.

CP Warns Public To Be Vigilant As 2 Suspects Are Arrested For ATM Card Swap In Kaduna

**Suspects withdraw over N400k from victim, N948k from another*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Operatives of the Kaduna State Police Command have arrested two men for allegedly swapping the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) card of an unsuspecting victim.

A statement signed by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Mohammed Jalige, dated Friday June 13, 2023 informed that following the development, the Commissioner of Police has charged the general public to be careful with their ATM cards.

"On the 12th June, 2023 at about 1340hrs, a woman reported that on the 10th June, 2023 at about 0715hrs, she went to Jaiz Bank located at Ali Akilu Road Kaduna to make a financial transaction using her Automated Teller Machine (ATM).

"In the course of the said transaction an unknown person dishonestly collected her debit card linked to her Jaiz bank account with a view to assisting her, instead intentionally swapped the debit card and escaped," it said.

According to the statement, few minutes later, she received two debit alerts with a total sum of four hundred and four thousand Naira (N404,000.00k) from her bank.

During investigation, operatives of the State Intelligence Bureau, Kaduna Command arrested (1) Paul Agu Daniel, and (2) Mike Ogah both male of various addresses in Kaduna State and they voluntarily confessed to the alleged crime.

Investigations also unravelled that the two



The suspects

suspects had defrauded one of their victims the sum of nine hundred and forty eight thousand Naira (N948,000.00k) using his fidelity ATM card.

The suspects are currently assisting the Police in investigation with a view

to arresting their other criminal accomplices.

The Commissioner of Police hailed the detectives for arresting the suspects, while charging the public to be careful who they let handle their ATM cards.



Dauda

Court Reinstates NIA DG, Dauda

By; BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja

The court of appeal Abuja division on Thursday, reinstated the former Director General DG, National Intelligence Agency (NIA) Mohammed Dauda.

Delivering the judgement, Justice Peter Ige said the evidence leading to the dismissal of Dauda was frivolous and lacking in merit.

The judge also resolved all the contentious issues against NIA in favour of Dauda who is a respondent in the suit.

He then ordered that his salaries and entitlements since the day of dismissal from office be paid.

The appellate court also gave an order that the sum of N1million be paid to Dauda.

Justice Ige held further: "Dauda should be allowed to retire in service in accordance with the stipulated laws."

"There is no evidence before the court that shows that the respondent has constituted any risk or breached any law.

"The appellant appeal is hereby dismissed for lacking in merit and the Industrial Court judgment is hereby affirmed,"

Dauda it will be recall acted as the head of security agency from

November 2017 to January 2018, when he was replaced by an aide to President Muhammadu Buhari, Dauda had spent just few months on the job before he was removed.

Dissatisfied by his unjust removal, Dauda challenged his removal in court, saying his dismissal from service did not follow the due process and was wrongful.

He argued that in contravention of the law, no Special Management Staff of the Disciplinary Committee (SMSDC) was set up to investigate the charges against him, and he was not given any fair hearing afterwards.

In an earlier judgement delivered by Justice Olufunke Anuwe, the court had ordered the reinstatement of Dauda as the head of National Intelligence Agency and payment of salaries and entitlements from March 2018 till date after it found that his dismissal fell short of the NIA Act.

In the judgment, it was held that, under the agency's rule, the appropriate committee to investigate disciplinary cases against management staff is the management staff disciplinary committee, "not the special management staff disciplinary committee."

Group Urges Adefisoye To Drop Guber Ambition In Pursuit Of Ministerial Appointment

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

A group of Abuja based youthful professionals from Ondo South Senatorial District, under the aegis of Ondo South Youthful Professionals (OSYP), has advised Hon. Tajudeen Adefisoye to drop his gubernatorial ambition and pursue ministerial appointment instead.

The group appealed to the immediate past legislator who represented Idanre/Ifedore Federal Constituency of Ondo State at the 9th National Assembly to give-up his gubernatorial ambition in the interest of unwritten rotational agreement which exists amongst the three senatorial districts of the Sunshine State.

This position was made known on Friday during a strategic political discussion titled 'Ondo 2024 Governorship Election: Roles of Youthful Professionals'. The event was held at the Ritman Hotels in the Asokoro area of the Federal Capital Territory. The group's Coordinator, Engr. Kingsley Maggie remarked that it had become a general and acceptable consensus that the next governor of Ondo State should come from the southern senatorial part of the Sunshine State. He therefore advised Hon. Tajudeen Adefisoye who is from Idanre Local Government Area in Ondo central senatorial district to shelve his gubernatorial ambition in the overall interest of equality, togetherness and sense of

belonging amongst the three senatorial districts of the Sunshine State. Maggie said, "We are aware that Hon. Tajudeen Adefisoye (Small Alhaji) has already declared interest to contest the governorship election of Ondo State. It is within the constitutional right of Small Alhaji to seek any elective position in Ondo State and in Nigeria at large; but he needs to bear in mind that we have an unwritten rotational agreement that exists among the three senatorial districts of our state.

"While we are aware of the popularity of Small Alhaji among the youths of Ondo State, the young man should please allow the unwritten rotational agreement to remain respected. We also salute the courage of Small Alhaji to have declared his intention to contest the 2024 governorship election. We are proud of his gut as a youth as well as his rise and achievements as a politician. Instead of planning to contest the 2024 governorship election, we will advise him to shift his attention towards a higher national service to Ondo State and Nigeria in a different capacity".



Tajudeen Adefisoye

Meanwhile, Maggi also opined that Ondo south senatorial district should be given all necessary support to produce the next governor of the state while the ministerial slot for Ondo State should be conceded to Ondo central senatorial district where Hon. Tajudeen Adefisoye comes from.

Maggi particularly encouraged Adefisoye to push for the ministerial slot or any other federal appointment in place of the governorship position. He further stressed that it would not be a bad idea if a fellow youth from Ondo State is chosen as a minister or head of an important federal government parastatal.

"As fellow youths like Small Alhaji, we will appeal to him to allow the southern senatorial district take its turn on the

governorship while he shifts his attention towards the ministerial slot for Ondo State. It is already a settled issue that Ondo south senatorial district is to produce the next governor of our dear Sunshine State. Although we are aware that some APC big wigs in Ondo State have been talking to Small Alhaji since he made his governorship ambition known.

"The young man is undoubtedly qualified to represent Ondo State, even as a minister or in any other capacity at the federal level. But as things stand today in our state, both Ondo central and northern senatorial districts should be encouraged to support Ondo south senatorial district to produce the next governor of our dear Sunshine State", Maggi added.

Uba Sani Reaffirms Support For LG Autonomy

By ; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani, has admonished local government council chairmen in the state to work together with communities for development and peace in the state.

The governor expressed this known when local government chairmen paid him a courtesy visit at Government House in Kaduna.

Speaking on autonomy, the governor said he is involved in the fight for autonomy.

"We know the importance of giving the local government autonomy to do whatever they need to do to support the grassroots.

"I am happy former Kaduna State Governor, Malam Nasir Ahmed el-Rufai is one that gave local government councils opportunity to check their projects to be very free and do what they think is right.

"I don't think Governor el-Rufai for a day, interfered with the affairs of the local government councils in Kaduna State. I can stand to be corrected because I was part of the government in the past eight years.

"However, that is what we intend to continue here in Kaduna, that is the reason I was happy when the local chairmen visited me to pay a courtesy call.

"I am happy, we discussed

issues that bother on development, I also want them to focus more on social development of their communities, hence local government areas are from rural areas.

"I believe the time has come when the local government will focus on things that will affect their people directly.

"I assured them that, I am ready to continue to work close to them and support them because we believe they are very key, when you are talking about security which is the number one agenda of this government.

"These is very important when you are talking about nurturing citizens engagement because we need to collaborate with them, we need to work closely with them, we need to work with local government areas. This is because chairmen are closer to the people.

"I urged them to go home and govern their own local government areas without discrimination, they should carry everyone along, irrespective of political, ethnic or religious differences.

"We are all one, and if we want development and peace, we must be fair with everyone that is the way we can have peace in our communities.

"Kaduna State will benefit when the local government and the state work together, by the grace of God," he assured.

Alleged Kidnapping: Court Invites Journalist To Testify Against Suspect

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Kaduna State High Court sitting at Dogarawa Zaria has adjourned hearing in the case of alleged kidnapping to enable the prosecution counsel produce a computer generated evidence and reporter who recorded the clip.

The presiding judge, Justice Abdulkadir-Sabo Mahmud of High Court No. 3 Dogarawa, Zaria adjourned the matter to

July 17.

Earlier, Dari Bayero, Counsel for the prosecution told the court that sequel to what transpired at the last adjourned date, prosecution witness told the court that there was a video clip. He added that the clip contained a confession of the defendant at the police station.

"The court ordered that the CD be produced and the reporter who recorded the clip also be produced and we got the CD," he

said.

He said the matter was adjourned at the instance of the prosecution and the prosecution is ready to go on with the case.

However, Bayero said the prosecution had to file some additional processes on the defendants and he, therefore, applied for a short adjournment to effect the service of such services to defendants.

He added that adjournment was to also enable Aminiya

correspondent who recorded the video clip to appear and tender his evidence.

Responding, Nura Tukur counsel for the defendants did not object to the application.

It would be recalled that Idris Mustapha a.k.a Idi Mai Zomo and Isah Ibrahim are standing trial on two count charges which were hinged on kidnapping.

The defendants were accused of kidnapping Ibrahim Yakubu, Yusha'u Sani, Abdallah

Mohammed-Awwal (aged 5 years) and Aisha Mohammed-Awwal aged two and half years) residents of Nagoyi area, Zaria on January 28, 2021.

The defendants were also accused of collecting N14m ransom before the release of the kidnapped victims.

The offence contravenes sections 247(1) and 246 (c) of Kaduna State Penal Code Law No.5 of 2017.

Ambassador Shehu Scores Sokoto Governor High

By; BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja

The Governor of Sokoto State, Ahmed Aliyu has been commended for coming up with a nine-point agenda for salvaging the state from collapse. According to Amb. Dr. Malami Shehu, the Ambassador at Large of International Human Rights Commission to African Region, the nine point agenda which include: security, religion, education, youth development, economic group amongst others, will pull the state from the brink to a very viable state. Shehu noted that from all available statistics, Sokoto State is ranked as the state with the highest poverty rate in Nigeria. He then urged the

governor to intensify efforts to eradicate this anomaly.

Amb. Shehu also called on prominent citizens of the state to join hands together with the governor in making sure that the nine-point agenda is realised and fully implemented.

Furthermore, he prayed that Almighty God grants the governor the strength and will to implement the agenda to the letter.

Responding, Governor Aliyu assured Amb Shehu that he is committed to reversing the negative indices that portrayed the state with highest poverty rate.

He also assured that his nine-point agenda would set the state among the most competitive in the country.

Oyo Enrolls 60% Of Target Residents In Basic Healthcare Scheme

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Executive Secretary of Oyo State Health Insurance Agency (OYSHIA), Dr. Sola Akande on Tuesday, hinted that the state has enrolled 60 per cent of its target residents in Basic Healthcare Scheme

Dr. Akande who dropped this hint said so far, about 22,018 persons have been enrolled into the scheme of the initially aimed at capturing 37,500 indigenes that include the aged, children (under five), physically challenged and pregnant women across the 33 local government areas.

According to him, "the agency is currently enrolling more lives, and that the reviewed figure now stands at 65,000 lives", adding, "this is part of the Oyo State Government, under Engr. Seyi Makinde's commitment to deliver on universal health care (UHC) services through the provision of a Basic Minimum Package of Health Services (BMPHS) and emergency medical treatment.

Assuring successful enrollees that they can access care without paying out-of-pocket through the ID card issued to them by the agency, he said, "the BHCPF primary objective is to help achieve Universal Health coverage and enhance access to primary health care services for Oyo state residents especially the poor and the vulnerable, women, children under five, and children in orphanages".

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Group Applauds Outgone CNS, Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Prayer and Support for the Nigerian Armed Forces and other Security Agencies (PSNAFSA), has applauded the outgone Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo for his tenacity at building a virile, forward looking and responsive naval force, capable of safeguarding the nation's maritime environment.

The group noted that the Nigerian Navy achieved several commendable milestones under Gambo's watch, in 29 months, ranging from recapitalization and strengthening collaborative efforts with national and international stakeholders.

In a statement made available to New Nigerian Newspapers, Convener of the group, Mary Abayomi Fatile listed the remarkable feats of the former CNS to include, the delivery of the brand new NNS LANA (new Hydrographic Survey Vessel) and NNS KADA, which is Nigeria's newest Warship; signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the Refit and Remodeling of Nigeria's Flagship, NNS ARADU, as well as placing an order for two high-endurance Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), currently being built by Dearsan Shipyard of Turkey.

"Under the watch of 57-year-old vibrant Gambo, the first Presidential Fleet Review (PFR) of the Nigerian Navy since 2010, was held in honour of former President Muhammadu Buhari, during which two new Ships and a new helicopter were inducted into service.

"He vigorously tackled oil theft through the launch of Operation Dakatar Da Barawo, considered as the biggest anti-oil theft military operation in the history of Nigeria, with the deployment of 40 warships, 200 gunboats, 5 helicopters among other assets.

"This operation recorded the seizure of 728,000 barrels of crude oil, 44.5 million liters of illegally-refined diesel, 2.46 million liters of kerosene,

amounting to more than 71 Billion in the first year he assumed office.

"In addition, the Falcon Eye Alignment, a state-of-the-art maritime surveillance and intelligence system, and one of the most sophisticated domain awareness systems in Africa was commissioned during his tenure.

"Infact, records showed that Nigeria recorded OPEC's biggest increase in oil production. In May 2023, Nigeria regained its position as Africa's leading oil producer. This was in addition to the feat of bringing down piracy levels in Nigeria's coastal waters to the lowest levels in 27 years, thus securing the delisting of Nigeria from the global list of piracy-prone countries", Fatile a media guru stated. She added that the Navy during Vice Admiral Gambo's tenure advanced its local content work, completed construction of the third Seaward Defence Boats (SDB-3) and commenced the simultaneous construction of SDBs 4 and 5.

"On Maritime survey, Gambo flagged off Charting and Survey of the Lower Rivers Niger and Benue; launched the first set of Indigenously-produced navigational charts of the Lower River Nigeria in the history of Nigeria, supported by AfreximBank; Flagged off the Pre-Dredging Hydrographic Survey of the proposed Sea Access Route from Oguta Lake in Imo State, through the Orashi River, to the Atlantic Ocean, a collaboration between the Imo State Government, the Nigerian Navy, and a consortium of technical partners and.

"On law enforcement, it is on record that he secured the first set of convictions under the Suppression of Piracy and Other Maritime Offences Act (SPOMO) assented to by former President Buhari in 2019. The Navy under his tenure made its largest-ever seizures of cocaine (45kg), aboard two rogue vessels and in 2022, it secured the interception, arrest and trial of the Super Tanker MT HEROIC IDUN, for attempting to illegally load Nigerian Crude from



Ex- CNS Vice Admiral Awwalu Gambo

the Akpo Oilfield.

"From the foregoing, it is obvious that the history of the Nigerian Navy cannot be completed without the tremendous developmental inputs of Gambo, in all facets of the Service: from Education, where he graduated the first set of students from the Nigerian Navy's Admiralty University of Nigeria, Delta State, to Humanitarian, where he deployed the Nigerian Navy Ships to coordinate humanitarian intervention across Niger Delta communities during the massive flooding disaster of 2022, as well as hosting Exercise GRAND AFRICAN NEMO 2021 and Exercise OBANGAME EXPRESS 2023, the largest multinational maritime exercises in the Gulf of Guinea, as part of foreign collaborations.

"In securing the Gulf of

Guinea, Vice Admiral Gambo took the lead on the ongoing efforts to establish a Gulf of Guinea (GoG) Naval Task Force, and hosted Meeting of the Heads of Navies and Coastguards of the Gulf of Guinea nations in Abuja in April 2023 and in Lagos in May 2023.

"Indeed, Vice Admiral Gambo has been able to explore and unwrap formidable factors that can guarantee a prepared naval fleet poised to ameliorate maritime insecurity for prosperity of the mainstay of the nation's economy, thereby leaving indelible marks on the sand of time in the Nigerian Navy.

"PSNAFSA therefore, wishes him well in his life's endeavor and also reminds that one with such transformational endowment should be utilized for the prosperity of Nigeria", the PSNAFSA Convener pointed out.

Kaduna Deputy Gov Harps On Importance Of Executive, Legislative Synergy

By ; F U N M I
ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe on Thursday, emphasized the importance of synergy between the executive and legislative arms in delivering democratic goods to the people of Kaduna State.

Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, stated this when she delivered a keynote address at the induction retreat organised for the newly elected members of the 10th Kaduna State House of Assembly.

The three-day retreat held at Reinz Continental Hotel, Abuja, seeks to familiarise the members with their roles and responsibilities as they commence their legislative duties.

She expressed optimism that the two arms will work collaboratively based on the principle of mutual respect as they serve the

people of the state. While assuring the 10th House of Assembly of the support of the executive arm, she pointed out that the Governor, Senator Uba Sani was a distinguished legislator who has switched to the executive branch of the government to serve the people of Kaduna State.

In a remark, the Speaker of the 10th House of Assembly, Right Honourable Yusuf Liman, commended the Deputy Governor for attending the retreat and expressed hope that the cooperation between the two arms of government will be sustained for the development and progress of Kaduna State.

The Speaker noted that this is the first time an executive member is attending a retreat of the house and described the gesture as a positive step towards deepening their collaboration.



Borno Govt To Intensify Security For Farmers Following Insurgents Killing Of 8

**To reestablish Agro Rangers*

By; SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri
 Following the brutal killing of eight farmers by suspected members of the Islamic State of West African Province (ISWAP) in Muna, Shuwari, Tamsu Ngamdu and Burum Kaywa communities in Mafa and Jere local government areas of Borno State few days ago precisely on Thursday, Governor Babagana Unara Zulum paid condolence visits to the villages to sympathize with the families of the victims and assured them that his government will intensify efforts to see that the remnants of the Boko

Haram insurgents are delt with. "We are going to have a meeting very soon, we are going consider deploying more troops to deal with the situation. We are also going to re-establish Agro rangers to include military personnel and other security agencies to give cover to our farmers. "Food insecurity is worse than the insecurity itself. So we will do everything possible to ensure that our people go to their farmlands. They have to be allowed to go to their farms by 6am and come back by 5pm. We are going to discuss with the

military to ensure that they are allowed to farm", Zulum said. One of the father of the victims, Baana Abur said, "I lost two of my sons in the incident. They went out to fetch us firewood but unfortunately only to hear that they were shot dead by Boko Haram insurgents at Siriri Kare village. "The insurgents tied their hands before shooting them on their heads and left one of them to go back home to report that the rest were shot dead", Abur said and started crying. Another farmer who lost his brother, Ibrahim Muna said, "They went out in the

morning to their farm, on their way back home they decided to fetch firewood at Siriri Kare village, where they were intercepted by Boko Haram insurgents around 1 pm on Thursday and they were shot dead by the boko haram insurgents but we could not find their corpses until 10 pm. "This rainy season, we have prepared to expand our farming activities, but unfortunately it seems the boko haram insurgents want to resurface again, after the relative peace we are enjoying" , Ibrahim said.



Global Peace Foundation Tasks Religious Leaders On Trauma Care, Social Cohesion, Nation Building

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Country Director, Global Peace Foundation Nigeria (GPFN), Reverend John Joseph Hayab, has called for the collaboration of religious leaders with the foundation towards enhancing the sustenance of peace in Nigeria.

He noted that religious leaders have a role to play in nation building, urging them to rise to the occasion and use their God-given platforms to provide care, preach social cohesion and contribute to peaceful coexistence in the country.

The Country Director spoke at the Catholic Resource Centre, Durumi Abuja, during a one-day conference on "Trauma Care, Social Cohesion and the Role of Religious Leaders as Agents of Nation Building", in commemoration of the 10th priestly anniversary of Fr Stephen Ojapah MSP, the Nigerian KAICIID Fellows collaborated with Global Peace Foundation Nigeria, Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace, the Interfaith Mediation Centre and O-Trauma Victims Initiative.

He felicitated with the priest and identified with all victims of the numerous traumatic experiences in the country, particularly in the hands of bandits, kidnapers and terrorists. Hayab lamented that people have lost touch of their common humanity and that it is only by embracing their common humanity that true and lasting peace can be found, stressing that it was the reason why Global Peace Foundation Nigeria started preaching that human beings are members of one family under God, irrespective of any differences.

Rev. Hayab stressed the need for interfaith to collaborate in the quest for social cohesion and nation building, calling on religious leaders to collectively confront and address the challenges being faced by the society by providing shelter for the traumatized people to lean on.

Hayab added, "Trauma and other security challenges faced by people in our societies are human experiences not religion, it

requires religious collaborations to tackle them. It is unfortunate that religion, ethnicity and other lines of divide have encroached into our humanity with detrimental effects, faithful of all religions should collaborate to ensure sanity in the society."

He called on religious leaders and CSOs to continue in their efforts of collaboration and building a network of peace builders in order to salvage the nation and urged that peace building engagements should go beyond town hall meetings to the grassroots and local communities to promote love, peace, tolerant, respect and civic responsibilities among rural dwellers.

In his remarks, Bishop Matthew Hasssan Kukah noted that virtually all Nigerians are traumatized considering that they live in a traumatized environment, saying that Nigerians are challenged with mental health at various stages and the need for a support system from both the government, CSOs and anyone who can provide it.

According to him, "the sense of community has been suspended; fundamental issues like trust have become scarce commodities largely because of what the society has become."

He called for the aggregate of interest of values for the state to resolve all contradictions, stressing that banditry is one of the most terrible things that has happened to the nation with priests being targeted by kidnapers in the country as the church is in solidarity with the nation in its battle with insurgency. He called on all victims to retain their state of sanity and put bitterness behind them.

Fr. Stephen Ojapah, a member of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) and a fellow with the King Abdulla bin Abdul-Aziz Centre for Cultural and Inter-religious Dialogue (KAICIID), thanked people for attending his 10th priestly anniversary and the unfortunate incident of his kidnap and the terrible experience of about 30 days with the dreaded bandits.

Education: Capacity Building For STEM Teachers Ends In Lagos

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

A 3-day capacity building for 60 newly employed STEM Teachers in Lagos State Education District VI has ended at the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) Pavilion, Alausa, Ikeja on Thursday.

The aim of the event was successfully achieved following giant strides recorded during the exercise.

Mrs. Adeola Akinsulure, Convener of the event lauded participants having stayed committed to the exercise throughout the 3 days.

"The Training has been an eye open to help teachers of District VI become more informed and better at what they do, as the students will be the major beneficiary" she added.

She expressed her gratitude to the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for the sponsorship via funding by the U.S. Government, administered by IREX.

Participants described the event as timely,

vowing to replicate the gesture while impacting lives.

They unanimously affirm that training gave an insight into how to access free educational resources online and leverage technology to stimulate students' interest and participation in STEM innovations and inventions.

Mrs. Akinsulure reiterated the relevance of education in national development which cannot be over emphasized.

Participants were urged to develop a Science Class Improvement Plan (SCIP) for their respective schools, bringing all their expertise to bear.

For group presentation, Team Chemistry came 1st, mathematics came 2nd and Physics came 3rd.

Reiterating her commitment towards this laudable achievement, Mrs. Adeola Akinsulure affirmed that there will be a launch of Professional community called the STEM COLLABORATORS which will be saddled

with the responsibility of creating mentorship, providing networking opportunities for all participants and free online Webinars to help improve their skill going forward.

Recommendations at the end of the program by participants included ;Teachers should equip themselves and be ready for the new world of STEM. The inclusion of indigenous language in STEM curriculum and translation for faster and quicker adoption.

STEM industries are continually growing and changing, so teachers of STEM subjects need to take a creative and adaptable approach to their teaching styles to get the most out of their students.

A stronger emphasis should be placed on applying scientific skills, learning technology, production skills, and design thinking.

Teachers should bridge the gap between the classroom and real life, which is what STEM stands for.

Schools should create educational programs or clubs for

underrepresented groups in STEM.

Management should connect Students with STEM mentors.

The government should endeavor to equip the various schools in our Education Districts with technological gadgets.

Science textbooks especially mathematics needs to be reviewed subsequently by authors in line with trending STEM innovatives.

Some Personalities at the event were Mr. Austin Oduloye, father of the convener, Mrs. Ayo Vaughan of the Learning & Development Unit of Education District VI.

Others were Engineer Jide and Engineer Dare Olayemi of Project + Potential, Mrs. Folake Kuti, Gender Advocate and Rights Activist, Comrade Gbagba of NUT Ikeja Zone and Mrs. Akande G.A, retired Principal among others.

As participants look forward to a robust exercise in the coming days, one can be sure that Schools in Lagos State will continue to produce future leaders whose names will grace the pages of history books.



Picture from the STEM training

Stakeholders Hold Community Consultation On Draft v3 UNESCO Guidelines In Kaduna

By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Stakeholders from different groups, communities, organizations and backgrounds on Friday, held a community consultation meet to galvanize inputs into the draft version 3 (v3) of UNESCO guidelines for regulating digital platforms. The stakeholders in their submission agreed that there's need for their inputs into the documents so they can claim ownership of it since it's meant to guide how they utilize the platforms. The meeting which was organized by Enhancing Community Action for and Better Health Initiative (e-CAPH), with support from Innovation for Policy, had over 60 participants in attendance.

Setting the stage for the consultations to begin, Executive Director of e-

CAPH, Yusha'u Abubakar, said a lot has been happening with governments enacting laws to regulate various sectors which are not entirely in the interest of the citizens and that it is important that UNESCO set guidelines for regulating digital platforms. He noted that it has become imperative for a standard to be put in place to regulate the growing digital space, hence the need for the community consultation.

Yusha'u, emphasized the need for local communities to make inputs into the guidelines to enable them take ownership of it.

He said the theme was "Safeguarding freedom of expression and access to information: guidelines for a multistakeholder approach in the context of regulating digital platforms".

In his presentation on data protection and the UNESCO guidelines, the facilitator,

Leslie Dongh, said the policy is not different from what the communities are not used, but that the difference was that guidelines are global standard for regulating digital platforms.

According to him, it is in the interest of the citizens to make a well articulated inputs into the document so their rights can be protected.

He noted that understanding the data protection policy and the digital platforms regulating guidelines is very important for every user.

Leslie, emphasized the need for content regulation which he said is in the overall interest of the citizens if their input are added.

He also emphasized on the right of Civil Society Organizations to play a critical role in understanding the nature of, and countering harmful content and behavior online, as well as monitoring and reporting on government

laws, policies, and regulatory actions that impact human rights.

According to him, the Media and fact-checking organizations also have a role in promoting the enjoyment of freedom of expression, the right to access information, and other human rights, while performing their watch-dog function.

In his closing remarks, the moderator of the session, Joshua James, thanks the participants for the kind of capacity they exhibited in attending to the questions and providing suitable answers and the way they conducted themselves throughout the period of the meeting.

He urged them not to relent in supporting policies and laws formulation since they are the representatives of their communities.

No Hiding Place For Criminal Elements, CDS General Musa Vows



Gen Musa

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Major General Christopher Musa, the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), has assured that there will be no hiding place for marauding bandits, terrorists and other adversaries disturbing the peace of Nigeria.

He also assured that Nigerian Military would go all out towards curbing all criminal elements in every nooks and crannies of the country.

Major General Musa, made the disclosure on Friday at the Defence Headquarters, Abuja, when he officially took over from Gen. Lucky Irabor (rtd) assured of the determination of the military to secure the country.

He stated that as the CDS, his promise to Nigerians is that they would continue to improve on their mandate of sustaining peace and tranquility in the country and assured every Nigerian to feel safe that the Armed Forces of Nigeria are up and doing, highly professional and are going to be there for them.

He reiterated, "Nobody should doubt our determination to bring peace to Nigeria. Anybody, especially the criminals, bandits, terrorists, anyone who thinks otherwise should be ready to face the music."

The CDS explained that the Nigerian armed forces would come out in full force while safeguarding the safety and security of the citizenry, that he assured you.

He pledged not to take the issues of welfare of the

frontline troops and entire personnel for granted, stressing that such would enable the military get the best from them.

He added that the issues of welfare have been addressed, but know they cannot be 100 per cent (perfect), pointing out that they would continue from where they stopped, by ensuring ensure their troops, men wherever they are, will never be left alone.

He added that they ensure they give them what they need, what they require and would take care of the issue of administration which is paramount, observing that a soldier that is well fed, well-taken care of will give his or her best, as they should not doubt they are here, ready and willing to do that.

Speaking earlier, the former CDS, Gen. Lucky Irabor, the former CDS, earlier urged Gen. Musa to ensure the value and professional standards of the military is retained.

He said he was handing over to an officer who is tested and by all standard a model for the armed forces and appreciated the president for finding Major General Musa very suitable to take over the reins of the armed forces.

He urged the Nigerian Military to redouble their efforts so that the cherished values and professional standard be maintained, stressing that quite a lot has been achieved, looking at the mood of the armed forces that will help them and their team of service chiefs to ensure that the professional standard of the armed forces is retained.



FRSC Deploys Over 1,800 Officers/ Marshals, Vehicles For Eid El Kabir Celebration In Oyo State

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

With few days to this year's Eid El Kabir celebration, the Oyo State Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps, (FRSC) has deployed over 1,800 Officers/Marshals and Special Marshals for the celebration.

The Oyo State FRSC Sector Commander, Corps Commander, Joshua Oluwafemi Adekanye disclosed this on Friday in a statement made available to journalists in Ibadan.

He stressed that the Command has also deployed 22 operational vehicles, 2 state of the art ambulance, a heavy duty tow-truck and motor bikes for safe travel during this period spanning from Monday 26 June to 1 July, 2023.

Corps Commander Adekanye noted that adequate personnel and logistics has been deployed to sustain the Corps visibility on major roads in the State to ensure free flow of traffic, reduction in Road Traffic Crashes, injuries and fatalities.

According to him, the Oyo state FRSC Command will be organizing a mega rally at the Old - Toll gate Ibadan to sensitize the members of the Park Management System (PMS) on safe drive during and after the festive period, while the Command has perfected plan to collaborate with other sister security agencies in ensuring the safety of lives and properties on roads across the state as well as at Eid praying ground.

Corps Commander Adekanye while

maintaining that Road Safety is a shared responsibility, lauded the Oyo state government for the various measures taken to ensure that construction companies handling various road projects come up with palliatives on our roads to ensure free flow of traffic

While warning that FRSC personnel will apprehend trucks/ vehicles in the habit of carrying passengers and goods together, as well as those without valid drivers licence, overloading, non-functional wipers, non-use of seat belt and driving against traffic, noted that those whose vehicles are not maintained to do so especially now that the rainy season has set in and admonished them to check their tyres, lightening system, windscreen and wipers before embarking on any journey.

Court Remands 9 Ex Oyo State PMS Chairman, Auxiliary Allies In Prison Over Alleged Robbery, Attempted Murder

**Adjourns case to July 26*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

An Oyo State Magistrate court, sitting in Iyaganku, Ibadan on Friday, remanded nine allies of the former Chairman of Oyo State Park Management System (PMS), Mukaila Lamidi Auxiliary for alleged conspiracy, armed robbery, attempted murder and unlawful possession of firearms.

The nine suspects were arraigned by the Police on a 16-count charge before the Iyaganku Magistrate Court. According to the Police, the arraigned suspects are, Olaniyi Abiodun, Kamoru Yusuf, Odunayo Ismaila, Kolawole Joshua, Oladosu Kunle, Fatai Abidemi, Oluwoke Akanbi, Sarafadeen Adewale, and Tirimisiyu Odunayo

The charge sheets read in part, "That you, (suspects) and others now at large on 29th May 2023 at about 2:00 pm at Governor Seyi Makinde's residence, Ikolaba area, Ibadan in the Magistrate Court District did conspire together to commit felony to wit armed robbery and, thereby committed an offense contrary to and punishable under section 6 (B) of the robbery and firearms (Special Provision) Act Cap R 11 Vol 14 Laws of the Federal Republic of

Nigeria 2004."

They all pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Defense counsel, Barr J. D. Olaniyan during the arraignment of the suspects argued that the Magistrate Court lacks jurisdiction to hear the case considering the charges leveled against them. Barrister Olaniyan prayed the Court to remand the suspects at Agodi Correctional Centre, pending the time that the case would be assigned to a competent court of law for hearing.

"This Court lacks jurisdiction to entertain the case with the nature of the charges which ranges from attempted murder to armed robbery. I, therefore, pray the Court to remand them at Agodi Correctional Centre for accessibility and convenience", he said.

Barrister Olaniyan added, "This will make it easier to their counsels to prepare their defense as well bail application."

Magistrate, S.H. Adebisi in his ruling said the Court lacks jurisdiction to hear the case as the charges ranges from conspiracy, and armed robbery to attempted murder which is a capital offense. Magistrate Adebisi then ordered that the nine suspects be remanded in prison and subsequently adjourned the case till July 26, 2023.

10th Senate: Tinubu's Administration Will Be Partners In Progress For Benefit Of Nigerians - Senate President

**Says NASS 'll support change in policies inhibiting progress*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio has disclosed that the 10th Senate and the President Bola Tinubu led administration would be partners in progress for the sole benefit of Nigerians.

Senator Akpabio stated this on Saturday, while speaking at the Thanksgiving Service in his honour at the Regina Pacis Auditorium, St Anne Cathedral

Ifuho, Ikot Ekpene in Akwa Ibom State.

According to the Senate President, in ensuring this, the National Assembly would partner with the President Tinubu-led administration to change policies inhibiting the progress and development of Nigeria

"The current National Assembly will rally round and support the programmes of the current administration by eliminating all inhibiting policies affecting the progress and development of the country. We would be partners in progress for the sole benefit of Nigerians", he said.

Senator Akpabio who arrived the Victor Attah International Airport to a rousing welcome by indigenes of the state across party lines and led by the state governor, Pastor Umoh Eno, assured the people of his District of quality representation as their Senator and President of the Senate.

"I thank you all for coming out to celebrate God's goodness in my life and that of my family. I thank you for the support during the campaigns and election proper. To those

who didn't vote for me, I will represent you well. Continue to pray for me and my colleagues as we daily navigate and steer the ship of the National Assembly for the betterment of all Nigerians".

He stressed further, "I am humbled by this show of love. Humility is all that matters in life. You will see the difference. What I want you to take back home is the fact that Nigerians have elected an uncommon Senate President. We will run an uncommon Senate for the benefit of the uncommon people. That is why I am here today to thank God for what he has done for me,"

The Senate President then thanked the National Working Committee (NWC) of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and his colleagues in the Senate for standing by and supporting him when he contested for the office of the President of the 10th Senate.

Earlier in his homily, Most Rev Camillus Umoh, charged the 10th Senate to work for Nigerians and right the wrongs of the past to show that they are different through legislations, saying, "we pray for collaboration and

unity from your colleagues in both Senate and House of Representatives to make laws that would be just and for the good of Nigerians".

"Our prayer is that at the end of your tenure Nigerians would be able to say that a man from Annangland landed in Abuja and left with the imprint of Annangland and that you brought to bear the catholic character of justice and fairness", he said.

Most Reverend Umoh added, "That from Ikot Ekpene Diocese, came a Senator and President of the Senate. Let it be said that the kind heartedness of this place would also influence your character. Unite this country with legislations that are not selective and discriminatory".

"As you continue to guide the activities of the NASS, make it that after your tenure, people would be saying when Akpabio was here, this wouldn't have happened. Destroy things that would scarter this country. Go ahead and do things that you know how to do best; the uncommon transformation of Nigeria. This is the little Nazareth from where you rose. Let it be said that one good thing can come out

of Nazareth," he stressed. Former Governor of Ebonyi State, Senator Dave Umahi in his brief remarks thanked President Tinubu for his support for the ambition of Senator Akpabio as the President of the 10th Senate, saying, "we are all grateful to President Tinubu whom God used to spot this uncommon transformer. We thank him. The president, his vice and our Senate President and his family need your prayers to succeed."

Senator Umahi also thanked the people of Akwa Ibom North West Senatorial District for producing a Senator like Akpabio for Nigerians as its Senate President, saying, "to those who thought they betrayed him. God is God. Our challenges lead to us giving God all the glory, as we are doing today. Akpabio is succeeding because of his spirit of forgiveness".

The service was rounded off by the Senate President conducting the mass choir of the church while rendering the Hallelujah Chorus to the admiration of all present, after reading the first Bible reading from the Book of Psalm 49 I-6.



Senator Godswill Akpabio at the Church Service

Sallah: Local Markets Offer Lower Prices Of Livestock

**Traders decry lack of patronage*

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Price of livestock and other animals are affordable to buyers at Kano local markets, where the dealers decried lack of patronage due to the present global economic situation.

Our correspondent who visited some local markets reports that there are adequate animals from small to bigger ones, but lack of adequate money remains a great issue to buyers.

At Badume Market in Bichi Local Government Area, prices of rams, goats, sheep and other small animals were very affordable, where an average ram costs from N30,000 to N120,000, while a he goat costs from N10,000 to N30,000, while she goats and sheep range between N20,000 to N40,000 according to the size and health status of each

animal.

At Dambatta Cattle Market, our correspondent gathered that a healthy calf costs from N50,000 to N200,000 while an average cattle was sold at N10,000 to N300,000 where large bulls cost between 300,000 to N600,000 depending on its size.

Similarly, birds like hens, cocks turkeys and fowls were sold between N1,000 to N4,000, while ducks and turkeys were being sold from N5,000 to N7000 depending on their sizes.

At Kofar Na'isa where they sell camels, the price differed from other livestock because of their size and meat quantity. Most of the dealers expressed that although there is no money at hand, people have tried their best in buying some animals for Eid-el Kabir festivity, which is an annual event that needs special organisation.

Nigerian Army Honours General Yahaya In Grand Style As He Bows Out Of Active Service

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In line with the military tradition of honouring retiring senior officers of the rank of General, the Nigerian Army (NA) today 24 June 2023 organized a colourful Pulling Out parade in honour of the former Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Lt Gen Faruk Yahaya (rtd) at the Army Headquarters Garrison Parade Ground, Mogadishu Military Cantonment, Abuja.

According to a statement signed by the Director Army Public Relations, Brigadier General Onyema Nwachukwu, dated June 24, 2023, in his valedictory speech, Lieutenant General Faruk Yahaya who was the Special Guest of Honour and Reviewing Officer of the Pulling Out Parade, expressed gratitude to God for a meritorious career that culminated in his command of the Nigerian Army (NA).

Reminiscing on his career in the NA, Gen Yahaya described his military sojourn as eventful with very tasking experiences. He also expressed appreciation to members of his family and colleagues for their support and steadfastness throughout his career.

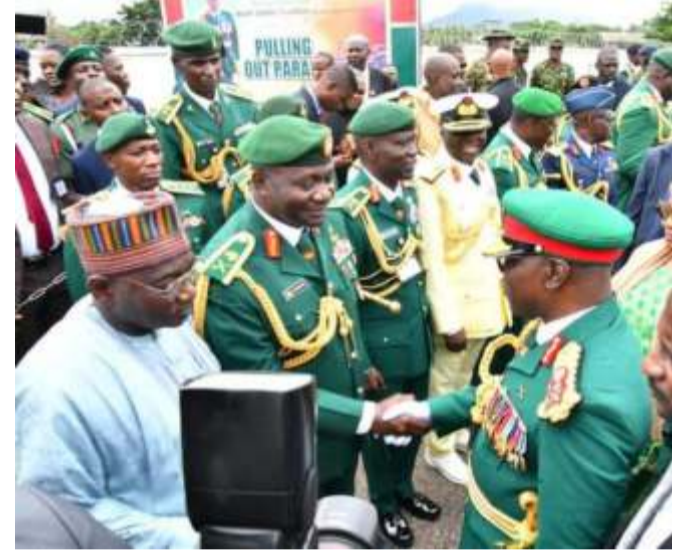
Gen Yahaya remembered departed colleagues, who paid the supreme sacrifice in various theatres of operation across the country, adding, that the NA has made huge sacrifices in defending and ensuring lasting peace in the country.

He affirmed that through exploits of the NA, the adversaries are in disarray in all fronts. He noted that upscaled anti-illegal oil bunkering operations being conducted by troops in South-South Nigeria has continued to yield positive results with attendant increments in oil production, which has returned the country to the top of the list of oil producing countries in Africa.

He charged personnel not to relent, but rather redouble their support to the new COAS to ensure successful execution of the constitutional responsibilities of the NA.

He appreciated his predecessors for their dedication and service to the NA, which he noted, significantly addressed security challenges during their tenures, stressing that they provided good platforms for others to build upon and significantly resulted in denying terrorists and insurgents freedom of action, as well as restoration of peace and confidence to the affected communities.

The event was graced by the Chief of Defence Staff, Major General Christopher Musa, the Chief of Army Staff, Major General Taoreed Lagbaja, Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Ikechukwu Ogalla, former service chiefs, members of the National Assembly, captains of industry, among several other dignitaries.



Gov Makinde Kick Starting Omituntun 2.0 In Top Speed - Oyo PDP

***Lauds first batch of commissioner designate**

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Saturday, commended Governor Seyi Makinde for kick-starting Omituntun 2.0 in top speed by transmitting first batch list of Commissioner-designate to the state Assembly.

PDP in a statement by its Oyo State Publicity Secretary, Engr Akeem Olatunji, described Gov Makinde as the game changer of Oyo's contemporary political landscape.

According to Oyo State PDP, while other states are still trying to settle down in office, Governor Makinde has already started out the race to actualizing sustainable development agenda on high note without delay.

"The PDP in Oyo State was not surprised by the speed on which Omituntun 2.0 started out because the man behind the wheel is not only the engineer of modern Oyo state but also the game changer of our political landscape", it said.

Oyo PDP added, "It is therefore, noteworthy to specially commend GSM like we fondly call His Excellency, Governor Seyi Makinde, over his speedy nomination of Commissioner-designates and transmitted same to the legislature for necessary scrutiny and approval".

"It is important to note that while other states were yet

settling down for governance, Oyo state under the leadership of GSM is already in high speed as evident in the recent road project flag off in Lagelu and commissioning in Ona-Ara".

The party stressed, "As the ruling party in the state, we have no tiniest atom of doubt that Omituntun 2.0 sustainable development agenda will be more successful than the first term and we urged all at both government and party levels to give one hundred percent of everything to make the vision of GSM for this second term becomes a monumental success."

Congratulating the seven Commissioner-designates for making the governor's list of cabinet members in waiting, PDP stressed that track records of the nominees in terms of competence and abilities guaranteed them spots on the seven man list.

The party emphasized the need for both returning and new cabinet members in waiting to see their nominations as opportunity to write history that would be told to generations to come. Oyo PDP then commended the Honourable Adebayo Ogundoyin led state Assembly for speedy consideration of the governor's request while reaffirming the party's support for the 10th Assembly.

Man Stabs 35 Year Old Who Caught Him Stealing To Death In Zaria

BY SANIALIYU, Zaria

A 35 years old man, Hashimu Surajo, a father of three of Kamfanin Saye in Zaria Local Government Area of Kaduna State has been stabbed to death by one Yusuf Yahaya Magaji of the same community.

The incident occurred on Wednesday at about 8.30pm when Yusuf Yahaya Magaji met the deceased at his residence and stabbed him twice in his stomach.

The suspect was said to have developed hatred for the deceased because he caught him three times when he stole his animal feeds and he was asked to return them through the intervention of their Mai Anguwa.

Yusuf the suspect, did not stop there, but went ahead to the cassava farm of the late Hashimu situated at his backyard with intention to steal and his wife saw him and alerted the community.

As luck was not on his side, he openly promised to eliminate Hashimu and his wife.

In order to accomplish his evil mission, the suspect Yusuf Yahaya Magaji went to late Hashimu's house around 8.30pm on Wednesday and accomplished his devilish mission by stabbing him twice and left him lying in pool of blood.

Luck ran out of him as members of the vigilantes chased him and arrested him.

When they brought him



Remains of the victim

back to the community, he confessed what he did and they handed him over to the Saye Divisional Police headquarters.

Despite efforts to save the life of Hashimu at the hospital by the family, it was too late as he gave up on Thursday night and was buried according to Islamic rites on Friday at about 9.30am.

At the time of filling this

report, the suspect is still in Police custody at Saye Divisional Police headquarters.

Our correspondent who visited the family house of the deceased, saw hundreds of sympathizers and mourners gathered to register their condolences. Some members of the community called on the security agencies to come to their rescue as they are under threat by some drug

addicted youth in the area. The communities attributed the incident to drug abuse by some youth, who always vow to kill persons they have disagreements with.

All efforts to hear from the PPRO Kaduna State Command failed as he didn't pick up several calls to his mobile phone for confirmations of the occurrence of the incident.

Make Improved Livelihood For Nigerians Top Priority, NNPP Chieftain Tasks Tinubu

■ Asks FG to accede to N200,000 minimum wage by the Labour unions

economic realities with about 120 million of citizens living in poverty.

He stressed that instead of increasing the salaries of elected political office-holders, Nigerian leaders should rather sacrifice and focus on cutting cost of governance but focusing more on how

to lift Nigerians out of poverty by acceding to the demand of workers on the increment of minimum wage.

This gesture he pointed out, should be commensurate with current economic development, particularly with the removal of petroleum subsidy, which has made market prices

went up astronomically.

"I want to use this opportunity to appeal to our President, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and 36 state governors to make the welfare of workers and ordinary citizens, a priority by acceding to the 200 thousand naira minimum wage rather than increasing their

own pay", he said.

The NNPP Chieftain added, "there is need for President Tinubu and governors to do some calculations and soul searching on the minimum wage to reflect the current realities in the country, by strengthening the take home of workers at the end of every month to meet the current market prices

of foodstuff and other essential utilities.

"All elected leaders should seize the opportunity of being elected among millions of citizens in the country to make a difference in the lives of people, by creating enabling environment for Nigerians irrespective of their income to meet their comfortability".



Ajadi

Sapele Technical College And Imperatives Of Funding Education In Delta State

By; JEROME-MARIO CHIJOKE UTOMI

If there is any reason as to why Elder Sheriff Oborevori-led Delta State Government must pay disciplined attention to funding education in the state, it is the recent news report that the senator representing Delta Central Senatorial District of Delta State, Chief Ede Dafinone, recently, paid an unscheduled visit to Sapele Technical College, the second oldest technical college in Nigeria, where he bemoaned the present state of dilapidation of the institution.

The development apart from vindicating well meaning deltans that persistently advocate for proper funding of education in line with UNESCO budgetary requirement, also painful is the lawmaker's description as worrisome the current state of disrepair of the college, noting that Sapele Technical College, aside being the second oldest technical college after Yaba Technical College in Nigeria, is the first technical school in Delta, and it is owned by the state government but has been without power for the past two years, while its workshops for practical is in complete disrepair.

Regrettably, instead of tackling the kernel of issue elicited by the senator, i have in the past few hours of the publication watched pro-state government commentators underline that the Senator, is a member of the opposition party, The All Progressive Congress (APC), and therefore, his judgments were more political than factual, adding that the school is not as bad as was painted. I have also seen others argue that this is not the time to hold our state governor accountable for such an ugly scenario as he is new and just settling down. To others, the only remedy for this problem is simply to encourage parents to accept fate as across the world, education is neither easy nor cheap to fund.

Without a doubt, the immediate past administration in the state has done appreciably well for the sector. Take, as an illustration, Delta state under Governor Okowa's first term in office witnessed the renovation/reconstruction/const ruction of over 5,000 classrooms. He also incubated, nurtured and brought into existence three universities to cater for the academic yearnings

of the people of the state. Evidence also abounds that as a result of the work of the Technical and Vocational Education Board in conjunction with the supervising Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education in the state, six technical colleges in Agbor, Sapele, Ofagbe, Utagba-Ogbe, Ogor and Issele-Uku have been fully rehabilitated, well equipped and fully functional. Consequently, Delta is the first State in the country to have all of the courses offered by its technical colleges accredited by the National Board for Technical Education.

However, even though my previous opinion articles, commentaries and interventions favored or supported policies and decisions of the Delta State government,(past and present), the truth is that the current state leadership is bound to face confusion in their minds if the present reality at Sepele and other schools is allowed unaddressed.

Why the state governor needs ample courage to tackle the present challenge created by poor funding of education in the state is that while the Sapele case exists in the open, many others may in a covert/subtle manner be in that condition. If the Sapele experience is a challenge, others may be a crisis.

Take as an illustration, a few months ago, the pictures of the sorry state of Oyoko Primary School, Abavo, Ika South Local Government Area of the state went viral.

The disturbing pictures showed visibly distressed structures, dilapidated classrooms laced with fallen ceilings, windows and doors. Going by the pictures and accompanying commentaries, it cannot be characterized as an overstatement to describe such a 'scene' as deplorable, dehumanizing, troubling, in bad light, bracingly in contravention of international best standard and most importantly, a reality that all well meaning Deltans including our dear governor should worry about.

Similar to the Sapele description by the Senator, the Oyoko disturbing pictures also showed visibly distressed structures and dilapidated classrooms laced with fallen ceilings, windows and doors. Going by the pictures and accompanying commentaries, it cannot be characterized as an overstatement to describe such a



Gov Oborevori

'scene' as deplorable, dehumanizing, troubling, in a bad light, bracingly in contravention of international best standards and, most importantly, a reality that all well-meaning Deltans, including our dear governor, should worry about.

More touchingly, that such a 'learning environment' still exists in the state could be considered a sure sign that the state did not learn any lesson from the ghastly experience recorded a few years ago at Okotie Eboh Primary school, Sapele area of the state or may have allowed such experience go with political winds.

Surely, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that our schools work and our children are properly educated at the right time. But in this particular case, if the state fails to do the needful, it will again dispatch another sign of a government unmindful of the fact that our children should enjoy the right to education as recognized by a

number of international conventions. Most importantly, not taking action to address the situation will simply mean our youths/nation by extension is faced with a bleak future.

To change the narrative,the state government must openly admit that there are large number of youths in the state that are knowledge/education hungry and daily project vividly and openly their potential, character, behavior, performance skills and talents that need to be nurtured in a conducive environment and fairest fees. And achieving this objective of giving them proper education will among other demands require the state government's sincere recognition of the right to education as a human right, and practically uphold Nigeria's membership of a number of international conventions, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights where the right is respected.

In a similar vein, the state should

make an effort to increase state budgetary allocation for education as education is the bedrock of development. That 'with sound educational institutions, society is as good as made –as the institutions will turn out all rounded manpower to continue with the development of the society driven by well thought out ideas, policies, programmes, and projects.

The State Governor urgently needs to find a new approach to demonstrate that he truly loves education, especially as any developmental plan in the state without youth education delivered in a well-structured learning environment and fair fees will amount to a mere waste of time and effort. Taking such action will in the opinion of this piece offer him an edge over others in the leadership corridor. This is the way to go.

Jerome-Mario is the programme coordinator (Media and Public Policy), Social and Economic Justice Advocacy (SEJA).Lagos. He could be reached via jeromeitomi@yahoo.com or 08032725374.

Re: Mohammed Dauda Unmasking The Face Behind Frivolous NIA Petitions: My Right Of Reply

By; Amb. MOHAMMED DAUDA

Let me start by stating that I am a patriotic Nigerian, who, as a loyal and dedicated officer of the National Intelligence Agency, NIA, has never done and will never do anything detrimental to National Security and Integrity of Nigeria. I must confess that, Nigeria: my dear country has done so much for me, for which I have also put in my best, in service throughout my career in the Public service. I have no grudge whatsoever against the NIA or the Government as institutions. I owe alot to my country.

In the last four years or there about, since I left the service of the NIA: albeit unceremoniously, I have been under tremendous pressure from friends and well-wishers, to counter the propaganda being orchestrated by media hirelings of the leadership of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), against me. But, knowing that, they were mere attempts to cover up the crass ineptitude, nepotism, impunity, tyranny and administrative rascality and impunity, that is taking place at the nation's apex Intelligence agency, I often did not find it necessary to respond to some of the vile allegations.

Although it is an open secret that, the NIA has been suffering bad press, following my removal as the Ag. Director General and my subsequent purported dismissal from the NIA, I find it rather strange, that I am being painted as the culprit behind the negative media, to the extent that I have been branded a saboteur of National Security, for choosing to remain silent in the face of all the vilifications. An issue that the FCA, have cleared me thoroughly.

It is a universal truism, that, when lies are repeatedly told and allowed to fester for too long, without any form of exposure, challenge or contradiction, some gullible minds are bound to begin seeing and believing such lies, as being the truth. It is in the face of this fact, and the continuous recirculation of these falsehood, that I have chosen to reluctantly respond to some of the fallacies being repeatedly circulated in the media, to the effect that, I have been the masked face behind petitions, or write-ups that pose security risks. Sometimes silence is not golden, especially when it is about protecting ones integrity and countering falsehood.

I take particular exception to one of such unprofessionally scripted piece, entitled: "MOHAMMED DAUDA: UNMASKING THE FACE BEHIND FRIVOLOUS NIA PETITIONS", co-authored by one Ismaila Iliyasu and Ekenna Ellis Ezenekwe. Both characters in the said piece do appear to be hack writers. In the said write up, the authors claimed to have undertaken a painstakingly discreet investigation, and interviewed people who are knowledgeable and authoritative on the subject matter, even as they further claimed to have laid their hands on UNIMPEACHABLE documents.

As a professional; with a verifiable record of tremendous outing, and as a former boss at the NIA, I must confess that I was least impressed, with what I read, as being the accounts of what the writers claimed they discovered. As a matter of fact, that piece was the shabbiest piece of investigation I have ever seen: may be, next to the doctored findings of the so-called investigative panel that sat and recommended for my dismissal. If they are indeed NIA Staff and that is the kind of intelligence they give this country to use in policy planning and direction, then we are in serious problem.

It should be embarrassing to whoever wrote the script and gave them to adopt as their finding, that even records of events which are public knowledge, could not be accurately reflected, especially the claim that, I was appointed as Nigeria's Ambassador to Chad by President Muhammadu Buhari. Apparently trying to garnish their seeming ignorance, they wrote, "a crucial post in view of our two countries' close cooperation in the fight against insurgency, he gladly accepted the appointment, even though there were other, more worthy people that President Buhari could have appointed".

As far as I know, being the appointee in question, and as far as the records show, I was appointed Nigeria's Ambassador to Chad by former Pres. Goodluck Jonathan in May, 2014. Pres. Buhari could not have appointed me in May 2014, one year before he became the President of Nigeria. At the time of my appointment, I was the DI, Regions at the NIA headquarters: effectively the third in rank, after the then DG, Amb. EO Oladeji and Amb. Ayo Oke. Each time the two were out of town, I had been the one in charge of all operations at the NIA headquarters. There was no other person above me. I will be correct to therefore say, that, nothing could have been further from the truth, in trying to say there were others more worthy of being appointed.

I wish to place it on record that, I had protested the earlier appointment of a female Ambassador, who was lower than me in rank to a neighboring French speaking country before me. I was only pacified with the explanation that, the lady, who had failed her Deputy Directorship exams, once, at the time, was

appointed on the insistence of her lover, a former NSA, as a consolation prize, after he failed to get Presidential approval to appoint her as the DG, or even one of the two DDG's. I also did not understand their concept of worthiness, but it could not have been worse than that of someone who left the NIA as a relatively junior officer, under controversial and shady circumstances, having failed promotion examinations three times consecutively. The same exams that I passed at the first sitting. How this "more worthy" guy rebound, dubiously, through the back door, as Head of the Agency, is still inexplicable. May be this abracadabra, or 'government magic' according to late Fela will be unraveled someday.

The two so-called investigators also claimed to have found out that I emptied the vaults of the NIA, by moving \$44 million to another location, without due authorization and before proper audit of our accounts, immediately I was sacked. I recall that, in exhibiting their crass ignorance of the workings of the NIA and the circumstances surrounding that action, a particular analyst, apparently also a hireling of the NIA leadership, had even tried comparing the movement of that money, to a situation in the Central Bank of Nigeria, where the Governor moves money out of the CBN after his or her sack.

As I earlier explained in one of my responses to the National Assembly's inquiries on the \$44million, I wish to restate that I moved the money to the office of the National Security Adviser, for three reasons, for safe keep, after Gen Jaafaru, who was sent purposely to NIA, to safe guard the controversial money(which was not actually part of our budgetary allocation), was suddenly withdrawn back to ONSA, and also to create a witness out of it, being the supervisory Office of all Security Agencies, under the law. I knew that to be a big risk, but given the circumstances I found myself in, where highly placed individuals: including those who eventually determined my fate, showed unreserved interest in siphoning the money: by asking me to make available parts of it for their personal uses, I felt a compelling urge to save public funds, by taking it away from the reach of these people (even if temporarily), who were to take charge of the agency following my exit.

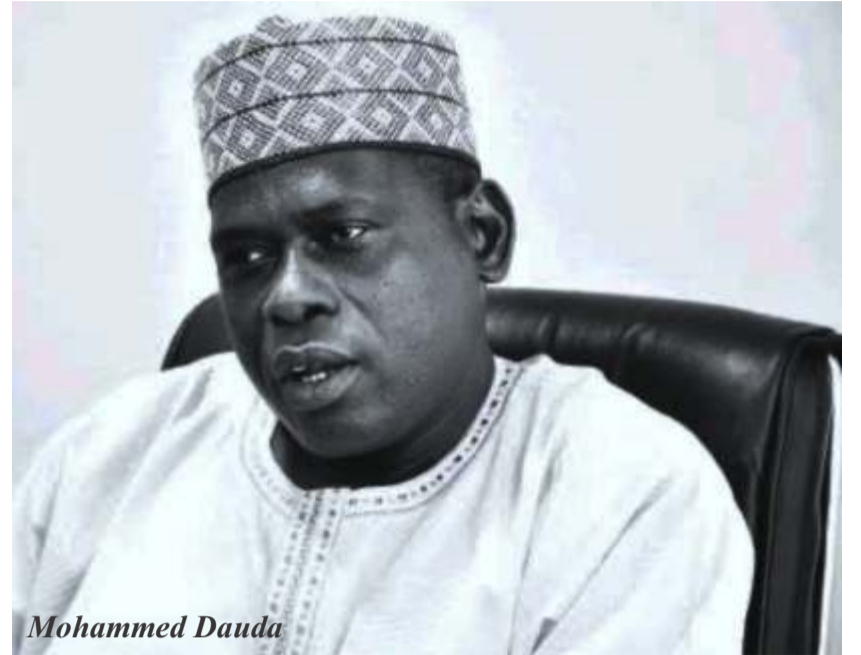
It also seems that, the authors of that so-called investigative findings, were not conversant with the story of how the matter got to the National Assembly, and possibly through the National Assembly into the public domain. Let me state, that, I did not go to the National Assembly on my own volition, neither did I write a petition as they claimed, rather, I was invited(subpoenaed), by a committee of the House on National Security and Intelligence via an invitation letter Ref. No. NASS/HR/8/CT.80/IV/325, of 18th of January, 2018.

Signed by a member of the Committee, Hon. Usman Danjuma Shiddi, the invitation, under the heading "NEED TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGED CARTING AWAY OF \$44 MILLION FROM NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (NIA), I was directed to unfailingly appear before the committee, with all relevant documents relating to the issue, on 29th January, 2018 at 1pm.

Let me state for the avoidance of doubt, that, there had been serious pressures mounted on me not to appear before the committee, by people I had mentioned in my earlier report, before another investigative agency, about the \$44 million in question. I even received several threats, but I eventually honored the invitation and made my presentation on oath, before the committee, after which, i was asked to submit 17 copies of my presentation to the Committee. Whatever became of the report I made, was never known to me. It is therefore very unfair and most uncharitable to accuse me of leaking my presentation(which they called petition), to the media or to the public: whichever was the case.

Permit me to place it on record that, I did not write any petition to the National Assembly. I did not leak the contents of my presentation before the Committee to the press or the public, neither did I ever release documents or postings. As a matter of fact, I do not have access to any NIA documents, since my removal in 2018, and I could not have leaked what I did not have. I have been subjected to all sorts of media trials, ostensibly sponsored by the NIA leadership, through sponsored articles and reports: thereby subjecting me to further psychological tortures. The facts about what was happening in the NIA was deliberately shielded from the Government, making its decisions prejudiced against me, just as some public perception has been poisoned against me.

In seeming further display of their ignorance, or out of sheer mischief, the sponsored authors opined that, I acted for only one



Mohammed Dauda

month as Ag. Director General of the NIA. I was there for 54 eventful days from 7th November, 2017 to the date I effectively handed over. But even if I had acted for only one day, no one said, I was removed for incompetence, corruption or ineptitude, or that the person that they were in a hurry to bring, as my replacement, was better or more qualified than me. The records of what I did in the agency and their impact on the Agency and its Staffers is a story for another day.

Iliyasu et al also wrote that my appointment was not backed by any formal correspondence in the form of a letter from the Presidency. That is a fact. But just like all my predecessors, appointments of DGs have been seamless, for almost 36 years of the existence of the Agency, at that time. The most senior person automatically steps in. A letter of confirmation usually follow later. It is therefore not an anathema, that I was directed to assume leadership via electronic or verbal message, like others before me. I recalled the same situation with Amb. Uche Okeke, who later served for eight years as DG, I was one of those who conveyed a similar verbal message to him, while he was the Ambassador in Romania, to come down and take charge, following the retirement of his predecessor, Amb. Preware. In the almost 40 years of the existence of the NIA, it was the first time that " the goal post was shifted in the middle of a game". Just to accommodate an imposter, whose only qualifications is being the President's Brother.

No one brings a disgraced failure, through the back door to head the NIA. It is the first time that someone who was never a Director or an Ambassador, was brought out of forced retirement to lord it over bona fide Directors and Staff of the NIA. May be it is the same game plan that they were preparing for the FORMER RECHARGE CARD seller.

They accused me of shunning the disciplinary committee set up by the present DG to probe me. As an intelligence officer, who has vast contacts within and without the NIA, I was aware that the said disciplinary committee now legally declared illegal, by all the Courts, had a preconceived mission, which was to recommend for my dismissal and to rubbish my career. Looking at the assemblage of the distressed hatchet men coopted to be on the committee (including a convicted self confessed criminal, who stole and refunded more than N500m from Falcon Eye Project, at the ONSA), coupled with the fact that it negated laid down rules as contained in the NIA establishment Act(CAPS 278), 1986, I decided not to glorify their findings by giving it a semblance of legitimacy and fairness, by attending.

The coinage, Special Management Staff Disciplinary Committee(SMSDC), was not only strange to our procedures at the NIA, but a negation of the law, just as the assemblage of its members completely fell out of the provisions of the National Securities Act (CAPS 278), 1986: which governs such matters. The Act does not give any retired Directors any role in pure administrative schedules at the NIA, to wit recruitment, vetting or discipline, neither does the NSC Act, obliges the agency to continue footing bills for medical checkups, children's' school fees, family burials and many others, of officers long after their disengagement, as is presently being done, in addition to hundreds of thousands of Dollars, being shared to Traditional Rulers and family and friends all over the Country, all in the futile efforts of the DG to legitimize, what is illegitimate and Lauder his badly soiled corruption ridden image.

I will draw my conclusions on this matter by referring to the judgment of the Hon. Judge of the National Industrial Court,

Continued on Page 22

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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Healing Nigeria in The Spirit Of Adha

By: HASSAN GIMBA

This was first published on July 26, 2021 after the Eid-el-Kabir of that year. I find it still relevant and important, with a little tinkering in dates to come now. Next week, Muslims the world over will celebrate the eid-ul-adha or the “big eid” or “big Sallah”. We are, however, more interested in its meaning, implications and bearing on us as a nation. We need to look at spiritual milestones, hoping to find the seemingly elusive panacea for our ills.

Eid means feast, festival or celebration, while adha loosely means “sacrifice” (animal sacrifice), “offering” or “oblation”. It so got its name because it commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's (AS) devotion to Allah (SWT) and his readiness to sacrifice Ismail, his son, for His love.

The Qur'anic story has it that Ibrahim (AS) experienced a dream in which God ordered him to sacrifice his beloved son, Ismail (AS). At first, he was skeptical, and believed it was the trickery of the cursed devil. After experiencing the dream the following night, he then understood that it was a message and a command from Allah (SWT). Without hesitation, he prepared his son for the sacrifice. Ibrahim (AS) loved his son dearly, yet this was no obstruction to honouring his duty as instructed by Allah (SWT) and thus proving his full submission to Allah (SWT).

Ibrahim (AS) took his son to the top of Mount Arafat, and in his hands, he had a knife and a rope. Upon arrival, he mentioned the dream to his son Ismail (AS) and made him aware that Allah (SWT) has decreed for him to be a sacrifice and, in obedience, his son Ismail (AS) accepted what God commanded of him. Ismail (AS) asked that his hands and legs be tied to avoid struggling during the sacrifice and that his father should blindfold himself to avoid witnessing his suffering. Ismail was aware of his father's love towards him and knew that this would be difficult to witness.

However, as Ibrahim (AS) began performing the sacrifice,

Allah (SWT) replaced Ismail with a ram and Ismail (AS) was saved unharmed. Allah (SWT) tested Ibrahim (AS) to see his dedication in his submission (Islam) to his creator. In his willingness to obey Allah's (SWT) commands, Ibrahim (AS) successfully passed the test and the act of the sacrifice serves as a reminder of Prophet Ibrahim's dedication and devotion to serving Allah (SWT) obediently. Therefore, eid-ul-adha means the festival of sacrifice.

The lesson here is that of sacrifice for a better you. We mostly look at the sacrifice from the point of slaughtering a ram for its meat. Even at that, Islam recommends one to get a healthy, mature and meaty sacrificial lamb that will be a beauty to the eye. Looked at deeply, the sacrifice should translate to sacrificing what one loves in exchange for gaining spiritual upliftment.

Any man uplifted spiritually will spread the love around. He will not be where there will be an injustice. He will not be a party to corrupt activities. Above all, that man will not be where another human being is being harmed. Humanity will be safe with him. If the Nigerian Muslims who took part in the eid-ul-adha all take in the spirit behind the event, our country will be better than it is now.

It is a sacrifice in self-immolation that can only be compared to the myth of the Thornbird in the fictional book, Thorn Birds, a 1977 bestseller by Colleen McCullough. She set the story in Drogheda, a town that does not exist in Australia. In the front matter of the book, the myth is set out thus: There is a legend about a bird which sings just once in its life, more sweetly than any other creature on the face of the earth. From the moment it leaves the nest, it searches for a thorn tree and does not rest until it has found one. Then, singing among the savage branches, it impales itself upon the longest, sharpest spine. And, dying, it rises above its agony to out-carol the lark and the nightingale. One superlative song, existence the price. But the whole world

still to listen and God in His heaven smiles. For the best is only brought at the cost of great pain... Or so says the legend. The spirit of eid-ul-adha teaches us to sacrifice ourselves for God. Ismail (AS) was part of Ibrahim (AS), do not forget. By sacrificing his son, he was sacrificing himself as well. Nigeria, now more than ever in its history, needs countrymen who are ready to sacrifice for its existence. We should frown at a situation where leaders will call on us to change while they indulge in the perfidies associated with our leaders of old.

It is not fair, nor is it right, for leaders to ask followers to tighten their belts while they punch more holes in theirs to accommodate their ever bulging bellies.

It is also not indicative of leaders with the spirit of sacrifice when they take their children to the best schools around while the public schools are a little better than pigsties.

The spirit of sacrifice is no doubt lacking in the leader who, together with his family, can have access to the best Medicare, while a bigger chunk of the people does not have access to basic healthcare facilities.

How can a good Muslim's conscience not disturb him when he buys good exam results or bribes for his child to get a well-paying job? Why should a good Muslim be happy when he collects money to pass a student or to give him



Hassan Gimba Monday Column

a job?

We are talking of Muslims as citizens because we are referring to an Islamic event that just happened.

But come to think of it, Christianity attaches great importance and symbolism to sacrifices as well. Theirs is even directly and practically connotative of the denial of comfort. Their form of sacrifice focuses on the bodies of its members as a living sacrifice.

And I believe all Christians understand Christ's death on the cross to be a necessary atonement for the sins of humankind. And if it was so, why should a Christian run away from discomforting himself for God to be happy with him?

In reality, all those who make up a nation must sacrifice for the nation to be great. All religions teach us to sacrifice and all our tribes have stories of

legends who sacrificed their happiness for that tribe to survive.

The problem with Nigeria, as my friend Barrister Okoroafor Vincent always insists, is not the North as some southerners would want us to believe or the South as some northerners would insist. He believes it is not even Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba, Ijaw or Tiv, etc. He is also adamant that it is neither Islam nor Christianity. The problem with Nigeria, he opines, is individual selfishness and self-centeredness that border on 'it is our turn to chop' and myopia in putting the self first before the nation. And all people from the tribes have that tendency which is exhibited by adherents of both religions.

The lawyer says if we can put Nigeria first as our collective interest, then we would have a great nation. I cannot agree more.

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

Will There Be Another CABAL?

By Jibrin Ibrahim

NOW that there is a new government, my bet is that Nigerians would be asking themselves the question of whether there would be a new cabal in power and its possible composition. This is because there is a passionate and widespread belief that for each regime, there is a powerful informal group outside the government that pulls the strings acting as puppet master. Such groups are usually known as cabals. The most famous cabal in Nigerian political narratives is the “Kaduna Mafia”, which was said to have been the power behind the throne under military rule.

“The power of cabals is therefore located in their capacity to insert themselves in positions where they influence the process of resource allocation. The nature of the political economy imposes an interconnection between political, economic and military networks and it might be difficult to disentangle them. What is clear is that the thirty years of military rule has produced powerful players from the military that continue to play a major role. When we look at the life of the Fourth Republic, two of the five presidents who have ruled were generals.”

The power and reach of the cabal are said to have been greatest under the Buhari administration. I still remember my amazement on 24th June 2019 when hundreds of demonstrators stormed the Defence House, an annex of the Presidential Villa, calling on President Muhammadu Buhari to: “take full control of government from the hands of those they described as <cabal> as his second term in office begins” (Daily Trust, 25 June 2019). The protesters under the aegis of Concerned APC National Stakeholders (CANS), carried placards with inscriptions such as 'Abba Kyari Must Go', 'PMB Must Take Charge of the Government', 'We Need Fresh Ideas Not Recycling Men and Women Who Have Spent Over 40 Years in Government', among others.

The convener of the protest was one Dr Symeon Chilagorom who explained their action as follows: “Our demand is a simple one; the people of this country elected Muhammadu Buhari as their President, not Mamman Daura, not Ismaila Funtua, and definitely not Abba Kyari. Only President Buhari has our mandate to govern over the affairs of this nation. In light of that, we are simply asking that

President Buhari should take back control of his government and begin to walk his talk by delivering on the promises made during his campaign” (Daily Trust, 25 June 2019).

“When the deep state is referred to in the United States for example, it is not really about a shadowy group that has open doors to visit the president at night, gossip and pump ideas into him. It is about leading corporations and those who control them, key members of the political elite, the military-industrial complex. i.e. the main stakeholders in American capitalism who plan, plot and strategise to protect the system. I doubt that is what we are talking about in the Nigerian context.”

Their key argument was that they want the President on “the driver's seat not passenger's seat” so the cabal should allow him govern. It would be great if Dr Symeon Chilagorom could tell us now whether they succeeded in getting President Buhari rather than the cabal to run his second term government.

The narratives on cabals are deeply rooted in Nigeria's political economy. The country runs a rentier state that relies on substantial external rent derived from petroleum exports. The creation of wealth is carried out by a small workforce that produces and sells the petroleum while an even smaller group takes decisions on who makes money out of the extraction of rent. Essentially, the government has been the main recipient of external rent and both politics and economics operate on the basis of who gets access to the rent. The country's political economy therefore created the structural basis for shadowy players to emerge and play significant roles.

As is well known, the rentier state is oriented away from the conventional role of providing public goods that have been extracted from the people through taxation, it is a provider of private favours through the allocation of rent derived from petroleum. Petroleum exports which accounted for only 10% of export earnings in 1962 rose to account for between 80 and 90% of total export earnings over the past few decades.

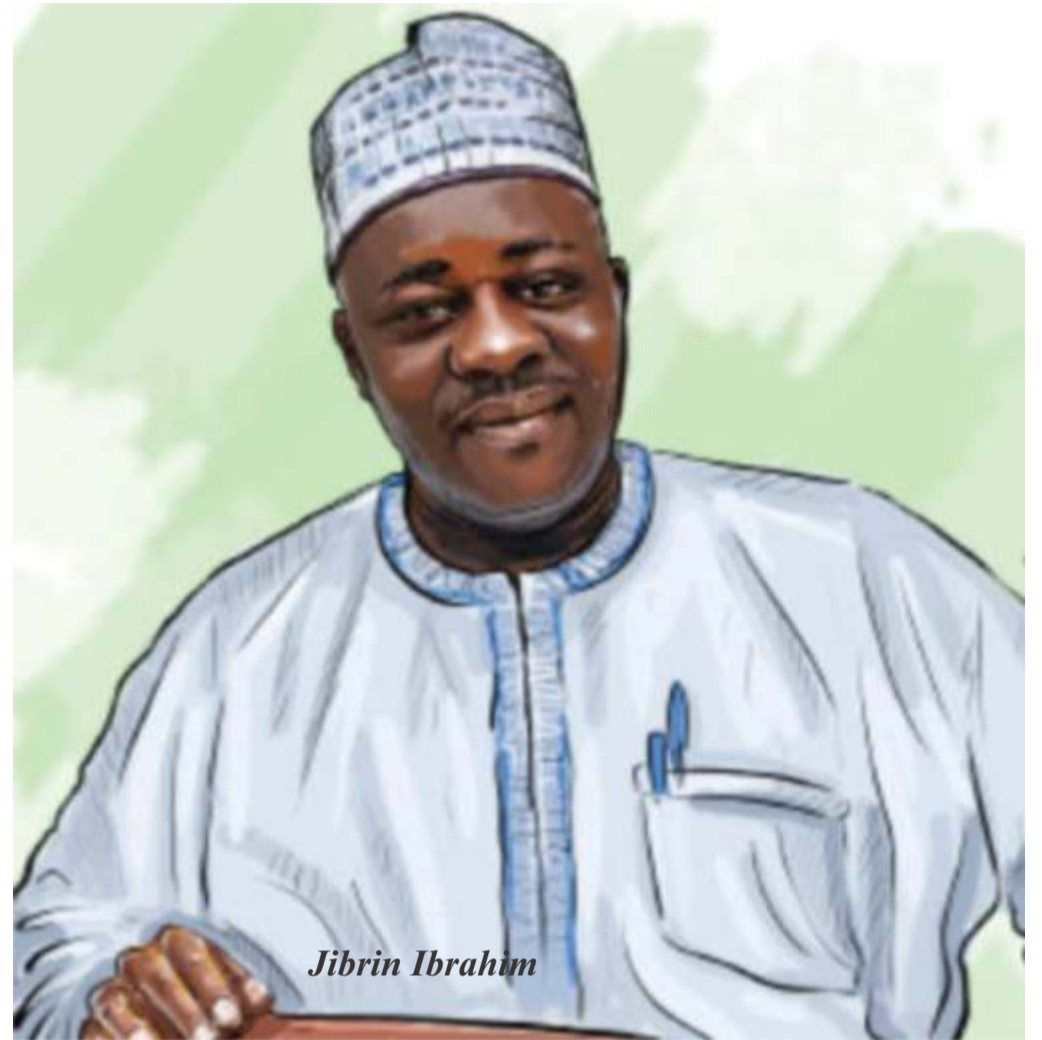
“Often, the cabals we talk about are essentially people who have the confidence of the President and often their institutional location does not matter much. The power of such groups that we talk about are essentially over rent-seeking opportunities rather than system maintenance of the

political and economic order. When cabals play important roles, it means the State is collapsing and has difficulties performing its functions. William Zartman defines state collapse as a situation where the structure, authority (legitimacy), law and political order have fallen apart and must be reconstituted in some form, old or new.”

The power of cabals is therefore located in their capacity to insert themselves in positions where they influence the process of resource allocation. The nature of the political economy imposes an interconnection between political, economic and military networks and it might be difficult to disentangle them. What is clear is that the thirty years of military rule has produced powerful players from the military that continue to play a major role. When we look at the life of the Fourth Republic, two of the five presidents who have ruled were generals.

One of the questions that is posed about Nigerian politics is whether twenty-four years of democratic rule has started producing a new class of political and economic power players without connection to military rule. Why are critical political moments in Nigeria always marked by top politicians dashing off to Minna and Abeokuta for consultations with the generals. Have former state governors for example been able to transform themselves into strong and autonomous players in their domains?

Alternatively, has the practice of almost complete wiping out of legislators at each general election made it difficult to grow and sustain the power of godfathers and cabals? How does the growing economic power of Nigerians entrants into the Forbes list of the wealthiest people in the world translated into political power? Finally, are



Jibrin Ibrahim

the networks ethno-regional or national?

“The challenge for the Tinubu administration should not be about a cabal but about the reconstruction of the Nigerian State. States perform three main functions – they exercise sovereign authority, operate institutions for decision-making and identity-formation and guarantee the security of a populated territory. These are the functions the State is no longer performing and the capacity to carry them out must be rebuilt.”

When the deep state is referred to in the United States for example, it is not really about a shadowy group that has open doors to visit the president at night, gossip and pump ideas into him. It is about leading corporations and those who control them, key members of the political elite, the military-industrial complex. i.e. the main stakeholders in American capitalism who plan, plot and strategise to protect the system. I doubt that is what we are talking about in the Nigerian context.

Often, the cabals we talk about are essentially people who have the confidence of the President and often their institutional location does not matter much. The power of such groups that we talk about are essentially over rent-seeking opportunities rather than system maintenance of the political and economic order. When cabals play important roles, it means the State is collapsing and has difficulties performing its functions.

William Zartman defines state collapse as a situation where the structure, authority (legitimacy), law and political order have fallen apart and must be reconstituted in some form, old or new.

The challenge for the Tinubu administration should not be about a cabal but about the reconstruction of the Nigerian State. States perform three main functions – they exercise sovereign authority, operate institutions for decision-making and identity-formation and guarantee the security of a populated territory. These are the functions the State is no longer performing and the capacity to carry them out must be rebuilt.

The Nigerian rentier State model has also collapsed with the severe limitations that have emerged over extracting and selling petroleum. There is very little rent to distribute and mounting debts could easily lead to bankruptcy. This is a critical time and any government focused on sharing would discover that criminals inside and outside government are pocketing the rent. Combatting corruption and building state capacity should be the focus of 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, PREMIUM TIMES.

African peacemakers: Rescuing Europeans From Mutual Slaughter

By Owei Lakemfa.

S EVEN African leaders stunned the world on June 16 and 17, 2023 when they went on a peace mission to warring Ukraine and Russia.

The reaction from many in the West was that of contempt; how is it the place of lowly Africa to intervene in a war of Europeans? "When Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday told the African leaders that he is not interested in peace and is confident of resolving issues militarily, is anyone fooled that his faith is in the decimated Ukrainian armed forces? Is anybody in doubt that the war in Ukraine is an international one with the military from various countries, including America, Asia and Europe, engaged? Are we to pretend that since those armies are not fighting under their countries' flags, then they are not on the battle field?"

In fact, Poland tried to scuttle the mission by detaining for 30 hours the aircraft carrying the protection unit of President Cyril Ramaphosa, leader of the delegation. Its claim was that the security men carried "dangerous goods" (weapons). Did they expect them to carry candies? The protocol all over the world is for the paper work for the weapons to be submitted; but Poland declined.

Eventually, the aircraft which also had a dozen journalists on board, could not join Ramaphosa as Hungary barred it from using its airspace. These are clear indications that some European countries do not want peace.

The United States had also tried to scuttle the peace process by its Congress insisting that sanctions be imposed on South Africa for being a member of the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) economic initiative and promising to allow President Vladimir Putin, on whom it had imposed unilateral sanctions, to attend the BRICS meeting in South Africa without any consequences.

The reaction of some in Africa was one of self-denigration: how can African leaders think of making peace among Europeans, especially when the Pope, the United Nations and China had

failed? Some, in trying to portray the African leaders as jobless busybodies, asked: what is Africa's business? I will tell you what our business is by retelling a true story.

The European countries in search of territories, and to exploit the world's human and natural resources, went on a voyage to colonise the rest of the world.

"Those who argue that Africa has no business initiating peace in Ukraine are like occupants of a multiple storey building who claim that it is not their business if an occupant on the ground floor decides to blow up his flat." As is often the case with the greedy tortoise, they came close to blows, and in 1884, met in Berlin to agree on how they would steal the resources of other peoples without fighting themselves. But greed has no limit, so on July 28, 1914, they commenced an All-European War. Since there were no persons to mediate, the Europeans were left on their own and at the end, 16 million human beings were killed in what they beatified as the First World War.

Despite the Europeans proclaiming that the First World War was a "War to end all wars", they were back at another endless slaughter from September 1939. This time, some 85 million human beings were killed. They christened this slaughter, the Second World War. In each of these wars, genocide was a side menu. In the first, Armenians were the main victims, while in the second it was six million Jews. In all these, innocent Africans, Asians and Latin Americans were killed as they were forced to fight for both sides.

So today, with the same countries engaged in another slaughter, is it logical for anybody to ask what the concern of Africa is?

If the senseless war in Ukraine were not brought to a quick and peaceful end as the African leaders are trying to do, is anybody in doubt that all humanity would be affected and that part of the war would also be fought on African soil as it happened in the Second World



War?

"Then, there are those who query why the African countries went on the peace mission rather than the African Union (AU). To me, it is not on all issues we must wait for the bureaucracy of the AU to agree before an action can commence. In any case, how do they know the AU was unaware of the peace mission? How do they know the delegation did not get the nod of the AU before setting out?"

When Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday told the African leaders that he is not interested in peace and is confident of resolving issues militarily, is anyone fooled that his faith is in the decimated Ukrainian armed forces? Is anybody in doubt that the war in Ukraine is an international one with the military from various countries, including America, Asia and Europe, engaged? Are we to pretend that since those armies are not fighting under their countries' flags, then they are not on the battle field?

Did those querying the business of Africa in pushing for peace listen to Putin when the African peace ambassadors asked him if the Russian nuclear weapons recently deployed to Belarus would be used? He had retorted that in case of a "threat to the Russian statehood", they would be used. He emphasised: "In that case, we will certainly use all the means that the Russian state has. There should be no doubt about that." So, is Africa to do nothing

in the face of a possible Third World War in which nuclear weapons will be used or do people think all these is a joke?

Those who argue that Africa has no business initiating peace in Ukraine are like occupants of a multiple storey building who claim that it is not their business if an occupant on the ground floor decides to blow up his flat.

"I wish the African peacemakers: Presidents Ramaphosa, Macky Sall of Senegal, Comoros' Azali Assoumani and Hakainde Hichilema of Zambia, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly of Egypt and the envoys from Congo-Brazzaville and Uganda, success."

Some scoff that the African leaders returned home empty handed. Such people do not seem to understand that a peace process is not a quick fix; once it is not going to be an imposition, it is often a marathon race. An African saying goes: an elder that listens to only one side of a story to pass judgement is a wicked elder. So, the African leaders have gone to Kyiv and Moscow, listened to the combatants, poked them for response and watched their body language.

A wise step the African leaders also took was to ensure their team includes friends of the warriors and their allies who might be beating the drums to which they are so energetically dancing. It is a known fact that South Africa is not opposed to

Russia; Egypt is an ally of the United States and Senegal strives to be in the good books of France.

Again, there are those who argue that we have not been able to settle African conflicts like the senseless one in Sudan. True, but that does not mean we cannot strive for peace in Ukraine as we are also doing in Sudan. By the way, who praised Africa for the peace process in Ethiopia?

"Africans cannot just sit back and watch the Europeans engage in another mutual slaughter or ignite a Third World War."

Then, there are those who query why the African countries went on the peace mission rather than the African Union (AU). To me, it is not on all issues we must wait for the bureaucracy of the AU to agree before an action can commence. In any case, how do they know the AU was unaware of the peace mission? How do they know the delegation did not get the nod of the AU before setting out?

I wish the African peacemakers: Presidents Ramaphosa, Macky Sall of Senegal, Comoros' Azali Assoumani and Hakainde Hichilema of Zambia, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly of Egypt and the envoys from Congo-Brazzaville and Uganda, success.

Africans cannot just sit back and watch the Europeans engage in another mutual slaughter or ignite a Third World War.

Gov Makinde Kick Starting Omituntun 2.0 In Top Speed - Oyo PDP

**Lauds first batch of commissioner designate*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Saturday, commended Governor Seyi Makinde for kick-starting Omituntun 2.0 in top speed by transmitting first batch list of Commissioner-designate to the state Assembly.

PDP in a statement by its Oyo State Publicity Secretary, Engr Akeem Olatunji, described Gov Makinde as the game changer of Oyo's contemporary political landscape.

According to Oyo State PDP, while other states are still trying to settle down in office, Governor Makinde has already started out the race to actualizing sustainable development agenda on high note without delay.

"The PDP in Oyo State was not surprised by the speed on which Omituntun 2.0 started out because the man behind the wheel is not only the engineer of modern Oyo state but also the game changer of our political landscape", it said.

Oyo PDP added, "It is therefore, noteworthy to specially commend GSM like we fondly call His Excellency, Governor Seyi Makinde, over his speedy nomination of Commissioner-designates and transmitted same to the legislature for necessary scrutiny and approval".

"It is important to note that

while other states were yet settling down for governance, Oyo state under the leadership of GSM is already in high speed as evident in the recent road project flag off in Lagelu and commissioning in Ona-Ara".

The party stressed, "As the ruling party in the state, we have no tiniest atom of doubt that Omituntun 2.0 sustainable development agenda will be more successful than the first term and we urged all at both government and party levels to give one hundred percent of everything to make the vision of GSM for this second term becomes a monumental success."

Congratulating the seven Commissioner-designates for making the governor's list of cabinet members in waiting, PDP stressed that track records of the nominees in terms of competence and abilities guaranteed them spots on the seven man list.

The party emphasized the need for both returning and new cabinet members in waiting to see their nominations as opportunity to write history that would be told to generations to come.

Oyo PDP then commended the Honorable Adebayo Ogundoyin led state Assembly for speedy consideration of the governor's request while reaffirming the party's support for the 10th Assembly.

Global Peace Foundation Tasks Religious Leaders On Trauma Care, Social Cohesion, Nation Building

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Country Director, Global Peace Foundation Nigeria (GPFN), Reverend John Joseph Hayab, has called for the collaboration of religious leaders with the foundation towards enhancing the sustenance of peace in Nigeria.

He noted that religious leaders have a role to play in nation building, urging them to rise to the occasion and use their God-given platforms to provide care, preach social cohesion and contribute to peaceful coexistence in the country.

The Country Director spoke at the Catholic Resource Centre, Durumi Abuja, during a one-day conference on "Trauma Care, Social Cohesion and the Role of Religious Leaders as Agents of Nation Building", in commemoration of the 10th priestly anniversary of Fr Stephen Ojapah MSP, the Nigerian KAICIID Fellows collaborated with Global Peace Foundation Nigeria, Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace, the Interfaith Mediation Centre and O-Trauma Victims Initiative.

He felicitated with the priest and identified with all victims of the numerous traumatic experiences in the country, particularly in the hands of bandits, kidnappers and terrorists.

Hayab lamented that people have lost touch of their common humanity and that it is only by

embracing their common humanity that true and lasting peace can be found, stressing that it was the reason why Global Peace Foundation Nigeria started preaching that human beings are members of one family under God, irrespective of any differences.

Rev. Hayab stressed the need for interfaith to collaborate in the quest for social cohesion and nation building, calling on religious leaders to collectively confront and address the challenges being faced by the society by providing shelter for the traumatized people to lean on.

Hayab added, "Trauma and other security challenges faced by people in our societies are human experiences not religion, it requires religious collaborations to tackle them. It is unfortunate that religion, ethnicity and other lines of divide have encroached into our humanity with detrimental effects, faithful of all religions should collaborate to ensure sanity in the society."

He called on religious leaders and CSOs to continue in their efforts of collaboration and building a network of peace builders in order to salvage the nation and urged that peacebuilding engagements should go beyond town hall meetings to the grassroots and local communities to promote love, peace, tolerant, respect and civic responsibilities among rural dwellers.

In his remarks, Bishop Matthew Hasssan Kukah noted that virtually all Nigerians are traumatized considering that they live in a traumatized environment, saying that Nigerians are challenged with mental health at various stages and the need for a support system from both the government, CSOs and anyone who can provide it.

According to him, "the sense of community has been suspended; fundamental issues like trust have become scarce commodities largely because of what the society has become."

He called for the aggregate of interest of values for the state to resolve all contradictions, stressing that banditry is one of the most terrible things that has happened to the nation with priests being targeted by kidnappers in the country as the church is in solidarity with the nation in its battle with insurgency. He called on all victims to retain their state of sanity and put bitterness behind them.

Fr. Stephen Ojapah, a member of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) and a fellow with the King Abdulla bin Abdul-Aziz Centre for Cultural and Inter-religious Dialogue (KAICIID), thanked people for attending his 10th priestly anniversary and the unfortunate incident of his kidnap and the terrible experience of about 30 days with the dreaded bandits.

Re: Mohammed Dauda Unmasking The Face Behind Frivolous NIA Petitions: My Right Of Reply

while ruling on my suit challenging my purported dismissal; to the effect that implied that an organization, including the NIA cannot create its own laws to try anyone, when the Establishment Act had already made adequate provisions for that requirement. That was the crux of the judgment which, confirmed the Committee as a mere "kangaroo court" and ordered my immediate re-instatement as a Director at the NIA, an order that was unanimously upheld by the Hon. Justices of the Federal Court of Appeal

On the issues raised by the release issued by the NIA(DG/CG/1/VOL.5) of 22nd June, 2023. As usual. I am always the "punching bag". They are already accusing me of manipulating the FCA judgment, that I was not present in the Court, when it was issued, nor was I even in the country. I am even yet to see the CTC of the judgement, as they also admitted, how can I then manipulate the judgement, its outcome or what the press said or wrote. If the press, that carried the information, made any misrepresentations of the court ruling or published what they understood as the ruling, what then is my fault there?

I guess the best thing they could have done, is to state their positions, after thoroughly studying the CTC I can't be responsible for what the press wrote as their understanding of the judgement. Additionally, it is also absolutely untrue that

there is an outstanding or remaining issue that is not adjudicated, as far as the Federal Court of Appeal is concerned. Unfortunately for them, it is the last Court that will deal with this matter. They will not have the opportunity to manipulate and delay another case for another four years. The remaining unadjudicated case is just a figment of their own imagination, not in any law court in Nigeria. I guess they will tell our lawyers, which Court the lingering unknown unadjudicated is, when we write to them to demand for the implementation of Court Order. I wish to take this opportunity to boldly state, for the avoidance of doubts that, I have never written or cause to be written, any petition, or press statement: and I will never do so: on any matter that may tend to compromise national Security. I left the NIA as it's Acting DG almost six years ago, and since then, I did not have any access to any document or correspondences of the NIA. In any case I have no reason, at all, to fight my Country Nigeria or it's people, just because I disagreed with what I see as a gross injustice, by the former administration. Governments come and go, but the Country remains.

The circumstances that trailed my appointment, and the stormy relationship I had with some very powerful people in Government, over my refusal to avail public funds for their personal uses and my eventual removal and replacement with

the Secretary of the Committee that sought to squander the funds, gave me the impression, that, my remaining as the DG of NIA was a threat to some selfish quests. I was so easily removed for no reason at all, because I had no godfather, working in a Government which is averse to being incorruptible, as I wanted to be. But I leave judgment for posterity.

I know as a matter of fact that all the falsehood being bandied about me shall definitely crash, in the fullness of time. In the meantime, my candid advice to the management of the NIA and indeed the sponsors of the callous campaign of calumny against my person, to employ professionalism in handling all matters, and not rely on the mischievous opinions of hirelings, in the desperate attempt to change the flowing narrative about the saga, arising from my purported dismissal.

I will respond to other matters subsequently; now that I have decided to finally open up, if only to correct the erroneous impressions being created about the matter. Truth has only one color but falsehood has to be garnished in so many forms in addressing issues bordering on injustices and attendant deficiencies in the NIA, as it is.

I remain a patriotic, loyal and dedicated Nigerian, always willing to salvage my country from the corruption that is eating deep into our national fabric.

God Bless you.

Yomi-Egbe Winner Of N1.5m Ikeja Golf Tourney Prize Relishes Pilgrimage Experience With UfitFly

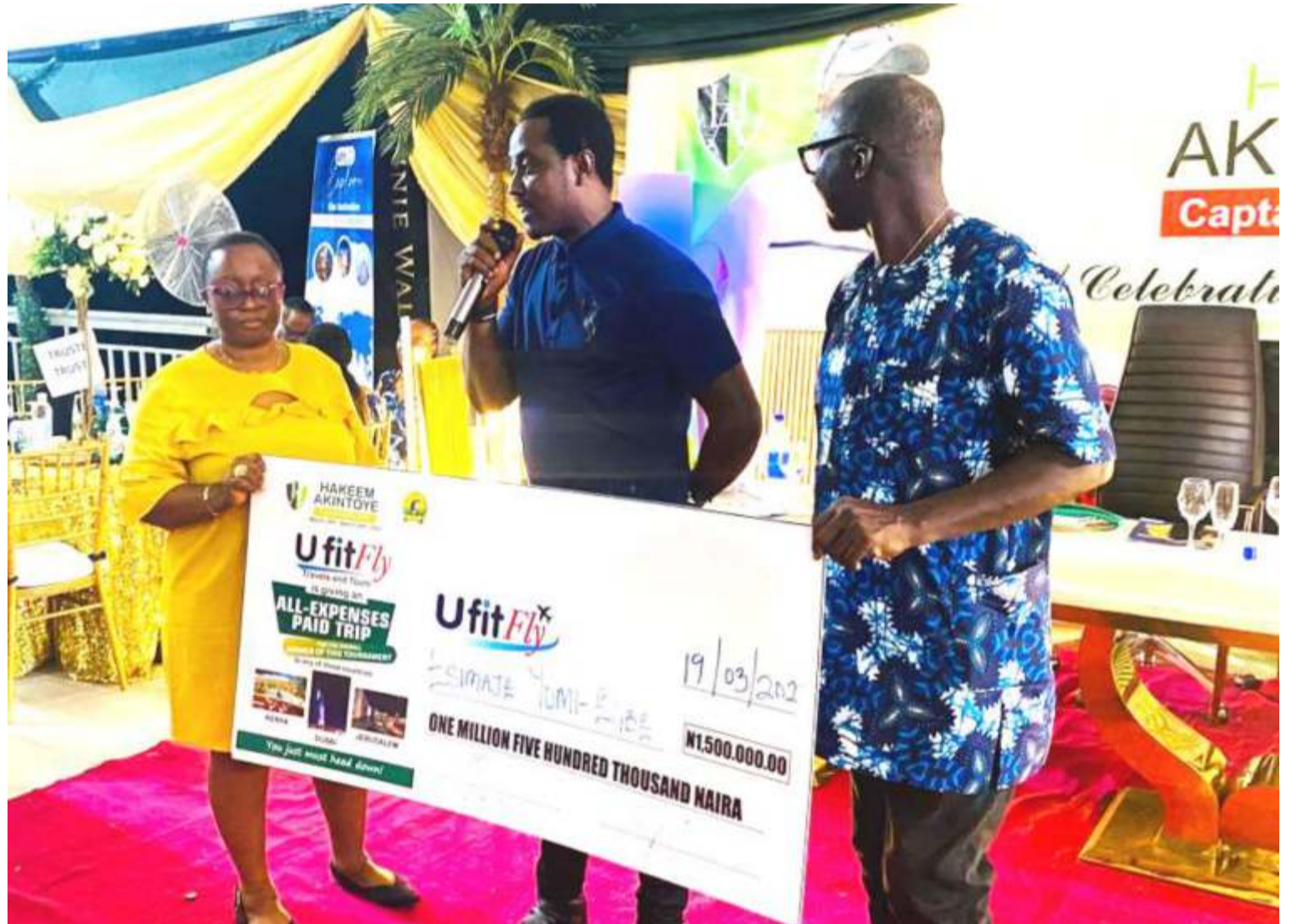
By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Dr. Esimaje Yomi-Egbe who won the 1.5 million Naira worth of prize donated by Ufitfly after emerging the overall winner of this year's edition of the Ikeja Golf Club Captain's Day Tournament was full of excitement after completing an all expense paid trip to Israel for Christian Pilgrimage.

Dr. Yomi-Egbe out of about 700 golfers that featured from various states and clubs across the country in the Ikeja Golf Club's Captain Tournament held in March this year, emerged top, and the 1.5 million Naira worth prize he won was used for a Christian pilgrimage tour according to the management of UfitFly. Reacting to newsmen, Bisola Folarin, the Regional Manager, Lagos of the destination management firm, (Ufitfly) said that the donation of the biggest prize of the tournament, which was a premium package of all expense paid trip to Kenya, Jerusalem or Dubai was in line with the CSR (corporate social responsibility) policy of Ufitfly.

“Ufitfly is a big supporter of sports, especially the game of golf and we will continue to support golf with the aim of ensuring a synergy between sports and tourism which fall under luxury sports travel. And we have done a lot under the CSR policy of our firm to support sports, especially as a stakeholder in the hospitality and tourism sector”, said Folarin.

“He added that golf is a game we love so much at Ufitfly owing to its uniqueness and its disciplined nature and moreover our corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy supports the idea of



Bisola Folarin of Ufitfly presenting star prize to the winner, Esimaje Yomi-Egbe during the Ikeja Captain Golf Tourney.

identifying with sports and vocations that impact positively on the society”.

It would be recalled that the firm has

given multiple sponsorship packages running into several millions of naira to support different golf competitions and

kitties held at various Golf Clubs in Nigeria in the past years.

Gov Kefas Vows To Revive Sports In Taraba



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Taraba State Governor, Dr. Kefas Agbu has said that his administration will revive sporting activities in the state.

The governor stated this at the 2023 Olympic Day run which took place at the Jolly Nyame Stadium, Jalingo.

He assured that government will bring back the lost glory of sports by engaging the youth.

The governor said that the facilities at the Jolly Nyame Stadium will be renovated and put to standard.

He said sports has been a

uniting factor and commended the organisers for job well done.

Speaking at the ceremony, chairman Olympic Games, Jonah Kataps said this is the first time in 20 years that the event is taking place in the state.

According to chairman, Olympic Games Taraba State has talents which if harnessed, can go places and enhance the revenue base of the state.

The event featured presentation of certificates to Governor Kefas Agbu, SGS Gibon Timothy Kataps, Speaker House of Assembly, John Kizito Bonzena and others.

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Sallah: Kaduna NUJ Applauds Uba Sani Over Kind Gesture

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kaduna State Council has applauded the Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani for the show of love to the union and its members, describing it as a new dawn for both the union and the state government. This followed the donation of a cow by the governor through the office of his Chief Press Secretary, Muhammad Lawal Shehu to the union at the weekend.

The chairman of the council, Hajia Asma'u Yawo Halilu, while receiving the cow on behalf of the council members, explained that the kind gesture is an attestation to the fact that Governor Sani is committed to the welfare of journalists in the state.

While assuring the Governor of the union's support towards projecting the activities of his government, Asma'u added that, "as members of the fourth estate and being the watch dog of the society, we are committed towards ensuring that the government delivers on its electioneering campaigns promises." "We are sincerely appreciative of this kind gesture, and this is a sign of a new beginning. This is a departure from the recent past and it will not be taken for granted by the union and her members. This will definitely strengthen the already established working relationship between the union and the Uba Sani led administration."



The cow donated to NUJ for Sallah in Kaduna

The union leader prayed to God to reward the Governor for his kindness and generosity, just as she urged the state government to sustain the relationship.

Meanwhile, the CPS who was represented at the presentation by the Director, Information Public Affairs Office,

Nabilah Hassan, explained that the gesture was aimed at strengthening partnership with journalists in the state.

Mrs. Hassan further explained that the present administration is committed towards partnering the media to ensure positive reportage of all its policies and projects.

Eket Council Boss Sponsors ICT Student Overseas, Supports Two In Tech Career

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The chairman of Eket Local Government Council, Akwa Ibom State, Mr. Akaniyene Tommey has assisted three indeigent but talented students in ICT to explore and optimize thier skills in the sector.

While two received financial support, another, Master Udeme, a young technology developer received assistance for overseas training in ICT.

The event was Eket Tech Day with the Theme; "Driving Awareness and Building Local Capacity for Global Opportunities" organized by Aniedi Udo-Obong of Google California USA, held at Royalty Hotels, Eket on Saturday.

The Eket Local Government boss advised youth in the area to be

willing to explore new frontiers and market their strength to break barriers, stressing that technology holds the key to unlocking global economy.

Tommey commended the organizers of the event, who include, Tech Hubs including Start Innovation, Root Hub, and others for their initiatives in supporting the youth by creating awareness in technology innovation for the development of their future career.

He assured that his administration would support the development of Technology Development as part of sustainable human development of the youths and promised to collaborate with identified partners towards making Eket local government area to yield positive impact in ICT technology. The convener of Eket Tech

Day, Aniedi Udo-Obong, a Programme Manager with Google California, USA, lauded the Council Boss Eket Council, Paramount Ruler of Eket His Majesty, Edidem E. C. D. Abia, and other partners for their present and contributions towards the successful hosting of the event.

Udo-obong said the event was aimed at creating awareness among young people on the benefits of technology, challenge one another to be more productive and connect them with global opportunities in the tech world.

He called on youth in the state to embrace technology innovation for optimum result in career development, stating that being in charge of community development of Sub-Saharan countries at Google, he can testify on youth population getting

inspired by technology with fantastic results, tremendous outcome and making a new age through technology innovation.

The paramount ruler of Eket, His Majesty, Edidem E. C. D. Abia, charged the organizers to partner with Heritage Polytechnic to establish a Faculty of Technology to train young people in ICT.

Guest speakers in their different topics and presentations shared their thoughts on the benefits embedded in the tech world, urging participants to be ambitious so as to achieve their goals in life.

The event was attended by participants drawn from different secondary schools in Eket LGA and supported by Eket Local Government Council, Boveeri Pavilion Suites, Heritage Polytechnic, Start Innovation Hub, Root Hub, Africa Innovate, among others.

Gov Kefas Vows To Revive Sports In Taraba

Story on Page 23

3 Feared Dead From Delta Police, Robbers Gun Duel

*Firearms, cartridges recovered

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Three suspected armed robbers have met their Waterloo in a shoot out with police operatives in Delta State, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt.

Two firearms which include one pump action gun, a cut to size locally made gun and eight live cartridges were reportedly recovered from them.

Our correspondent gathered that the deceased were neutralised by operatives attached to "B" Division Warri by the DPO SP Bolarinwa Alabi, on 22nd June 2023 at about 10.22am during the gun duel.

The suspected hoodlums were said to be operating in an unregistered black Toyota corolla car along Ugborikoko/Giwa-Amu airport road Warri before they were engaged in the shoot out by the operatives. The Delta State Police Command Spokesperson DSP Bright Edefe in a release on Friday, said the suspects sustained fatal degree of injuries and gave up the ghost while being taken to the hospital.

"On 22/6/2023, at about 1020hours, operatives attached to 'B' division Warri led by the DPO SP Bolarinwa Alabi, acting on a distress call about an armed robbery operation along Ugborikoko/Giwa-Amu airport road Warri, that armed hoodlums were operating in an unregistered black Toyota corolla car, the team raced to the scene where the hoodlums on sighting the advancing police team fired gun shots at the Policemen and the team retaliated, engaged them in a serious gun duel during which three of the hoodlums were fatally wounded while other members of the gang escaped with bullet injuries.

"The injured suspects gave up the ghost while they were being taken to the hospital. Exhibit recovered includes one cut-to-size

locally fabricated gun, two live cartridges, an unregistered black Toyota corolla car, and eight different vehicle keys. Manhunt for the other fleeing suspects is ongoing", Edefe said.

In a related development, Edefe said one pump action gun and six live cartridges were recovered in a bag a bag abandoned by a suspected hoodlum on sighting police operatives.

According to him, the operatives of Response Squad (RRS) were on visibility/confidence building patrol along Asaba-Benin Express Road by Issele Asagba, when they sighted the man with a sack bag pretending to be waiting for a vehicle.

He said, "On 22/6/2023, at about 1030 hours, operatives of Rapid Response Squad (RRS) while on visibility/confidence building patrol along Asaba-Benin Express Road by Issele Asagba, sighted a suspicious looking young man with a sack bag pretending to be waiting for a vehicle.

"As soon as the operatives highlighted from their vehicle, the suspect took to his heels abandoning the sack bag, he was chased but he escaped. Upon searching the abandoned bag, one pump action gun and six live cartridges were recovered. Effort is on to arrest the suspect.

"The Commissioner of Police Delta State, CP Wale Abass urges members of the public particularly Deltans to be mindful of their environment and ensure that any suspicious persons or movement within their environment be promptly reported to the nearest police station or through any of the following phone numbers CONTROL ROOM NUMBERS:

1. 08036684974
2. 08125958005
3. 09053872287
4. 09155570007 (PPRO'S OFFICE)".