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## Fuel Subsidy Removal, Widespread Hunger: Arewa Youth To Start Protest

Say if tribunal declares presidential election rerun, results would be shocking

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Arewa Citizens Watch for Good Governance, (ACWGG), has called for the sack of Mr. Mele Kolo Kyari, the GCEO of the NNPC and heads of the company subsidiaries over the recent increase in the pump price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), which they said, has led to widespread hunger in Nigeria, prompting them to

mobilise for a protest. The Publicity Secretary of the group, Aminu Muhammad Abbas, in a statement yesterday in Kaduna, said, "Our group believes strongly that the endemic and systemic corruption that the corporation is known for encouraging the racketeering in the defunct subsidy administration, which ended up lining the pockets of major marketers with petrodollars and further

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Ministerial Nomination: Tinubu Not Fair To Oyo State - APC



Hoodlums loot the warehouse belonging to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) carting away palliatives meant to be distributed to cushion the effect of subsidy removal.

Fintiri Imposes 24hr Curfew Following Looting Of Govt Warehouses By Hoodlums

\*Police arrests 47 \*Appeals for calm

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## Fintiri Impose 24hr Curfew Following Looting Of Govt Warehouses By Hoodlums

*\*Appeals for calm \*Police arrests 47*

By; TINA PHINEAS, Yola

Governor Ahmadu Finitiri of Adamawa State has declared curfew following yesterday morning looting of warehouses across the state by hoodlums.

Fintiri said the curfew became necessary due to the dangerous dimension that the activities of hoodlums had assumed. New Nigerian reports that a large number of hoodlums stormed the warehouse belonging to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and looted palliatives meant to be distributed to cushion the effect of subsidy removal. The hoodlums carted away food and non food

items some of which include gallons of vegetable oil, bags of rice, water pumps, mattresses etc

Our correspondent reports that there was chaos as security operatives fired teargas and gunshots but that did not deter the intruders.

In a swift action to curtail the spread of the riot and stealing going on, the state governor declared a 24 hours curfew.

A statement issued by Humwashi Wonisikou, Chief Press Secretary to the governor, condemned in totality the activities of the hoodlums.

"The hoodlums have been reportedly attacking people with machetes and breaking into business premises, carting away

property.

"The curfew will restrict movement throughout the state, and only those on essential duties with valid identification will be permitted to move around during the period of the curfew." It said.

Governor Fintiri appealed to citizens and residents of the state to comply with the directive, emphasizing that any person found contravening the order would be arrested and made to face the wrath of the law.

He assured the people of Adamawa of his commitment to ensure their safety and security, urging them to remain calm and law-abiding.

Meanwhile, The Adamawa State Police Command has confirmed

the arrest of 47 persons involved in the activities of stealing food and non food items in the government warehouses.

The Police Public Relations Officer SP Suleiman Ngoruje said the police and other security personnel were doing everything possible to retrieve the items stolen.

He assured the people of Adamawa state that the security agencies will not hesitate to arrest who violates government directives.

The National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA has expressed worry over the activities of the hoodlums while appealing to the authorities to provide adequate security to their warehouse.

## Lagos Police Apprehends 80 Suspects In A Week As CP Owohunwa's Operation Flush Yields Dividend



*Idowu Owohunwa Lagos CP*

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

No fewer than 80 suspected criminals have been arrested in the last one week in Lagos as the recently launched "Operation Flush" by the Lagos State Commissioner of Police Idowu Owohunwa yields positive result.

The launching of 'Operation Flush' became necessary following recent agitations by some residents of Lagos State concerning complaints of the resurgence of traffic robberies and other disturbances.

Owohunwa, had on July 27, 2023, summoned a meeting with all Area Commanders, Divisional Police Officers (DPOs), Tactical Commanders, and other strategic officers, where he unequivocally warned them against dereliction of duty, vowing that any officer found culpable would be dealt with by laid down rules.

The Police Commissioner made the disclosure of the arrest of the suspected criminals at a parley with members of the Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN), at the Mike Okiro Press Centre, Oduduwa, GRA Ikeja on Friday.

He disclosed that the arrest was made by just one police division and that another division recovered an English Pistol.

Owohunwa explained that all the police divisions in the state had started keying into raiding black spots,

which is part of the aims and objectives of Operation Flush.

According to him, the division that arrested 80 suspects, also recovered illicit drugs.

He said: "Another division recovered an English Pistol. We will do the parade, but like we said, weekly we will be giving updates of these raids."

Reacting to a news report by a national daily that the Orile area of the metropolis had been taken over by armed robbers, Owohunwa said he and his team were working towards checkmating the menace.

His words: "We have taken some actions. If you pass through there, you'll see it, and we're going to have a permanent deployment of police team along that stretch of the road.

"I didn't stop there, I had to call on the local government chairman. The truth is that the place isn't under construction. I think the best way to manage it is to have palliative measures, like filling the pothole with gravel. These criminals capitalising on the bad patch of the road to rob people. Also, we are going to continue to carry out raids to complement all these efforts."

It will be recalled that Operation Flush was launched just last week and in less than a week the police had raided some suspected black spots, arrested over 80 suspects, and recovered a pistol and illicit drugs.



Hoodlums loot the warehouse belonging to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) carting away palliatives meant to be distributed to cushion the effect of subsidy removal.

## FG Approves N25,000 Allowance For Doctors

By Amos Tauna, Kaduna

The payment of N25,000 of peculiar allowance for medical doctors and dentists in hospitals, medical centres, and clinics in the federal public service has been approved by the federal government. A letter dated July 26, 2023, titled "Accountment allowance

for medical and dental doctors in hospitals, medical centres, and clinics in federal MDAs" was disclosed.

Dr Uche Ojinmah, the President of the Nigerian Medical Association said it awaited the full implementation of the agreements they had, explained that the association was grateful

that the government had taken a step regarding one of its agreements.

A letter announcing the allowance on Thursday, said that the Federal Government has approved the payment of an accoutement allowance of N25,000 per quarter to medical and dental doctors in hospitals, medical

centres, and clinics in the federal public service, saying that the allowance is to be paid from the overhead budget.

According to the letter, "The approval takes effect from June 1, 2023. All inquiries relating to this circular should be directed to the commission."

# Ministerial Nomination: Tinubu Not Fair To Oyo State - APC

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

An All Progressives Congress (APC) group in Oyo State, Progressives Justice Mandate (PJM) yesterday, declared that President Bola Tinubu is not fair to the state with the nomination of Chief Bayo Adelabu as a minister-designate.

The group in a statement by its State Coordinator, Bolaji Ayinde faulted the nomination of Chief Adelabu as a Minister designate saying, with the choice, President Bola Tinubu has toyed with the 'hard work and party loyalty' in Oyo APC.

PJM specifically queried why the President who was widely known and believed to always reward 'hard work and party loyalty' suddenly jettisoned these, to zero-in on Adelabu against other qualified and loyal supporters of his recent presidential candidature. According to Ayinde in the statement, "On this nomination, the president hasn't reward loyalty and he was never known to be a man who doesn't reward party loyalty. This came as rude shock and surprise to many people".

"Tinubu is losing his popularity amongst the people of Oyo State and needs to watch it, 'because Ibadan nay Oyo State should not be toyed with as growing discontent among our people rages. Can

anyone point to transformers supplied to communities, roads rehabilitated or reconstructed by Bayo Adelabu to alleviate people's sufferings in his immediate environment or any part of Ibadanland or any part of our State? it said.

The group added, "Where lie his palliatives to the suffering masses? He has never been known to play any significant role in the development of Oyo State. Let him point out individuals he has used his positions in the past to promote and elevate in Ibadan, let alone across the State?"

"All Bayo Adelabu could boast of is his economic expansion of hotel businesses everywhere in Ibadan to shore his wealth. He has never been known or seen to use the resources at his disposal for the good of others".

The group stressed, "No wonder his nomination hasn't gain traction and popularity amongst the people of Oyo State since the announcement was made on the floor of the National

Assembly last Thursday. No general acceptability has greeted his nomination almost 96hours after the Senate President made President's ministerial list public.

"Market men and women; Baales; Mogajis and very many other people including Artisans and

Students are not happy with Adelabu's nomination and Mr President should know this for posterity sake. How can a man who left our party for Accord and scored about 38,357 votes be so rewarded with such a top position?"

PJM maintained in the statement that "The 2023 election exposed Bayo Adelabu as an unpopular politician who only latched on the influence of former Governor Abiola Ajimobi of blessed memory to record better results in the 2019 as our gubernatorial candidate then".

The group stated, "Is Mr President trying to make Adelabu gubernatorial candidate of our party in 2027 using the ministerial position as a precursor to prepare him for the race against the wishes of the people and our party?, saying "Mr President ought to have engaged in wide consultations with critical stakeholders within our party, APC and outside of it especially as it concerns stakeholders who made it possible for him to record landslide victories in the State and across Southwest Nigeria"

"Though he is not our fan but it is on record that Governor Seyi Makinde has been a great supporter of people's needs as a philanthropist of note long before he became Governor of the State. Did

Mr President consult him (Mr Governor) on the suitability or otherwise of Bayo Adelabu for that position?"

"Another man that worked for Mr President's victory using his resources to host several Southwest rallies at his Ilaji Hotel and Sports Resort is Engr Dotun Sanusi who obviously would never be interested in becoming a minister but there are other qualified, loyal and experienced people within the APC and outside of it that Mr President could have nominated for the position.

The group stressed, "It is our considered opinion that Mr President should always confer on the Governor who obviously worked for his ascendancy to power alongside other G5 Governors to decimate the PDP. And if he is not comfortable with the Governor, people like Engr Dotun Sanusi, who was reported as having no interest in gaining any pecuniary and personal interest after his huge investments, from both the State and Federal Governments, should be contacted to make informed recommendations on matters affecting our State and political considerations to be sure that only those who worked and mobilized for Mr President are given their due respect and recognition, going forward,"

## Gombe To Leverage New Electricity Act To Support Investment In Power Sector For Self- Sufficiency, Economic Growth



Governor Inuwa Yahaya

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has restated his government's readiness to partner private sector towards harnessing the power potentials of Gombe State, thereby fostering industrial development, economic growth and prosperity of the people. According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Sunday July 30, the governor was speaking in Kaltungo at the civic reception and turbaning ceremony of the Secretary to Gombe State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi as Madakin Kaltungo.

Governor Inuwa expressed concern over the poor condition of power supply in the state and the country at large, the problem he attributed to the inefficiency and failure of leadership at different levels, calling on leaders at various positions of authority to brace up and put things right.

He noted that "Gombe State is blessed with various power potentials like coal, uranium, dams, Kolmani oil and gas field, wind and solar resources, among others which if properly harnessed will go a long way in improving the quality and standard of life of the citizenry.

"We have both human and material resources to

harness these potentials and provide our state with adequate power for industrial and socio-economic development".

He expressed optimism that with the new law permitting states to generate, transmit and distribute power, things will change for the better, assuring that Gombe State is ready to leverage the opportunity and generate power internally.

"We cannot afford to abandon these enormous potentials that we have. We will leverage this law and ensure that our people benefit from their endowed resources.

"When there is adequate power, industries will prosper and generate employment for our teeming populace, especially youths, bringing forth economic growth and development in our dear state and the country in general", he explained.

The governor restated his government's readiness to collaborate with private individuals, groups, organizations, development partners, and all relevant stakeholders towards making Gombe a self-sufficient state in power generation in the country.

He used the occasion to call on private investors from within and outside the state to take advantage of the good atmosphere and business-friendly environment provided by his administration in the state and invest in the power sector which offers great prospects.

## We Will Massively Mobilize For Your Recall If Benue Zone C Is Shortchanged, Idoma Journalists Threaten Lawmakers

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Following a development that saw the Speaker of the Benue State House of Assembly, Hyacinth Dajoh on Thursday, refuse to make the commissioners designate submitted by Governor Hyacinth Alia known to the public, a pressure group, Congress of Idoma Media Practitioners has warned that Zone C part of the state must not be short

changed.

They expressed this in a statement signed by the Secretary General of the Group, Okpani Mike Akatu Odeh and made available to newsmen on Sunday July 30, 2023.

According to the group, keeping the list secret is suspicious.

"We are worried by the decision of the Speaker of Benue State House of Assembly, Rt. Honourable Hyacinth Dajoh to keep the commissioners

designate list to himself. If there is nothing fishy about the list, why is he not making it public?" They queried.

The group warned lawmakers from the Zone C part of the state against supporting any policies of the House of Assembly or the state government that will not favour their people.

"We are issuing this subtle warning to them that if they chose to be rubber stamp lawmakers, we will

mobilise heavily in their respective constituencies, demanding for their recall, based on provisions of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria," the Idoma journalists threatened.

It would be recalled that on Thursday, Speaker of Benue Assembly confirmed receipt of 14 out of 16 commissioned designate, but said the nominees would be revealed on screening day.

## Suspected Kidnapper Gunned Down As Police Rescues Victim, Recovers Firearm In Delta

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The camp of suspected kidnappers in Delta State has again suffered depletion, as a suspected kidnapper has been shot dead in an operation by police operatives.

A victim earlier kidnapped by the gang was rescued during the operation, while a double barrel gun was recovered from the gang. However, the victim is said to have lost the sum of N700,000 to the gang, as it had been transferred to their account before he was rescued by the operatives. Some members of the syndicate were said to have also escaped into near by bush following the intensity and superior fire power of the operatives.

The Spokesperson of Delta State Police Command DSP Bright Edafe who made the disclosure in a release on Sunday, said the suspected kidnappers were engaged by the operatives on 29th July, 2023 at about 11.00pm.

According to him, "The operatives attached to Ebrumede Police station where on stop and search duty, flagged down a Lexuz Saloon Car (reg. number withheld) but the occupant on noticing the police, jumped down from the vehicle with a double barrel gun and took to their heels.

"Some of the police operatives gave them a hot

chase during which one of them bearing the firearm was neutralized while others escaped.

"On a closer look at the abandoned vehicle, a kidnapped victim was seen blindfolded, he was immediately rescued by the operatives and taken to the police station where he stated that he was kidnapped along Jakpa Road, Warri on same date at about 2100hours, when the suspected kidnappers using a tricycle hit his vehicle from behind, and in an attempt to confront them, they brought out the double barrel gun and forced him into his own vehicle.

"Before he was rescued, he had already paid sum of seven hundred thousand naira (#700,000) ransom to their account through bank transfer. Victim has been reunited with his family while manhunt for the other fleeing suspects is ongoing".

While applauding the gallantry of the policemen, the Delta State Police Commissioner, Wale Abass urged other officers of the command to follow suit and exhibit courage in line of their respective duties.

He also urged members of the public to continue to trust, and partner with the police especially in the area of information noting that the Police cannot do it alone without the support of the community.

## Fuel Subsidy Removal, Widespread Hunger: Arewa Youth To Start Protest

■ Say if tribunal declares presidential election rerun, results would be shocking

reduced resources available for the usage of the common."

He alleged that there was artificial fuel scarcity in the significant part of 2022 and early 2023, leading to a build-up of queues in the fueling stations, stressing that miraculously, the queues disappeared immediately after the 2023 general elections.

He explained that most Nigerians believe that the forces behind the scarcity and unwarranted increase in the price of the PMS are

working against the interest of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, which ended boomeranging.

"The dark forces took the fight to another dimension by persuading the then President-elect to announce the removal of the subsidy without carrying out a proper situation analysis, believing that it was done to punish poor Nigerians who willingly voted for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu," they alleged.

The group expressed fears

that should the Tribunal and Supreme Court Justices order for a rerun election today, they doubt if the President can survive it, saying that with the perceived termination of the subsidy regime, the NNPC is planning to reaward Pipeline Surveillance Contract to the Tompolo-owned Tantita Security Company. The group also believes that it is a deliberate way of passing vote of no confidence on the Armed

Forces that are working tirelessly to ensure that Nigerians are able to sleep with their two eyes closed. Beyond the cosmetics of the of the recent findings of tapping point in oil pipeline by the leadership of Tantita, the statement believed that it coincided with the expiration of his earlier contract and believes strongly that forces in the company stand to benefit from it. The statement called on their members to converge

## Customs Reinforces Synergy with NEPZA, OGFZA Towards Improving Free Trade Zones Operations in Nigeria



Ag. CGC Adewale Adeniyi in a group photograph with members of the Organisations at the NCS headquarters, Abuja.

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The acting Comptroller-General of Nigeria Customs Service, Bashir Adeniyi has reiterated that the service, as one of the spines of the Free Zone Scheme, will continue to work in line with the standard trade facilitation policies to attract a seamless opportunity for business people to invest in the free Zones scheme in Nigeria.

Adeniyi made the commitment when he alongside his Management Team met with the Directors of the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) and Oil and Gas Free Zone

Authority (OGFZA) on Friday, to discuss the state of trade in Nigeria and join forces to take significant steps to improve Nigeria's Free Trade Zones Operations.

The Ag. CG, while responding to the calls of the two Organizations, appreciated them for visiting the Headquarters of the Nigeria Customs Service to congratulate him on his appointment and sought to review their mutual concerns about the future of trade in the Country.

According to a release by the National Public Relations Officer of the Agency CSC Abdullahi Maiwada, the Customs Boss however assured the

organisations of Customs commitment to work together with them.

His words, "We need to constitute a joint committee between us and some relevant stakeholders to address our common concerns."

Speaking to NCBN Crew shortly after the meeting, the Director of Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA), Prof. Adesoji Adesoba, said that he was personally elated with the way the CGC addressed them and expressed readiness to work assiduously towards achieving their target of improving Free Trade Zones.

However, in a separate interview, the Managing

Director of the Oil and Gas Free Zone Authority (OGFZA), Senator Tijjani Yahya Kaura, described the collaboration between the Free Trade Zones and Nigeria Customs as necessary, adding that "our meeting with the CG is fruitful, as it revolves around proffering solutions to our common issues, and I am happy that the Ag. CGC is committed to addressing them."

The organisations believed their coming together could be a 'win-win' situation that would change the narrative of Free Trade Zones in Nigeria and attract investors to Nigerian shores.



The suspected kidnapper

# Uba Sani Assures Kaduna ShopRite Of Conducive Atmosphere

## \*Says Kaduna ShopRite one of biggest in Nigeria

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani on Thursday, assured that government on its part, will support the Shoprite to ensure that they have free and comfortable atmosphere to succeed and do their own business without any problem.

The governor expressed this after officially opening the shoprite in Kaduna State, stressing that it is for the benefit of the people.

According to him, Kaduna State ShopRite is one of the biggest in Nigeria. He said, "this investment will bring prosperity and it will also help to improve the economy of

our people in Kaduna State.

"I am really happy and impressed by our government officials, it is a thing that is highly commendable and I can say, having been here personally and seen what ShopRite has done, I can see that this is one of the biggest in Nigeria.

"From my conversation with the management of the Shoprite I have no doubt on my mind, that it will increase the productivity of our state, it will create jobs and help our farmers."

The governor noted that, "most of the things I have seen, they have been supplied by our farmers, particularly the fruits and other items.

"Of course, I have seen many items here that have been sourced locally. On my part, that will improve economy of our people and create jobs.

"It will boost the economy of our people, particularly those that are farming in the rural areas and even those in the urban will certainly get employment here that is what we have been craving for.

"I am happy and I will like to give credit to my predecessor, Malam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai, who initiated this project.

"I am happy that the ShopRite has officially commissioned their own business in Kaduna State.

"I have seen a lot of faces that have been employed as I went round, the people who are indigenes of our own state and the whole idea of investments is to attract jobs.

"However, the ShopRite will give our people more opportunities, also on our own, we will try as a government to support the Shoprite to ensure that they have free and comfortable atmosphere to be able to succeed and do their own business without any problem, that is what we can provide them, the atmosphere and our support," he assured.



## NDE Empowers 50 Youth With Advanced Agricultural Training In Kaduna

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

National Directorate of Employment (NDE) has commenced a three-day training programme for 50 unemployed youth in Kaduna.

The initiative, known as the Post Sustainable Agricultural Development Training Scheme, aims to equip participants with modern agricultural techniques and knowledge to excel in the agricultural business.

The state coordinator, Alhaji Ahmed Kawuri, conveyed the message of the NDE's Director-General, Alhaji Abubakar Nuhu-Fikpo, emphasizing the importance of this advanced training.

He explained that last year, a similar training was conducted, and this year's

program aims to build upon those foundations, showcasing state-of-the-art equipment and practices.

He said the NDE is dedicated to empowering participants and helping them succeed in their chosen fields.

Idris Abubakar, the head of the Rural Employment Promotion department, congratulated the participants and urged them to make the most of this valuable opportunity.

He said the NDE is deeply invested in their success and will provide guidance on the necessary steps to achieve their goals.

Beneficiaries of the training expressed their appreciation to the NDE for this initiative, acknowledging that it will significantly enhance their employability.

Abdullahi Muhammad,



who opted to learn about poultry farming, aims to acquire comprehensive knowledge of the business.

Another participant,

Bobai Irimiya, hopes to gain insights into agricultural entrepreneurship and cooperative formation.

## North-central APC Elders Endorse Ganduje As Next N'Chairman

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The elders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the six states of the North-Central have declared their support for the choice of former governor of Kano state, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje as the next national chairman of the ruling party.

The elders, led by the former military governor of Plateau and Katsina

states, Maj Gen. Lawrence Anebi Onoja (Rtd), and other prominent APC leaders across the zone, said President Bola Tinubu and the Progressives Governors Forum have weighed Ganduje's leadership capacity, commitment and experience to lead the party well before taking that decision.

Addressing a press conference Friday in Abuja, Maj Gen. Onoja said there is a vacuum in the leadership of APC great party which need to be filled

following the resignation of the former chairman Senator Abdullahi Adamu, hence the choice of Ganduje.

"It is not surprising therefore that since the Progressives Governor's Forum endorsed and announced Ganduje's candidature, many political interest groups have similarly endorsed him to lead the party in an acting capacity.

"We as representatives of

elders of the party from North Central Zone are here today in continuation of the series of endorsements of Abdulahi Ganduje. We represent different elder's groups of the party in the zone.

"Of the series of endorsements, ours is one of the most significant because we are from the same geo political zone with the former National Chairman Abdullahi Adamu who resigned

recently.

"We are concerned with merit, quality and continuity in leadership for our party, We are in no doubt Ganduje will play that chairmanship role very effectively in the an acting capacity.

"For these reasons, we hereby collectively endorse him to chair our great party to continue where Abdullahi Adamu stopped in steering the ship of the party until substantive leadership positions are filled at the next convention in line with the party's constitution."

While rallying support of all the stakeholders from the North-Central in particular and across the country, Onoja, in company of other 19 elders from the zone urged all members of the ruling party to share the same sentiment with them.

"We implore all concerned and the media to share in our collective desire for him to succeed, for the party to succeed and for the interest of Nigeria," he said.



Ganduje

## TOFA Offers Free Medical Services To 350 People In Akungba

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

No fewer than 350 residents in Akungba-Akoko in Akoko Southwest Local Government Area of Ondo State, have freely accessed medical treatment organized by Tolu Oriyomi and Foluso Adeola Foundation (TOFA).

The residents whose joy knew no bounds, also got free food items and drugs to cure their frailties.

Our correspondent observed that four Doctors and twelve allied personnel were on ground to attend to patients.

The registered patients who obtained forms before accessing the services were treated for diverse medical conditions such as malaria, typhoid, infections, insomnia, ulcer, arthritis, rheumatism, diabetes and blood pressure.

The programme was aimed at ameliorating and ensuring sound health of inhabitants of the University community, one of the Board of Trustees said.

Chief Tolu Oriyomi also lamented how death had snatched umpteenth of people who lacked the wherewithal to monitor their health, adding that TOFA will put in its best to fully eradicate diseases in the community.

Oriyomi who is also a renowned philanthropist in the milieu, noted that the healthcare program would go a long way to bolster the health of the people.

He said, "this programme is a medical outreach carried out by TOFA Support Foundation every year. The essence is to create medical awareness for our people to know the basic medical issues like

High Blood Pressure, excess sugar in the blood and some other allied issues like Tuberculosis and other ailments."

"We realise that so many people collapse and die suddenly infact some people develop stroke among other prevailing diseases"

Another Trustee, Mr. Foluso Adeola, who was impressed by the large turn out, maintained that the foundation would continue to touch lives through constant humanitarian encouragement.

"We are encouraged by the large turn out, it's a win-win for us and win-win for them. We have folks that walked in with 220/160 blood pressure and we gave rescue medication."

"We have people with high sugar level. We just want to touch the community with our widow's mite. We urge beneficiaries to stick to the prescriptions given by Doctors".

However, one of the beneficiaries at the program, Adegoke Festus, extolled the magnanimity of the organizers, while he encouraged other well meaning residents to use their robust means to aid humanity.

Meanwhile, the Bishop of Akoko Anglican Diocese, Rt. Revd. J. O. B. Bada, expressed euphoria over the free medical treatment provided by the non-governmental organisation.

Bada, who visited the outreach, prayed for TOFA Foundation, its medical crew and the patients while encouraging other members of the community emulate the kind gesture of the foundation.



# Oriade LCDA Boss Hon Ramotallai Akinlola Hassan Boosts Riverine Community With Ultra Modern Town Hall



Representative Of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Prince Bayo Oshiyemi (middle) cutting the tape to commission Senator Oluremi Tinubu Town Hall in Ikaare, Oriade LCDA. With him, were, the council chairman, Hon Ramotallai Akinlola-Hassan (2nd left), Alabirun Of Ikaare Kingdom, Oba Nureni Akinyemi (2nd right), Vice Chairman of Oriade LCDA, Chief Moshood Badmus (right) and Chairman of APC in the council area, Sabitu Hassan (left).

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

For years to come, residents of Ikaare Community, a sleepy riverine Island in Lagos, will not forget the honour and glamour attracted to the community by the unveiling of an ultra modern Town Hall constructed by the incumbent chairman of Oriade Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Hon. Ramotallai Akinlola - Hassan on Wednesday 26th July, 2023.

Ikaare, an ancient community which has existed for close to 300 years, is an Island located along the Lagos coastline towards Badagry, one of the five Divisions that made up Lagos State.

It is bordered by other communities and kingdoms which include Ibasas, Imore, Ilashe, Ibeshe, Irede and Iyaagbe.

A 10 minutes drive by speed boat from Ijegan Egba jetty, in Satellite area of Amuwo Odofin Local Government Council area of Lagos, Ikaare, is a prominent community of Awori indigenes, with a renowned traditional ruler, an academician in the person of the Alabirun of Ikaare kingdom, HRM Oba (Dr.) Nureni Kayode Akinyemi (Adonjo ii), JP.

Inspite, its location on an Island,

one important feature about the community is the presence of government infrastructures such as public primary and secondary schools, electricity and portable drinking water from boreholes.

Aside the public schools, the community is also blessed with three private schools namely Brilliant Sound Academy, Mordek International School and Glamours Academy.

Residents are predominantly fishermen and women, with some into subsistence farming. Some of the youth are also engaged in boat operation.

Full of life and ecstasy, residents trooped out in their large numbers to be part of the joy and celebration.

As expected of such a colourful history event, the commissioning of the hall attracted the creme-la-creme of the political class within Oriade Local Council Development Area and beyond, amongst them was the Lagos State State Governor Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the immediate past Special Adviser on Chieftaincy and Local Government Affairs Prince Bayo Osiyemi. All the management staff of the Local Council Development Area (LCDA) political office holders, All Progressive Congress (APC)

were all in attendance to catch the glimpse of the memorable occasion. While Hon. Jamiu Shittu, leader of the House, led members of the legislative arm of the Council to the event, the chairman of APC Oriade LCDA Hon. Hasan Sabitu led the party chieftains.

Named " Senator Oluremi Tinubu Hall", the ultra modern community hall, completed within eight months, is said to be first of its kind to be constructed by a Local Government Council chairman in the state. The multi purpose one storey building is sited on a two plots of land at Idun - Isalu Compound.

Speaking at the occasion, Hon. Hassan disclosed that the construction of the hall was in fulfillment of her campaign promise to the community, just as she donated 20 standing OX industrial fans for the hall.

While handing over the hall to the residents, Hon. Hassan, a former member of the Lagos State House of Assembly, charged them to take good care and protect it from vandals and looters.

" Today, we are using this ante hall to mark our 2nd year in office, it is your property, you have to maintain it because government property belongs to you make sure that you don't vandalise it, make sure you take

good care of it so that tomorrow you will not come and ask for town hall again, but another thing that will bring merriment and good things to your community", the Oriade LCDA Boss quipped.

In addition, Hassan promised to supply all the required desk and benches needed in the only public primary school in the community, having been informed by the traditional ruler of the town HRM Oba (Dr. ) Kayode Akinyemi that the pupils so sit on bare floor.

In a keynote address, representative of the Lagos State Governor, Prince Bayo Osiyemi thanked all the traditional rulers and chiefs in the state for their support for the victory of the Governor and that of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the last polls.

He commended Hon. Ramotallai Akinlola Hassan for her giant strides in providing the dividend of democracy to the residents, noting that the warmth reception by the people was a testament to her good performance.

Osiyemi, who is the immediate past Special Adviser on Chieftaincy and Local Government Affairs to Governor Sanwo-Olu, disclosed that the State Government will in weeks to come roll out palliatives to

cushion the effect of pains of the removal of fuel subsidy.

Speaking earlier the monarch of the kingdom HRM Oba Kayode Akinyemi lauded the Council Boss for fulfilling her promise to the community, describing her as a true daughter of the land.

The traditional ruler assured that the hall will be properly utilised and maintained even as he told residents that the hall will be commercialised.

In chat with journalists, Oba Akinyemi appealed for hospital, companies to enhance gainful employment for the youth and a permanent riding boat at Ikaare at a pocket friendly rate.

Some community leaders, who also spoke with our correspondent on the sideline called on both Federal and State Governments to provide the community with health facility and industry for job opportunity. The Akeweje of Ikaare Community Chief Simon Akerele and the past Ward chairman of APC Mr. Lasisi Muyibi unanimously made the request, insisting that it would go along way to better the lives of residents.

The occasion was spiced with melodious traditional songs by the Omo Egbe Onikori of Ikaare, the women folks and men of Awori descent.

## Deputy Senate President, Barau, Felicitates Senate Leader, Bamidele @60

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

The Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Barau I. Jibrin, CON, has felicitated the Senate Leader, Senator Michael Opeyemi Bamidele (MOB) on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Born on July 29, 1963, MOB represents Ekiti Central Senatorial District at the Upper Chamber. He

was the Senior Legislative Aide (SLA) to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu when he was in the Senate in 1992.

Senator Barau, in a statement by his Special Adviser on Media & Publicity, Ismail Mudashir, described the lawmaker as a patriotic Nigerian, a legal icon and a straightforward politician who is passionate about the stability and

development of the country.

The Deputy President of the Senate recalled how Senator Bamidele while chairing the Senate Committee on Judiciary during the last assembly, worked immensely to address the challenges bedeviling the judiciary. He described the lawmaker as an asset to the country.

"He is an excellent

legislator and an asset to the country. He promotes stability, unity and peaceful co-existence in the country at all times.

"I pray to God to give our brand-new sexagenarian long life, sound health and prosperity for him to continue the good things he is doing for the people of Ekiti Central, Ekiti State and the country as a whole," he said.

## Creation Of Water Resources, Sanitation Ministry By Gov Eno Excites Akwa Ibomites

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Joyous reactions trailed the creation of the Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation in Akwa Ibom State by Governor Umo Eno, pointing out that the gesture would most appropriately, reposition the state to implement the existing Water Law as well as tackle other water and sanitation related issues.

Governor Eno, in his speech during the inauguration of his State's Executive Council members on Thursday in Uyo, announced the creation of two new ministries, Water Resources and Sanitation; and Internal Security in the state.

The governor who expressed worries over the exclusion of Akwa Ibom in water related benefits from the central government and donor agencies, said that the creation of a designated Ministry for Water Resources, would fully integrate the state in the United Nations Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, WASH, programme.

"This no doubt, will reposition the state to implement the existing Water Law as well as tackle other water and sanitation related issues most appropriately," he assured.

Reacting to the development, Prof Gabriel Umoh, Project Director of IboM WASH Policy Cluster Project, an implementing partner with funding support of USAID, described the vision by Governor Eno to create the Water Resources and Sanitation Ministry as an answer to the long agitation and advocacy for government to create such Ministry.

Prof Umoh, who spoke with New Nigerian in Uyo shortly after he heard the announcement, said that IboM WASH+ has been working with other critical stakeholders to advocate for the establishment of the Ministry.

"IboM WASH+ is extremely excited about the news of the announcement of the creation of a stand-alone Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Akwa Ibom State. This is one of IboM WASH cluster advocacy asks. And, IboM WASH+ has been working assiduously with other stakeholders to advocate for the establishment of Ministry of Water Resources and we are happy that the Governor has hearkened to our call.

"With the new ministry, water resources, sanitation and hygiene issues in the State would receive the attention it deserves. We thank all who worked with IboM WASH cluster towards the realisation of this feat." Prof Umoh said. He however expressed optimism that the WASH Policy, WASH Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, and Akwa Ibom State Open Defecation-free Roadmap which were submitted by IboM WASH cluster to Akwa Ibom State Executive Council and was referred for further discussion would be approved.

This according to him, will assist the new Ministry with the right tools to work with. these are ancillary documents to the Water Sector Law of the State, stressing, "It is also our prayer that a strong team be assembled to run the new Ministry for effective service delivery and accelerated development of Akwa Ibom State."

He pledged that IboM WASH cluster would continue to work with the new Ministry and other stakeholders in the WASH Sector to make sure Akwa Ibom State is top notch on matters relating to WASH.

"A big congratulations to the visionary Governor of Akwa Ibom State, HE Pastor Umo Bassey Eno; Congratulations to Akwa Ibom State. The golden era in the WASH sector is here!" Prof Umoh stated.



Deputy Senate President, Barau giving a listening ear to a colleague

## Ministerial Position: Concerned Northern APC Youth Forum Hails Tinubu For Nominating Umahi

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Concerned Northern APC Youth Forum has thanked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for listening to their prayers by nominating the immediate past Governor of Ebonyi State, His Excellency, Engr David Nweze Umahi for ministerial position in his cabinet.

While appreciating this well thought out gesture by Mr President, Hon Suleiman Liba who is the leader of the group, said President Tinubu has once again, kept his word when he said he will only bring on board individuals who have the requisite experience and know how, people who can hit the ground running for speedy and purposeful

developmental strides.

"While we await official announcement, i want to say unequivocally that the choice of Engr. Dave Umahi is one of such, Mr President will live to be proud of this decision," Hon Liba said.

President Tinubu, since the assumption of office on May 29th, has been apt with his decision making in all spheres of governance and this nomination is a further testament to his strong will to ensuring that the

project Nigeria is a big success under his administration.

"Mr President has our full backing at the Concerned Northern APC Youth Forum, so long as he continues to take decisions that are for the betterment of our dear country Nigeria."

"The leadership that Nigeria and Nigerians yearn for is here with us and it is evident in the policies and decisions of this administration so far, there are better days ahead no matter what we are facing at the moment, it is only temporary as this government is working her heart out to ensure we can be proud to be called Nigerians."

Hon Suleiman Liba concluded by saying that Nigerians should know that "no pains no gains".





# Zulum Opens Central Mosque; Inspects 7 Projects

## \*Approves houses for teachers in Gamboru-Ngala

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum on Friday, visited Ngala and Gamboru communities both in Ngala Local Government Area in the central part of the state.

The governor, during the visit, opened Gamboru's central mosque, where he prayed the juma'at service.

He also inspected seven capital projects and approved houses for teachers.

The seven projects Zulum inspected were the Gamboru International Cattle Market, a Police station and barracks, Customs barracks, an Immigration office and barracks, Ngala Central Primary School, a Mega-size Higher Islamic College and a vocational training centre.

The governor noted that the projects aimed at enhancing trans-border trade between Nigeria and the neighbouring countries of Chad and the Cameroon Republics.

"I am here to assess facilities that are being constructed by the Borno State Government, most especially those that will put in place the civil authorities and enhance trans-border trade," Zulum said.

At the Gamboru International Cattle Market, besides the ongoing construction work, Zulum approved additional shopping malls, animal stands and an abattoir.

The governor also directed the construction of additional departments and the recruitment of tutors at the Vocational Training Center, in Gamboru town.

"Liaise with the main Vocational Training Institute in Maiduguri and deploy additional tools to this place, make a thorough assessment of the centre for training to resume as soon as possible. I am happy to note that we have space here, we can establish a welding bay, and a carpentry bay, and we can have about four additional structures", Zulum said as he directed officials.

Also, during his trip to Ngala Local Government Area, Governor Zulum approved the construction of a housing estate to be dedicated to teachers working in the LGA.

The governor announced the approval while interacting with teachers and officials of the Local Education Authority at Ngala Central Primary School.

The governor went on a trip in the company of the special adviser on special projects- Engr Ibrahim Idriss, World Bank's Multi Crises Recovery Project (MCRP) Coordinator in Borno State, Babazanna AbdulKarim and Dr Ali Umar Bashir, technical specialist at the MCRP.

Others include, the General Manager, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA), Engr Mohammed Musa Aliyu, and the Director General of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Dr Mohammed Barkindo.





# COMMUNITY FOCUS

## Kaduna Community Raises Alarm Over Activities Of Land Grabbers, Wants Uba Sani's Intervention

By: AUSTINE AGBO  
EMMANUEL, Kaduna

Members of Unguwan Bulus in Kakura Community of Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State have raised alarm over the illegal land grabbing and sale of their ancestral communal land by some unknown members of neighboring communities.

Chief Bulus Tukasa, the Sarkin Yaki Takura and Mr Gideon Bulus, the Mai Ungwa of Nissi Village in Chikun LGA, while speaking with journalists in Kaduna on Friday, said it has become imperative to put an end to the reckless abuse of human rights in the community that has resulted to the threat of public peace on different occasions.

The community stakeholders, who claimed ownership of the land, said the situation has become worrisome as some members of the community have constituted themselves into a group terrorizing the community, adding that some people came that they are from Kaduna State Geographical Information Service (KADGIS) without any approval or documents showing they are authentic and are selling off their land.

They noted that the situation in the community is very pitiable for unknown persons to come into their ancestral home and the place of their economic benefits to unlawfully take from them their family inheritance, and therefore, called on the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Malam Uba Sani to intervene immediately before the community resolves to self help that may lead to the breakdown of law and order.

Chief Bulus said, "we calling on the executive Governor of Kaduna State, Malam Uba Sani to come to our aid and ensure that this activity from unlawful people are brought to an end, else we are going and our landed properties.

"We shall also use every legal means to resist the sale of our land. We have been kidnapped and taken into the forest, where our leaders were tied up and beaten until their family pay ransom for their release.

"If you want to buy land from a community that is not yours, the right thing to do is to go and make enquires from the elders of the land, not just accepting whatever land speculators

tell you, because we cannot leave our homes nor forfeit our land to unknown persons just like that," he said.

Speaking with our reporter on the development, the Public Relations Officer, PRO KADGIS, Helen Kafoi said there has been several reports of land grabbers not only in the community, but the state at large.

Helen said there are also cases of different groups of persons impersonating KADGIS, carrying out all manner of illegal activities, stressing that any group or persons without real approval documents from KADGIS are not from them and should be regarded as fraudsters.

She said, "definitely there are people that have been impersonating KADGIS. We have cases like that. So if there is no official document from government that is backing them, they are fraudsters because KADGIS will not do a thing like that. Nobody from KADGIS will come there and start doing anything without the right documents. If there is no document backing it from the government, that means, it is not official." She said.



# APC In Bad Shape, Only Boss Mustapha Can Put It On Track - Group

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A group, All Progressives Congress (APC) Progressive Youth and Women Mandate has suggested that moving the party from the present bad shape, a stabilizer like immediate past Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Barrister Boss Mustapha is needed.

Speaking at a press briefing in Kaduna on Friday July 28 2023, convener of the group, Jibril Adamu Seze, said that in view of that, they are endorsing Barrister Boss Mustapha for the national chairmanship of the party.

"There is no doubt that our noble party the APC is in bad shape (resignation of the NATIONAL Chairman, National Secretary and the North West Vice Chairman) and is in dear need of someone who perfectly understand what and how it takes to fix the party back to shape for a

sustainable political development guided with practical wisdom and principles that will help Mr. President in achieving his sole desire of a Renewed Hope for a better Nigeria," the group said.

Reading from the text of the briefing which was jointly signed by Co-Convener, Comrade Nuhu Sani, the APC Progressive Youth & Women Mandate stressed that in promoting the excellent ideas, innovations, the political wheel and advancement propel by the administration of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu through the principle of party politics and democracy, Boss Mustapha is key.

"Such noble task requires the services, knowledge, capacity and experience of a season public administrator and distinguish management guru per excellent.

"We are appealing to Mr. President In

consideration of our request to look inward by nominating the former Secretary to the Government of the Federation Barr. Boss Mustapha as the next National Chairman of our party considering his antecedent and track records of excellent performance, a committed and dedicated party loyalist with the needed necessary skill to manage the affairs of our great party the APC.

"We are confident and want to assure Mr. President that supporting Barr. Boss Mustapha, CFR will not only add value or increase the love and support from the North East (Adamawa), rather it will harness all pockets of support for the development of our party in the nearest future," they assured.

Speaking further, the group explained that, "as a strong party man, we are confident in his personal ability and capacity to deliver working closely with

his colleagues at the National Working Committee of our great party and to also help in promoting/defending the ideals of our founding fathers whose effort will always be acknowledge and celebrated.

"Mr. President sir, we are aware of your determination and commitment to build a prosperous Nigeria free from religious intolerance, political sentiment and tribal domination, we are firm and resolute in endorsing Barr. Boss Mustapha as someone who could help you put the party back to shape while you concentrate in making Nigeria great.

"We finally want to use this medium to call on all party faithful and loyalist especially State Governors to support Barr. Boss Mustapha, CFR as a unifying pillar that will bring everyone onboard to take our party APC to the next level of development."



## Oyo Will Ensure Proper Orientation On Disease Prevention Among Children, Women - Commissioner

\*Oyo Govt., UNICEF relaunch SOMTEC, on women, children's wellbeing

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Prince Dotun Oyelade on Thursday, said the ministry will ensure proper orientation of households on the need for disease prevention among children and women in the state.

Prince Oyelade said this while speaking at the relaunch of Oyo State Social Mobilization Technical Committee in

partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF.

The Commissioner stressed that the ministry will work with relevant agencies to undertake effective public awareness and that the Ministry will ensure proper orientation of households on the need for disease prevention among children and women in some affected communities in Oyo State. According to Prince Oyelade, the Ministry of Information and

Orientation will intervene in the progress of children's well-being in the state, in conjunction with other ministries, departments, and agencies.

"We will co-operate with you and ensure everything within the purview of our job is done with utmost zeal," he said

The UNICEF Social Behavioural Change Specialist, Aderonke Akinola-Akinwale while speaking, said the quarterly meeting will

ensure attitudinal change for results among parents and caregivers for a healthier Oyo State.

She urged MDAs and relevant stakeholders to work with UNICEF and the Ministry of Information and Orientation on achieving this new zest.

The relaunch, which was attended by the UNICEF Social Behavioural Change Specialist and other stakeholders from Media Houses, and MDAs agreed to meet quarterly.

## NSCDC Presents Operational Licenses To 41 Private Guard Companies, Task Them On National Security

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, (NSCDC), has presented operational licenses to 41 new Private Guard Companies (PGC), tasking them to operate within national framework in contributing to peace and security of the nation.

The Commandant General (CG) of the Corps, Dr Ahmed Abubakar Audimni, OFR, said this in a keynote address delivered to the qualified companies during a brief ceremony at the Corps national headquarters, Abuja.

Represented by Deputy Commandant General (DCG) in charge of Operations, Dauda Mungadi, the CG said that private security industry is an integral part of national security architecture, hence, practitioners must enhance protection against crime and ensure optimum security of lives and property of the populace.

In a release by Olusola Odumosu Director Public Relations of the Agency, Audi specifically, he tasked the directors who retired from government security agencies and their counterparts not to compromise standards under any guises.

"Use your experience to promote public interest and socio-economic growth, which only thrive in a crime free environment.

"As you join the league of players in this industry, you should not compromise standard. The



Directors of the Licensed Private Companies

provisions of the PGC Act and regulation must be strictly adhered to.

"National security must not be sacrificed on the altar of pursuit for business profit.

"Companies who violate the ethical codes of operation would be sanctioned and penalised accordingly," the CG warned.

The NSCDC helmsman called on the operators to ensure prompt submission of security reports and to constantly share intelligence with the Corps.

He charged them to report all suspicious activities or

movements in their areas of operation as they would be held accountable for any breach of security in their domain.

Similarly, the guest speaker, Major Gen. Obidah Ethan (rtd), in a lecture organised as part of orientation for the new entrants, entitled "The imperative of private guard companies as a boost for internal security in Nigeria", asserted that the presence of PGCs has served to cushion the effects of security threats.

According to Ethan, in spite of efforts by conventional government security agencies, there

are still some ungoverned spaces, either due to inadequate numerical strength or equipment.

He prescribed as imperative for private security operators to fill the gap, reiterating that outsourcing of security is a global practice.

Other presenters at the event include the National President, Association of Licensed Private Security Practitioners of Nigeria (ALPSPN), Mr Chris Adigwu and Deputy Commandant of Corps (DCC) Wasiu Sanya Oyesanya from the PGC unit, Corps national headquarters, Abuja.

## Oyo Information Commissioner with UNICEF Team

Anthrax: Oyo Govt Will Prevent Outbreak Of Anthrax, Other Diseases - Perm Sec

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Government on Thursday, hinted that it is leaving no stone unturned to prevent the outbreak of Anthrax disease and re-emergence of other diseases in the state

The Permanent Secretary, Oyo state Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusoji Adeyanju dropped this hint while speaking at the inaugural meeting of the State's Technical Working Group

Dr Adeyanju said towards this, the state government has sought collaborative efforts of relevant stakeholders to avert the outbreak of anthrax disease in the state.

Speaking through the Director, Public Health, Dr. Olubunmi Ayinde at the Emergency Operation Center, Yemetu, Ibadan, Dr Adeyanju called on members of the group to work as a team and map out strategies that will enhance the success of the committee.

Dr Adeyanju stressed that members of the technical working group have been put into different pillars to ensure the effectiveness of the group.

"The Technical Working Group is to look into re-emerging diseases and how to prevent people in Oyo state from having these diseases", he said Dr Adeyanju added, "For the effectiveness of this group, we have ensured that this group together, has different pillars, members of different pillars have come together,

like the risk communication group, we have the case management group, those that we look after cases if they occurred, the risk communication is to sensitize and create awareness in the community".

"We have the surveillance group, working within communities and health facilities to ensure that there is no disease or if any disease comes up, it is reported promptly. Relevant stakeholders from the Agricultural sector, and veterinary doctors are here, looking at it holistically, so that we can work together to achieve more".

In his remarks, Dr. Abiodun Abatan of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture who said human nature diseases emanated from animals advocated the use of veterinary laboratory in the state, random blood samples and proper testing for animals to know the status of rams and cows to be slaughtered for distribution or consumption.

Dr Abatan then appealed to all and sundry to be conversant with the source of the meat to consume to prevent unforeseen circumstances.

Part of the submissions of stakeholders at the meeting were mass annual vaccination of animals, waging war against those operating illegal abattoir in the state, community sensitization, introduction of certified meat seller shops at strategic points among others.

"We have the surveillance group, working within communities and health facilities to ensure that there is no disease or if any disease comes up, it is reported promptly."

# We Are Committed To Improving Lives Of Kaduna Citizens - Uba Sani

## \*Swears-in Prof Gugong, 13 others as commissioners

By; FUNMI ADERINTO,  
Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani on Thursday, assured commissioners of his support and tools they require to perform optimally.

Governor Uba Sani expressed this after the oath-taking and swearing in ceremony of commissioners in Kaduna State, held at the Council Chamber of Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, in Kaduna.

"I encourage you all to see yourselves as part of the Sustain Agenda Team". He said.

The governor who welcomed all to the swearing - in ceremony, said, "today marks a major milestone in the journey of this administration, it is the culmination of painstaking selection and assignment process."

He said, Kaduna State is blessed with highly educated, experienced, competent and committed professionals in all fields of endeavour.

"That you made it to the cabinet is a recognition of your worth and the high premium we place on you.

"This places on you a burden to deliver on the promises we made to the good people of Kaduna State. We therefore, count on you to bring your wealth of experience, skills and competences to bear on your new assignments.

Uba Sani noted that, "you are joining our administration at the most challenging time in the history of our country.

"We are confronted with serious economic and security challenges. The Federal Government has initiated reforms in the economic sector geared towards securing our future.

"Creative and innovative steps are being taken to address our



economic challenges. These challenges require the taking of extraordinary measures. It is for this reason that the President Bola Tinubu Administration has taken some hard, painful, but necessary decisions like the removal of subsidy on fuel.

"However, we are therefore, in a period of emergency. This is a time for Belt Tightening, we must take firm measures in Kaduna State to cut down on the cost of governance.

"We must, as political leaders, show our people the way. We must avoid ostentatious lifestyle. We must not be telling our people to make sacrifices while we are busy living in opulence.

"We are already matching our words with action. I will continue to use the old cars inherited from the previous administrations in Kaduna State."

He said, all commissioners must also use the old cars.

"We must collectively make sacrifices. If we lead by example, our people will follow and

support us.

"I signed my first Executive Order on Tuesday, 25th July 2023. It is on "Financial Inclusion in Kaduna State.

"We are committed to improving the lives of our citizens, especially the poor, underserved and vulnerable. Majority of our people are excluded from financial services, and by extension access to opportunities from the state and Federal Government.

"This is unacceptable. We shall develop a credible State Register that will capture our people in the rural areas, as well as the urban poor. We shall assist them to open bank accounts to enable them benefit from available opportunities.

"Our goal is to effectively integrate the poor, underserved and vulnerable in Kaduna State into the financial eco-system, so that they can benefit from State and Federal Governments social investment programmes, as well as donor agencies interventions.

"Our people-centered administration will not rest until we positively impact on the lives of the poor, underserved, voiceless and vulnerable in our state.

"Consequently, our administration will establish a Trust fund for the poor and vulnerable in Kaduna State. The Trust Fund will cater for the needs of the poor, underserved and vulnerable in Kaduna State."

The governor said, a committee will be set up to develop a Framework for the Establishment of the Trust Fund. I will donate 50% of my salary to the Trust Fund for the next two years.

"This is part of my sacrifices

towards reducing the cost of governance in Kaduna State, and to better the lot of the poor, underserved and vulnerable in our state.

"As Commissioners, you carry a big burden. The formulation and effective implementation of policies and programmes of government rests on your shoulders.

"You must adopt the inclusive approach to leadership. You must build a team. Everybody is important. Don't be a lone ranger. That is a recipe for failure.

"I charge you all to get down to work immediately. You are expected to deliver on the 7 Point Agenda of our administration, namely: Safety and Security, Upgrade of Infrastructure, Strengthening Institutions, Trade and Investment, Agriculture, Investing in Human Capital, and Nurturing Citizens Engagement.

"The central focus of our administration is however the Transformation of the Rural Areas. We want to revitalize the economies of the rural areas through massive infrastructural development.

"However, as Honourable Commissioners, our citizens rightly expect a lot from you. Excuses for lacklustre performance will not be accepted.

"In the service of our dear state, we must put personal friendship aside. We shall strictly assess you based on performance indicators. Anyone that fails to measure up will be shown the way out.

"However, be rest assured that I will give you the support and tools you require to perform optimally. I encourage you all to

see yourselves as part of the Sustain Agenda Team.

"We work together and succeed together. It is not about personal glory. It is about service to the people.

"I congratulate you for accepting to be part of the arduous journey of making Kaduna State the Model of Development in Nigeria. And, as in every journey, the end is more important than the beginning.

"I wish you God's guidance. God bless you all.

"You have been assigned the following portfolios:

The Kaduna State Commissioners and their portfolios.

1. Sule Shuaibu - Attorney General/ Commissioner for Justice
2. Shizzer Nasara Joy Bada - Finance
3. Prof. Muhammad Sani Bello - Education
4. Umma Kaltume Ahmed - Health
5. Sadiq Mamman Lagos - Local Government
6. Aminu Abdullahi Shagali - Housing and Urban Development.
7. Salisu Rabi - Human Services and Social Development.
8. Prof. Benjamin Kumai Gugong - Sports Development
9. Ibrahim Hamza - Public Works and Infrastructure
10. Mukhtar Ahmed - Planning and Budget Commission
11. Abubakar Buba - Environment & Natural Resources
12. Murtala Mohammed Dabo - Agriculture
13. Patience Fakai - Business Innovation & Technology
14. Auwal Musa Shugaba - Internal Security and Home Affairs."



# Aliyu Commends Tinubu Over Female Ministerial Nominees



By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has been commended for selecting brilliant and hard working Nigerians, especially the women, to work with him as ministers.

Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu gave the commendation in a congratulatory message made available to journalists on Thursday.

The immediate past Minister of State for Federal Capital Territory (FCT)

expressed delight over recognition of the Nigeria woman on the list, saying that their appointments were deserving and timely.

The message reads in part: "I am delighted and honored to extend my heartfelt congratulations to esteemed Nigerian women who have been recognized on list of ministerial nominees.

"Your appointments by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, are not

only well-deserved but also timely."

The former All Progressives Congress (APC) national women leader also expressed confidence in the ability of the female nominees to excel in their national assignments and play pivotal roles in assisting the President in realizing his vision of a peaceful and prosperous Nigeria

Aliyu prayed: "As you embark on these important responsibilities, I pray for God's guidance, sound health, and

wisdom to enable you to discharge your duties diligently. Your dedication to the service of our nation is commendable, and I offer you my utmost regards."

No fewer than six women have been nominated for ministerial positions in the first batch of the list submitted to the Senate by President Tinubu.

They are Stella Okotette, Nkiru Onyeojiocha, Uju Kennedy Ohaneye, Dorris Aniche Udoka, Hannatu Musawa and Uche Nnaji.



## Comrade Musa Abubakar Congratulates Malagi Over Ministerial Nomination

By; MOHAMMED DAUDA EIBONAMIJI

Hon. Musa Abubakar Mai Baban Ajihu popularly known as Karnati iKon Allah, has joined several others in hailing the choice of newspaper proprietor, Alhaji Mohammed Idris Malagi as one of the ministerial nominees of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

In a congratulatory message during the Friday Jumu'at Prayers in Minna City on July 28, when addressing some party enthusiasts, he described the nominee Alhaji Mohammed Idris Malagi as the man the cap fits based on the immense and grandiose contributions to the All Progressives Congress (APC) campaign council in the last general elections.

"Alhaji Idris appointment is well-deserved considering his wealth of experience, a PR Consultant, Publisher, Business Tycoon among others," he said.

He equally commended His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Mohammed Umaru Bago,

the Executive Governor for the renewed hope in Niger State.

"With what we are seeing on the ground, in fact, the monumental turnaround is commendable," he added. He described Malagi as a grassroots politician with mass followers across the length and breath of Niger State and indeed Nigeria at large.

Mai Baban Ajihu sued for improved peace and security of Nigerlites across all boards, adding that, "Nigerlites deserve the best in all ramifications."

He also called on the Nigerlites to support the media magnet and business mogul to deliver on his new assignment and wished him well as he takes up the mantle of leadership.

"Though not a herculean task to the Malagi due to his immense understanding of the politics, economy and other sundry issues in Nigeria. Alhaji Mohammed Idris Malagi will be a valuable addition to the administration of President of Ahmed Bola Tinubu."

# Shiites Embark On Massive Protest In Kaduna, Demand Equity, Justice

\*Seek release of Sheikh Zakzaky, wife's travel documents

By: JACOB ONJEWU  
DICKSON

Members of the Islamic sect, Shiites, came out on large numbers, protesting on the ever busy Ahmadu Bello Way Kaduna on Friday July 28, 2023.

Our correspondent saw the protesting Shiites, carrying banners and placards, with various inscriptions.

They were sighted around the popular Kano Road junction of the Ahmadu Bello Way in a peaceful procession, as at time of filing this report.

During the procession, the youth, dressed in all black, were seen with their hands raised in the air, a gesture, our correspondent can't interpret at the moment.

In an interview with newsmen, spokesman of the group, Engineer Yunusa Lawal Musa said their marching on the major highway is to create awareness.

"We want people to know what has happened to the progeny of our prophet, in the year, 680 AD equivalent to 61 after the Hijra of Prophet Mohammed, there were group of Muslims, they call themselves the best Muslims, they descended on the grandson of our Holy Prophet simply because of Leadership.

"They wanted leadership by hook or by crook and that culminated into what happened on the 10th day of Muharram, exactly like today, that is we are commemorating his martyrdom.

"He was brutally killed in the land of Karbala. He was killed with his disciples, his family, in fact, they wanted to actually kill everybody who was within the progeny of our Prophet Mohammed.

"Because they said it, the son of Yazid Muyawiya, he said it that they want to actually kill the religion of prophet Mohammed, that is Islam," he said.

According to him, "This is very disheartening if you look at what has happened, because these are people who professed that they were part of us, yet they went ahead to do this.

"If you look at what happened in the land of Karbala, you will notice that what happened really, when you look at humanity, I mean children were killed, women were killed, they beheaded the disciples, almost all, 72 of them

"The women and children that were left, they marched them from the land of Karbala, that is in Iraq, up to Damascus in Syria. You can see the distance on foot.

"What happened in Karbala to us as Muslims, Shiite Muslims, is what is actually making us to go against oppression and suppression at any given time, because we now believe that whoever is a leader and dies not follow the ethics of, if it's the constitution, or the religion, like what is happening now in this country, there is a lot of impunity.

"You see people in power in the country, they just use it as if it belongs to them, it is unacceptable.

"Some people look at us as if we are rebellious, we are here in this world for justice. Once there is no equity and justice, there will be problem.

This is what is happening everywhere. So what Imam Hussein was saying at that time, was that no, the leadership was going wrongly, therefore, they have to ensure that it goes straight.

"The same thing with our Sheikh Ibrahim Elzaky, he has been detained almost 11 times. Each time the government decides to take him to court or whatever, he defeats them. Because they don't have the right, they always want to suppress, oppress, subjugate him.

"Right now, as you can see, he has won all his cases and up till now, they have not allowed him the freedom to go out of the country to get his medical attention. His passport is still with the government they have not released his passport. This is very saddening.

"We are saying with guarantee that as long as there is suppression and oppression, we will continue to fight it, no matter who is there.

"Now we have a Muslim-Muslim presidency in this country. But I assure you, if they don't do the right thing, we will continue to talk, so it is left for them to descend on us or not to descend on us.

"If you take this country as a case study, there is a constitution which should be adhered to. Look at what is happening at NASS is it fair, they are asking of increase of this, increase of that, while the masses are suffering. Is it fair?

"As we said the main purpose of our marching is on awareness on injustice, Our leader has been subdued all protocol of justice, he has been taken to court and won all the cases. We want the government to release his passport and go for check up," he said.

They also demanded that people should be allowed to practice their religion as enshrined in the constitution as long as it does not go against any other person's belief.



# Wild Jubilation In North-West Following Goronyo's Nomination As Minister Of The Federal Republic Of Nigeria

By ; YUSUF  
MAKARFI

All over the north-west region, the people, especially the youth, have been holding their hand in glee and appreciation of the news that one of their own, a champion of the masses and a progressive personality of repute, Barr. Bello Muhammad Goronyo who is equally an avid political scholar of Sarkin Yamma His Excellency, Senator Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko the ebullient political cion of Sokoto State.

Following the trajectory of the simplicity and down to earth policies of Magatakarda, the youth and those who believe in progressive policies deeply believe that Rt. Hon. Bello Goronyo will replicate the political initiative of the patriarch (Sarkin Yamma) and farther of all.

Expectedly, the Government of His Excellency, president Bola Ahmad Tinubu and the generality of Nigerians will benefit from the vast political menu on the dish of Mr. Goronyo.

The Youth are advised to support him in all areas of his responsibilities and for Mr. President, we thank him for his trust and foresight deployed towards the appointment of our own Barr. Bello Muhammad Goronyo respectively.

This piece was sent in by Yusuf Makarfi from Kaduna.



Goronyo



# Rt. Hon Yusuf Liman: Rejigging The Focus Of Kaduna State House Of Assembly

By; YUSUF USMANIYYAKACHIA

The Speaker Kaduna State House of Assembly has definitely borrowed a leaf from the mantra of President Bola Tinubu, "renewed hope" of hitting the grounds running by initiating some vital and strategic steps of fine tuning and redirecting the mission statement and mandate of the Kaduna State House of

Assembly towards actualizing positive and progressive policies and programs that are geared toward improving the lives style, security, transparency, fairness and equity to the overall people of Kaduna State and even those who are just visiting. Collaboratively, the Rt. Hon. Speaker has understood the importance of synergy of the State Assembly with other agencies of

the government including the Executive which form the umbrella of the entire structure. Rt. Hon. Yusuf Liman has invested large chunk of ideas in order to breed prosperous and progressive governance which will inturn support the delivery and success of His Excellency, Senator Malam Uba Sani administration. Equally, viewing the importance of all inclusive leadership, he has redoubled his

relationship efforts with all the members of the State House of Assembly so that the people will not be disappointed in their representation.

He is definitely being celebrated within various political circles across the Kaduna State and beyond.

This piece was sent in by Yusuf Usmaniyya Kachia



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

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- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
- The management of New Nigerian Newspapers Limited reserves the right to reject an advert or any publication in any of its titles where such materials are considered distasteful for public exposure or libelous.

### TECHNICAL DATA

#### 6 COLUMNS

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

### POLITICAL RATE

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

### LOOSE INSERTS

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

### CLASSIFIEDS

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

### SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

# How Did Buhari Swing It?

By: HASSAN GIMBA

“Any man whom Allah has given the authority of ruling some people and he does not look after them in an honest manner, will never feel even the smell of Paradise.” – Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Before going to my topic, please allow me a little digression. I want to start by appealing to the federal government to please stop the charade and for the people to not take their eyes off the goalpost. Or where do you place the ongoing drama about the former Central Bank Governor's arrest, arraignment, and re-arrest?

In the first place, no one told the nation why he was relieved of his post, yet we clapped. No questions asked. Fine. But is it? Is this how it should be done? Okay, the man, and rightly so, was thought to have worsened the country's economy and helped activities that would be considered harmful in a serious nation.

But when the time to bring him to justice came, the man was charged with the “illegal possession of a gun and 123 rounds of bullets”! Not abuse of office, mind you. Not economic sabotage, conflict of interest (for attempting to contest for the presidency), botched naira redesign, etc.

Can you beat that?! And then we were forced to be spectators of the drama of his re-arrest in court after securing bail for twenty million naira.

Well, if the government wants to hide something or shield some people who were hand in gloves with the man, no need to regale us with all this. And people should wise up and stop being taken for expensive rides. Next time, say “Thank you, but I don't want your expensive ride borne out of the high cost of fuel; I'll rather trek.”

We have had leaders in Nigeria who were not found to be corrupt. Alhaji Shehu Shagari was not jailed by Muhammadu Buhari after he was overthrown, unlike many other leaders from that time that were jailed for hundreds of years.

Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Nigeria's first and only prime minister, had to make Shehu Shagari, who was then his aide, pay the government for returning his (prime minister's) mother home from Lagos in a presidential aircraft. He angrily told Shagari that he, as PM, did not use the presidential plane when going to his party's activities or campaigns.

General Murtala Ramat Mohammed was a leader who purged the civil service of the corrupt and never allowed them to permeate his government. It was said that he had just thirty naira in his account when he was killed.

None of these three leaders had their wives or children in their governments. Their families were not known to have influenced the government or its agents. They did not seek favours from ministries, departments, or agencies.

Despite all their stellar attributes and saint-like qualities, none of them are as

venerated by the people as General Muhammadu Buhari.

Buhari successfully made a large chunk of the people see in their eyes a man wearing angelic garb. Firstly, he was able to make those people see him as “not a politician”. It is common to hear them tell themselves in self-illumination that “You know the General is not a politician”.

There is an erroneous belief that politicians are thieves. And so, from the beginning, he jumped off that general definition vehicle. That alone is great politics. Only a master politician can deflect the thoughts of the people from the real him and direct them to the image he wants to be identified as. Then he positioned himself as a man who runs away from worldly possessions, an ascetic of the highest order. Even this was laid to rest when his dressing style three years into the presidency was compared to his pre-presidential style.

Even though under his watch those around him filched from the commonwealth, people still believe the man has no desire for material things.

He remains in their minds as someone incapable of saying what cannot be so. Before the 2015 election, he said he borrowed about thirty million naira from his bank to buy his form, and none of his followers questioned how he would repay it. And till today, nobody has asked him if he had paid and how – or to account for funds people gave him through scratch cards.

To his followers, Buhari is perhaps the only patriot out of 200 million Nigerians. Their refrain was “he wants to work, but he is alone”, despite him tolerating those among his appointees mismanaging the country. And they can go to any length, including insulting those with contrary views, in his defence. Even when foreign foods – despite the closing of the borders against the importation of such by his government – were eaten in the highest of places, clothes and shoes worn were from overseas and official vehicles were all from abroad, the head of the government was seen by his followers as the “most patriotic of patriots”.

When hunger and lack were devastating the land, the president was being fed by the government, something that does not happen in America where we “borrowed”

“To his followers, Buhari is perhaps the only patriot out of 200 million Nigerians. Their refrain was “he wants to work, but he is alone”, despite him tolerating those among his appointees mismanaging the country.”



## Hassan Gimba *Monday Column*

our democracy from.

Despite all this and many more, the man is still being venerated. Perhaps why many times he behaved and spoke like one taking the people for granted.

Even though Abraham Lincoln, the 16th American president and the country's wartime hero and the first president to be assassinated once said “You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time”, one can't help but marvel at Buhari swung those stuff through.

Lest I forget

I have seen why people now distrust their government. I have seen videos of Nasir el-Rufa'i and Nyesom Wike all saying they do not want to be ministers. El-Rufa'i said that he was a minister 20 years ago and so why should he be one again? He rhetorically asked, “Don't I have sons, junior brothers? Must I be the only one doing it?” He even boasted that he had trained enough people to take over from him, revealing that anyone who has no one he trained to succeed him has failed. Maybe he has no younger brothers, and his son he has pushed to the House of Representatives. Or perhaps he has just plain failed?

But these two men who have been recycled to being ministers after being there first before becoming governors are men of many words and as Tony Wilson sang, they paint pictures, but they are not artists.

Therefore, tell me, why should those who watched those videos trust whatever they say again, official or personal, apart from “God is the Creator of the universe”?

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

## Tree Planting: Foundation Takes Campaign To Pindiga Emirate

By **ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe**

In an effort to tackle the menace of desert encroachment and global warming, the Zakah and Waqf Foundation Gombe, has taken its tree planting campaign to Pindiga Emirate.

In his address at the palace during thier visit, the leader of the delegation, Engr. Ibrahim Kawuwa, said the reason for their visit was to inform about the activities of the foundation.

Kawuwa, said the foundation has drawn out its week-long activities of tree planting, which is going to take place in Pindiga town.

In his response, His Royal Highness, the Emir of Pindiga, Alhaji Seyoji

Ahmad, promised to support and partner with Zakah and Waqf Foundation in achieving its goals.

The Emir further briefed the committee members about his activities and commitment as the patron of the Date Palm Association of Nigeria.

He added that his initiatives and commitment to tree planting is part of the reason he established an orchard for date palms in his emirate.

The foundations as part of its lined up activities, visited some Juma'at mosques in Gombe metropolis and Salama Baptist Church in Kurba town of Yamaltu Deba Local Government Area of the state.

## Gov Nwifuru Moves To End Ezza/Effium Communal War

*\*Applauds Army for security of lives, property*

By ; **MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki**

In a bid to stop all communal crisis in Ebonyi State, Governor Francis Nwifuru has applauded the Nigerian Army for its gallant efforts in protecting the nation's territorial integrity over the years, calling on military to move more personnel to end Ezza/Effium crisis.

Governor Nwifuru gave the commendation, when he received the General Officer commanding 82 Division of the Army, Major General Hassan Taiwo Dada, who was in his office in Abakaliki on a courtesy visit.

He particularly appreciated the Army for pivotal roles in complementing sister security agencies to stem the tide of insecurity in the state.

"Let me on-behalf of the State and friends of the State thank the GOC for your show of love and understanding.

"I am delighted seeing alot of commitment on what Army and sister Agencies have done in Ebonyi and it gives me the confidence that very soon we will get it right in terms of security of lives and property in the State.

"You are not doing that for your personal gains, you are doing it that Ebonyians might have peace and do their businesses." He said. The governor also appealed for deployment of more personnel to Effium to assist in ending the war between the Effium and Ezza-Effium people.

"We have a challenge security wise and that is the crises in Effium between Effium and Ezza-Effium.

"I want the GOC to do everything possible to mobilize more of his men to move to the Community to clamb down on the criminals posing as war lords.

"I am delighted and confident that with the kind of person you are, I



Gov Nwifuru

am sure you are well equipped to do the job and do it very well,\* he appealed.

Earlier, the General Officer commanding, 82 Division, Enugu, Major General Hassan Taiwo Dada said he was in the state to seek areas of possible partnership with the government to ensure security of lives and property in the state.

"In terms of insecurity in this state, I have been mandated to ensure that is removed and I am here to clamp down on it here and every other South East State." He disclosed.

The GOC restated the determination of the Army to give its best to the security of lives and property both in Ebonyi State and across Nigeria.

## Ministerial Nominees: I Made List Because Of Support During Polls - Umahi

By ; **MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki**

One of the ministerial nominees and a Senator representing Ebonyi South Senatorial Zone, David Nweze Umahi has said that his name being listed as one of the ministerial nominees, was entirely done by Mr President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, saying that the promise was made to three persons in Ebonyi, but only him succeeded because of his support during the election.

The former governor also noted that Ebonyians will still go and thank President Ahmed Tinubu for the kind gesture.

"My governor once suggested it in Abuja. I objected initially, but he



Umahi

reported me to one of my friends. But this one was done by Mr President himself and I am sure everybody is happy.

'There were three people he made promise to, and I supported the promise at the time of election. I am sure I will work with him. We will still go as Ebonyi people to thank Mr. President very very highly.

'I don't know the ministry yet, but we will justify why we are called Ebonyi people as people of character, content, and very exceptional. We are going to thank God Almighty and Mr. President."



# Barr Goronyo As Ministerial Nominee Is Reward For Hard Work, Party Loyalty And Political Sagacity

By: ISAIAH BENJAMIN

When the news of Ministerial nominees filtered into the space with Hon. Barrister Bello Muhammed Goronyo conspicuously captured as nominee from Sokoto State, it was greeted with spontaneous jubilation by not only his political associates, even those who have had their parts crossed with him applauded his nomination, describing it as a well deserved nomination of a man who has paid his dues politically and has contributed in no small measure to the bringing on board of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in his role as director of youth mobilization North West in the Presidential campaign Council (PCC), a position he used to galvanize the youths across the northwest states that produced an overwhelming votes for the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate's victory.

Hon. Bello Muhammad born in Sabon Garin Dole of Sokoto State started and completed his first school leaving education at Kofar Marke primary School, Sokoto State in 1981 from where he proceeded to Government College Sokoto and had his Secondary certificate in 1986 after which he bagged a diploma in law from college of Arts and sciences, Sokoto in 1990.

Determined to acquire more academic knowledge and qualifications, he proceeded to bag an LLB from Uthman Danfodio University, Sokoto State in 1997 and for age reasons he was exempted from the National Youths Service Corps (NYSC) with an exemption certificate in 1998, thereafter he proceeded to the Nigeria Law School Bwari Abuja and called to Bar in 2001. In 2019, he bagged Masters in Energy security management from the Nigeria Defence Academy (NDA) Kaduna and another Masters in business management and leadership from London Graduate School, London UK, and thereafter bagged another Masters of Philosophy in Leadership and strategic studies from NDA in 2021 and presently pursuing his Ph.D in Leadership and strategic studies from the same NDA, Kaduna. Barrister Bello Muhammed had a very meritorious working experience, he worked as Vital Registration Assistant (VRA) with National Population Commission (NPC) from 1991-1992, Legal translator with the Sokoto State House of Assembly from 1992-1993, Principal Orientation Officer (POO) with National Orientation Agency (NOA) from 1993-2001 and took up a lecturing appointment with the State College of Legal and Islamic studies, Sokoto from 2001-2006, practiced with the Adamu Umar and Co (law chambers from 2001-2006 and also with Rafi Law chambers, Sokoto from 2006-2007. The Barrister cum politician ventured into politics in 2003 as member of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) as Legal Committee for the Gubernatorial, National and State Assembly election petition, he became a caretaker Secretary Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) Goronyo local government in 2006 and in 2007, he served as Secretary DPP Congress planning committee, Gubernatorial convention committee and Assistant State legal adviser 11 of the party in Sokoto State.

Barrister Goronyo was elected member Sokoto State House of Assembly to represent Goronyo Constituency from 2007- 2015. He became the interim organizing Secretary of the party in Sokoto State in 2014 and Goronyo local government campaign coordinator for the 2015 general elections, he was Secretary APC legal committee election petitions of 2015. In recognition of his political sagacity, Barrister Bello Muhammed Goronyo was appointed as Commissioner Ministry for Solid

Minerals & Natural Resources Development, Sokoto State. from 2015-2017, deployed as Commissioner Ministry of Energy Development, Sokoto State in 2017-2018 and then further deployed as Commissioner Ministry of Information, Sokoto State, a position he held from 2018-2019 before he voluntarily resigned after serving meritoriously in all the Ministries he served as Commissioner. He got elected as Zonal Secretary APC North West in 2022 and appointed I to the APC campaign council as Director National Youth mobilization North West of the Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) in 2023, a position he served with proven results.

The Ministerial nominee has served in several capacities including as Chairman Screening and flight schedule committee 2015 Hajj operations after serving as member in 2012, 2013, and 2014. He also served as Chairman welfare and entertainment committee for the inauguration of the Executive Governor of Sokoto State, he was a two times member Sokoto State Constitutional Review Committee, Chairman for the harmonization of two communiqués at the retreat held at Katsina between the Executive and the Legislature on the one hand and RTiLead on the other hand. As Member of Sokoto State House of Assembly, he was Chairman House Committee on Judiciary (SOHA) from 2007-2011 and Minority leader of the House within same period. He became Chairman House Committee on Rural Development from 2011-2015 and became Deputy House Leader from 2011- January 2015 and Deputy Speaker SOHA from January 2015- May 2015, he served as Chairman Transportation Committee in Saudi Arabia for the 2015 Hajj Operation in Mecca, Minna, Arafat, Muzdalifa, and Secretary, Planning and Implementation Committee, Chairman Jama'a system Consults, Chairman Community Mobilisation & Development initiative (COMDI), Secretary planning and implementation committee North West University, Sokoto, Sokoto State from 2020 till date.

Barrister Bello Muhammed belongs to several clubs and Associations where he contributes immensely to humanity and societal growth and development. As a trained lawyer, he is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Member Environmental Society of Nigeria, Member Nagarta Old Boys Association, Interim Legal Adviser NBA Sokoto Branch, 2013, Patron, Buhari/Osinbajo Vanguard for Change, Member Federal Road Safety Corps, Special Marshal National Legal Adviser Stop Cancer Foundation, Founder Goronyo West Development Association, Secretary General & Founder Sultan Aliyu Babba Foundation, Legal Adviser Goronyo Progressive Union, Member State Committee on the review of 1999 Constitution, As Member ANPP Legal Committee 2003 General Elections, Patron, Adolescent Girls Project, Patron, Community Mobilization & Development Initiative, Patron, Sarkin Yamma Peace Initiative, Unity Ambassador for Africa, Peace Ambassador Youth Federation for World Peace, Legal Adviser UDUS Alumni Association Sokoto State Chapter, 2013. Legal Adviser Jama'a System Consult North West Zonal Vice Chairman Northern Youth Assembly, National President, Network for reduction of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in Nigeria, Legal Adviser Stop Cancer Foundation.

The political jaganut has won for himself several National and International Awards/Certificates which include Youth Ambassador for Peace, Arewa Patriotic

Vanguard, Special Legislature Award, Hope alive award by Stop Cancer Foundation, Global Life time Achievers Int'l Gold Award, (GLAIGA 2010) Ghana. Goronyo L/Govt Student Assoc. (GOLSA) Certificate of Merit Award, Unity Ambassador for Africa Merit Award, Adolescent Girls Project Merit Award, Letter of commendation from the Goronyo Community-2008.

The happily married erudite lawyer, a academician, politician and father of four is widely travelled within and outside Nigeria brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of achievements to the position of Minister in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's new government. With an extensive political career that includes serving as a Member of the Sokoto State House of Assembly, Commissioner for various ministries in Sokoto State, and holding significant positions within the APC, he has consistently demonstrated strong leadership skills and dedication to public service.

His educational background, including pursuing a Ph.D. in Leadership and Strategic Studies, reflects his commitment to continuous learning and enhancing his expertise in leadership. His legal qualifications, including a BL from the Nigeria Law School, equip him with a solid foundation to navigate legal matters and policy implementation effectively.

Hon. Bello Muhammad's experience as Deputy Speaker of the Sokoto State House of Assembly and Chairman of several committees showcases his ability to lead and manage legislative affairs. He has also been actively involved in international engagements, fostering diplomatic relations and promoting Nigeria's interests on a global platform.

In addition to his political achievements, Hon. Bello Muhammad's community involvement and dedication to humanitarian causes highlight his commitment to the welfare of the people.

As Minister in President Tinubu's new government, his experience, qualifications, and leadership abilities will play a pivotal role in contributing to the development of Nigeria. With a focus on good governance, inclusive policies, and strategic planning, he is well-positioned to drive positive change and foster economic growth. His dedication to public service, coupled with his legal expertise, will enable him to address critical challenges facing the nation and work towards a more prosperous and united Nigeria.

Barr. Bello Muhammad-Goronyo is a distinguished politician with a remarkable legacy of public service and leadership. He is known for his demand for excellence and dedication to achieving the best outcomes for his people. His leadership style is



**Barr Goronyo**

characterized by fairness, strong determination, and a continuous quest for improvement in the development of Sokoto State. As a visionary leader, he has consistently supported and empowered the youth by providing scholarships for master's education, enabling them to become more competitive and better equipped to contribute significantly to the progress of the state. As Minister in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's new government, I am confident that his experience, qualifications, and passion for transformative development will bring positive changes and advancement to Nigeria as a whole. His dedication to fostering growth and progress aligns well with the aspirations of the nation, and I am certain that under his leadership, Nigeria will witness significant strides towards a prosperous future for all. The choice of Hon. Bello Muhammed is a right choice and am certain he will bring his rich wealth of political and societal knowledge to bare in moving Nigeria forward. His relationship with Senator Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko which is a mentor Mentee relationship is yet another plus for him, he is a true believer of Senator Wamakko's Political ideology which has greatly helped him in all his political achievements. He has been tested and trusted and has the capacity to deliver on mandate, his nomination is a round peg in round hole. His wealth of political experience cut across the three arms of Government ie Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. He is a complete party man who occupied various party positions from the local Government, State, Zonal and National level. A descendant of Sultan Muhammadu Bello of Sheik Usman bn fodio Islamic jihadist, he is a born leader who has never failed in any given responsibility and I can say without fear or favour that President Tinubu will be proud over his appointment as a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I make bold to say that Hon. (Barr) Bello Muhammed Dip Law, LL.B, BL, MESM, MPhil, CMC is a man whose choice as a Minister is a right choice. Isaiah Benjamin is a Kaduna based Journalist and writes from Kaduna.

# Africa Football League: CAF Inspects Akpabio Int'l Stadium in Uyo

**By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo**  
 Ahead of the kickoff of the inaugural edition of the Africa Football League in October this year, a delegation from the Confederation of Africa Football (CAF), has conducted a final inspection of facilities at the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.  
 The CAF delegation led by Africa Football League Director

of Competition, Duccio Ticciati was conducted round facilities at the Iconic 30,000 seating capacity stadium by the Chairman of the Akwa Ibom State Football Association Normalization Committee, Otuekong Bonny Nyong. Facilities inspected during the four hours tour, include, the main bowl, training pitch, VVIP and VIP sections, control room, giant screens, VAR Room, Sound System, Media Centre, Fans

Village, Conference Room, Lighting, Dressing Rooms, Toilets, Entrances etc. The delegation had also inspected three hospitality outfits including Four Points by Sheraton Hotels Ikot Ekpene, Ibom Icon Hotels and Monty Suites in Uyo. The stadium is set to host home matches of the two time CAF Champions, Enyimba International at the competition

which was drastically scaled down from the original proposal of 24 to 8 teams. Other teams in the line-up are; the 2023 CAF Champions League winners Al Ahly of Egypt, runners-up Wydad Casablanca of Morocco and semi-finalists Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa and Esperance of Tunisia. The 11-time CAF title winners TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Petro

Luanda of Angola and Simba of Tanzania are the other teams included for the competition. With an initial investment of US\$100 million, CAF says the Africa Football League will support the growth of club football, the construction and maintenance of football infrastructure and facilities, training and the retention of football talent in Africa.



# NPFL: GTI Thumbs Up Rangers



By: **AYO OJEDOKUN,**  
Lagos

Commercialization Initiative Strategic partners to the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL), GTI Asset Management & Trust Limited, has commended the management of Rangers International FC of Enugu for the commercialization initiative they embarked on prior to the commencement of the 2023/2024 NPFL season. GTI/TNFF Head of Media and Publicity, Andrew Ekejiuba, told New Nigerian Sports in Lagos that the move is in line with GTI's intention of seeing to the total privatization of all Nigerian elite clubs and the development of the beautiful game in the country.

"GTI was reliably informed that one of Nigeria's foremost elite clubs, Rangers International of Enugu recently embarked on the process of commercialization of its activities in a bold bid to remain financially solvent

and less dependent on the government for funds."

The Coal City Flying Antelopes unveiled a massive fund-drive project tagged 'One Million Ambassadors' in which members are expected to pay an undisclosed token as a membership fee to be enrolled into the exalted 'One Million Ambassadors Club'.

This we gathered was aimed at raising funds for the team and pulling together a massive fanbase.

"This development is heart-warming and a commendable initiative which every club featuring in the current season should emulate," Ekejiuba began.

"The initiative is also in adherent to the clarion call GTI made recently to individuals, philanthropists and Corporate Nigeria to take advantage of the ongoing revolution that club football is witnessing in the country and invest in these clubs.

"The coming of GTI into the country's football

ecosystem has woken the sleeping giants in these clubs and it is expected that all stakeholders of Nigerian football should embrace this new green oil that has the capacity to turn around the country's GDP going forward.

"The investment window is wide open for individuals, philanthropists and Corporate Nigeria to key into until the last club is taken away from government because the management of elite football is purely a business venture.

"It could be recalled that the Administrative Secretary of Rangers, Barrister Ferdinand Ugwuara, on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at a crowded press conference held at the club's corporate office located at 23 Lugard Avenue, Abakaliki Road, Enugu gave an elaborate explanation of the club's commercialization project that will be 'media driven' and tailored towards the new government of Enugu State's mantra in managing government business.

With this development, GTI is of the opinion that Rangers has set the pace and machinery in motion to drive for a million registered members of the club whose tokens will go a long way in ensuring the attainment of a strong financial structure for the club.

Ekejiuba hinted that GTI is optimistic that gradually, the Nigerian elite league will get back to the era of Abiola Babes, Iwuanyanwu Nationale, Stationary Stores, Asabatex and Flash Flamingoes, when they held sway and affirmed that the qualification of Sporting Lagos for the upcoming season is a sign of greater things in the offing.

Ekejiuba added that the August 26 kickoff date as revealed by NPL boss, Hon Gbenga Elegbeleye for the new season is tenable and expressed delight that the 2023/2024 NPFL will be a glorious season to remember by stakeholders of Nigeria football following the massive preparations going on quietly at the background by GTI.

## Chairman House Committee On Sports: NVBF President, Nimrod Congratulates Honourable Ekene Adams

*\*Says Nigeria better off for the Reps Speaker's wise choice*

President of the Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF), Engineer Musa Nimrod has described the emergence of Honourable Ekene Abubakar Adams, a member representing Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency in Kaduna State as Chairman House Committee on Sports in the 10th House of Representatives as a welcome development.

In a statement signed by the Media representative on the Kaduna State Volleyball Association (KADSVB) Board, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson and made available to the sporting press in Kaduna on Friday July 28, 2023, Nimrod said that sports in Nigeria is up for gearing days ahead.

\*As a dedicated sportsman and administrator who is now a lawmaker at the Green Chambers, Nigeria is looking forward to brighter days in the sports sector.

"I have personally worked with him and know his passion for sports development. He is indeed one of a kind and Nigeria will gain a whole lot from this," he said. He commended the Speaker for taking the best decision ever, which he

believes will translate to brighter prospects for the nation especially at international outings.

"Honourable Ekene Abubakar Adams till date, is a member of the Kaduna State Volleyball Association (KADSVB), an his contributions have been invaluable. Nigeria needs that kind of dedication to move ahead," Nimrod added.

Nimrod who is also the chairman of KADSVB, therefore, congratulated Honourable Ekene Abubakar Adams and wished him success in the assigned role.

It would be recalled that the House of Representatives Speaker, Tajudeen Abbas, named the committees and their chairmen on Thursday, with a delighted Honourable Ekene Adams saying, "Good evening all, I am using this medium to appreciate God Almighty and also thank you all for your prayers and best wishes. I have been appointed as the Chairman House Committee on Sports. To my boss, President of Remo Stars Football Club of Ikenne, Honourable Kunle Soname and everyone I remain loyal."



Nimrod

# New NIGERIAN

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Odua Investment Company team in group photograph

## Yobe: Fika LG Embarks On Construction Of New Lodge

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Caretaker Chairman of Fika Local Government Area of Yobe State, Halima Kyari Joda has embarked on the construction of one of the largest government lodges in the state. Joda disclosed this when

she paid unscheduled visit to the site of the project in Fika, the headquarters of Fika Local Government Area.

"This is one of the projects approved to us by our amiable Governor, Mai Mala Buni, that is the new government lodge.

"The need became imperative for the fact

that; whenever we receive any special guests in the local government, we have to solicit for individual houses to accommodate such guests. This reason forced us to seek approval to build this project," she said.

According to her, the project which commenced in the last quarter of 2022 is expected to gulp

millions of Naira before completion.

The caretaker chairman who expressed satisfaction with the level of work, also commended Governor Mai Mala Buni for his support.

Fika is one of the old local government areas in the former Borno State and now in Yobe State



New Government Lodge Fika local government area Under construction by the caretaker chairman, Halima Kyari Joda.

## NPFL: GTI Thumbs Up Rangers

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## Odu'a Investment Records Operating Revenue Of N3.67bn In 2022

\*Group Chairman says its total assets grew to N114.51bn, posted profit before tax of N4.08bn billion

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Group Chairman, Odua Investment Company limited, Otunba Bimbo Ashiru has disclosed that the company recorded an operating revenue of N3.67 billion for 2022 financial.

Otunba Ashiru who made this known at the 41st Annual General Meeting of Odu'a Investment Company Limited (Odu'a Investment) and the presentation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31st December 2022 held at Airport hotel, Ikeja

He also said the company posted a profit before tax of N4.08 billion in 2022, 56.5% lower than the N9.37 billion in 2021, adding "this was driven largely by lower revaluation gains"

Stressing that the company will continue to strive to transform and refocus its business for the future, Otunba Ashiru emphasized that in Nigeria, the business environment in 2022 was a year of two halves arising from the Russia-Ukraine war and the typical slowdown that has come to be associated with pre-election years which significantly weighed on economic activities and investments.

According to him, " despite these challenges however, Odu'a Investment Company Limited showed significant resilience, and leveraged available opportunities within the economy to continue to create value for our shareholders".

"Odu'a Investment Company Limited's operating revenue decreased by 8.5% from N4.01 billion in 2021 to N3.67 billion in 2022. The company posted a profit before tax of N4.08 billion in 2022, 56.5% lower than the N9.37 billion in 2021. This was driven largely by lower revaluation gains. Total Assets grew 3.6% from N110.56 billion in 2021, to N114.51 billion in 2022", he said.

Otunba Ashiru added, " Despite the socio-economic challenges we faced as a business, I am happy to report

that the Board has recommended a dividend of N428 million for your approval. This is higher than the dividend of N418 million paid in 2021, and indicative of our commitment to delivering sustainable returns".

Speaking further, Otunba Ashiru noted, " The outlook for 2023 remains positive. We expect some of the critical changes in the monetary and fiscal policy environment that will drive activities in real estate and construction, agriculture, and the power sector, amongst others".

"I believe that the year 2023 will be pivotal for the business. Several transformational initiatives in our operations will be completed or nearing completion, and it will therefore be a year of consolidating on the significant shift that the Board and Management have worked so diligently to achieve

over the last three years. The multiplier effects that we expect on our revenue and asset base have begun to appear, and the trajectory of the business can only be upwards".

The Group Managing Director/CEO, Odua Investment Company limited, Mr Adewale Raji said " in the year 2022, our businesses faced macroeconomic pressures, ranging from rises in the prices of diesel, fertiliser, and other agricultural inputs, to a sustained rise in the cost of building materials. Notwithstanding, most of our businesses witnessed modest revenue growth and expansion".

" Our expectation is that there will be more macroeconomic stability in 2023 as we expect more decisiveness in dealing with the underlying drivers of inflation, and the foreign exchange market", he said.

The GMD added, " 2023 being a political transition year, we expect economic activities to improve gradually especially in H2 as we expect the new administration to unbundle the cleavages that will lead to sustainable economic growth".