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Sani-Bello inaugurates 6 Projects, Inspects 8.7km Dual Carriage Bypass In Kontagora

By; **I M R A N A ABDULLAHI, Kaduna**

Governor Abubakar Sani Bello of Niger State has inaugurated six projects in Kontagora Local Government Area of the state.

The projects commissioned are School of Nursing and Midwifery, remodeled and expanded General Hospital, five number 1.4km Jikan Shehu Internal Access road, 5km Maigari Gwadebe GRA road a component of 11km Kontagora-Tegina approach road, Col. Sani Bello Housing Estate and Rice Mill Processor, all in Kontagora.

Speaking on the School of

Nursing and Midwifery, Governor Abubakar Sani Bello explained that it is expedient to establish the school to produce qualified health personnel that would fill the gap of manpower in the health sector.

The governor commended the management of the school for their hard work as they have started graduating students and promised to inform the next administration of their challenges, as presented for positive response.

He said as a Senator-elect of Niger North, he will support the institution in every way possible.

At the General Hospital Kontagora which was

established about 79 years ago, the governor disclosed that as his place of his birth, it has suffered neglect for decades due to the growing population of the town and needed to be upgraded to meet the growing demand in healthcare service.

He explained that the former 250-bed space capacity hospital which has now been remodeled, expanded and equipped to 500-bed space capacity will serve the people of Kontagora and neighbouring states of Zamfara and Kebbi.

On the road projects, the governor said they were reconstructed to provide easy movement for the people as well add value to

their properties.

At the Col. Sani Bello Housing Estate, Governor Sani Bello explained that the project suffered several years of set backs haven been initiated about 12 years ago.

He however, expressed delight that it has been completed and would benefit the people.

Governor Sani Bello also inspected the 8.7km dual carriageway bye pass road conceived 40 years ago which successive governments could not embark on but his administration decided to.

Compensation was paid and a sustainability framework that will ensure its completion has been signed.

Ogun Guber: NNPP Heads For Appeal Court, Says Tribunal Judges Erred

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) has appealed the ruling of the Governorship and House of Assembly Tribunal sitting in Abeokuta, in a petition brought before it by the party over the omission of the party's name on the ballot papers used in conducting the 2023 gubernatorial election.

NNPP in the Appeal filed before the Court of Appeal sitting in the Ibadan Judicial Division stated that it was appealing the ruling because, the judges that heard the case erred in their judgement.

In the appeal on the suit **N O** : EPT/OG/GOV/01/2023, the NNPP Counsel, Barrister **I D Izunya (Esq)**, informed the Court of Appeal that it was dissatisfied with the unanimous judgement by the three judges and thus appealing the judgement.

NNPP while reiterating its position as contained in the petition **N O** EPT/OG/GOV/01/2023, of April 15, 2023, averred that: "The learned justices erred in law when they unanimously held that by article 27.18 (iii), (v) and (vii) of the constitution of New Nigeria Peoples Party (Hereinafter called NNPP) the National Legal Adviser of NNPP cannot take over the appellant case, brief another counsel and debrief the counsel on record, Mr. Peter I Ogah from further representing the party.

"That by Article 27.18 (iii), (v) and (vi) of the constitution of NNPP the National Legal Adviser of the Party is empowered to attend to all litigations and legal defence on behalf of the party at all levels, including its organs and coordinate the activities of Legal Advisers at all levels on legal matters affecting the party", it added.

NNPP added, "That the learned counsel on record, Mr. Peter I Ogah being engaged to represent the appellant by an organ/branch of the appellant is by virtue of the constitution of the appellant under the control and supervision of the National Legal Adviser of the appellant."

"That section 36 of the

1999 constitution (As amended) 2018 provided and recognised the right of the appellant to debrief and brief another counsel at any time of the proceeding. The learned Justices of the tribunal erred in law when they allowed learned counsel, Peter I Ogah to successfully withdraw the appellant's petition and dismissed same when the provisions laid down by the Electoral Act, 2022 for the withdrawal of Petition has not been complied with".

The party stressed further, "Section 30 (1) (a) & (b) of the Electoral Act, 2022 clearly provides that before leave for withdrawal of an election petition can be granted each of the parties, in this case all the respondents shall produce an affidavit stating that no agreement or terms of any kind has been made and no undertaking has been entered. That the withdrawal of the appellant petition was done without the affidavit required by electoral Act".

"The learned Justices of the tribunal erred in law when they allowed the learned counsel to move motion for withdrawal of the appellants petition despite a protest letter of un-authorization of withdrawal of petition dated 27th day of April, 2023 and filed on the 29th day of April, 2023 written by the appellant herself through the National Legal Adviser.

"That the appellant name is on the petition and not the lawyer's name. That the appellant is the litigant and the person whose name appeared on the process of the court and therefore the Chief Executive Officer and driver of her case who drives and determines what and how the case should proceed".

New Nigerian recalled that the Tribunal had, on April, 15, 2023 dismissed the Petition against Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as the first respondent, Abiodun Adedapo Olusegun as second respondent and the All Progressives Congress (APC) as the third respondent on the ground that the debrief counsel asked for discontinuation and withdrawal of the petition.



NDLEA Apprehends 17 Suspects Over Illicit Drug, Firearm In Ogun

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

No fewer than 17 suspects are now in the net of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Ogun State over alleged possession of illicit drugs and firearm.

Our correspondent reliably gathered that the suspects were apprehended during a raid carried out at four different drug joints.

The State Commander of Narcotics, NDLEA, Ibiba Odili, in a release said the joint operation was carried

out with Operatives of the 35 Artillery Brigade of the Nigeria Army, and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps.

According to her, the suspects were caught in possession of 2.5kg of cannabis sativa commonly known as marijuana.

She added that the operatives also recovered 1.5kg of the same substance that was abandoned and a pistol gun.

"The operation uncovered a locally-made pistol along with three cartridges, underscoring

the dangerous link between drug trafficking and illicit firearms.

"Also, during the second phase, which resulted in the arrest of one suspect, 63 grams of cannabis sativa was seized while two drug users were apprehended.

Additionally, a seizure of 1.1kg of abandoned cannabis sativa further disrupted the drug trade in the area.

"In the third and final phase of the operations, two drug users were apprehended while a seizure of 500 grams of

abandoned cannabis sativa was recorded.

"The cumulative impact of all three phases revealed a chilling reality: a total of three suspects were apprehended, along with 14 drug users. The combined weight of the confiscated cannabis sativa amounted to a staggering 6.2kg abandoned and seized," Odili said.

The State Commander listed the raided drug joints to include those in the Obada, Lafenwa, Odo-Eran and Adigbe areas in Ogun State

Kano Governor To Probe Ganduje's N241bn Debt, Promises Good Governance

By: JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The new Governor of Kano State has been sworn-in in a colourful ceremony held at General Sani Abacha Stadium Kofar Mata, where the Kwankwasiyya Red Cap revolution dominated the venue.

In his remarks, Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf announced that they would investigate the Ganduje administration in order to find real facts on how the sum of

241 billion Naira debt was left to his government.

Engineer Abba Kabir Yusuf announced that, " we have to find out the reality about the debt left for our administration and we came on board to work for the general development of Kano State and we solicit tge maximum supports and

cooperation from the entire people of Kano state at both levels". He stressed.

In series of chats with our correspondent, Kano residents called on the new government to continue with all the projects initiated by Governor Ganduje's administration, to prevent wasting the gigantic edifices started, insisting that continuity remains a channel to actualizing development.

In a separate interview, the Kano State chairman of Tomato Dealers Association, Alhaji Usman Dan Gwari was optimistic that the Abba Kabir's government would transform the state with best results because he held quite a number of positions that would facilitate progress.



Inauguration: Fintiri Takes Oath For Another 4 Years In Office

**Promises to be servant leader*

**Extends hand of friendship/ fellowship to political opponent*

**Dissolves cabinet, sacks all political office holders*

By: TINAPHINEAS, Yola

Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State has promised not to fail the people of state that trusted him with their votes.

Fintiri who made the promise in his speech immediately after his inauguration into office for his second term as governor, said he will continue to serve citizens of Adamawa in humility.

" I will also not fail you. I will continue to serve you in absolute humility and devotion to your needs and expectations

" I will continue to appropriate your resources to improve your living condition, and in the same way, secure the future for our children so that, they too, can be as productive and fulfilled in their aspirations as their counterparts anywhere in the world", the governor promised.

The fresh air governor maintained that he will uphold the oath he has taken as he did in 2019, describing it as a sacred act and a covenant with God.

The governor who was full of appreciation to the people for bringing him back to office, thanked citizens of Adamawa for being calm and law abiding despite been provoked.

"On this note, I must thank you, the overwhelming voters of Adamawa State, for being calm and law abiding when our State was seen as a flashpoint, where impunity and

flagrant unconstitutionality was hatched to truncate not just the process of electing your leaders, but force democracy to its knees.

Not only did you go out to vote during the run and rerun, you formed an electoral human shield and protected your votes. You protected your State from a deliberately provoked slide into anarchy.

"Today, we have peacefully reinvented ourselves and the way and manner the elections matters were resolved in the State has become a reference point in how to peacefully resist electoral brigandage with civility. For this, I owe you an eternal gratitude", Fintiri stated.

The governor maintained that the elections have come and gone and the people have made their choices known on whom they trust to govern them, now is time for healing our land, he therefore extend hands of friendship to all his opponent to build a better and great Adamawa.

"The time then has come for the healing of our land. We must submit to the culture and norm of peaceful coexistence that Adamawa is known for.

"It is indeed a collective enterprise. I want to extend my hands of fellowship and bond of friendship to my brothers and sisters on the other side of the political divide.

" I call on them to join me in building a State that we all, irrespective of

political affiliations, will be proud to call our home. Nobody should be use or allow himself to be used as an agent of violent disorder.

"We remain the proud sons and daughters of Adamawa State, and no disruptive influences of politics should break the cords of our togetherness.

Fintiri took time to tell the success story of his 11- point agenda which cuts across different sector of the economy: Security of Lives and Property, Education and Human Capital Development, Transparency and Accountability, Improved Internally Generated Revenue.

Other include, Rural Infrastructure/Urban Renewal and Water Supply, Agricultural Development and Food Security, Healthcare and Human Services, Youth and Women Development, Commerce and Industry, Civil Service Reforms and Environment and Climate Change.

"Four years ago, when you first entrusted us with your mandate, we came in handy with the 11- Point Agenda, today, even our detractors admit that as a government, we have



performed creditably well on each item on the agenda", he affirmed," he said.

Earlier before his inauguration, Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri dissolved the State Executive Council and relieved the appointments of all political office holders including Chairmen of Boards and Parastatals.

The governor has also directed all the affected appointees to hand over government property in their custody to the most senior civil

servants in their respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

Governor Fintiri who began his second term in office on Monday 29th May, 2023 however, excluded political office-holders in statutory commissions from the directive.

While appreciating the contributions of the affected appointees to the development of the state, the governor wished them success in their next endeavours.

Lagos Siege: Confusion As DSS, EFCC Trade Words Over Office Space

**EFCC says siege inconsistent with synergy expected of agencies*
**DSS insists service only occupying its facility*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), yesterday alleged that agents of the Department of State Services (DSS), barricaded entrance to its office located on 15 Awolowo Way, Ikoyi in Lagos.

A statement titled, "DSS' Siege on Our Lagos Office Shocking - EFCC" signed by Wilson Uwujaren, the commission's Head, Media & Publicity, said that the siege is inconsistent with the synergy expected of agencies working for the same government and nation, especially when there are ongoing discussions on the matter. "The operatives of the Lagos Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, arrived at their

office on No. 15 Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, this morning, May 30, 2023, to be denied entry by agents of the Department of State Services, DSS, who had barricaded the entrance with armoured personnel carriers.

"This development is strange to the Commission, given that we have cohabited with the DSS in that facility for 20 years without incident. "By denying operatives access to their offices, the Commission's operations at its largest hub with over 500 personnel, hundreds of exhibits, and many suspects in detention have been disrupted.

"Cases scheduled for a court hearing today have been aborted, while many suspects invited for questioning are left unattended. Even more alarming is that suspects in detention are left without care, with grave

implications for their rights as inmates," EFCC said.

They warned that the siege has wider implications for the nation's fight against economic and financial crimes.

But in a swift reaction, the DSS denied laying siege on EFCC office.

A counter statement titled, "DSS NOT IN A FIGHT WITH EFCC OVER LAGOS PROPERTY", signed by Public Relations Officer Department of State Services National Headquarters Abuja, Peter Afunanya, said that the service is only occupying its facility.

"The attention of the Department of State Services (DSS) has been drawn to some media reports that barricaded the EFCC from entering its Lagos office. It is not correct that the DSS barricaded EFCC from

entering its office. No. It is not true. The Service is only occupying its facility where it is carrying out its official and statutory responsibility.

"By the way, there is no controversy over No 15A Awolowo Road as being insinuated by the Media. Did the EFCC tell you it is contesting the ownership of the building? I will be surprised if it is contesting the ownership. Awolowo Road was NSO headquarters. SSS/DSS started from there. It is common knowledge. It is a historical fact. Check it out.

"There is no rivalry between the Service and the EFCC over and about anything. Please do not create any imaginary ones. They are great partners working for the good of the nation. Dismiss any falsehood of a fight," DSS said.

JOHESU/AHPA Nationwide Strike Grounds Services At ABUTH

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The nationwide strike embarked upon by the Joint Health Sector Union (JOHESU) and Assemblies of Healthcare Professional Association (AHPA) has grounded services at Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital Shika (ABUTH), Zaria.

Comrade Lawal Taofeeq Babsalam branch Chairman of JOHESU/AHPA ABUTH, said the strike action commenced on Thursday May 25, 2023, as the Federal government refused their plethora of demands.

He said, the nationwide strike directive signed by the acting National Secretary, Comrade M.O.Ajerutu enjoined members to embark on a nationwide strike peacefully without confrontation.

Comrade Babsalam said, members of the union have complied totally and it was very successful.

According to him, members are tired of the way government is handling their issues over

the years.

Also the union cautioned management of federal health institutions not to unduly intervene by obstructing members as they did not hinder or attempt to stop NARD members who were on a recent five days warning strike.

The national body strongly enjoined the Heads of Departments of all clinical departments which utilize interns cadre to respect the spirit of professionalism which forbids interns cadre from assuming full professional responsibilities as the management of some HIS attempted to do in previous discourse.

Accordingly, the national body directed union members to communicate all challenges, clarifications and suggestions to the situation room as they arise during the strike.

The directive also urged the union leaders to be updating and communicating all salient information with regards to the strike.

Biosafety: Nigeria Will Resist Any Action Capable Of Derailing Ongoing Progress - DG NBMA

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Director-General of the National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA), Dr. Agnes Asagbra has said that the agency will resist any attempt to derail Nigeria's progressive biosafety programme.

Dr Asagbra who was receiving the visiting Executive Director of AATF, Dr Canisius Kanangire, said that she will continue to collaborate with like-minded stakeholders in modern biotechnology to ensure that Nigeria's leading position in the continent on biosafety is not compromised.

A statement signed by the Communication Officer, AATF, Alex Abutu, made available to our correspondent yesterday, said that the Director General assumed duty on May 2nd 2023, following the retirement of Dr Rufus Ebegba, who served for eight years as the pioneer Director-General of NBMA.

"I understand the agitation on the minds of most stakeholders. Indeed, Dr. Ebegba laid a solid foundation in the regulation of Modern Biotechnology in Nigeria and Africa in general, Dr Asagbra said.

Dr Ebegba ensured that an adequate level of protection in the field of safe transfer, handling, and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology, she added.

"Under my watch, the Agency will not rest on these laurels or lower the standard already set. No, we will definitely strive to consolidate on all that has been put in place and strengthen the areas of weakness," Dr Asagbra said.

She acknowledged the contributions of AATF to efforts which resulted in establishing one of the best biosafety regulatory frameworks in Africa.

Dr Asagbra emphasized that "the task of safeguarding Nigerians is not one to be done alone, I will need you to stand with us and lend your voice to our campaign for Biosafety and Biosecurity in Nigeria,"

She noted that the Agency has and will continue to ensure the safety of GMOs for humans, animals and the environment for economic benefit and will ensure



Dr Canisius Kanangire, ED AATF presenting the recently launched AATF strategy to Dr Asagbra, DG/CEO NBMA. Photo: AATF

holistic coordination of biosecurity in Nigeria.

Earlier, Dr Kanangire congratulated Dr Asagbra on her appointment as the DG/CEO of NBMA.

"As the Director General of NBMA, you are leading efforts to ensure the science-based management of modern biotechnology and its products in Nigeria. Your experience,

knowledge and passion as a microbiologist will be invaluable to the mandate and achievements of the Agency," Dr Kanangire said.

He noted that NBMA is one of the most respected biosafety regulatory institutions on the African continent and has effectively regulated the deployment of Pod-Borer Resistant Cowpea, Bt Cotton and

Bt Maize which are life-transforming technologies as testified by smallholder farmers in Nigeria.

He promised that AATF will keep working with NBMA to strengthen the biosafety system for the good of Nigerians and the environment.

About AATF (www.aatf-africa.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 the 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

Food Security: NGO Donates Seedlings Worth Millions Of Naira To Southern Kaduna Farmers

By: AUSTINE AGBO
EMMANUEL, Kaduna

Following the need to access sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets the dietary needs of citizens, a nongovernmental organization (NGO), When In Need Foundation has donated seedlings to Southern Kaduna farmers.

The Chief Executive Officer of the foundation, High Chief Chetachi Nwoga Ecton flagged off the distribution in Kwoi, on Saturday, explaining that the only way to fight hunger is to farm.

According to her, agriculture remains the major tool to tackle poverty, poor diet and economic challenges in contemporary society, adding that Nigeria will become a better place if they can embrace the practice of both subsistence and mechanized agriculture.

Chetachi further stressed that the gesture is a way of giving back to the society especially to the good people of Ham Chiefdoms, adding that she has done it in three other states.

She said, "It's my little bit of good in the world to assist in the area of hunger and we have done this in three different states.

"The only way we can decrease hunger is to encourage local made goods. We cannot do everything but we can assist in every little ways possible.

"My advice to the farmers is very simple: they should just plant. The more you plant the more you have. If you eat all now, you lost all but if you plant, we can have enough tomorrow. Many chiefdoms will benefit from this intervention."

The seedlings donated by the foundation include, 13-bags of 100kg rice, 33-bags 75kg of maize, 16-bags of 75kg soya beans, 9-bags of 75kg black and white beans, Okro 3-bags of 50kg, 2,800 tubers of yam and 30-bags of fertilizer.

Although the actual amount spent was not

disclosed, however it can be deduced from the current market price that the project is worth millions of Naira.

In his remarks, the monarch of Jaba Chiefdom, Kpop Ham, Dr. Jonathan Danladi Gyet Maude (JP, OON) said Chetachi is a blessing to the world.

He stressed that he is not surprised at her gesture, because she is his favorite adopted seed and therefore, has no choice to do otherwise, but to imbibe the good culture and character of the Ham people.

He promised that his people will seize the golden opportunity to plant the seeds for both home consumption and commercial purposes, while assuring that the community will continue to embrace farming even as agriculture remains the panacea for sustainable growth and development.

Delivering a paper at the event on the topic, "The challenges of southern Kaduna and the need for intervention, the guest speaker, Prof. I. K. Auta said that lack of unity in the region is one of the weapons against the Ham people.

Prof. Auta who is also the acting President of the Southern Kaduna People's Union, (SOKAPU) said that the Southern Kaduna people are strongly united in different states of the federation and in diaspora, but need to see themselves as one in Kaduna, their home state. He stressed that overcoming the challenges posed on the region as a result of pursuing personal interest against general good of the people, will make it impossible for development to thrive in certain areas.

Other challenges highlighted by Auta includes, lack of mentorship for the younger generation, lost of cultural values and respect for tradition resulting to drug usage and other social vices among others.



Kano State Governor Announces First Appointments

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Executive Governor of Kano State His Excellency Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf has hit the ground running, by announcing his first appointments.

A statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Sanusi Bature Dawakin said that the first appointments are into five key positions.

They are, Hon. Shehu Wada Sagagi, Chief of

Staff, Abdullahi Baffa Bichi, PhD Secretary to the State Government and Dr. Farouq Kurawa, Principal Private Secretary.

Others are, Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Rogo, Chief Protocol and Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa.

"These appointments take effect from today, Monday 29th May, 2023. The appointees were selected based on their track records, commitment and loyalty," the statement said.



APC-IG Salutes President Tinubu On Inauguration

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The National President of the APC Initiative For Good Governance (APC-IGG) Ambassador Musa Mohammed Tsoken has congratulated President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu on his successful inauguration as Nigeria's new leader.

Speaking to newsmen at Eagle Square, Ambassador Tsoken said that Bola Ahmed Tinubu would work selflessly towards the unity and progress of the country as a great politician who knows how democracy should work.

He added that, "Our President is having long-term practical experience in politics and democracy, that is why we are of the opinion that his emergence as Nigeria's leader would facilitate development especially at this era when the nation is yearning for progressive hands". He said.

Ambassador Musa Mohammed Tsoken said

that APC-IGG was formed as a support group to the ruling party with national executive, zonal coordinators, states, local government and wards leaders to support real continuity at both levels which is a task that was done since inception.

Musa Tsoken stressed that, "Although our initiative did not receive much support, but we struggled to ensure that APC remains in power at both national, states, local government areas and wards levels for the progress of our country and we are certain that His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu would do the needful". He said.

The APC-IG national president on behalf of the national executive, Zonal coordinators states, local government areas as well as the wards leaders, congratulated President Tinubu, his vice, Mr. Kashim Shettima and the APC states governors for climbing the ladder of leadership that would transform Nigeria.



Tsoken

Facts About Kaduna's New Governor, Uba Sani

By; FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

The Governor-elect of Kaduna State, (4th Republic) Senator Uba Sani who was sworn-in on Monday as the democratically elected Governor of Kaduna State, is a serving Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the 9th National Assembly.

He has chaired the Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institution.

He is a leading civil rights activist, development worker, social entrepreneur, philanthropist, politician and accomplished businessman.

He was a Special Adviser (Political and Intergovernmental Affairs) to the ex Governor of Kaduna State, Malam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai.

He also served as a Senior Special Assistant to the President on Public Affairs and Special Assistant (Political) to the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

He worked with the Kaduna State Ministry of Works and Housing before moving to the Federal level.

Senator Uba Sani was born on 31st December, 1970 in Zaria, Zaria Local Government Area,

Kaduna State, he holds a Masters of Science degree in Finance from the University of Calabar, a Post-graduate Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from Kaduna Polytechnic. He played a leading role in the struggle against military authoritarianism in Nigeria.

The governor-elect deployed his organisational and networking skills in creating a strategic base for the pro-democracy movement in Northern Nigeria.

He was the National Vice Chairman (North) of Campaign for Democracy (CD) and Deputy National Chairman (North) of the Joint Action Committee (JACON) led by the late legendary Chief Gani Fawehinmi, SAN.

The governor-elect founded the Uba Sani Foundation, devoted to entrepreneurship and skills acquisition for youth, women and the underprivileged.

An entrepreneur of repute, he established and successfully built business in telecommunications and estate management.

He has attended many courses and conferences (both nationally and internationally) in the areas of human rights, development and democracy.



Uba Sani

Senator Uba Sani is an alumnus of the United States Government's program which focused on Volunteerism and NGO development issues and impacted on his career goals as a politician and community leader.

The governor-elect is leaving an indelible mark in the Senate. He is rated as one of the best performing senators.

He has over 30 members bills to his credit and has the singular distinction of having two of them assented to by President

Muhammadu Buhari. In recognition of his feats, he was adjudged as the overall most valuable most valuable and best parliamentarian of the 9th National Assembly by order paper Nigeria, the foremost legislative monitoring and advocacy group in Nigeria. Consequently, he was recently inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Order Paper Nigeria Group. Senator Uba Sani is happily married with children.

Police Nabs 2 Suspected Yoruba Nation Agitators In Lagos

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Two persons suspected to be members of Yoruba Nation agitators have been apprehended by police in Lagos.

The suspects were said to be among a gang numbering 15 that stormed the Alausa Police Station at about 5.35am chanting "Yoruba nation" has taken over song. Our correspondent reliably gathered that the agitators also injured some police officers in the process of dispersing them.

Some charms, cutlass, vest, cap with Yoruba Nation insignia inscribed on them were said to have been recovered from the suspects.

Spokesperson of the Lagos State Police Command, SP Benjamin Hundeyin

confirmed the report in a release made available to newsmen on Sunday.

He said, "Two of the agitators were arrested while the rest took to their heels following the prompt and coordinated response of the police.

"The suspects who were arrested with charms, dangerous weapons and different offensive insignias bearing Yoruba Nation Army, stormed Alausa Division along with others at about the same time another set of the group was attempting to take over a radio station in Ibadan, Oyo State.

"They claimed they came to officially inform the Police that the United Nations had granted approval for the take off of Yoruba Nation.

"The arrested suspects are currently assisting the

Police in the ongoing investigation into the subversive plans of the group as well as their network of sponsors, all of whom will soon be unveiled and brought to deserved justice in the overriding internal security interest of the State.

"The Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, CP Idowu Owohunwa, uses this medium to warn all subversive elements to steer clear of the state as the Command is fully ready and has the strong will and operational orientation to bring the full weight of the law to bear on them or on any other elements that might attempt to disrupt the stable security order in Lagos.

"The CP notes that the Command, while working

in synergy with other security agencies, has maximally deployed its intelligence, human and operational assets across the length and breadth of the state to effectively suppress any ill-advised person or groups under any nomenclature who might be attempting to test the law enforcement will of the Command before, during and after the May 29, 2023 inauguration", Hundeyin stated.

CP Owohunwa equally appreciates the good people of Lagos State for their unrelenting cooperation with the police and urges them to continue to manifest their patriotism by promptly reaching out to the police or nearest security agency whenever the need

Veteran Kaduna Journalist Sam Otitolaiye Clocks 70, Launches Book

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The auditorium of The Lord's Table Church (TLT) was on Saturday May 27, 2023, filled to capacity, when Samuel Otitolaiye, his family and friends came together to celebrate the grace of God and mercies at 70 years and launch a book written by the celebrant, titled, "Travails of a Roving Journalist".

The church situated at No. 6 Bakassi Street, Barnawa, Kaduna the venue of the occasion, was theonged by notable dignitaries such as veteran journalists, CEOs, businessmen and women to celebrate Sam as is fondly referred to by friends and associates. Notable veteran journalists who honoured the occasion were, Alhaji Tajudeen Ajibade, Elder John Fwah, Adamu Marshal and Barr Wahab Page.

Others are, Chief Andrew Fadason, Shu'aibu Gimi, Hannatu Musa and the chairman of the occasion, Pastor Usman George.

After wishing the celebrant a happy birthday and more grace ahead, the occasion moved to the next level, which was the book launch.

The book launch kick started with Alhaji Shu'aibu Gimi, a veteran

journalist discussing the title, "Journalism Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow".

He began his discussion with the practice of journalist at the ancient times when reporting was difficult and hazardous to the period when journalist was broaden as a result of technological innovations.

According to him, Social Media is a great challenge, affecting practitioners of journalism and the society in general, due to the heat and bad blood usually generated from that end coming from stories that are not edited.

On a lighter note, he said in Heaven, only journalism will be practised, because of its importance as all other professions would not be relevant.

"All what we have here on earth, there are better versions in Heaven, thus only journalists will be needed to report what is happening in this part of Heaven to the other part," Alhaji Gimi said.

He admonished that there is an urgent need to adhere to ethics of journalism profession in Nigeria, "if we are to move to the next generation."

The book review itself was ably handled by Chief Andrew Fadason,

former Chairman Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kaduna State Chapter.

He did justice to the book by explaining the content chapter by chapter and commended the author for finding time to invest in such a venture for prosperity.

The book pictures the life, times and working career of the author as well as the difficult terrains he went through to get to this stage in life.

Chief Fadason used the occasion to advice youth to be consistent in whatever they find themselves doing and continue until they succeed.

He said the youth can learn from the resilience of Sam Otitolaiye in his profession as a journalist.

The book launch came to a close with many individuals and groups purchasing copies.

The author in his vote of thanks, appreciated all those who created time to honour the invitation and celebrate with him and the book launch, praying for God's provision, protection and journey mercies as they depart to their different destinations.

All invitees were treated to a sumptuous lunch before their departure.



L-R: Mr James Swam, a guest, Alhaji Shu'aibu Gimi, Mr. Gambo Santos, Mr. Sam Otitolaiye (the celebrant) Chief Andrew Fadason, Hannatu Musa, Mr Adamu Marshal, Mr John Fwah and Alhaji Tajudeen Ajibade.

Tungba FM Lagos Names Olalekan Efficient Head Of Programmes

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

High rising On Air Personality/Broadcaster, Oladigbo Oluwasogo Olalekan fondly called as Olalekan Efficient has been named Head of Programmes, Tungba FM Lagos and Osun.

The Chairman Tungba Communication Ltd, Prince Gbolahan Odo announced Olalekan Efficient's elevation yesterday in Lagos.



Olalekan Efficient

The new Programmes Manager graduated from Osun State Polytechnic, Iree in 2010 and he is an active member of

Nigerian Guild of Investigative Journalists (NGIJ).

Prior to joining Tungba FM Lagos in 2020, he has served as freelance presenter with different radio stations including Osun State Broadcasting Corporation, TopRadio90.9FM, Sweet107.9FM Abeokuta and Root97.1FM Abeokuta.

He won Best Male Presenter at the Sokoto State NYSC Orientation Broadcasting Service in 2011.

Olalekan Efficient has launched Politics Naija and other interesting programmes since joining the station.

With the role, the former Senior Political Correspondent will coordinate programmes of Tungba100.9FM Lagos and Tungba 90.3FM Igbajo.

Kwara Governor Reappoints Ajakaye As Spokesperson



Ajakaye

By BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE ONAOLAPO, Ilorin

The Executive Governor of Kwara State, H.E. Mallam Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq has approved the reappointment of Mr. Rafiu Ajakaye as the Chief Press Secretary (CPS).

This was contained in a

statement by the State Head of Service, Mrs Susan Modupe Oluwole issued on Monday.

While congratulating Ajakaye for his reappointment, the HOS admonished him to rededicate himself to his responsibility as the Governor's Spokesperson.

WHO, Yobe Govt Conduct Risk Communication On Prevention Of Meningitis, Others

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In an effort to create more awareness on prevention of epidemic prone diseases, the Yobe State Government in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) have engaged 30 Community Health Champions that would reach out to 27,000 households against outbreak of diseases.

The WHO State Coordinator, Doctor Nuhu Barau-Ningi revealed that the aim is to increase awareness to individuals living in hot spot locations and protect them from outbreak of diseases such as meningitis, measles, cholera among other.

"The House-to-House sensitization is supporting the pillars of the emergency response. By conducting house-to-house and other strategies of risk communication intervention, the community will be more empowered to take informed decisions to protect themselves and to also break community transmission".

"When they go house-to-house it brings awareness on the symptoms and signs of those diseases, for example meningitis, Cholera. The symptoms, when spotted, will immediately be reported to health facility," he said.

The intervention which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the German Government is aimed at improving risk communication intervention in the state especially in some selected communities in Nangere, Machina among other local government areas. The Director Public Health in the State, Dr. Hauwa Larai Goni appreciates WHO for its continual support. She says, WHO is doing an incredible job, especially on capacity building of health workers and outbreak response in the state.

The WHO explained, each of the 30 Health Champions is expected to cover 30 households each day for a period of 60 days in the prone communities during the exercise.

Dangote To Build Sugar Research Centre At NSUK

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

The President/CE, Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, has promised to build the Aliko Dangote Sugar Research centre in the Nasarawa State University, Keffi (NSUK)

This was disclosed by the outgoing Chief of Staff to President Muhammadu Buhari, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari during his speech at the 7th Convocation ceremony of the Nasarawa State University on Saturday, 27th May when he was conferred with a honorary doctorate degree by the university (NSUK).

Gambari said, "I have good news, haven spoken with Alhaji Aliko Dangote he has now agreed to build the Aliko Dangote Sugar Research centre here at NSUK".

The foremost Philanthropist, Aliko Dangote, and an international expert, and director of the Institute of Criminalist and Criminology, Warsaw Management University, Prof. Brunon Holyst, 93, were also conferred with the prestigious degree.

Earlier, while speaking as Chairman of the Convocation lecture on Friday, President/CE, Aliko Dangote promised to look at the demands of the university in its quest to shape the trajectory of human progress and the future of society.

The Convocation lecturer Prof. Brunon Holyst said the responsibility of universities



goes beyond impacting knowledge, developing new ideas and fostering innovation and creativity and hinted on how universities can contribute to tackling issues of crime and criminality within the society.

Aliko, who was Chairman of the 7th convocation lecture said

universities have pivotal role to play in driving positive change through effective partnerships and collaboration, with critical stakeholders in line with NUC's concept of the Triple Helix in Nigeria.

Represented by the GED, Engr. Mansur Ahmed, the exceptional

philanthropist, said the ADF would prioritize the demands to foster critical thinking, exploration of new ideas, research/analysis, internet connectivity and more in order to push the frontiers of knowledge.

ADF has over the years injected Billions of Naira into the

education sector and continues to extend considerable support to various universities to assist Government find solutions to magnitude of problems bedeviling the sector, and society in general.

Aliko observed that society is confronted by challenges arising from population growth, accelerating urbanization, worsening environmental degradation, and unstoppable technological-induced change and called on universities to strive towards finding solutions to the problems.

For ADF, "it is currently considering the establishment of a University of Technology which will focus on the provision of new technological skills in key areas like Engineering, Agriculture, Medical and Digital Sciences in the Country

ADF has supported various universities, tertiary institutions and secondary schools for years-the 1.2Bn hostel donated to ABU Zaria, multi-million Naira UniBadan Business School, 1.2Bn BUK Business School and the construction of N500m dormitories and power supply facilities, award of scholarship to thousands of secondary school students, training and skills acquisitions



There Is Need For Adequate Afro-Brazilians Synergy With Africa - Ooni

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi has tasked the Afro-Brazilians to synergise adequately with Africa for the enhancement of the Back-To-Root movement.

Ooni Ogunwusi gave the task at the opening ceremony of the African Fashion Week Brazil holding at Expo Center Norte, 1,000 - Villa Guilherme, Sao Paulo at the weekend.

Speaking through his Queen, Olori Aderonke Ademiluyi Ogunwusi, the Ooni maintained that the aim of the event is to create more synergies in terms of culture and fashion between Africa, Afro-Brazilians and Brazil.

The benefits of the African Fashion week holding in Brazil are huge if there's a synergy between you and designers in Africa.

"The aim of the project is to create more synergies in terms of culture and fashion between Africa, Afro-Brazilians and Brazil which is already happening through the efforts of my husband", she said

Olori Ogunwusi added, "Creating African designers and Afro-Brazilian designers in the bid to strengthen our economic and cultural bond is also a good strategy.

"The twin cities arrangement backed up with Brazilian legislative law that was recently passed the parliaments of

Rio and Bahia states here in Brazil which my husband and other traditional emissaries and business tycoons from Africa came to celebrate and his meeting the President of Brazil last some 2 months ago was to ensure a robust relationship between you all and your home continent of Africa".

Olori Ogunwusi maintained that, "Ooni of Ife is determined to seeing very strong synergies between African designers and Afro-Brazilian designers in the bid to strengthen the economic and cultural bond of the Africans and Africans in diaspora".

Answering questions from journalists after the event, Olori Aderonke Ogunwusi

stressed that the characteristics of African Fashion in terms of beauty, colour, boldness, uniqueness, royalty as what to be showcased to the world. She lauded the Models that came for the event and describing them as phenomenal, amazing, wonderful and professional partners.

She gave the brief historical background of how Africa Fashion week started 14 years ago in London and later metamorphosed the one that held in Nigeria and the one that is holding presently in Brazil, saying that Africa continent is full of about 3,000 tribes part of which have different fashion and cultural values inspired and influenced by the historical and traditional set up of each tribes particularly in the Oduduwa race.



Olori Aderonke Ademiluyi Ogunwusi with Ooni Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi

NNPP Inaugurates Ogun Caretaker Committee Members

**Writes INEC REC*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) at the weekend, inaugurated members of the caretaker committee of the party in Ogun State.

NNPP made this known in a letter addressed to the Resident Electoral Commissioner, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in the state, signed by the Chairman, Interim Caretaker Committee of the party in Ogun state, Prince Ibrahim Adekunle.

In the letter, NNPP however explained that it has inaugurated other members of the caretaker committee and that Comrade Afuye Oluwatoyin has been inaugurated as Acting Secretary while Comrade Olowu Omokehinde

Olayemi has been inaugurated as Acting Publicity Secretary.

According to the letter, others are Comrade Oyegbemi Omokehinde inaugurated as acting Youth Leader), Shefiu Musa as acting Treasurer, Hon. Foluke Precious Bagbansoro as acting Women Leader, Mrs Riskat Oloyede as acting Financial Secretary, Taofeek Adegboyega as acting Organizing Secretary and Akindele Micheal as acting Welfare Secretary.

New Nigerian recalled that Prince Adekunle had earlier been inaugurated as the Chairman of the caretaker committee of the party following the expulsion of the former chairman of the party, Olapisi Oginni for anti-party activities and the dissolution of the entire state executives



Ogun State NNPP leaders at the inauguration

Yoruba Nation: Live Broadcast On Hijacked FRCN FM Station, Criminal Breach Of Public Peace - Professor Akintoye

**Says suspects running totally different agenda for Yoruba emancipation*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Leader of the umbrella body of Yoruba Nation Self Determination Struggle, Emeritus Professor Banji Akintoye has described the early Sunday hijack of FRCN FM station in Ibadan by some Yoruba nation agitators as "criminal and breach of public peace."

The umbrella body of Yoruba Nation Self Determination Struggle leader in a statement by his Assistant Director of

Programmes, Olatunde Amusat, disowned the arrested suspects.

Prof Akintoye pointed out that members of the group have been warned repeatedly, but refused to change".

"The attention of the Yoruba Self Determination Movement has been drawn to the activities of a group led by a Woman that has claimed to be running a totally different agenda for Yoruba emancipation and that has been engaging again and

again in criminal activity. The Yoruba Self Determination led by me runs a struggle that is totally peaceful and law abiding", he said.

Prof Akintoye added, " We have even written a thirty four page manual to guide our followers and all Yoruba people about peaceful and law abiding self determination struggle".

" We have written to the out going President of Nigeria and to the Secretary

General of the United Nations about our legitimate demand for self determination for our Yoruba nation."

He maintained further, "We have emphasized in everyone of those letter that our struggle is peaceful and law abiding."

"We have no relationship whatsoever with the group that has repeatedly engaged in crime and we have no hands in their criminal conduct."

Police Arrests 78 Oyo Park Management Service Members, Trailing Its Boss, Auxiliary

*Says one PMS member
neutralized in gun duel

*Recovers sophisticated firearms,
724 Cartridges, 33 Mobile Phones,
over N3m cash, charms



By; **BAYO AKAMO,**
Ibadan

Oyo State Police Command yesterday, arrested 78 members of the sacked Oyo State Park Management System (PMS) for unlawful possession of fire arms.

The Commissioner of Police, CP Adebawale Williams while briefing journalists, said the suspects were arrested while about to create widespread carnage and civil disturbance in the state, following the immediate dissolution of the Disciplinary Committee of the Park Management System by Governor Seyi Makinde on Monday.

CP Williams stated that the 78 suspects were arrested in possession of sophisticated firearms, 724 cartridges, assorted charms, 33 mobile phones, and a cash sum of about N3,450,000 million Naira Only.

"Sequel to the above, on Tuesday 30/05/2023 in a strategic intelligence coordinated raid around his location at Diamond Hotel, Alakia-Isebo, under Egbeda LGA, (78) Seventy-Eight suspected hoodlums who had perfected plans to unleash mayhem at the early hours of today at Major parts of the Metropolis were arrested in possession of sophisticated firearms, (724) Seven Hundred and Twenty-four Cartridges assorted charms, (33) Thirty-three Mobile Phones, and a cash sum of about (N3,450,000) Three Million Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira Only", he said.

CP Adebawale added, "In addition, during the raid

sophisticated firearms were recovered inside the hotel rooms and in the trunk compartment of parked vehicles within the hotel.

"Worthy of note is that, though the PMS Chieftain was able to escape with some of his boys during the gun duel with the Police, However a member of the group was neutralized in a gun duel with the Police."

CP Williams stressed, "Recall that the same group was alleged to be responsible for the attack on (14) Fourteen members of the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) along Agodi axis under Ibadan North-East LGA enroute the venue of yesterday's Inaugural celebrations."

The Commissioner of Police noted, "Furthermore, in line with Standard Operational Procedure, all recovered items were properly Documented, packaged and recorded for onward forensics analysis and for evidence purposes in accordance with the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015 and all other relevant laws."

CP Williams stressed, "Consequent on the above, the Oyo State Police Command enjoins residents to cooperate with the Police with the provision of useful information to help apprehend the sacked PMS Chieftain."

The Commissioner of Police assured of the command's "unwavering commitments towards tackling criminal rascality, hooliganism and blatant disregard for the rule of law."

Uba Sani Retains el-Rufai's SSG, Appoints Ex New Nigerian Staff Gimi, Others

By; **FUNMI
ADERINTO, Kaduna**

The Governor of Kaduna State, His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani has approved the appointment of senior government officials expected to fill key positions in the administration of the state. The immediate past Secretary to the State Government (SSG, Malam Balarabe Abbas Lawal was retained in view of his vast experience in governance to assist in the smooth take-off of the administration.

A statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor Kaduna State, Mohammed Lawal Shehu yesterday, said the governor also retained the services of other senior members of the Nasir el-Rufai administration to provide the link between the two administrations: Muhammad Hafiz Bayero will serve as Senior Advisor Counsellor to the governor, while Barrister James Atung Kanyip and Chris Umar have been appointed Deputy Chiefs of Staff to the Governor. Dr. Shehu Usman Muhammad and Bulus Banquo Audu were appointed as Counsellors to the Governor.

The governor has also approved the appointment of a new Chief of Staff in the person of Sani Liman Kila.

The new Chief of Staff is a highly experienced retired intelligence officer and astute administrator. He was the immediate past

Comptroller of Immigration Service, Kano State Command. Before his deployment to Kano, he was the Comptroller of Immigration Service, Kaduna State Command. Sani Liman holds the Bachelor of Education in English from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and a Master of Science degree in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution from Open University of Nigeria.

He attended many courses in Corporate Leadership and People Management and Intelligence Management.

Similarly, the Governor has approved the appointment of Habiba Anana Shekarau as the new Head of Service.

Habiba Shekarau, who is the current Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Local Government Affairs has more than thirty years of experience in the Kaduna State Civil Service.

She was Permanent Secretary (General Service), Office of the Secretary to the State Government, Permanent Secretary, Civil Service Commission as well as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

"These appointments are made in recognition of the fact that Kaduna State requires competent hands and knowledgeable people to assist the new administration deliver on its SUSTAIN agenda.

"The new appointees

come to the service with varied experiences, skills and competences. They also have proven track records of integrity, dedication, and commitment to duty," the statement said.

The governor urged the appointees to see their appointments as a call to duty. The good people of Kaduna State expect results.

"They must therefore hit the ground running. While congratulating them on their appointments, he wished them Allah's guidance in their assignments.

The newly appointed officials are:

1 Balarabe Abbas Lawal - Secretary to the State Government

2 Sani Liman - Chief of Staff

3 Habiba Anana Shekarau - Head of Service

4 Muhammad Hafiz Bayero - Senior Advisor/Counsellor

5 James Atung Kanyip - Deputy Chief of Staff (Deputy Governor's Office)

6 Chris Umar - Deputy Chief of Staff (Legal & Legislative Matters)

7 Abubakar Haruna - Deputy Chief of Staff (Support Services)

8 Prof. Bello Ayuba - Principal Private Secretary

9 Dr. Shehu Usman Muhammad - Counsellor, Political Affairs

10 Bulus Banquo Audu - Counsellor, Land Matters

11 Hafsa Aminu Ashiru - Private Secretary to the Deputy Governor

12. Naja'atu Garba Ahmed - Senior Special Assistant (Governor's Office)

13 Dr. John Danfulani - Senior Special Assistant (Research & Documentation)

14 Shuaibu Isah Gimi - Senior Special Assistant (Strategic Communication)

15 Nasiru Abdulkadir - Senior Special Assistant (Print Media)

16 Dahiru Ahmed - Senior Special Assistant (Electronic Media)

17 Samuel Mock Kure - Senior Special Assistant (Public Affairs)

18 Manassah Turaki Peter - Senior Special Assistant (Public Communication, Deputy Governor's Office)

19 Peter Ibrahim - Senior Special Assistant (Media & Communication - Deputy Governor's Office)

20 Zainab Mohammed - Senior Special Assistant (Kashim Ibrahim Fellows)

21 Jewel Tokpa - Senior Special Assistant (COS's Office)

22 Umar Sani Maikudi - Senior Special Assistant (Economic Matters)

23 Shuaibu Kabir Bello - Senior Special Assistant (ICT)

24 Maureen Okogwu-Ikokwu - Senior Special Assistant (Special Duties)

25 Maryam Abubakar - Senior Special Assistant (Inter-Governmental Relations)

26 Muhammad Bashir Aliyu - Senior Special Assistant (PPS's Office)

27 Iliasu Mamman - Senior Special Assistant (Protocol, Abuja)

Governor Inuwa Takes Oath To Begin Second Term In Office

**Says "We'll Bequeath A Better Gombe State That Will Become A Source Of Pride To Future Generations And A Model To The Rest Of The Country". *Gives account of stewardship in last 4 years*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has been sworn for a second term in office at the Pantami Township Stadium. Also sworn in is the Deputy Governor of the State, Dr. Manassah Daniel Jatau.

The Chief Judge of the State, Justice Halima Sadiyya Mohammed administered the Oath of Office on both the Governor and his Deputy at a colourful ceremony that attracted thousands of people from within and outside the State.

In his special address, the Governor recalled that four years ago, he took the oath of office as the 4th civilian governor of State wherein God gave him the wisdom and courage to deliver his campaign promises which led to his successful re-election.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya revealed that in the next four years, his administration will focus on Economic Empowerment and Job Creation, saying his government will continue with ease of doing business policies so as to consolidate the position as the most business-friendly state in Nigeria.

"These policies are designed to foster conducive business environment, attract investments, and stimulate economic growth. We shall also train and upskill our youth, invest in ICT skills and innovation, and harness our agri-business potentials in order to enhance food security and create employment opportunities".

On Education and Human Capital Development: the Governor said his administration will continue with the ongoing upgrades of school infrastructure, provision of instructional materials and improving the capacity of teachers and administrators.

"We are committed to expanding access to education, particularly for out-of-school children, girl-child and other marginalized groups, through various initiatives like the Adolescent Girl Initiative for Learning

and Empowerment (AGILE). We are also committed to enhancing vocational and technical education to align with the needs of the rapidly evolving job market, particularly the agriculture, energy and oil and gas sectors which are fast taking shape in Gombe State, especially with discovery of oil and gas at Kolmani".

In respect to Healthcare and Social Welfare: the Governor said "We are going to leverage on Go-Health and GSPCHDA to strengthen healthcare systems and infrastructure in order to ensure accessible and quality healthcare services for all. We shall improve the capacity of our healthcare professionals by investing in training and capacity building, as well as partner with FG and other relevant stakeholders to implement social welfare programs that support vulnerable groups and alleviate poverty".

Speaking on Infrastructural Development; the Governor affirm that his administration will consolidate on the existing achievements by investing in the development of critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water supply, and electricity.

"We shall improve our rural and urban transportation networks, and investing in climate-friendly and sustainable projects.



Urban renewal and redevelopment, especially in the State capital and the local government headquarters will be pursued vigorously in order to ensure decent living and also attract the much-needed investment in hospitality and tourism".

On Good Governance and Accountability: "We shall sustain the principles of people-driven, needs-based and participatory governance by improving our open government policies which enabled us to become one of the top 7 states in the country in the 2022 Transparency and Integrity Index. The efficient use of public resources through plugging leakages and reducing wastage will foster a culture of meritocracy and inclusivity in governance, thus improving the efficiency of the system".

Governor Inuwa Yahaya appeal to the

citizens of the State for continued support, active engagement, and constructive feedback in order to succeed as It is only by coming together as one united people that his administration can transform the aspirations of the people into tangible realities.

He expressed confident that, with continuous support and prayers, the state will overcome its challenges, seize emerging opportunities, and create a future that is brighter and

more prosperous for every resident of Gombe State.

The Governor expressed gratitude for the trust the people of the state placed in him, saying their unceasing outpourings of support, prayers and goodwill will continue to inspire him towards building a better Gombe State, that will become a source of pride to future generations and a model to the rest of the country.

"As the saying goes, 'the reward for doing well is the opportunity to do more.' Your decision to once again trust me with your votes represents a resounding vote of confidence on our first term performance. Like I said during the campaigns, our excellent record speaks for itself. It offers our people a clear choice between progress and retrogression, hope and despair".

Governor Inuwa Yahaya noted that since elections are over, the business of governance must continue apace, just he call on stakeholders across partisan divides to join hands and move the state forward.

The Governor said on his part, he will continue to be just and fair to all, irrespective of political, ethnic, religious and sectional affiliations noting that the collective interest of Gombe State supersedes all other interests and considerations.

"Over the past four years, we overcome many challenges. We lost loved ones, including hardworking officials, close associates and loyal supporters. We shall continue to remember them because they form part of our success story today. We also made significant strides in advancing the development agenda of Gombe state by investing in critical sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, civil service, agriculture, energy, water supply, environment and sanitation".

Governor Inuwa Yahaya explained that his administration revamped the

Continued on Page 13

education sector, through the construction and renovation of over 1440 classrooms across the State; and mopped up of over 350,000 out-of-school children.

"We also upgraded 5 secondary schools to mega-school standards and constructed 4 special schools (to take care of special needs). We recruited 1,000 teachers, and strengthened vocational and technical education through various partnerships like the IDEAS (Innovation in Development and Effectiveness in Acquisition of Skills), which is a World Bank-assisted project".

According to the Governor, the efforts by his administration led to a number of positive outcomes, including a sharp increase in the percentage of candidates in public schools who passed the WASSCE with 5 credits or above including Maths and English from 28% in 2019 to 73% in 2021 and 78% in 2022.

On healthcare, the Governor explained that his administration ensured the provision of a fully functional primary healthcare center in each of our 114 political wards; upgraded the State Specialist Hospital in Gombe; and currently doing same at the General Hospitals in Bajoga and Kaltungo. This, he said, is in addition to a 200-bed general hospital in Kumo is being constructed and a brand-new 600-student capacity school of nursing technology.

"Our administration also established the Gombe State Contributory Healthcare Management Agency (Go-Health) in order to provide affordable healthcare for the vulnerable. So far, 35,116 beneficiaries have been rolled and are getting proper service. We also established the Gombe State Hospitals Management Board to provide leadership and direction to the administration of our hospitals, as well as the Gombe State Medical Consumables and Wholesale Supply Agency which aims to checkmate the menace of substandard and inadequate supply of medical consumables in the state".

The Gombe state Governor said in order to jumpstart economic activities and create jobs, his administration hosted the first-ever Gombe State Investment Summit which attracted billions of naira in local and international investments.

"The establishment of the ease of doing business council in the state also helped us to come first in the Presidential Enabling

Business Environment Council (PEBEC) ranking in 2021 and 2022. Our drive to support small businesses and boost local economy helped us to provide over 500-million-naira MSME grant, and empowered 1000 small business-owners and 500 artisans. The Bubayero Microfinance Bank was recapitalized with 764 million naira in order to meet regulatory requirements and facilitate microlending support to small businesses".

"Our commitment to invest in durable infrastructure and housing remain rock solid. To this end, we constructed over 700km of urban and rural roads under the Network 11-100 project which aims to connect the nooks and crannies of our state with serviceable road networks. The Phase One of the 1000-hectare Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park is nearing completion. Already,

industries have started springing up to take advantage of the facility. We have also completed the Gombe Mega Motor Park in order to provide a befitting motor park to our people. Over 1000 homes are being constructed with the help of the Family Home Funds and the NEDC in order to reduce the housing deficits and ease its burden on our people".

He said the ongoing rehabilitation, upgrade and expansion of the Gombe Regional Water Supply Scheme has reached an advanced stage as his administration have also built and rehabilitated over 600 boreholes across the state through various initiatives like RUWASSA and SURWASH.

"Our administration has ensured timely procurement and distribution of subsidized fertilizer. This year, the fertilizer distribution exercise will commence on 15th June, 2023 in order to enable our farmers take advantage of the early planting period. We also ensured the provision of assorted seedlings and farm implements to farmers, as well as timely annual vaccination campaigns against major communicable diseases affecting livestock".



Governor Inuwa Yahaya remarked that while land administration has consistently remained a challenge in the development process, his administration established the Gombe Geographic Information System (GOGIS) as well as the Gombe State Urban Planning and Development Authority (GOSUPDA) in order to ensure efficiency in land administration and sustainable urban development.

"In this regard, we also created new layouts and standardized existing ones, including the new Shongo Gardens layouts, as well as the verification and restoration of the BAP4 layout".

"In order to revitalize our civil service, the Bureau of Public Service Reforms was established so as to institutionalize necessary reforms. Promotions and other benefits are being implemented in both the state and local government service. In addition to being among the first states to implement the new 30,000-naira minimum wage, we also paid over N7.9 billion in gratuity liabilities inherited from the previous administration, while ensuring timely payment of monthly pensions to our retirees".

He explained that his administration is committed towards improving Transparency and Accountability in Governance. To this end he said the Gombe state Government under his leadership ensured a people-driven budget consultation process, timely publication of budgets and audited accounts, as well as compliance with the World Bank-led State Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability framework (SFTAS) of which Gombe is among the best performing states nationwide.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya said his government repositioned the Gombe State Internal Revenue Service, leading to automation of revenue collection procedures and improvement in revenue performance.

"The maintenance of harmonious working relationship between the executive, the legislature and the

judiciary is very fundamental to the success of every democratic setting. Our actions and activities are always tailored towards preserving and respecting the independence of the legislature and judiciary. Similar treatment is also extended to our local government councils, in order to ensure their financial independence and administrative autonomy".

"Our administration has adopted a three-pronged approach to dealing with youth unemployment, climate change and insecurity. Through our Gombe Goes Green (3G) program which targeted the planting of 4 million trees, we are able to engage 27,000 youth in the program, providing them with job opportunities and mitigating climate and environmental degradation which induced farmer-herder conflicts and its attendant consequences.

We also recruited 500 youth under the Gombe State Security, Traffic and Environmental Corp (GOSTEC) to protect our environment, bolster local security and enforce traffic rules".

He said in his administration's commitment to promote security, stability and peaceful co-existence, the Gombe State Government established the Ministry of Internal Security and Ethical Reorientation and introduced 'Operation Hattara' to support and complement the efforts of security agencies.

He added that the State Government also embraced local stakeholders to ensure coordinated and proactive response to security challenges, and convened the first-ever Gombe State Security Summit in order to boost local security and foster regional cooperation.

"It is noteworthy that these achievements were recorded despite domestic and global economic headwinds especially the Covid-19 pandemic and the global economic meltdown. It is gratifying that our administration was able to wither the storm and deliver strong performance which earned us local and international recognitions and accolades. While there is still much work to be done, we must build upon our achievements so as to reach greater heights".



Uba Sani Lucky To Have Working Document -el-Rufai

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai of Kaduna State has said that the incoming administration of Senator Uba Sani is lucky to have a working document to key into on his first day in office.

The governor made this known in a brief remark before handing over a copy of the report of the Transition Committee at the Council Chambers of Sir Kashim Ibrahim House to Governor-elect Uba Sani on Saturday.

el-Rufai recalled that, "we were not so fortunate when we came in 2015 because briefings only started after we took office on the 29th of May. Then our Transition Committee had all the materials and documents to prepare a report."

"But the fact that our party won the election for the third time, we have had the benefit of getting officials to brief the committee, to get this report prepared," he added.

The governor thanked members of the committee for doing a very good job, adding that the quality of the people on the committee is such that, "I expect nothing less."

He also congratulated Senator Uba Sani

for having a working document even before taking office, recalling that "our Transition Committee Report remains our blueprint for all that we have done in eight years."

Speaking shortly after receiving the report, Governor-elect Uba Sani assured that he will study the report and implement most of the recommendations. He also thanked Governor el-Rufai for all his support and for putting together all the people that can help his administration, promising to complete the projects that the governor started.

Senator Uba Sani who commended members of the Transition Committee for doing a good job, also promised to deliver on all his campaign promises.

Earlier in his presentation, Alhaji Balarabe Abbas Lawal, Chairman of the Transition Committee, said members exhibited transparency in their assignments, adding that the committee engaged extensively in agriculture, environment and natural resources sectors.

According to Malam Balarabe who is also the Secretary to Kaduna State Government, the committee also focused on human capital and institutional development, security law and safety.



I Am The President Of The Federal Republic Of Nigeria - Tinubu

FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU 29 MAY 2023

THE NIGERIAN IDEAL

My Fellow Citizens,

I stand before you honoured to assume the sacred mandate you have given me. My love for this nation is abiding. My confidence in its people, unwavering. And my faith in God Almighty, absolute. I know that His hand shall provide the needed moral strength and clarity of purpose in those instances when we seem to have reached the limits of our human capacity.

This day is bold and majestic yet bright and full of spirit, as is our precious nation.

As a nation, we have long ago decided to march beyond the dimness of night into the open day of renewed national hope.

The question we now ask ourselves is whether to remain faithful to the work inherent in building a better society or retreat into the shadows of our unmet potential.

For me, there is but one answer. We are too great a nation and too grounded as a people to rob ourselves of our finest destiny.

This nation's journey has been shaped by the prayers of millions, and the collective sacrifices of us all.

We have endured hardships that would have made other societies crumble.

Yet, we have shouldered the heavy burden to arrive at this SUBLIME moment where the prospect of a better future merges with our improved capacity to create that future.

To the surprise of many but not to ourselves, we have more firmly established this land as a democracy in both word and deed.

The peaceful transition from one government to another is now our political tradition. This handover symbolizes our trust in God, our enduring faith in representative governance and our belief in our ability to reshape this nation into the society it was always meant to be.

Here, permit me to say a few words to my predecessor, President Muhammadu Buhari. Mr President, you have been an honest, patriotic leader who has done his best for the nation you love. On a more personal note, you are a worthy partner and friend. May History be kind to you.

For many years, Nigeria's critics have trafficked the rumour that our nation will break apart, even perish.

Yet here we are. We have stumbled at times, but our resilience and diversity have kept us going.

Our burdens may make us bend at times, but they shall never break us.

Instead, we stand forth as Africa's most populous nation and as the best hope and strongest champion of the Black Race.

As citizens, we declare as one unified people devoted to one unified national cause, that as long as this world exists, NIGERIA SHALL EXIST.

Today, Fate and Destiny join together to place the torch of human progress in our very hands. We dare not let it slip.

We lift high this torch so that it might shine on every household and in every heart that calls itself Nigerian. We hold this beam aloft because it lights our path with compassion, brotherhood, and peace. May this great light never EXTINGUISH.

Our administration shall govern on your behalf but never rule over you. We shall consult and dialogue but never dictate. We shall reach out to all but never put down a single person for holding views contrary to our own.

We are here to further mend and heal this nation, not tear and injure it.

In this vein, may I offer a few comments regarding the election that brought us to this juncture. It was a hard fought contest. And it was also fairly won. Since the advent of the Fourth Republic, Nigeria has not held an election of better quality.

The outcome reflected the will of the people. However, my victory does not render me any

more Nigerian than my opponents. Nor does it render them any less patriotic.

They shall forever be my fellow compatriots. And I will treat them as such. They represent important constituencies and concerns that wisdom dare not ignore.

They have taken their concerns to court. Seeking legal redress is their right and I fully defend their exercise of this right. This is the essence of the rule of law.

Over six decades ago, our founding fathers gave bravely of themselves to place Nigeria on the map as an independent nation.

We must never allow the labor of those who came before us to wither in vain but to blossom and bring forth a better reality.

Let us take the next great step in the journey they began and believed in.

Today, let us recommit our very selves to placing Nigeria in our hearts as the indispensable home for each and every one of us regardless of creed, ethnicity, or place of birth.

My supporters, I thank you. To those who voted otherwise, I extend my hand across the political divide. I ask you to grasp it in national affinity and brotherhood. For me, political coloration has faded away. All I see are Nigerians.

May we uphold these fitting and excellent notions as the new Nigerian ideal.

My fellow compatriots,

The Nigerian ideal which I speak of is more than just an improvement in economic and other statistics. These things are important; but they can never convey the fullness of our story. Our mission is to improve our way of life in a manner that nurtures our humanity, encourages compassion toward one another, and duly rewards our collective effort to resolve the social ills that seek to divide us.

Our constitution and laws give us a nation on paper. We must work harder at bringing these noble documents to life by strengthening the bonds of economic collaboration, social cohesion, and cultural understanding. Let us develop a shared sense of fairness and equity.

The South must not only seek good for itself but must understand that its interests are served when good comes to the North. The North must see the South likewise.

Whether from the winding creeks of the Niger Delta, the vastness of the northern savannah, the boardrooms of Lagos, the bustling capital of Abuja, or the busy markets of Onitsha, you are all my people. As your president, I shall serve with prejudice toward none but compassion and amity towards all.

In the coming days and weeks, my team will publicly detail key aspects of our programme. Today, permit me to outline in broad terms a few initiatives that define our concept of progressive good governance in furtherance of the Nigerian ideal:

The principles that will guide our administration are simple:

1. Nigeria will be impartially governed according to the constitution and the rule of law.
2. We shall defend the nation from terror and all forms of criminality that threaten the peace and stability of our country and our subregion.
3. We shall remodel our economy to bring about growth and development through job creation, food security and an end of extreme poverty.
4. In our administration, Women and youth will feature prominently.
5. Our government will continue to take proactive steps such as championing a credit culture to discourage corruption while strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the various anti-corruption agencies.

SECURITY

Security shall be the top priority of our administration because neither prosperity nor justice can prevail amidst insecurity and violence.

To effectively tackle this menace, we shall reform both our security DOCTRINE and its ARCHITECTURE.

We shall invest more in our security personnel,



The ex President, His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari presenting the office document to the new President, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu during the swearing in ceremony at Eagle Square in Abuja Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

and this means more than an increase in number. We shall provide, better training, equipment, pay and firepower.

THE ECONOMY

On the economy, we target a higher GDP growth and to significantly reduce unemployment.

We intend to accomplish this by taking the following steps:

First, budgetary reform stimulating the economy without engendering inflation will be instituted.

Second, industrial policy will utilize the full range of fiscal measures to promote domestic manufacturing and lessen import dependency.

Third, electricity will become more accessible and affordable to businesses and homes alike. Power generation should nearly double and transmission and distribution networks improved. We will encourage states to develop local sources as well.

I have a message for our investors, local and foreign: our government shall review all their complaints about multiple taxation and various anti-investment inhibitions.

We shall ensure that investors and foreign businesses repatriate their hard earned dividends and profits home.

JOBS

My administration must create meaningful opportunities for our youth. We shall honour our campaign commitment of one million new jobs in the digital economy.

Our government also shall work with the National Assembly to fashion an omnibus Jobs and Prosperity bill. This bill will give our administration the policy space to embark on labour-intensive infrastructural improvements, encourage light industry and provide improved social services for the poor, elderly and vulnerable.

Agriculture

Rural incomes shall be secured by commodity exchange boards guaranteeing minimal prices for certain crops and animal products. A nationwide programme for storage and other facilities to reduce spoilage and waste will be undertaken.

Agricultural hubs will be created throughout the nation to increase production and engage in value-added processing. The livestock sector will be introduced to best modern practices and steps taken to minimize the perennial conflict over land and water resources in this sector.

Through these actions, food shall be made more abundant yet less costly. Farmers shall earn more while the average Nigerian pays less.

INFRASTRUCTURE

We shall continue the efforts of the Buhari administration on infrastructure. Progress toward national networks of roads, rail and ports shall get priority attention.

FUELSUBSIDY

We commend the decision of the outgoing administration in phasing out the petrol subsidy regime which has increasingly favoured the rich more than the poor. Subsidy can no longer justify its ever-increasing costs in the wake of drying resources. We shall instead re-channel the funds into better investment in public infrastructure, education, health care and jobs that will materially improve the lives of millions.

MONETARY POLICY

Monetary policy needs thorough housecleaning. The Central Bank must work towards a unified exchange rate. This will direct funds away from arbitrage into meaningful investment in the plant, equipment and jobs that power the real economy.

Interest rates need to be reduced to increase investment and consumer purchasing in ways that sustain the economy at a higher level.

Whatever merits it had in concept, the currency swap was too harshly applied by the CBN given the number of unbanked Nigerians. The policy shall be reviewed. In the meantime, my administration will treat both currencies as legal tender.

FOREIGN POLICY

Given the world in which we reside, please permit a few comments regarding foreign policy.

The crisis in Sudan and the turn from democracy by several nations in our immediate neighbourhood are of pressing concern.

As such, my primary foreign policy objective must be the peace and stability of the West African subregion and the African continent. We shall work with ECOWAS, the AU and willing partners in the international community to end extant conflicts and to resolve new ones.

As we contain threats to peace, we shall also retool our foreign policy to more actively lead the regional and continental quest for collective prosperity.

Conclusion

This is the proudest day of my life. But this day does not belong to me. It belongs to you, the people of Nigeria.

On this day, Nigeria affirms its rightful place among the world's great democracies. There, Nigeria shall reside forever.

The course of our past and the promise of the future have brought us to this exceptional moment.

In this spirit, I ask you to join me in making Nigeria a more perfect nation and democracy such that the Nigerian ideal becomes and forever remains the Nigerian reality.

With full confidence in our ability, I declare that these things are within our proximate reach because my name is Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and I am the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

May God bless you and May He bless our beloved land.

My First Term In Office Knowledge, Exposure, Experience Has Prepared Me For A Smooth Second Term - Gov Makinde

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde on Sunday, declared that his first term in office knowledge, exposure and experience has prepared him for a smooth sail in the second term.

The governor said this at a Thanksgiving Service held at the Sword of The Spirit Ministries, Precious Cornerstone University Campus 1 (PCU), Garden of Victory, Olaogun, Old-Ife, Ibadan to mark the end of his first term and part of activities for the inauguration of his second term in office.

He stressed that all he achieved in his four years first term could be said to have been achieved within two years after narrating how he spent time trying to settle down into governance when the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown slowed down activities again.

"In 2019, at the inauguration, I made a pronouncement that I will be paying salary at 25th of every month. I made the decision before reading the handover note. And we have paid for 49 consecutive months. When I read the handover notes, I wondered who will help me drive the vision to fulfil that mission. It took me time, say close to six months to figure out what is where and who is doing what, but I can bet, there are different kinds of

persons inside the secretariat", he said.

Governor Makinde added, "So, I would say the first six months was a period for me to learn what it looks like working in the public domain. By the following months after the 6months, COVID-19 came and it was an issue of if we will lock down or not and we were like that for 11 months".

"Towards the end of 2020, we started real work. We worked for the whole of 2021, majority of the 2022 and before this second term problem. The leaders of faith came to me and said why am I not making pronouncement and I told them I don't think I needed any second term because it's too much headache. They said even if I'm not doing it for myself, why don't I do it for this state, so I listened to them and I declared for second term and the trouble started again".

The governor stressed, "You have to organise congresses and all the rest and we were on that from September or October 2022 to March 28, 2023 when I was re-elected forward second term, so I discounted that period of about 6months again because I do not have undivided attention to serve the people of Oyo State within that period."

"So whatever we have been able to achieve, now you will agree with me that we have been able to achieve

that within two years. But, this time around, it's not going to be like that, you know why? since March 18 that I have been declared re-elected, I did not and haven't stopped working for the people of Oyo State. "Between March 18 and now, what we have done that is close to where we are is the underpass at Onipepeye. It is open now to traffic. Between then and now, we have been able to open the bridge between Oyo and Iseyin, the one over Odo Ogun river is open to traffic. I have learnt the ropes, I am now a junior master and there will be indeed and in truth no network failure in the governance of Oyo State in this term."

Former President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Dr Supo Ayokunle in his sermon at the Service entitled, "The mind of God for your leadership", tasked Gov Seyi Makinde to sustain the tempo of good works in the state.

Dr Ayokunle maintained that with the re-election, God has silenced the arrogant and proud in the state urging him to build the state, be humble in leadership and listen to wise counsel of significant others.

The Presiding Bishop, Sword of The Spirit Ministries, Francis Wale-Oke led other cleric in special prayer session for the governor, his family, state.

New Governor Orders Freezing All Ebonyi Govt Accounts

**Directs bank managers to comply with immediate effect*

By; ENYINNA OMOKE, Abakaliki

The newly sworn-in governor of Ebonyi State, Hon. Francis Ogbonnaya Nwifuru has ordered for the freezing of all government accounts operating in various banks in the state.

He therefore, directed the bank managers to comply with the directives with immediate effect to ensure that no other financial

transactions take place till further notice.

The directive was contained in a public service announcement made by his Chief Press Secretary, Dr. Monday Uzor, few hours after his inauguration as the 4th executive governor of the state.

His Excellency, the Governor of Ebonyi State, Rt. Hon Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru, has directed the

immediate freezing of all State government accounts domiciled in various banks with effect from, Tuesday, 30th May 2023.

Consequently the Governor directs the bank managers of the all the banks that operate government accounts to immediately comply by ensuring that no payment is made from any government accounts till further notice



Ebonyi Governor

OAU Student's Death: Court Sentences Proprietor, Two Hotel Staff To Death By Hanging

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

An Osun State High Court sitting in Osogbo yesterday, sentenced the owner of Hilton Hotel, Ile Ife, Dr Rahmon Adedoyin and two staff of the hotel to death by hanging over the murder of an Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Ile-Ife, Master student, Timothy Adegoke.

Osun State Chief Judge, Justice Adepele Ojo in her judgement, found Adedoyin and three of his staff guilty of murder and conspiracy.

Justice Ojo stressed that

circumstantial evidence by the prosecution confirmed Adedoyin and his staff killed Adegoke and tried to conceal the situation.

The court pointed out that the circumstantial evidence available to the court, pointed to the killing of Adegoke while being a guest at the hotel owned by Adedoyin.

Justice Ojo declared that Dr Adedoyin's decision not to enter the witness box did not help him, as the circumstantial evidence had shifted the burden of proof on him.

The Chief Judge of Osun State noted that Adedoyin's

decision not to enter the witness box meant he agreed to the murder charge pressed against him by the prosecution, dismissing the alibi pleaded on his behalf by his counsel, who said the hotel owner was in Abuja for many days around the time the death of the late Adegoke occurred.

New Nigerian recalls that the late Masters student of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Timothy Adegoke death occurred between November 5 and 7, 2021 at the Hilton Honours Hotel, Ile-Ife.



Gov Seyi Makinde Governor, his wife, Tamunominini and Bishop Wale Oke at the End of First tenure thanksgiving held at Christ Life Church, Olaogun, Ibadan on Sunday.



Sodomy and the Society

By Safiya I. Dantiye

TWO days ago, I watched transfixed by horror as one woman narrated in a Hausa television station the story of how one man sexually abused her young son, Hassan.

The woman who is a food seller, said the man didn't show any remorse; in fact, he pretended he didn't know the boy. The man also abused her son's friend, Hussaini, whom he would call and give something like sweet to take near tea café (mai shayi).

"It is believed that sexual abuse of minors or child molesters have always been around but they carried on because people were afraid to challenge them by raising the issue. They were afraid of stigma or they buried it if the molester was a family member, or if the molester was from a wealthy family or an influential member of the community."

When the man was brought in a car to the area and one of the boys was asked to identify him, the boy started crying that they should not allow the man to get down because he said he would kill him if he told anybody what he was doing to him.

In any event, after threats from the man and his friends or hangers on, the woman prevailed and the case is now in court.

However, what would cause you to have goose bumps was when the boy also narrated his ordeal. His face was blurred to protect him. He appeared to be about ten years old.

According to the woman, Hussaini's mother refused to seek justice, saying she has left him to God. "I urged her but she refused," she said.

This is a very sad and disturbing story. In fact, there were some graphic details that indicated the man might be sexually abusing these children for ritual purposes, such as to get rich as those engaged in this despicable act are suspected of doing.

The story exposes the rot in our society where there is a cover-up of a well-known child abuser.

If you are poor and don't have influence, you would be threatened and intimidated to drop the case and let bygone be bygone.

Where the man used to go and call Hussaini and give him sweet should have raised suspicion. A man who is not related to a small boy to always be calling him aside and give him something to eat is not right, after all, what is his business with a small boy?

But as usual, people look the other way, maybe innocently, but some may be aware of the man's habit and chose to keep quiet.

There are many such cases you hear now and then, but it is time such offenders are severely dealt with to send a strong message that their behaviour would not be condoned.

It is believed that sexual abuse of minors or child molesters have always been around but they carried on because people were afraid to challenge them by raising the issue. They were afraid of stigma or they buried it if the molester was a family member, or if the molester was from a wealthy family or an influential member of the community.

Even in those days, it was however believed only girls were sexually abused, not boys!

Days were when young mothers were warned to protect their small daughters from such abuse, but now it must include young sons as well.

Imagine all those small almajirai roaming about. They can fall into the hands of such child molesters and their lives may never be the same again. And their parents sent them to Qur'anic schools far away from home, where young girls would never be sent, as they cannot be exposed like that and they need to be protected. Well, the young boys have become vulnerable too.

"It takes courage and determination for Hassan's mother to seek redress for her son against a powerful man. If the offender is sent to prison, it may also make Hassan feel that he has some hope in the society, that the society has not completely abandoned him."

Due to more awareness, people are reporting such cases now. They are encouraged that keeping silence would make the offenders go on committing the offence, blissful in the knowledge that people would rather die than report the abuse because of stigma and so on.

Human right groups take such cases to help the vulnerable people to seek justice. The way the media report the cases where the offenders are made known to the public also helps.

In folklore and in a bygone era when traditional rulers held sway, offenders of some crimes were banished from the community. Nobody can banish anybody now; however such molesters should be kept in prison as an official 'banishment' from decent society.

How about Hassan and Hussaini who were abused and introduced to this horrific aberration early in life? How would they see life, how would they view other men? How would they view the society that doesn't protect them?

It takes courage and determination for Hassan's mother to seek redress for her son against a powerful man. If the offender is sent to prison, it may also make Hassan feel that he has some hope in the society, that the society has not completely abandoned him.

In this regard both small girls and boys should be diligently watched over. You cannot be too careful.

Flagrant Abuse Of Office By Renegade NDLEA Operatives In Kaduna

By: HALIMAH SHUAIBU

Good morning members of the Press. We have been reluctant to toe this line, but when all peaceful avenues have been exhausted, we are left with no option but to address you, hoping that as the Fourth Estate of the realm, you will help us inform the nation about our despair and anguish.

We are specifically referring to the abduction, dehumanization and the subsequent illegal detention of our brother, Abubakar Shuaibu.

This brazen display of criminality and irresponsibility started early this month when my brother Abubakar Shuaibu received a text message from an NDLEA junior operative by name Fahad Marwa on the 13th of May 2023.

The text reads: "Doctor is Fahad Marwa please call me very important". The text was received at 6:22pm on that fateful day. Abubakar Shuaibu and Fahad Marwa, along with Suleiman Marwa eventually met and they told him that they had codeine worth N50,000 for sale, if his friend, Jonathan Emmanuel popularly known as Jesse (currently on the run) was interested.

This face-off finally led to a physical brawl between Abubakar Shuaibu and the Marwa brothers, alongside Jesse and their friends in the military.

The fight unfortunately resulted in serious injuries for Suleiman Marwa. Few days after, Abubakar Shuaibu was persuaded to go and apologise to the mother of Suleiman Marwa at their residence at Zuba Close, Shooting Range.

As soon as he entered the house, Suleiman Marwa's brothers swooped on him and inflicted serious injuries on him.

Despite this turn of event, our elder brother Ismail Shuaibu and I visited Suleiman Marwa in the hospital Amal hospital located at Kinkinau, Tudun Wada where he was receiving treatment.

Most importantly gentlemen of the Press, the medical bills incurred by Suleiman Marwa was settled by one of the parents of the boys involved in the fight. Ismail Shuaibu also led one of our uncles to the Suleiman Marwa's residence and once again, apologised to the mother.

Gentlemen of the press, these youths have been friends for years and their attempt to arrest Jesse or extort money from him was not authorised by their organization as far as we are concerned.

In the course of the fight between Suleiman Marwa, Fahad Marwa and my brother Abubakar Shuaibu along with his friends, our Nissan Frontier vehicle was damaged; all four tyres were punctured with knives and the car body massively dented.

We all thought that bitter lessons have been learnt by all those involved in the fracas.

Unfortunately, on Saturday 27th May, 2023 at about 6:20 pm, our brother Abubakar went out to buy bread, and their so-called NDLEA operatives especially Fahad Marwa and Suleiman Marwa organized mobs, since they could not face him physically and launched physical



HALIMAH Shuaibu

assault on him.

In addition to that, they abducted him and hid him at the family house of the chairman NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Buba Marwa at Zuba close, Shooting Range.

Our brother, Abubakar Shuaibu was severely brutalized by these thugs masquerading as NDLEA operatives in the presence of their biological mother.

It should also be noted that Ishaku Marwa, one of the Marwa brothers personally barricaded the gates purposely to stop any possible form of help from godly neighbours.

After inflicting injuries on him, they invited their brother, Musa Marwa also known as Kawu, another NDLEA operative attached to the Special Patrol. Kawu illegally took him to the NDLEA office at Katuru road and detained him. Thereafter, Kawu ordered the seizure of Abubakar Shuaibu's two phones where he left them for safekeeping as at when he was maliciously attacked; an infinix Note20i and an iPhone XR from a shop known as "container" located at Shooting Range. All efforts to secure his release were thwarted by Kawu and other NDLEA operatives, who claimed they were acting on the orders of the State NDLEA commander.

We are indeed perplexed that in today's democratic order, a security operative acting illegally (not on official duties) could harass, intimidate, brutalize, abduct and detained a citizen of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

We are appealing to all true mothers, brothers and parents to come to our aid and expose the atrocious crimes being committed by these outlaws hiding under the canopy of the respected and indefatigable chairman of the NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Buba Marwa. We call on the Gen. to rein in these characters before they shatter his hard-earned reputations and achievements. We are also calling on the Human Right Commission and other Human Right Organizations to rally round us and other oppressed citizens of Kaduna State and Nigeria.

Thank you for your attention.

Mrs Halimah Shuaibu is a Lecturer, Kaduna State University.

Kaduna NUJ Salutes Gov Uba Sani, Hadiza Sabuwa Over Successful Inauguration

**Says carry every section of state along in execution of programmes*

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

As part of the transition of power from a civilian to another civilian administration across the country, the Kaduna State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has felicitated with the new Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Dr Uba Sani and his deputy, Dr. Hadiza Balarabe on their peaceful and colourful inauguration on Monday May 29, 2023. A congratulatory message jointly signed by the Council Chairman and Secretary, comrades Asma'u Yawo Halilu and Gambo Santos Sanga, described the emergence of Governor Uba Sani as a sign of good tidings that will usher in genuine transformation, peaceful coexistence and renewed hope for the citizens of Kaduna State.

The statement also expressed confidence on the ability, capability and genuine intentions of the new administration in the state towards a more vibrant socio-economic and political prosperity.

The Kaduna Council of NUJ, however, implored the new administration to carry every section of the state along in the execution of its developmental policies and programmes, while also intensifying efforts towards addressing the insecurity challenges bedeviling some parts of the state.



The statement further enjoined citizens in the state to support and pray for the new administration to succeed in its developmental agenda, adding that the new APC led administration should be encouraged and appreciated in her solemn declaration to be fair and just to all manner of people irrespective of ethnic,

religious and political affiliation. According to the statement, there is also the need for traditional and religious leaders in the state to compliment the new administration efforts towards reuniting people in the state through good moral teachings for societal growth.

Irate Youth Set Lagos Police Station On Fire, Injure Officer

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Some irate youth have reportedly set ablaze a Police Post located in the Oregun area of Ikeja, in Lagos. They were also said to have injured a police officer attached to the substation, while preventing them from perpetrating the act. The cop, who sustained

severe injury on the head, was said to have been rushed to the Emergency Centre Health facility at the toll gate axis, along Lagos-Ibadan Expressway for urgent treatment. Numbering about dozen, it was gathered that the enraged youths attacked the substation on Monday, same time the swearing-in ceremony of Governor

Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and his deputy Dr. Obafemi Hamzst was ongoing. It was yet to be ascertained what could have informed the irrational act of the attackers as at time of filing the report. Following a distress call, it was learnt that officials of the Lagos State Fire and Safety Service mobilised to the scene to put off the inferno.

Efforts of the fire fighters, according to witness prevented the fire from spreading to other properties within the vicinity. The Police Public Relations Officer, SP Benjamin Hundeyin, who confirmed the incident said no arrest has been made, adding that investigation into the case had commenced.



The torched Police station

Buhari Left Nigeria Worse Than He Net In 2015 - Edwin Clark

**Says he's a total failure*

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Chief Edwin Clark, an elder statesman, has said that former President Muhammadu Buhari left the country worse than he met it in 2015.

In a farewell address to Buhari during a press conference on Sunday in Abuja, Clark said that the former President left unfulfilled promises, divided nation and myriad of other challenges, including insecurity.

The elder statesman, a former Minister of Information and current leader of the Pan-Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF), observed that many youths, particularly the professionals, left the country in droves in search of greener pastures particularly in Canada, Britain and USA under the Buhari administration. He further explained that

former President Muhammadu Buhari left the nation, especially the Niger Delta region, worse than he met it, saying that in the past eight years, Muhammadu Buhari has demonstrated in most cases that he did not belong to the whole country, but to a group; his tribe and religion, contrary to what he said in his inaugural speech that he belonged to everybody.

According to him, "The sad truth is that the South South geopolitical zone has been treated very unfairly by the outgoing administration despite the region's contributions to the national economy."

What is needed, he said, is a just, equitable and more egalitarian approach to the administration and management of the nation's resources and the conduct of state affairs, saying that the country belongs to all Nigerians.



Dokpesi

AIT Founder Raymond Dokpesi Dies At 71

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna.

The death of founder and owner of Daar Communications has been announced.

According to a statement by the family, the media mogul passed on Monday May 29, 2023.

The statement signed by son of the deceased, Raymond Dokpesi Junior pleaded for privacy for the family to mourn the septuagenarian, adding that more details on funeral arrangements would be released in due course.

"High Chief Dokpesi was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend to many who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

"The Dokpesi family is grateful for the outpouring of love and support during this difficult time. We ask that you keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we mourn the loss of our patriarch.

"We also ask for privacy during this time as we grieve together as a family.

"High Chief Dokpesi was a respected and accomplished businessman, a pioneer in the media industry, and a philanthropist who dedicated his life to the service of his country and his community. His legacy will live on through the impact he made on the lives of many," the statement noted.

THE TRIALS OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE THROUGH THE SET UP OF THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNALS, BY THE NIGERIAN'S GOVERNMENT AS THE AFTERMATH RESULTS OF THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS

1. The highly depreciative value of democracy and good governance in this country is perpendicular to the extreme laxity and incoherent tractions of our judicial values.

The political pendulum and the traction of a fruitful democracy is solidly hedged on the pillars of true separation of power of the three tiers of government which are:- The Judiciary, Legislative, and Executive.

Any country wherever these separations of powers are loosely being controlled, there can be no serious governance.

The high charged of the political atmosphere and the rumbling of discontents within our political structures are things of great concerns to our survival as a united and indivisible nation of the dreams of our forefathers, of blessed memory. (Zik, Awo, and Ahmadu Bello)

The rumbustious situation is really very frightening and drastic actions must be taken so as to daunt the fear of the ordinary citizens.

2. Our political scenes has been condescending at a very higher speed due to the usurping of the power of the judiciary by the executive.

All this, is as the result of the executive position in meddling in the appointments of our judicial officials.

Because of this, the judiciary is at the receiving end, and are always being toyed around.

It has reached a stage that some politicians now arrogantly declared themselves as winners of elective parties representatives and ask their rivals openly to go to court to challenge their dubious actions.

What can we do to set this country free from this muddy situation? What mechanism can we employ to set our judiciary free from the hands of the executive arm of government?

Shall we continue in this shameful situation forever?

3. Since most of our politicians never believe in what they usually said during the time of their campaigning to be elected, we shouldn't take them by their words. Most of times they are quite surprised of what they said about their frivolous promises made to people.

Politics is too serious a matter to be left in the hands of politicians who do not honour their words or promises.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

We shouldn't allow our politicians constantly being conniving with our electoral bodies, to always thwarting our struggles for freedom politically.

We are in bondage to the law in order that we may be free.

But unfortunately, with the humongous amount we have been spending at the periodical rounds of our elections, it seems we have been moving two steps forward and four steps backward.

Our politicking has become the diplomatic name for the law of the jungle.

It is not possible to found a lasting power upon injustice.

4. The arm of government that can

bring us out of this maximum shame is the judiciary.

As commonly being said, "the judiciary arm of government is the last hope of the common man."

The weight of good governance rests squarely on the shoulders of the judiciary arm of government.

Without them, the society cannot survive the rancorous activities of their environments for peaceful cohabitations. They interpret the laws for peaceful and harmonious living. For us they are the engines for our survival after our God Almighty.

Now our judicial officials have a gargantuan huddle to clear the unpardonable

atrocities that have been committed by some of our disheartened and unscrupulous politicians who are bent in usurping the general will of the masses almost at any general election.

Are we not ashamed to be called the giant of Africa, and the most populous black nation, but completely lacking in decency?

5. The fundamental issue beclouding the psychs of the international communities, are numerous.

Some are asking, are we really human beings?

Was God sleeping or just mistakenly allotted this blessed portion of earth to the black race, and Nigeria in particular? Very Very sure and double sure God doesn't sleep and will never sleep. So also God hasn't make a mistake and He won't make it.

Blessing Nigeria tremendously was purely designed for purposes and reasons best known to Him.

The political gambling and carelessness of our leaders are being measured and when their cups are full He will strike, and bring out people that will manage the space called Nigeria properly to His own design and glory.

Ironically, the secret collaborators to this dastardly acts of lawlessness which our political class are firing us, are architecturally being designed by the developed Western countries, and other collaborators internationally.

They have taken us for a ride, paying lips services in condemning our politicians of poor services delivery to the poor people of Africa and Nigeria in particular, while at the same time allowing them starching all the looting funds in their countries.

What a double, strategy. Getting our raw materials cheaply, and accepting the looted fund from the sold materials in their banks and making huge interests on



Justice Ariola

them.

If really they are serious in getting African countries and the black race in general, out of object poverty they should stop playing their double standard games.

6. For over 60 years of Independence, but we haven't been able to lay a solid foundation, talk less of adding the structures to our political journeys?

We have knowingly or unknowingly played into the hands of our colonial masters in Western countries and the Americas in which the ball game going on politically can never be won by us, since our leaders mostly are conniving with them to hold us to unwholesome servitudes.

Our natural resources are completely under their controls and they wouldn't be so foolish to allow us have any breathing space technologically and cause them unemployment in their respective countries (Western countries and their cohorts elsewhere.)

Most of our highly educated diasporas would have loved to return to their respective countries to contribute their quotas in our development stripes in Africa, but our greedy politicians are not giving them the breathing space, by refusing to practice good and developmental governance.

What a robust and wholesome shame?

7. Common sense is the best distributed commodity in the world, for every man is convinced that he is well supplied with it.

Every person of action, fairness, justice and equity has a strong dose of egotism, pride, hardness and cunning. But all of them will be forgiven him or her, and will even be regarded as high qualities, if he or she can make them the means to achieve great ends.

It is not possible to found a lasting power upon injustice.

It is a very decent common sense. "It is

better to have a lion at the head of an army of sheep, than a sheep at the head of an army of lions.

I am pleading to and with all the judicial tribunals that are handling cases of our political mishaps during the resent elections, to stand on the truth, no matter what, because the truth is the strongest pillar of justice and only the truth that can set our consciences free.

I will want to end this write up with this quote by one English Statesman of blessed memory thus:

"WHEN KINGS THE SWORD OF JUSTICE FIRST LAY DOWN, THEY ARE NO KINGS, THOUGH THEY POSSESS THE CROWN.

TITLES ARE EMPTY THINGS, THE GOOD OF THE SUBJECTS IS THE END OF KINGS."

We can't be left rumbling and wobbling in object poverty, in the midst of abundant resources, while few of us are living in abundant affluence, through monumental political manipulations.

We must struggle by all means to emancipate ourselves from the hands of our unproductive politicians, with their foreign collaborators that have hedged us under perpetual hardships and darkness of not moving forward but stagnated not because of lacks but share wickedness, greediness and self centre ness.

We must galvanize as a wealth nation in only two segments. The rich and the middle class. Nigeria has no reasons to have people living in object poverty. We have more than enough to send poverty packing from our midst, if truthful commitments are applied in structuring our administration system in the country.

May God Almighty help us all to succeed in these struggles for Justice in our dear and blessed Country--NIGERIA.

ELDER Y.K. FUJUNO.

ABG Congratulates Governor Umar Bago, Says Better Niger State Achievable

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Former member House of Reps, Hon. Shehu Bawa ABG has joined other prominent Nigerians in congratulating Governor of Niger State, Umar Bago.

This is just as the ex-federal legislator expressed optimism in

the ability of Governor Bago to turn around the fortunes of the state to an appreciable level that would be the envy of all.

While drumming for support and cooperation for the governor, ABG in a statement, eulogized leadership virtues of the new number one citizen of the Power State, saying the state would witness unprecedented

economic growth, prosperity and development under the stewardship of Bago.

"With the combined qualities of Bago who is not new to leadership responsibilities have spent three terms as member House of Representatives representing Chanchaga Federal constituency, Hon. ABG expressed optimism that there is

renewed hope for infrastructural development as contained in his inaugural speech.

"The inauguration of Umar Bago has brought new hope in the journey for massive socio-economic development of Niger state.

"It is with joy and high sense of patriotism I join other compatriots in rejoicing with His

Excellency Umar Bago for his inauguration and swearing in as Governor of Niger State.

"It is indeed a renewed hope and a dawn of better days to come in the history of Niger State with Governor Umar Bago at the saddle.

"I enjoin all the good people of the state to give their maximum support and cooperation to the



NOC Executive -Board Meeting Sets Tone For New Beginning

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) held its Executive Board Meeting in Abuja on May 24, 2023, at the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) in Abuja and reached important decisions to pave better way forward for the board.

A communique signed by Tony Neziyanya, the Public Relations Officer of the NOC noted that the committee was painstaking in reaching hard decisions on crucial matters.

The committee jointly agreed with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development that Team Nigeria will participate in various international sporting events, including the African Beach Games, the Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad & Tobago, and the ANOC World Beach Games in Bali, Indonesia.

"It is the belief of the Committee that these foregoing Games would help the federations in their preparations ahead of two important Games next year – the African Games to be staged by Ghana in March 2024 and the 2024 Paris Olympic Games being hosted by France.

"With these decisions, it is evident that the NOC has loaded international programmes ahead of the Paris Games.

"In between, there are many Olympic qualifying Championships to be attended by National Sports Federations for them to make the stiff qualifying standards for the Paris Games.

"The president, then, unveiled two major properties -- the newly re-developed

infrastructures - the Amuwo Odofin Olympic Village where some sporting facilities - a football pitch, Tennis, Volleyball and Basketball courts, an Indoor hall for multi-purpose uses, where sports and Cultural Centre can be held under one roof. The facility also has an Athletics running tracks.

"The President, then, announced to Members that five hectares of land have been allocated to the NOC by the Federal Capital Authority; the NOC has taken possession of all the relevant documents.

"The land will house the Committee's permanent Secretariat and some sporting infrastructure as well as other complementing facilities. It will be fenced to protect the property.

"In order not to let the land lie fallow for a long time, the Committee has taken an opportunity offered by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa to apply for a grant to build some essential facilities like the Secretariat," Gumel said.

The meeting later received the outgoing Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr Sunday Dare, who used the opportunity provided by the gathering of the elite sports administrators to have a session with the executive board.

He praised the committee for enduring work it had been doing to provide funding support --training grants and scholarships from the Olympic Solidarity and ANOCA.

Dare, engaged all with some of his achievements: "I have been able to secure all approvals, making sports an industry.

We Believe Sports In Kaduna Will Boom Under Uba Sani - Director Sports

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Director of Sports, Kaduna State Ministry of Sports Development, Alhaji Yakubu Ibrahim has said that those in the ministry are excited with the coming on board of Senator Uba Sani as governor of the state.

Speaking with sports writers on Monday at the Murtala Square where he represented the ministry at

the closing of Phase Two Nigeria Beach Soccer League, he said that track records of the new governor is a positive indicator for the sector in the state.

"We are excited by the new governor's swearing-in and are very optimistic it will bring about positive development to sports in the state," he said.

The Director of Sports pointed out that while serving just a term as

Senator Representing Kaduna Central at the National Assembly, Senator Uba Sani built no fewer than seven sports centres in his constituency. He however, appealed to the governor, to appoint someone who is passionate and knowledgeable on the sector to head the Ministry as commissioner.

He congratulated Governor Uba Sani on his

swearing-in, while assuring him of the ministry's support in further taking Kaduna State to greater heights.

On the performance of Kaduna's team at the beach soccer league, he said all hope was not lost, as they would be adequately motivated to retain the title won last year at the third and concluding phase of the league billed for Lagos.



Gusau, Sanusi Celebrate Amaju Pinnick On National Award Of OFR

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

President of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau has congratulated his immediate predecessor, Mr. Amaju Melvin Pinnick on the award of the prestigious Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR) bestowed on him by the outgoing President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR.

"I am very happy to celebrate a goal-getter, an achiever, an accomplished administrator and an eminent world citizen, Mr. Amaju Melvin Pinnick on this award. He is quite deserving but I must thank President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR for recognizing the hard work and diligence of Mr. Pinnick in

Nigeria, African and world football.

"On behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the NFF, I congratulate Mr. Pinnick and I believe this prestigious National Award will serve as an impetus for him to do even more for Nigeria, African and world football."

On his part, NFF General Secretary, Dr. Mohammed Sanusi stated that the award is not only for Mr. Pinnick and his adorable immediate family, but also for all those who worked with him at the NFF, and the entire Nigeria Football fraternity. "We are very grateful to President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR for this award, because in essence it recognizes the work that football administrators are

doing. Mr. Pinnick is a shining light for Nigeria and African football in the global space."

Amaju Melvin Pinnick served two terms as President of NFF between 2014 and 2022 (the first to break the one-term duck since Sunday Dankaro in the 1970s), arrow-headed a leadership change at the Confederation of African Football, served as 1st Vice President of CAF and is presently Member of the FIFA Council – an exclusive club of 37 people who are the supreme governors of world football.

A vintage philanthropist through his Brownhill Foundation, Amaju Melvin Pinnick has enabled the appointment of a good number of Nigerians into top offices and committees of FIFA and CAF.



Amaju Melvin Pinnick (right) with FIFA President Gianni Infantino

WAFU B U-20 Women Tourney: Falconets Daze Burkina Dames 3-0

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Two goals by Opeyemi Ajakaye and one by Flourish Sebastine steered Nigeria's U-20 girls past their Burkina Dames counterparts in the final Group B match of the ongoing WAFU B U-20 Women Tournament in Kumasi, Ghana on

Sunday.

Ajakaye, who was top scorer for the U-17 girls, Flamingos in their qualification campaign for last year's FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, took her tally for the tournament in Ghana's second city to six with well-taken strikes in the 10th and 60th minutes of the match.

Sebastine, a key player in the Falconets' squad that reached the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup quarter-finals in Costa Rica last year, added the third with three minutes to the end at the Baba Yara Stadium.

The result merely confirms Nigeria's leadership of the pool, as the Falconets had already qualified for the semi

finals following the 7-0 defeat of Niger Republic and 6-0 hammering of Togo earlier in the tourney. The victory took the Falconets' tally to 16 goals in three matches without conceding any. They will confront the runner-up of Group A in the second semi-finals slated for the Baba Yara Stadium by 6.30pm on Wednesday.



Nigerian Promoter, Odushola, Acquires America's Boxing License

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Nigerian boxing promoter, Jonathan Odushola has obtained an American Professional Boxing License which now qualifies his outfit to promote or stage boxing shows in the United States of America.

The CEO of Jonadosh Boxing Promotions has also revealed his plans to soon organize a boxing show in America to promote African and American boxers, most especially boxers from Nigeria in collaboration with Core Afrique Boxing Promotion (COABOX).

It would be recalled that Jonathan Odushola in December 2022 organized a boxing show inside the Indoor Sports Hall of Obafemi Awolowo Stadium Ibadan tagged, 'The Brawl' where Habeeb Oladeji popularly known as Ige confronted Mojeed Gbolahan, aka Black Diamond in six rounds National Bantam Weight Challenge contest.

Meanwhile the CEO of COABOX, Sola Ayodele popularly known as Ford has congratulated Jonadosh over the big accomplishment while commending Jonathan Odushola for his love for Nigerian young boxers, saying "he always wants them to grow in their boxing career".

"Odushola of Jonadosh just came into the boxing business last year after securing a promotion's boxing license from the Nigeria Boxing Board of Control (NBBofC). He told me he is ready to invest in Nigerian



Jonathan Odushola

boxing and give our home-grown talents the opportunity to show their quality and guide them to stardom", said Sola Ford.

Appoint Minister Of Sports, Not That Of Football, Awoife Tasks Tinubu

**Says Kaduna has best beach soccer facility in Nigeria*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Visionare of Habitat Care Foundation, sole sponsorship of Edo Beach Soccer and Edo Beach Soccer League, Francis Awoife has tasked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to ensure that the right person that would grow Nigeria's sports in all aspects is appointed to head the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development as Minister.

He gave the advice, while fielding questions from sports writers at the closing ceremony of the Second Phase, Nigeria Beach Soccer League, which came to an end on Monday at the Murtala Mohammed Square, Kaduna.

"It's my prayer and hope that the new administration today, brings inna minister of sports, not just a on football enthusiast

"What that will help to do is that concentration would not be on football, but on other sports.

"It would be the beginning of government creating that platform, for youth development. He would know that not just concentrating on football," he said.

Awoife argued that Nigerian youth can be one of the best athletes in the world, who would be sought after, through

developing all sports, not focusing of football.

"I think the government should put a square peg in square hole, while appointing new minister," he stressed.

Awoife, explained that in their quest to develop beach soccer, they have been sponsoring Edo Beach Soccer League since December 2012 till date.

"We also have a team in the National Beach Soccer League.

"We use the beach side of River Niger to engage the youth.

"This year we hope to expand the league, Hopefully the Edo Sand Rangers will benefit from that," he disclosed

On the level of the second phase of the league witnessed in Kaduna, he was excited by the standard of play witnessed.

"That debutants Akwa Ibom were able to win defending champions, it shows the league is growing stronger," he said.

He praised Kaduna State Government for providing a world-class beach soccer facility at the Murtala Mohammed Square.

"This is the best facility in the while country. We appreciate the government and governor of Kaduna for giving us such great edifice," he said.

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

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New Akwa Ibom Governor, Umo Eno Promises Golden Era

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The new Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno has taken oath of office with a promise in his inaugural speech to usher in a golden era that will guarantee peace and security in the state.

Pastor Eno and his deputy, Senator Akon Eyakanyi who were sworn-in on Monday in Uyo by the Chief Judge of the State, Justice Ekaette Obot said that he would be the governor of all Akwa Ibom people irrespective of their political affiliations and learnings.

He called on the people to support his ARISE agenda to build on the legacies of the immediate past governor, Mr Udom Emmanuel.

"I am in awe of the grace that has located me. I am in awe of the grace of God upon my life. I am sure together, we will usher in

the golden era for our state. "As we begin this government, we will invite all Akwa Ibomites to arise to the faith of greatness with our ARISE agenda from investment in agriculture, health care services, education; we will ensure that we continue changing the narratives of our state.

"We will continue to support our state civil servants, and we will ensure that their welfare becomes paramount. We will continue to build on the successes of Deacon Udom Gabriel Emmanuel's administration.

"We will tackle insecurity and we will ensure that Akwa Ibom continues to remain peaceful. We are resolved to ensure we fight insecurity in our state because we have the assurance of the security agencies to continue and improve upon what they are doing currently," he

stated.

The governor who commended the immediate past governor, Mr Udom Emmanuel for supporting him against all odds, applauded the people for choosing truth over lies and decided to support his candidacy.

He pleaded with the immediate past governor Emmanuel not to desert him after he exists office, saying his efforts and that of past governors of the state have placed Akwa Ibom state on its current pedestal with their achievements.

Eno who said he never believed he could be a Governor of Akwa Ibom because he was not aspiring for the position, noted that the grace of God has placed him on the current pedestal to govern the state.

He also gave credit to his late parents for his upbringing, and urged the

people of the state to be inspired by his story, saying if he attained the height he did, they would too.

New Nigerian observed that the swearing in ceremony which took place at Godswill Akpabio International Stadium, Uyo amidst exciting crowds of Akwa Ibom people from all divide who witnessed the colourful ceremony.

The new governor, Pastor Umo Eno after taking oaths of office, inspected a guard of honour mounted in his honour by Nigeria Police Force and Peace Corps.

He emerged governor on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) having been favoured by his predecessor in office, Udom Emmanuel who inspite of agitations from other political gladiators, endorsed him as the sole candidate for the state.

**WAFU B U-20 Women
Tourney: Falconets Daze
Burkina Dames 3-0**

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Plateau Governor inherits N200bn Debt

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The new Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang has said that he has inherited N200 billion debt burden in the state.

Speaking in his inaugural speech after his swearing-in at a ceremony in Jos, the state capital, he assured that despite the huge debt, the state is currently plagued with, it would not deter his administration from serving the people effectively.

He stated, "The state is presently under a huge debt burden of over N200 billion, the healthcare sector is in need of urgent attention, our school system requires a comprehensive overhaul, our infrastructure is decayed and inadequate,

and practically, every sector requires urgent redress."

He expressed his administration's determination to breaking the state's over-dependence on one source of revenue based in Abuja and managed sometimes with uncertainty.

He added that his administration was committed to working on multiple and sustainable income sources so that they can serve the people better.

Following the challenges the state was faced with, the governor explained that there was no quick-fix solutions to these challenges, but are prepared to take the challenges head-on and hit the ground running immediately.

Lagos NUJ Mourns Media Icon, Raymond Dokpesi

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Lagos State Council has expressed grief over the loss of a media icon and Founder, D A A R Communications, High Chief Raymond Aleogho Dokpesi who passed on Monday.

A statement signed by the council chairman, Adeleye Ajayi said that NUJ has received the news of his demise with shock, especially now that his contributions are highly needed in the overall transformation of the country.

High Chief Dokpesi will be remembered as one of the pioneers of 24-hour television and radio broadcasts with the establishment of Africa Independent Television (1996) and Ray Power FM (1993/1994).

He also established an indigenous radio station FAAJIFM in 2012.

He was a media proprietor who used the media platforms to promote press freedom and democratic values.

He played active roles in Nigerian Politics.

He also used the media industry to provide jobs for thousands of media practitioners.

High Chief Dokpesi was also a Marine expert who graduated with a First Class Degree in Marine Transport Engineering.

He was the first Managing Director of the first indigenous shipping line - African Ocean Line and later he established Baldock Shipping Line.

High Chief Dokpesi will forever be remembered for his immense philanthropic gestures.

In view of his numerous contributions to journalism, High Chief Dokpesi was one of the recipients of the NUJ National/NUJ Lagos Milestone Recognition of Media Icons in Nigeria held on December 8, 2022 in Lagos.

The union prayed for the repose of the soul of High Chief Dokpesi and also prayed that God will grant his entire family and the staff of D A A R Communications the fortitude to bear the big loss.



Governor Umo Eno, his deputy taking oaths of office in Akwa Ibom