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Arewa Youth Forum Condemns Fresh Petrol Price Increase

■ Says palliatives management shouldn't end up like past govts

*Rainoil Petrol Station at
Mafooluk-Oshodi without display
of the new price of petrol yesterday.
Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO*



By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

A frontline group from the North, Arewa Youth Forum (AYF) has advised President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to ensure his palliatives aimed at cushioning the effect of fuel subsidy removal, reaches the right people, while condemning the increase in pump price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), popularly known as petrol. AYF expressed this in a

statement signed by its National President, Comrade Ahmed Mohammed Zagi, made available to newsmen in Kaduna on Tuesday July 18, 2023.

"We are becoming concerned with the controversy the planned palliatives of the Federal Government following petroleum subsidy removal is getting, only to receive a shock today, with the increase of price of petrol to over N600."

Already, several

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Customs Impounds 31 Firearms, Assorted Ammunition, Cartridges Within Two Weeks

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The acting Comptroller General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) Adewale Adeniyi has disclosed that a total number of 31 firearms have been intercepted within the first two weeks of July 2023.

Similarly, assorted ammunition, cartridges of various brands were recovered during the period in review.

Adeniyi, who made the disclosure at a press briefing at the headquarters of the Federal Operations Unit (FOU) Zone "A" Ikeja on Monday, attributed the success to the re-strategisation of operations and keying into the matra of renewed hope aimed at facilitating legitimate trade by officer and men of the Customs.

He stated that some of the recoveries were made during a joint operation in collaboration with the Nigeria Police, the Department of State Security, the National Drug Law Enforcement and Administration, and the Customs Intelligence Unit at the Ports.

While giving a breakdown of the interception, the Customs Boss hinted that "On the 5th of July 2023, during a joint operation with the Nigeria Police, the Department of State Security, the National Drug Law Enforcement and Administration, and the Customs Intelligence Unit at the Ports Terminal and Multi Services Limited Command, a thorough physical examination of a 40ft container was conducted.

"The examination revealed the concealment of 10 dangerous arms and various rounds of live ammunition inside plastic drums.

"The details are: (a) 3 new Pump Action rifles and one new unit of

an armed rifle (b.) 6 new different makes of pistols.

(1) One new millennium G2 pistol.

(2) One new sarsilmaz SAR-9X pistol.

(3) One new Lugger Security-9 pistol.

(4) One new Taurus Banbridge G3C pistol.

(5) One new SCCY CPX-2 pistol, and

(6) One new Taurus (63 pistol)

c. 14 empty magazines

d. 442 rounds of live ammunition".

Adeniyi added that two suspects

identified as Mr. Shokunbi Olanrewaju, a clearing agent

with Shooler Global International Ltd

and Mr Joseph Nwadiodor, who was expected to take delivery of the container, are currently

detained in connection with the seizure.

"Similarly, within the same period, the Tincan Island Port Command of the Service, while acting on credible intelligence; a 1x40ft container was also subjected to 100% physical examination with the relevant security agencies at the ports.

"The physical examination uncovered 18 arms, packets of cartridges and rounds of live ammunition inside plastic drums. The details are: (a.) 6 different makes of pistols

(1) Two (2) Sar9 Sarsilmaz Pistols

(2) One (1) Ruger American Pistol And

(3) Three (3) Taurus G3c – Bainbridge Pistols).

Those appointed are Abubakar

Service of the State, Alhaji Usman Isiyaku and made available to newsmen.

The statement said the reappointments and appointments of the Permanent Secretaries are based on their performance, track records and conviction that they would serve diligently.

Those appointed are Abubakar

Gege, Falalu Bawale, Mas'ud Al-Mustapha Banye, Rayyanatu Lawal, Dr. Sirajo Dalhatu, Abdulhamid Garba Sabuwa, TPL Aminu Mijinyawa, Mannir Ibrahim Talba, QS Umar Sama'ila, Musa Rabi'u Mahuta, Mustapha Babi and Abdullahi Abubakar.

Others are Salisu Musa Batsari, Dr. Ahmed T. Hamza, Salisu



Some of the firearms impounded

(b.) 12 different makes of rifles

(1) Five (5) RZ17hd Rifles,

(2) One (1) Gamo Rifle,

(3) Five (5) Pump Action Rifles And

(4) One (1) RZ17 Tactical Rifle)

(c.) 10 packets of cartridges

(d.) 2 packets of 9mm ammunition

(e.) 100 rounds of 9mm Winchester ammunition

(f) 1 carton of Frontier cartridges

(g.) 2 packets of Buckshot ammunition

Speaking further, he said, "Again, during a routine patrol along Owode/Ajilete Axis of Ogun State by officers of the Joint Border Patrol Team Sector 2, on Wednesday 12 July 2023, intercepted an unregistered Toyota Camry loaded with six sacks of charcoal, which was used to conceal three (3) pump action rifles with 174 live cartridges.

"The driver of the vehicle, who knew the content he was

conveying vis-a-vis the attendant consequences of his action before the law; jumped into the bush and escaped arrest.

"In summary, a total of thirty-one (31) rifles were intercepted within the first two weeks of July 2023".

The Acting Comptroller General of Customs hinted that investigation into the seizures is inconclusive, adding that the outcome of the investigations together with the seizures will be handed over to the appropriate authorities for further investigation and prosecution.

He emphasised that the illicit arms obtained by non-state actors have boosted the proliferation of small arms and ammunition across the country.

According to him, this accounts for the increase in violent kidnappings, robberies, and mass killings in society.

"Let me state at this point that the Service has re-strategized its operations, while our officers have raised their levels of

professionalism, and have keyed into the mantra of renewed hope aimed at facilitating legitimate trade. In doing this, we are assuring all compliant traders and importers that they have nothing to fear.

"We have re-injected new tactics to tackle the economic and security menace caused by recalcitrant importers and their agents. The Service's human resources and logistics are collectively harnessed to combat and prevent economic sabotage", the Customs Boss stressed.

Adeniyi however implored importers and agents to be patriotic by making sincere declarations, and to be properly guided by the import/export prohibition lists. I

The CGC also urged the public to see security as a collective responsibility, just as he added that the agency will appreciate information of illegal importation and cross border movement of dangerous weapons used to create mayhem in the country.

Katsina Gov Reappoints 13 Perm Secs, Upgrades 23 Directors

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Governor Malam Dikko Umar Radda has approved the re-appointment of thirteen Permanent Secretaries and appointment of twenty three Directors as Permanent Secretaries in the state.

A statement by the Head of Civil

Service of the State, Alhaji Usman Isiyaku and made available to newsmen.

The statement said the reappointments and appointments of the Permanent Secretaries are based on their performance, track records and conviction that they would serve diligently.

Those appointed are Abubakar

Gege, Falalu Bawale, Mas'ud Al-Mustapha Banye, Rayyanatu Lawal, Dr. Sirajo Dalhatu, Abdulhamid Garba Sabuwa, TPL Aminu Mijinyawa, Mannir Ibrahim Talba, QS Umar Sama'ila, Musa Rabi'u Mahuta, Mustapha Babi and Abdullahi Abubakar.

Others are Salisu Musa Batsari, Dr. Ahmed T. Hamza, Salisu

Abdu, Aminu Tukur, Abubakar Ammani B, Yusuf Nasir, Safiya Ya'u Yamel, Muhammad Rabi'u Muhammad, Nura Murtala, Mannir Aliyu, Ummulkhairi Ahmad Bawa, Mairo Mohammed Usman, Surajo Mika'il.

The rest are Amina Ibrahim, Muhammad Rufa'i Coomassie, Mustapha Zubairu, Dr. Lawal

Aliyu Rabe, Shehu Maikano, Nasiru Almu, Ibrahim Mohammed Kaita, Dr. Abubakar G. Usman, Dr. Isah Abba, Muheeb Ibrahim and Muntari Kado.

The date for the swearing-in of the Permanent Secretaries and their deployment to their ministries and departments would be announced in a later date.

Over 1.5million Out-of-School Students Will Return In Oyo State - Perm Sec

**OYCSDA trains 21 SBMCs*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Permanent Secretary, Oyo State Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Mr. Adeniyi Olusanjo on Monday, hinted that the remaining over 1.5 million out-of-school students in the state are to be mopped up and brought back to school

Mr Olusanjo dropped the hint while speaking at the opening of a two-day training programme for School-Based Management Committee (SBMC) on Community-Driven Development Approach held at Lagelu Grammar School's Hall in Ibadan

He disclosed that the over 1.5million remnants of the out-of-school students absorbed into various public schools under the 2017 to 2022 Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA), will be mopped up and brought back to the classrooms under the BESDA-Additional Funding

(AF)-Transforming Education System at State level (TESS) programme.

The Permanent Secretary maintained that the BESDA - AF - TESS project " is aimed at reducing out-of-school students through physical infrastructural project and training of teachers for improved teaching practices and learning outcomes".

Mr Olusanjo pointed out that the programme was targeting mopping up the remaining 1.5million out-of-school students after those that have been successfully returned to classrooms under the BESDA within 2017 and 2022, adding that the State enjoyed the privilege of been selected by the Federal government and donor agencies like the World Bank and GPE because of the success achieved by the State under the BESDA programme.

He stated that the 1.5million figure covered students from far and neighboring

States and countries that have come to Oyo State to to enjoy the State's free education policy.

"The TESS programme we are starting now is targeting mopping up the remaining 1.5million pupils that have been identified to have taken residence in Oyo State from far and neighboring States and even beyond the borders of Nigeria, due to the benefits derivable from the State's free education system", he said.

The Permanent Secretary added, "Having noticed the success of BESDA within 2017 to 2022 in Oyo State, the World Bank, federal government and GPE decided to pick Oyo State, Adamawa State and Katsina State for the new project, which is to deliver the needed equitable access to out-of-school children in Oyo State."

Speaking, Oyo State Coordinator of BESDA-AF-TESS, Dr. Bamidele Odekunle declared that the roles of the School-

Based Management Committee was very germane to the success of the new project.

He stressed that the training, superintendent by the Oyo State Community and Social Development Agency (OYCSDA), was to prepare the representatives of the benefiting SBMCs for the work ahead, urging participants to note all the aspects of the training so as to have a seamless implementation.

Members of the School-Based Management Committee (SBMC) include School Heads, representatives of teachers, males and females representatives of pupils, males and females representatives of traditional leaders, old pupils and students, Parents, Teachers Association (PTA) representatives, Youths representatives, artisans, community-based organizations, community representatives and faith-based organizations.

Police Testifies How Zaria Veterinary Drugs Supplier Aids Kidnapping

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Police Investigative Officer (IPO) narrated to Kaduna State High Court sitting at Dogarawa, Zaria, how Idris Mustapha (a.k.a Idi Mai-Zomo) was arrested in connection with alleged kidnapping at Zaria. Inspector Abu Isa of Criminal Investigations Department (CID), Kaduna State Police Command testified as Prosecution witness number three (PW 3) in the case filed by the state against Idris Mustapha, (a.k.a Idi Maizomo) and Isah Ibrahim.

Earlier, counsel for the prosecution, Dari Bayero, told the court that the case was slated for continuation for hearing and their remaining witnesses were ready.

Bayero who is the Solicitor-General of Kaduna State, led Insp. Abu Isa who told the court that prior to Oct. 11, 2021, he was attached to the Force Intelligence Bureau. He added that the bureau was handling cases of kidnapping, armed robbery and banditry.

Isa said a suspect, Umar Adamu was arrested on October 11, 2021 in connection with a case of kidnapping which occurred at the National Leprosy and Tuberculosis Training Centre, Saye Zaria.

He said the suspect, Umar Adamu mentioned the name of Idris Mustapha as a veterinary drugs and logistics supplier to their gang leader, Isah Ibrahim (a.k.a. Isa Gudale or Isa Dan-Wasa).

"We arrested Mustapha on Oct. 11, 2021 and brought him to our base at Dan Magaji Police Divisional Police Headquarters, Zaria".

"In the course of investigation, Mustapha narrated how he received money from Isah Ibrahim (the gang leader) at Madaci area in Zaria for the purchase of veterinary drugs.

"He told us that the drugs were usually administered on the rustled cattle in kidnappers camp at Galadimawa.

"Subsequently, the gang leader asked him to furnish

him with information of potential targets for kidnapping, where he (Mustapha) obliged," the witness said.

The witness added that the defendant told the police that he took gang leader to the house of Auwal Mohammed (popularly known as Auwal Custom) at Nagoyi area and two other farms in Zaria.

He added that the said gang leader came with other members and kidnapped four people at the house of Auwal Mohammed.

The prosecution counsel, Dari Bayero applied to tender the statement of the defendant before court and the defense, Baba Mohammed opposed application on the grounds that the statement was obtained under duress.

The prosecution said Section 37 subsection 7 of the Kaduna State Administration of Criminal Justice Law 2017 allows the judge to take note of the opposition and rule at the hearing.

The defense counsel again, said Sections 29 subsection 1 and 2 subparagraphs A and B Section 29 subsection 3 of the Evidence Act provide for trial within trial to prove the allegation coercion.

The Presiding Judge, Justice Abdulkadir-Sabo Mahmud, of High Court No. 3 adjourned the matter to Oct. 2, for trial within trial.

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

The defendants were accused of kidnapping Ibrahim Yakubu, Yusha'u Sani, Abdallah Mohammed-Awwal (aged 5 years) and Aisha Mohammed-Awwal (aged two and half years), all residents of Nagoyi area in Zaria Local Government Area on Jan. 28, 2021.

The defendants were also accused of collecting N14 million ransom before the release of their victims.

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



Out of school children

Anarchy Looms As Sacked MD Abuja Market Management locks Out New Boss

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Anarchy is currently looming at the Abuja Market Management Limited (AMML), one of revenue generating agencies of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) as sacked Managing Director, Alhaji Abubakar Faruk stormed his former office with the backing of the Police and locked out the new acting Managing Director, Engr. Abbas Yakubu.

It would be recalled that the embattled former managing Director, Alhaji Abubakar Faruk, was allegedly suspended by the immediate past FCT Minister, Malam Muhammad Bello, but he subtly obtained a restraining Court order and has been allegedly scheming to retain his appointment with the help of some Northern oligarchy.

It was gathered that his argument was predicated on the fact that his appointment letter was not tenured and therefore, cannot be removed unceremoniously from office.

This argument was said to have been sustained by him, because of some vested interest that have empowered him over the years.

Notwithstanding this facts, Faruk's employment was terminated by Mr. Abubakar Maina on behalf of the AMML's shareholders vide a letter dated July 17 and signed by him, as the Group Managing Director (GMD) of Abuja Investments Company Ltd

(AICL) the supervising agency over AMML.

Trouble ensued on Tuesday Morning when the sacked Faruk stormed AMML's office, located in Gudu District of Abuja, with some Police officers and locked the MD's office, insisting that nobody will access it and take possession of same.

It was also learnt that following the chaos created by such anachronistic action, the staff members have remained apprehensive, not knowing what fate will befall them.

Staff members of AMML also complained that the officers that came with the sacked MD, harassed and created serious psychological trauma for them.

While authority of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) are yet to comment over the abnormalities, the management staff of AMML have been summoned to Durumi Police station, where the issue is trying to be resolved.

Confirming the unfortunate incident, AMML's Public Relations Officer, Innocent Amechina said, "he locked his own office. Yesterday the shareholders of AMML decided to relief him of his job as the MD and it was made known to everybody. But surprisingly, that resolution was supposed to take effect from today, he came with four policemen, locked his office and also changed the lock."

"As I speak to you now we are at the Durumi Police station, with both the sacked and new acting MD Engr. Abbas Yakubu".

Arewa Youth Forum Condemns Fresh Petrol Price Increase

■ Says palliatives management shouldn't end up like past govts

Nigerians have been badly hit by the subsidy removal. It would therefore, be a disservice to the nation if the proceeds fail to reach those that are worst hit, especially with the fresh increase in petrol pump price.

"The N8,000 monthly stipend to some families in the country, although a welcome development, is far inadequate and should be reviewed upwards, *especially looking at the skyrocketing cost of goods and services in the country occasioned by the recent twice increase in the cost of fuel*".

"We would be disappointed, if the present policies, fail to yield the desired results, just like some of our past governments," the group said.

The group stressed the

need for urgent measures to be put in place to address the issue of food security in the country.

"We want the federal government to inspire states to prioritise agricultural revolution that would ensure enough food protection in the country.

"Such efforts would lead to the crashing of prices of food products through the natural law of demand and supply," AYF advised.

They therefore, tasked President Tinubu and his advisers to think harder and come up with lasting solutions to the economic misfortunes of the country.

AYF however, advised Nigerians to be patient with the new administration, and seek ways they can positively contribute to moving Nigeria forward.



Rainoil Petrol Station at afooluk-Oshodi without display of the new price of petrol yesterday.
Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO

Hijrah 1445: Gov Makinde Declares Today Public Holiday

*Urges Muslim faithful to pray for peace, unity

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde yesterday, declared today, July 19 as public holiday in the state in commemoration of this year's Hijrah 1445.

The announcement was contained in a circular signed by the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Otunba Segun Ogunwuyi made available to newsmen in a statement by the Chief Press Secretary (CPS) to Governor Seyi

Makinde, Mr Sulaimon Olanrewaju.

Gov Makinde while congratulating the Muslim faithful on the commencement of the New Year, tasked them to use the occasion to pray for the peace, unity and

sustainability of the state in particular and the country in general.

New Nigerian recalls that Wednesday, the first day of Muharram 1445AH, is the beginning of the Islamic New Year.

Work Hard For Progress Of State, Kano Governor Tells 15 New Special Advisers

By JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The Kano State Governor, His Excellency Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf has approved the appointment of 15 individuals as his Special Advisers on various fields.

This was contained in a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, made available yesterday.

The appointees include,

Col. Abubakar Usman Garin Malam (Rtd), Special Adviser, Disaster Management, Malam Usamatu Salga, Special Adviser, Religious Affairs I and Hon. Abduljabbar Muhammad Umar, Special Adviser Investment and Public Private Partnership.

Others are, Hon. Aminu Abba Ibrahim, Special Adviser, Solid Minerals, Engr. Nura Hussain, Special Adviser, Commerce, Hon. Jamilu

Abbas, Special Adviser Cooperative Groups, Hon. Muhammad Jamu Yusuf, Special Adviser National and International Public Relation.

Similarly, Balarabe Ibrahim Gaya was appointed as Special Adviser, Special Intervention Programmes, Rt. Hon. Isyaku Ali Danja, Special Adviser, Assembly Matters, Comrade Baffa Sani Gaya, Special Adviser, Labour Matters, Engr. Abdullahi Shehu, Special Adviser,

Environmental Sanitation and Hon. Umar Musa Gama, Special Adviser, School Feeding Programme.

Furthermore, Hon. Habibu Hassan Elyakub, Special Adviser, Vocational Education Development, Hon. Jamilu Abubakar Dambatta, Special Adviser Publicity, and Hon. Umar Uba Akawu, Special Adviser, Abuja Liasion Office adding that All appointments take effects.



Zulum Provides Temporary Site For Take Off-of FCE Gwoza

By: SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum has granted approval for the use of a Government Secondary School as temporary site for the take-off of a newly established Federal College of Education (FCE) Gwoza.

Zulum gave the approval during an assessment visit to the temporary site, located along Gwoza-Mubi highway in

Gwoza town.

The site is at Vile, a community in Gwoza town, Headquarters of Gwoza Local Government Area.

The new school is the first of its kind in the state and a Federal College of Education since the state was created in 1976.

It would be recalled that most of the 36 states and the FCT each has federal University, federal polytechnic and federal college of education but Borno

State had been without a Federal Polytechnic and Federal College of Education until they were established by the Buhari administration.

Zulum who has similarly facilitated the take off of a Federal Polytechnic sited in Monguno town, Monguno LGA of the state before doing same for the Federal College of Education in Vile, Gwoza.

The governor during his trip to Gwoza on Saturday, gave a directive for the

immediate rehabilitation of the GSS Vile to serve as the temporary site of the Federal College of Education to commence operations.

It would be recalled also that Zulum's administration is known for complementing the efforts of the Federal Government through provision of facilities as necessary requirements for the take off of federal institutions to function effectively in Borno State.



Plot To Smear Ex-SGF By Political Racketeers Uncovered

By; TOM GARBA, Yola

A plot by some political mischief makers in the Adamawa fold of the All Progressives Congress (APC) to smear the name of Barrister Boss Mustapha Gidahyel, CFR, the immediate past Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) has been uncovered.

It was gathered that the APC bad eggs resorted to embark on divulging discredited information of Boss' plan to dump APC to the People's Democratic party (PDP).

While digging deep into the baseless rumour of his planned defection, it was clearer immediately after a thanksgiving service was organized by his church, the LCCN following his successful tenure in handling the affairs of the SGF office.

The APC mischief makers started by leaking out a resignation letter of Pharmacist (Hon) Wafari Theman, a Boss Mustapha's loyalist, who dumped the party.

The political miscreants also went on by scandalizing Boss' that he had a closed door meeting with the Adamawa State Governor, Rt Hon Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, connecting it to him leaving the APC.

This medium can report that Wafari's letter of resignation was tendered on July 12, 2023, but the political enemies of Boss waited until Monday (17-7-2023) just to connect their evil schemes, being the day millions of Nigerians are in Yola for a special thanksgiving in his honour.

To any student of political history, the information

propagating around is never in tandem with Boss' political journey.

Boss is a big shot that party miscreants cannot bring him down because of primordial sentiments and pauper incentives.

Dating back to history, Boss has never been in a ruling party from 1992 while in SDP and 1999, the return of democracy, until 2015 when APC became a formation of many political parties through a merger from ACN.

The political lifestyle of Boss is more of a party man. Over the years, he has been a man with a strong fraternity to party politics.

He is one Nigerian who defined his brand of politics within the context of political party affinity. Once he discovers himself in one, he dies by its principles and its ideologies.

This is where the All Progressives Congress (APC), the party is even lucky to have found him a good man and part of the its camaraderie with unblinking loyalty.

APC critical stakeholders in and outside Nigeria should know that Adamawa APC is characterized with crisis, and the unresolved crisis is birthing mischief makers who find lies a variable means of survival.

Knowing this man from the cradle of his political lifeline to



Boss Mustapha

date, our correspondent can comfortably report that he is the last man standing for APC come rain come sun shine. Boss has sold out his conscience to build an APC of goodness for the

Nigerian people. He invested more than enough to the party that he can't cheapen out for whatever reason.

The body language of Boss, his composure, and his political

temperament is a sign that he can go to any length for the APC to remain a national party that will last for many decades.

They cannot admit to this fact that Boss is no doubt, a discovery of wisdom, one of the Adamawa's sons that is immensely contributing to liberating, emancipating, and salvaging the entire country from the clutches of underdevelopment and putting life, meaning, and adding value into the political lifeline of Nigeria because of his firm belief in APC.

He truly is a party man, despite what people consider weakness in his silence and muteness in delving into national issues. We see it as a virtue of greatness he owns that is using to calm down and stabilize many uproars within and outside the party that will possibly consume the party whenever he talks unduly.

As they say, "silence is golden", to me it's not only golden, there is power in silence. This is the power Boss got working effectively for all Nigerians. A brainy gift that is helping APC at the National level because of his staunch loyalty to the party. So for anybody to say Man of his type will leave APC is doing so because of the bread and butter he or she gets to survive.

With all sense of credibility and make it boldly in the tablet's heart of all Nigerians, Mr. Boss remains the best loyal man of APC, the last man that can ever stand for the party in the interest of all party men. A party man at all times that belief in serving APC is what will birth out good leaders for the nation.

Katsina Governor's Wife Joins Fight Against Domestic Violence

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Wife of Katsina State Governor, Hajiya Fatima Dikko Radda has assured her readiness to assist in reducing domestic violence in the state. Hajiya Fatima Dikko Radda gave the assurance during a symposium on domestic violence management

organized by Read Right Foundation held at Education Resource Center, Katsina in Katsina Metropolis.

Hajiya Radda described the event as timely considering that domestic violence cases rise in the society.

Declaring the session opened, the former Commissioner for Water Resource, Musa Adamu Funtua lamented that

the domestic violence became rampant leading murder in the society.

He hoped that the support of the Governor's wife would assist in reducing the menace.

In their separate remarks, the Chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee, Maryam Mukhtar Kafur and Hajiya Sa'adatu Sani Isah said the session was meant to

create awareness and solutions to end violence for peaceful marital co-existence. Also speaking, Hajiya Mariya Abdullahi noted that assisting one another, transparency, tolerance among couples is the backbone for sustainable of marital relationship.

In separate papers presented by Zuwaira Dauda Kolo,

Hannatu Muhammad, Sheikh Zakariyya Yunusa and Khalifa Imam Ibrahim Nasirudden Adam suggested that couples should imbibe the cultural attitude of grandparents as solutions to end the menace.

They also attributed the rising of domestic violence to forced marriage, lack of pre-marital council among others.

Arewa Chiefs Ask For Release Of Sarkin Hausawa In Lagos

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Council of Arewa Chiefs, Lagos State, has called for the immediate and unconditional release of Sarkin Hausawa of Lagos and Chairman of the Council of Chiefs, Alhaji Aminu Idris Yaro with his wife by the Department of State Services (DSS) describing the detention "an unlawful detention".

The council noted that he be granted immediate access to legal representation, medical attention and family members, saying that in the alternative, present him for cognizance by a competent court of law in accordance with the provisions that invalidate the indefinite detention of persons without trial.

A statement issued and made available to New Nigerian in Kaduna on Monday by the Yerima Shettima, the Jarman Lagos, said, "Traditional rulers will first need to be accorded commensurate respect, their emasculation, maltreatment and harassment has to be ended and

their revered place of respect assured before we can place any hope in them to do anything meaningful in the community."

It added that while the Council of Arewa Chiefs is very much aware of the obligations on every Nigerian to assist government agencies and institutions in the all-important fight against corruption within the laws of the land, and in building a nation united around the values of justice and honest enterprise, it nevertheless shall remain firm in the belief that security agencies are as much deserving of respect in the same manner the traditional institutions demand to be respected.

According to the statement, the Council of Arewa Chiefs and Arewa Community in the South-West as well as every decent Nigerian and institution in Nigeria can without a doubt attest to the Sarkin Hausawa's credibility, leadership, sacrifice, statesmanship, patriotism and unwavering commitment to the interests of the people of Northern Nigerian in the South,

and citizens of Nigeria as whole, stressing that he is as well known never to lower the bar where the interests of the North, the unity and security of Nigeria, or the welfare of all citizens are involved.

The Council said it was concerned that the DSS might typically be used to hunt down respected leaders of community using terrorism fight as smoke screen, stressing that it does not dispute the prerogative of the DSS and any security service in the country to invite any person it deems useful for any of its investigations, but found the detention of the Sarkin Hausawa incommunicado and beyond the lawfully allowed 24 hours by the DSS, repugnant to the sensibilities of the traditional rulership system, the Arewa community and the Council of Chiefs.

The Council of Arewa Chiefs alleged that the Sarkin Hausawa is being held in connection with the ongoing investigation of the former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Mr Godwin



Yerima Shettima

Ebonyi First Lady Campaigns To End Child Abuse, Trafficking

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

In a bid to stop child abuse in Ebonyi State, wife of the governor, Mrs. Mary-Muadline Uzoamaka Ogbonna Nwifuru has said that any Ebonyi under-aged child given out of the state for either domestic services, trafficking or other abuses will be intercepted and parents of such children would be arrested and prosecuted according to the law. Mrs. Nwifuru disclosed this during a Community Sensitization on the rights of Ebonyi Children, child trafficking, street hawking, gender based violence and other forms of child abuse at Women Development Centre, Abakaliki. The governor's wife was speaking on the backdrop that Ebonyi children have been grossly abused in various forms and their rights denied over the years.

She said the present administration of her husband Rt Hon Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru was ready to create an enabling environment for every Ebonyi child to thrive and would no longer tolerate abuses on them.



Mrs Nwifuru said her office would do all within its reach including sponsorship of bills at the State House of Assembly to wrestle down issues of gender based violence, child maltreatment, child trafficking and other abuses meted out to children, women and men in the society.

While calling on council chairmen, traditional rulers and other stakeholders to partner her office in fighting the menace,

Mrs Nwifuru enjoined mothers to watch the activities of their children in terms of dressing, peer groups and general behavior so as to curtail social vices in the society.

The State Deputy Governor, Princess Patricia Obila thanked the Governor's wife and the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development for coming up with such program and noted that the focus of the sensitization was in tandem with the

manifesto presented by the State Governor during the 2023 electioneering campaigns.

The Deputy Governor who appealed to the Governor's wife to step up the sensitization program to local levels announced her readiness to support with fund any local government that would replicate same in their area.

In their sperate remarks, the State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development,

Mrs Felicia Nwamkpuma and the Chairman of the occasion and Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters, Mr Uchenna Igwe highlighted the target of the program and expressed the hope that the sensitization would go a long way in addressing issues of gender based violence, child trafficking and other abuses in the state.

In goodwill messages from the Nigerian Police represented by Mr Chris Anyanwu, Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps represented by Mrs Nneka Akam and the traditional institution represented by Eze Sunday Oketa assured of their collaboration of the governor's wife in their areas of calling.

There were lectures by Resource Persons on Gender Based Violence, Child Trafficking, Street Hawking/Begging and the religious point of view on the ills of Gender Based Violence/Child Trafficking.

The event featured presentation of envelopes containing undisclosed amounts of money to selected victims of various forms of abuses by wife of the Governor.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya Swears-in Professor Njodi As Gombe SSG

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has sworn -in Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi as the Secretary to the Gombe State Government.

Recalled that the Governor had recently reappointment Professor Njodi as SSG having served meritoriously in same capacity between during his first tenure (2019-2023).

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, made available on Monday, the Governor described Professor Njodi as a seasoned administrator who contributed

immensely to the modest achievements already recorded in the first spell of his administration.

While congratulating the newly sworn-in SSG, the Governor tasked him to redouble his efforts towards consolidating and projecting his administration's insatiable quest to deliver effective service to the people of the state.

In his response after taking the oath of office and that of allegiance, the Secretary to the State Government remarked that he has gained so much experience working with Governor Inuwa Yahaya in the last four years has, describing his as a distinguished fellow who has the love and

the interest of the state and it's people at heart.

Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi expressed confidence that the second term of Governor Inuwa Yahaya will witness more developmental strides across all sectors in tandem with the yearnings and aspiration of the people and in line with the vision of his excellency.

He expressed gratitude to Governor Inuwa Yahaya for finding him worthy to occupy te exalted office of the SSG again, committing that "to whom much is given much more is expected".

"I am very mindful that as Secretary to the state government it is my duty and responsibility to ensure that Government

programmes and policies are implemented efficiently and to the later; this, I am committed to continue doing".

The event was witnessed by the Deputy Governor, Dr Manassah Daniel Jatau, Speaker of Gombe State House of Assembly who was represented by his Deputy; Chief Judge and the Grand Khadi; State Chairman of the APC who was represented by the State Party Secretary; Head of Civil Service and Permanent Secretaries; Local Government Caretaker Chairmen; Mai Kaltungo, Engr Saleh Mohammed and other royal fathers; Heads of Security Agencies, friends, associates and family members of the SSG among others.



NSCDC Arrests Two For 'Buying, Selling' Of Customers' Bank Accounts

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Ondo State Command, has arrested two suspects who confessed to buying and selling of bank accounts owned by unsuspecting members of the public.

The suspects identified as Maxwell Laloju and Adejumo David, were apprehended by the Counter Terrorism Unit of the Command for fraudulently obtaining customers' bank details for criminal use.

The spokesperson of the command, DSC Daniel Aidamenbor, disclosed the arrest of the suspects in a statement obtained by our correspondent yesterday in Akure, the state capital.

Aidamenbor said investigation into the incident began when one Mr. Oluwole, a car dealer alleged that the sum of One Million, Five Hundred Thousand naira paid into his United Bank of Africa (UBA) account was stolen by cyber criminals overnight.

"A forensic analysis of the UBA statement of account of Mr Oluwole revealed a certain Palmpay account EL-SAEED YUSUF 9133771898 received a sum of N200,000 from the N1,500,000 stolen from the account of Mr Oluwole and the balance sum used for online purchases

"Zenith bank account, SAMPSON ONYENEBE received the entire ₦200,000 from the Palmpay account of EL-SAEED YUSUF while another account, JOHN Y O B G D A D D

7 0 2 5 1 2 8 5 7 4 a t FIRSTMONIE equally received other sum from EL-SAEED YUSUF Palmpay account"

"Sampson Onyenebe who was arrested in Owerri, Imo state claimed that he met Maxwell Lakoju aka Ifa Dollar on Facebook in 2022 and they discussed and agreed on how Maxwell would assist him with metaphysical power for wealth"

"Among other requirements for the process, Sampson Onyenebe paid several thousands of naira through an account belonging to David Adejumo and he also handed over Automated Teller Machine (ATM) cards, Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) of about Eight (8) bank accounts belonging to himself and his wife to Maxwell"

"The arrest of David Adejumo led to the arrest of Maxwell Lakoju in Auchi, Edo State. Both suspects confessed to obtaining the bank accounts and its details including the ATM cards by courier from Sampson and his wife"

"Both suspects also confessed to have equally obtained and procured details of other bank accounts from other individuals and sold same to persons whom they claimed usually place regular demands for such"

However, the spokesperson said investigation is still on going to determine the involvement of bank officials and Information Technology professionals in the crime.

With Dangote, Nigeria No Longer Imports, But Exports Cement - Coordinator

**Trains bricklayers in Oyo State on use of Falcon Cement*

those into block making business by monitoring their workers to ensure they use adequate measurement of mixing concentration for your blocks, adding, "for those of you working on the site always monitor your site workers because they can do something else while you're not on site and this will affect your job and the relationship you have already established with your clients."

Lauding the turn out of participants and their

response to the training, Olaniyi said, "For now we are training them and we are giving them branding such as Dangote T-Shirt and Face cap, this kind of training is not what you can get anywhere and it's free of charge for all the participants."

Chairman of Bricklayers Association in Oyo state, Comrade Muhammed Adebayo Arowoselu commended Dangote Cement for the training, saying the training has added value to their

profession.

"This training has further unite us together as members of this noble association. Some among us have been using different cement without knowing the actual usefulness of it. With this training we have gotten more knowledge and additional skills to all the already existing ones", he said

Arowoselu added, "We've known the difference between these cement and their usages. I believed we

will still have this kind of training in the nearest future, we are so happy and we really appreciate Dangote Cement for this training."

At the training the Regional Technical Sales Engineer, Mr. Adesheila Mitchell, assisted by four other artisans engaged all the participants that were invited for the training throughout the 33 local government areas in the state for productive hours of practical training on the usage of Falcon Cement.



Some of the bricklayers at the training in Ibadan.

Remains Of Wife Of Katsina Business Mogul Laid To Rest

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Wife of the Katsina based business mogul and Chairman Chief Executive of MaxAir, Hajiya A'isha Dahiru Bara'u Mangal has died and buried in Katsina.

Aged 57, Hajiya A'isha Dahiru Mangal died on Saturday, July 15, 2023 in Abuja after a brief illness and buried at Danmarna Cemetery in Katsina metropolis on Sunday, July 16, 2023.

The burial prayer conducted around

11:30 am in the morning, was led by the Chief Imam of Katsina Central Mosque, Sheikh Gambo Mustapha.

The burial Prayer which took place at Arabic Teachers College (ATC) Pitch opposite Alhaji Dahiru Bara'u Mangal's house, witnessed the attendance of hundreds of mourners from within and outside the country.

Some of the important dignitaries at burial rite's of late Hajiya A'isha Dahiru Bara'u Mangal includes:- Prime Minister of Niger Republic Ouhomoudou Mahamadou, former

Sokoto State Governors Attahiru Bafarawa and Senator Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, as well as their Kebbi and Zamfara counterparts, Senator Abubakar Bagudu and Senator Ahmad Sani Yarima Bakura.

Also in attendance, were Katsina State Deputy Governor Faruk Lawal Jobe, the immediate Governor of Jigawa state Muhammad Badaru Abubakar, and the Deputy Governor of Yobe state Engineer Aminu Usman.

Meanwhile, Vice President Kashim Shettima was in Katsina to condole the renowned businessman, Alhaji Dahiru

Mangal on the death of his wife, Hajiya Aisha.

The Vice President was in company of member of the National Assembly from Kano Abdulmumin Jibrin and Senior Special Assistant to the President on political matters Alhaji Ibrahim Masari.

Late Hajiya Aisha was survived by her husband Alhaji Dahiru Mangal and seven children including Alhaji Lawal Mangal a Director with AFDIN and Buhari Mangal a student at a University in England.

Uba Sani Charges Appointees To Brace Up For The Challenges Ahead

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani on Monday, charged the newly sworn-in appointees to brace up for the challenges ahead and discharge their duties with the highest sense of ability and humility.

The governor stated this when he swore-in Prof. Bello Ayuba as the Principal Private Secretary to the Government, and Samuel Aruwan as the Administrator of Kaduna Capital Territory Authority (KCTA), which took place at the Government House Council Chambers in Kaduna.

Samuel Aruwan is a long

standing journalist and immediate past/pioneer Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, while Prof. Bello Ayuba is a seasoned academic and administrator.

The governor seized the opportunity offered by the swearing in ceremony to announce the nomination of Samuel Aruwan as a Commissioner, pending his confirmation by the State House of Assembly, I detailed him to oversee the affairs of the Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs.

Aruwan is given additional responsibility to oversee the

activities of the Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs pending appointment of commissioners.

According to the governor, there is no doubt that these two individuals will play major roles in the formulation and execution of our administration's policies, programmes and projects in the next four years.

"We are confident that the experience they bring on board will be beneficial in the delivery of our promises to the good people of Kaduna State.

"We must at all time, serve the public interest and put service before self.

"These are challenging times,

now more than ever, we must individually and collectively task ourselves to help stabilize our state and place it on the path to sustainable peace and development.

"It is for this reason that our administration is putting together a Solid Team of experienced, innovative, creative, dedicated and committed individuals with passion for service," he said.

He reassured that he would assemble a solid team with experience, dedication and commitment to service to steer the state to prosperity.

The governor said he would implement the administration's seven point agenda geared

toward improving the quality of life, achieving inclusive socio-economic growth and consolidating on urban renewal drive.

"We shall prioritise the revitalisation of the economy of our rural areas through massive infrastructural development," he said.

Speaking with newsmen after the swearing-in ceremony, Ayuba appreciated the governor for finding them worthy of the appointments.

He assured that they would discharge their duties efficiently and effectively

On his part, Aruwan said they would discharge their duties with all sense of responsibility to justify the trust reposed in them.



Midnight Visit: Zulum Expresses Anger Over Lack Of Facilities At Gwoza Hospital

*Orders immediate rehabilitation, rewards staff for hard work, dedication

By: SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri
Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum has expressed dismay over lack of electricity and other facilities at the General Hospital Gwoza.

The governor couldn't hide his feelings when he paid a surprise visit to the hospital at midnight on Saturday.

Zulum who was on a one-day working visit, also spent the night in Gwoza town, which is the headquarters of Gwoza Local Government Area of the state as part of his surprise visit at odd hours in the night to hospitals and day time to schools during

class hours in a bid to assess situations on ground.

During his visit on Saturday, the governor went round Gwoza General Hospital to assess functionality of the hospital, where he inspected all the wards and facilities at the hospital, expressing disappointment with what he saw.

"It is unacceptable that a critical healthcare facility like this Gwoza General Hospital is deprived of basic amenities such as electricity. This situation compromises the quality of care provided to patients and hampers the efforts of our dedicated healthcare

professionals.

"We are not here to trade blame, we are here to find solutions. Nobody brought to my knowledge the deplorable conditions of this place", Zulum said in anger.

"I will neither exonerate myself nor the local government authority. We (all) have failed to provide what is needed. However, I want to assure you (patients and the rest of the people) that insha'Allah, we will fix this, we will make the working environment here better than it is now," Zulum assured.

The governor further ordered for the

immediate commencement of rehabilitation work at the hospital to include restoration electricity at the General Hospital.

However, Zulum was impressed with the medical staff for their dedication and commitment to service to patients day and night without much facilities on ground to provide the needed services announced reward for all the staff on duty for their hard work dedicated in spite of the lingering challenges that they face at the hospital.



Hajj: Saudi Arabia Deserves Praise, Not Condemnation - IHR

By; JABIRU AHASSAN,
Kano

Independent Hajj Reporters (IHR) has said that it is aware of the challenges faced in this year's Hajj exercise, owing to recent change of policy by Saudi Arabian authorities regarding service provision to the guests of AR Rahman.

These challenges raised a lot of issues by Hajj participating countries which were widely reported by the media, but IHR in a statement signed by its national coordinator, Ibrahim Muhammed said, "It is sacrosanct that pilgrims deserve to be served commensurate to services paid for."

"However, serving over 2.3 million pilgrims by providing accommodation, transportation, feeding, medical services and guidance in the same place, at the same time requires multi departmental support and cooperation of all concerned."

The statement also said that most Hajj participating countries have blamed Saudi based services providers for the epileptic services rendered this year especially during the five days stay at Mashaer.

"While, we acknowledge the grievances, we must also acknowledge that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia deserves commendation for her efforts in catering for increased demands of providing basic services for pilgrims all year round. "Every year, officials at the Kingdom under the able leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bn Abdulaziz and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister,

Mohammed Bn Salman, put on their thinking caps and design policies that will make Hajj better than previous years'.

"They always undertake review of the immediate past Hajj operation and identify all areas of challenges and then come up with policies that will address these challenges, that is why countries witness new policies almost every year, it is aimed at making the Hajj easier and better for the guests of Allah."

"5- to 10 per cent service failure does not amount to total failure deserving of complete condemnation," IHR said. More importantly, the Kingdom indirectly admitted this year's operational lapses when for the first time, the Minister of Hajj and Umrah released the 2024 hajj calendar of event a week after 2023 hajj – subjecting the allotment of tents to first to be ready basis.

The CSO also said there is probably no country in the world that can do what the Saudis are doing regarding the running of Hajj and Umrah, adding "We ask Allah SWT to continue to bless them and give them more wisdom and energy to continue serving his guests in the best way possible."

"Finally, we wish to recommend that authorities in the Kingdom consider carrying along Hajj participating countries while planning for upcoming Hajj operations. Opinions of Hajj participating countries should be sought and considered while designing policies that will be implemented by them eventually," IHR said.

Amotekun Nabs Ondo Students For Faking Kidnap

By: ADEBOYE ADO,
Akure

Two secondary school students from Oka-Akoko in the Akoko South West Local Government Area of Ondo State, have been arrested for falsely claiming to be abducted by kidnappers.

The two suspects whose names were not given, were among the twenty-eight suspected kidnappers arrested by the Ondo State Security Network Agency codenamed Amotekun Corps.

It was learnt that students between ages of 12 and 14 faked their own kidnap and demanded ransom from their parents.

Parading the suspects in Akure, the Corps Commander of Amotekun

Corps, Akogun Adetunji Adeleye, said they were arrested in different parts of the state for Kidnapping, cult activities, illegal possession of fire arms among others.

The Commander who is also the state governor's Special Adviser on security matters, expressed happiness that several joint patrol between Amotekun men, the military and other security agencies had been yielding positive results.

Akogun Adeleye noted that the joint security patrol teams had combed some forests like Jubere forest, Ilale in Owo, Aromogija, Ute, to the boundary between Ondo and Edo States to Akoko where some of the kidnappers were arrested.

Adeleye noted that "the 28 suspects we are parading today shows that we have more of kidnappers than any other criminal activities. This is in continuation of our efforts at ensuring that kidnapping in Ondo State becomes a thing of the past".

"We have people who kidnapped themselves and raised alarm and in our diligent investigations, we were able to unravel the mystery surrounding the disappearance to the extent that they confessed. We equally have kidnapped suspects of some very high profile individuals in the society that we are working on".

He added that some of the victims who were recovered, sometimes lost

their senses and even forget things for days.

Akogun Adeleye also urged the public not to use their names to register sim cards or anything on behalf of others.

"In the last 3 weeks, we carried out several joint patrol between the men of Amotekun and the military, Civil Defence as well as with police and the joint patrol teams combed the forest like Jubere forest, Ilale in Owl, aromogija, Ute, to the boundary between Ondo State and Edo State through Akoko where some of the kidnappers were arrested.

"The kidnappers are aware now that the forests in Ondo State is not for them again", the Commander said.



2023/2024 Scholarships: Kebbi Gov't Approves Payment For Indigenous Students

By ; A L E X
UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

In line with his plan to raise the standard of education in Kebbi State, Governor Nasir Idris has graciously approved the payment of registration fees for 2023/2024 academic session for all verified Kebbi State indigenes studying in Usman Danfodio University Sokoto (UDUS).

The governor, in a statement made available to journalists on Sunday, signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Ahmed Idris,

said the approval was to encourage the students get sound education and to ease difficulties faced by their parents.

"The present administration is determined to fulfil all its campaign promises, most especially in education, agriculture, health, infrastructure and youth empowerment," he assured.

He advised all students studying at UDUS to take full advantage of the opportunity by studying hard towards achieving the purpose of being in school.



Gov Kebbi State

Professionalism: Kaduna Estate Managers Move To Flush Out Quacks

By; AMOS MATHEW, Kaduna

The Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers, Kaduna State branch, has resolved to fish out quacks who are denting the image of the profession without any further delay from the system completely.

It was made known by the newly elected Chairman of the branch, ESV Ambrose Okofu, who said his leadership will not rest until only genuine professionals are

allowed to remain in the profession.

" I am going to adopt stakeholders engagement with policy makers at the executive arm, judiciary, the legislature and other relevant agencies of the government, as well as enforcing market rules amongst key industry players to encourage the real estate market.

" It is my opinion that our industry at this time will benefit a lot from the openness to dialogue of the profession as a means to

address some of the ills of the market today for long-term sustainability, growth and ease of doing business.

" We are fully aware that there is a need for us to come together to save our industry now more than ever. The economic space is shrinking and businesses are facing greater threats and our practice is not insulated from developments in the global economic space.

" It therefore, behooves on us to respond quickly to the changing

dynamics of the market space so that we do not go extinct in the face of the global pressures on our businesses, as there's no better time than now to strengthen the institution and reposition it for the task ahead", ESV Okofu stated.

He went further to say that, a lot of efforts and resources have been deployed in the recent past to achieve all as promised by the outgoing leadership and reflected in his commitment towards it's actualisation.

" My promise to my dear

colleagues is to ensure that during this administration, we shall have engagement of stakeholders both government and individuals, advocacy shall be paramount in our activities, human capital and strategic development, welfare of members cannot be over-emphasized, mending broken fences among colleagues and entrenching love and unity, training and retraining of members and many others," he added.



Badagry Deep Seaport To Gulp \$2.6bn

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Badagry Deep Seaport to be established in Lagos is to gulp the sum of 2.6 billion Dollars, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt.

This was revealed, just as the state government has put all machineries in motion to ensure its takeoff.

The disclosure emerged at a Stakeholders' Meeting on the development of the Port organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperative in conjunction with Badagry Port Development Limited, held at Radisson Hotel, Ikeja in Lagos. Speaking at the occasion, representatives of Badagry Port Development Limited and Head, Government Relations, Mr. James Clinton confirmed that the Badagry Deep Sea Port is a 2.6 Billion dollar project and that it would be the second largest in Africa.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, Mrs. Adetutu Ososanya, in her speech declared that the strategic and economic importance of the Badagry Deep Seaport project cannot be overemphasised, taking into consideration the quantum of investments that will spring up

in the area when the project is completed.

Her words: "The Badagry Port Development Limited is expected to promote socio-economic development in the surrounding communities, particularly through Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.

The inclusive approach will ensure that the benefits of the Port extend far beyond its boundaries, creating a positive ripple effect that reaches every corner of Lagos State, Nigeria and the global economy as a whole".

The Permanent Secretary tasked MDAs to support the project by being actively involved in the decision-making process, aligning with their respective mandates and playing their parts in line with extant laws and policies of Lagos State.

"Our collective effort is highly required for the realisation of the dream and aspiration of the Badagry Deep Sea Port, and there is a need for collaboration and synergy in the ecosystem to ensure the timely completion of the project", she said.

Ag. Surveyor-General of Lagos State, Surveyor Ayokunnu Adesina gave a technical overview of presentations by government stakeholders, saying the entire parcel of land



Permanent Secretary Lagos State Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperative Mrs. Ososanya addressing participants at the meeting

for the Badagry Deep Sea Port has been mapped out while resettlement lands have been provided for communities that would be displaced through the project.

"We have also processed some Certificate of Occupancies for the Badagry Port Development Limited while the Office of Surveyor-General is ready to provide any support as may be required by the organisation in respect of the project", he added.

The representatives of Badagry Port Development Limited and Head, Government Relations,

Mr. James Clinton confirmed that the Badagry Deep Sea Port is a 2.6 Billion dollar project and it would be the second largest in Africa.

"I really want to appreciate the Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives and other MDAs, for the commitment and drive that have pushed the project to where it is. I am most assured, with this level of cooperation, that all possible impediments to the project would be removed for its smooth take-off", he said.

The Community Relations Manager of Badagry Port Development Limited, Mr. Justin Okwuofu commended the people of Badagry for their cooperation as the organisation has received tremendous support from the communities. Representatives of MDAs such as Physical Planning & Urban Development, Lands, Justice, Local Government & Community Affairs all affirmed their commitments to ensuring the timely conclusion of all processes leading to the final take-off of the project.

Concerned Northern Forum Condemns Arrest Of Sarkin Hausawa Lagos By DSS

**Urges DSS to arrest Ooni of Ife for alleged real estate scam*

**Reminds Tinubu of 2027 polls*

By AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Concerned Northern Forum (CNF), has expressed concerns over the report of the arrest of Alhaji Aminu Yaro Dogara, the Sarkin Hausawa of Lagos State and Chairman of Council Arewa Chiefs in Southern Nigeria by the DSS over what it described as a "connection to the ongoing investigation of the suspended CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele".

Mohammed Danlami, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Concerned Northern forum, in a statement said, "We demand for the immediate and unconditional

release of Alhaji Aminu Yaro Dogara, because the law is clear, charge the case to court and not continuous detention of an individual without any legal definition. It is also inhumane to arrest and continue to detain such an elderly man with couples of health challenges and keeping him away from his family."

He called on President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu to be aware of Banana peels, and not to allow himself to bite the hands that are feeding him as 2027 is just like tomorrow.

He admonished the DG of the DSS to know that no amount of desecration of Arewa Tradition

would make him stay longer than God's appointed time on the seat he never dreamt of occupying, saying that it was God's will for him to be called from retirement to occupy the seat and in the same way Nigerian Customs Service has been returned to Serving Officers, the case of DSS, won't be different.

The chairman also called on the traditional rulers of the Arewa extraction to wake up and fight to protect one of their own, stressing that his arrest is an assault and conspiracy against the Northern traditional institution, stressing that if the DSS is serious about the fight

against corruption, they should start with the Ooni of Ife whose case has been in the public domain long before now.

He lamented, "The country is already polarised along ethnic line and regional segregation, arresting this important traditional figure will only lead to more harm than good and add more problems to the stock of existing ones."

According to the statement, the group sees the arrest of Alhaji Aminu Yaro Dogara as an affront to Arewa tradition and a desperate attempt to humiliate their leaders, which when left unchallenged, will lead to the

breeding of internal colonialism by a man they willingly and gladly voted for, despite being challenged morally, historically, and integrity-wise, pointing out that they did so to uphold the unity of this country and their love for the oneness of the country shouldn't be mistaken for weakness.

The statement added, "The arrest of Sarkin Hausawa is a brutality to the sacred Arewa culture, an innocent woman without any negative incidence in the public domain. On the other hand, the DG's wife has had a negative public display, an incidence involving the now Governor of

Green City: LG Boss Tasks Residents To Plant Trees To Mark Special Occasions

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Executive Chairman of Ifelodun Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Mayor Olufemi Akanbi Okeowo has charged residents to plant more trees in order to engender a greener environment.

He told the residents to plant trees to commemorate important events such as landmark birthdays, house warming, appointments, promotions, naming ceremonies, burial ceremonies, graduation ceremonies, inauguration of markets, mosques, churches amongst others.

"Trees are important to prevent erosion, heat, provide fresh air, prevent houses from falling during wild winds, trees serve as shed during rainy or sunny weather, trees produce more oxygen which is inhaled by human beings, trees help to purify the atmospheric conditions etc.", Okeowo emphasised.

He made this charge during the 2023 annual Tree Planting exercise which took place at LA Primary School, Bakare Faro Street, Amukoko, Mosafejo.

Okeowo who was represented by the Vice Chairman, Alhaja Adetoun Ojora-Adejiyan

explained that tree planting has become a permanent decimal in the calendar of Lagos, where Ministries, Departments, Higher institutions, Local Governments and other agencies of Governments plant trees to symbolize it's importance to the Society.

This policy, he explained, was initiated by the administration of Mr Babatunde Raji Fashola in 2008, because of its importance to the society, adding that subsequent governments have continued with the policy.

According to him, the only way to ensure a successfully green city, is to continue to grow and nurture more Trees.

Head of Department of Waste and Environmental Sanitation, Sanitarian Ezekiel Obideyi explained that apart from appealed to the residents to inculcate the habit of planting Trees in order to neutralize the acid in the atmosphere.

The Chairman Chieftaincy Committee of Ifelodun LCDA Chief Lateef Olatunji called on the Traditional Rulers to drum the ideas of planting trees to the residents and warm them to to cut any tree without the express approval of the relevant Government agencies

The Chairman Community Development Committee of



3rd from right, Vice Chairman Ajeromi Ifelodun LCDA Mrs. Adejiyan Ojora flanked by other government officials during the tree planting ceremony.

Ifelodun LCDA Elder Samuel Olaide Odusanya encouraged the Community Development Association to take the message of Tree planting to the grassroot.

The Occasion was witnessed by the Council Manager Mr Azeez Saheed Abiodun, Supervisor for the Environment Hon Modinot

Oyefolu, Supervisor for Chieftaincy Affairs and Community Development Alhaji Nurudeen Mohammed, Supervisor for Transportation Alhaji Daud Somotan, Baale in Council, CDC executive, CDA members, League of Imams, Christian Association of Nigeria,

Ifelodun Chapter, Artisans, Director Public Affairs Ifelodun LCDA Mr Olusegun Akinyemi, Council Engineer Ibrahim Solola, Market leaders. Headmaster LA Primary school Mr. James Babalola Dairo, Management staff of Ifelodun LCDA and others

Action Alliance Lauds INEC For Recognizing Omoaje As National Chairman

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Action Alliance (AA) has declared that the action of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to recognize Hon Adekunle Rufai Omoaje as the national chairman of the party by putting his name on the commission's website, is in order.

The party in a statement issued on Monday by its national publicity secretary, Mr. Olu Omotoso, slammed Kenneth Udeze for interfering in the party's affairs and warned him to desist from issues that affect the party, just as it called on Nigerians to disregard Udeze and his outbursts.

The statement reads, "The attention of the leadership of our great party, the Action Alliance (AA) has been drawn to a statement issued by one Mr. Kenneth Udeze, an expelled member of the party where he erroneously claims that the name of Dr. Adekunle Rufai Omoaje



Hon Shina Peller receiving the award

was put on the website of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) by some staff of the commission without necessary approval.

"We want to strongly condemn the statement credited to Udeze and state unequivocally that Udeze lacks the right to comment on any issue that affects the party as he is not a member of the party and neither does he hold any stake in

the party.

"For record purposes, it's pertinent to state for the umpteenth time that Udeze had long been suspended from the party and was consequently expelled from the party by the National Think Thank Committee, which is the highest ruling organ of the party.

"To allege that the name of Hon (Dr) Adekunle Rufai Omoaje was inputted by some staff of the

commission was proof of the stuff Udeze was made of as he is known for forgery, impersonation, and other dubious acts.

"For us in the Action Alliance, we have always toed the path of truth, justice, and peace. This, we have consistently done in the past few months when the Independent National Electoral Commission changed wrongly put the name of Udeze on the INEC website as against the party's wish and orders of the court.

"Let us bring it on notice again that some courts of competent jurisdictions including the Ogun State High Court sitting in Abeokuta, Federal High Court, Abuja, and Abuja division of the Court of Appeal in separate judgments declared Hon Adekunle Rufai Omoaje as the authentic national chairman of the

Action Alliance and ordered INEC to recognize Omoaje.

"The courts in their judgments also ordered INEC to input the name of Omoaje on its website and accord him (Omoaje) the necessary recognition of the party's national chairman.

"We waited so long till justice was done and till INEC also respected and honor the court judgment by inputting the name of Omoaje on its website. This was done following the orders of the court.

"To this end, we wish to state unequivocally that Kenneth Udeze is an impostor who is not known to our party, the Action Alliance.

"Also, it's important to state clearly that INEC acted following court judgment and its actions are in order. Inserting the name of Hon Adekunle Rufai Omoaje on the INEC website was in order and it's pleasing to the generality of our members in the Action Alliance. INEC did not act wrongly and its actions are welcome by the party," he added.

Ondo Jealous Wife Pours Hot Water On Nursing Mother

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The Police in Ondo State have arrested a food vendor, Esther Godwin, for allegedly pouring hot on a nursing mother identified as Endurance Samuel.

The incident happened at Olofin community in Idanre, in the Idanre Local Government Area of the State.

The 39-yr-old suspect who invited the victim to her house through a phone call to come over and collect palm oil her husband was owing her, was said to have accused Endurance of having an illicit affair with her husband, named Sunday Godwin.

As Endurance arrived in no distant time, sources said the victim took the little baby from her victim, queried her relationship with her husband while Endurance denied that there was no relationship with her husband than working for the husband”

“The suspect was said to have dashed inside the room only to come out with a hot water kettle and poured it on Endurance’s body.

“The victim tried to run away from the suspect, but he was dragged into the house while Esther poured the whole hot



The victim

water on her”

“The victim was immediately rushed to the Health centre in the town but later referred to General Hospital, Alade Idanre, where she is still receiving treatment”

Narrating her nerve-racking ordeal, Endurance explained that though she usually works on the suspect husband’s farm, said there was nothing between them

than a master and labourer relationship, saying “no strings attached”

She explained, “Esther called me from where I was learning tailoring to come and collect the palm oil her husband is owing me because I also work as a labourer for some farmers in the town.

” I rushed out of my oga’s shop excitedly to the place, not

knowing that the call was just to lure me to her own shop where she was selling food, to pour hot water on me for the offence I did not commit.”

It was, however, gathered that police from the state command arrested Esther, who is said to be nursing a month-old baby, and subsequently charged before the Magistrate court in Idanre and was remanded at the female

correctional centre, Surulere, Ondo, till July 17, 2023.

On his part, the husband of the suspect, Sunday Godwin, who denied having any affair with Endurance, said he only engaged her as a farmhand on his farm.

He added “i was surprised with this development, and I have been paying for the victim’s treatment at the hospital since the incident happened.”

Let Your Aspiration For Political Offices Be Guided By Clear Vision, Mission For Constituents - Senate President

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio has tasked the political class to allow their aspirations for political offices be guided by clear vision and mission for their constituents.

Senator Akpabio gave the charge while speaking at the funeral service in honour of late Deaconese Aniema Donald Etiebet, daughter of the late former Governor of old Cross River State, Senator Donald Dick Etiebet, in Abak Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

The President of the Senate emphasized that there is the need for political office holders to at all times be concerned with the plight of their constituents.

Leading other Senators to the funeral service, Senator Akpabio described the deceased as “a very strong supporter of mine, who had the sight and the vision of what was about to

happen in the Senatorial District.

“She did all she could to ensure that I emerged the Senator representing the good people of Akwa Ibom North West Senatorial District, which finally led to my being elected by my colleagues as the President of the 10th Senate”, he said.

Senator Akpabio added, “Aniema was a chip off the old block. When some people who were misled, gathered at Ritman University against me, Aniema stood her grounds against them. She invited me to her father’s house, prayed for and campaigned for me. God answered her prayers because she had the vision of a better thing for Akwa Ibom North West Senatorial District”.

He then called on all women to emulate the visionary character of late Aniema, saying, “apart from being my sister, she was my political ally who stood by me and ensured that all the gang up against my ambition fell flat.



Senator Akpabio at the burial ceremony

Tension As Niger Delta Ex-agitators Warned Ndiomu, Reject Incessant Disappearance Of MacIver's Name On PAP Database

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

There is palpable tension in the Niger Delta region as the Chairman of the Niger Delta First Phase Ex-agitators' Leadership Forum, Bayelsa State Chapter, High Chief. Charles Kurobo, has raised the alarm that the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP), has delisted the running mate to the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Bayelsa State from its payroll.

According to him, the investigation of the forum revealed that the Interim Administrator of the PAP, Gen. Barry Ndiomu (rtd), without any reasonable course directed that all the entitlements of the APC Guber running mate, Great Joshua MacIver, who was the first to embrace the amnesty

program with over 200 followers, should be withdrawn. Several attempts to reach the amnesty office for comments proved abortive at the time of filling this report, however, the ex-agitators have said that they may be forced to resort to extreme measures to resolving the anomalies since efforts to make the PAP boss see reasons with them has continued to fall on deaf ears.

The group said that the height of the controversy is when the PAP claimed that Great Maciver, a major critical stakeholder of the first phase ex-agitators who surrendered arms alongside his foot soldiers numbering well above 200 from his own personal camp and have remained beneficiaries of the programme with their ID Card numbers and monthly stipends is no longer part of the programme.

The statement that was issued in Yenagoa by Kurobo read "sequel to appeals and complains concerning the style and gross lack of integrity of the Presidential Amnesty Program (PAP) office under the current administrator, we are writing to notify the National Security Adviser (NSA) of the lingering controversies between the office and its beneficiaries.

"His actions has continued to put pressure on the leadership of the forum with limited resources to douse the tension while calls for the attention of Ndiomu has continuously fallen deaf ears and we have almost exhausted the immediate and most preferred formal means of communication in trying to reach out to the leadership of the PAP as beneficiaries and stakeholders of the Region.

"We have been receiving series

of complains over non payment of monthly stipends from a large number of the PAP beneficiaries which has kept us awake most nights and while we continue to apply corporate and more responsible measures of going about it.

"The Interim Administrator has further dared us to claim that one of our own, De-Great Joshua Maciver, a major critical stakeholder of the first phase ex-agitator who surrendered arms alongside his foot soldiers numbering well above 200 from his own personal Camp alone were captured and have remained beneficiaries of the programme with their ID Card numbers and monthly stipends.

"Yet, Ndiomu deem them unworthy, according to his media publications, such critical major stakeholder who is a popularly and notably well known leader in

the PAP Database is suddenly not on the database of the PAP, a situation which has made Gen, Ndiomu feel he is a political tool by this singular act, making us feel he has bitten more than enough!

"Why Bayelsa? Why now ? Would Gen. Barry Ndiomu had done same if Joshua Maciver shared his political interest? Or If Ex-militants are not fit for political offices across the region, why then do we have one of our own (Rt. Hon Abraham Ingobere) as speaker of the Bayelsa State House of Assembly?

"We are appealing and looking up to the NSA, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, with the hope that a swift action will be taken to avert the crisis Ndiomu is trying to create because we feel pushed too close to the edge already. We will not be swayed by Ndiomu as it has become clear that he is not on the side of Peace."

Youth Are Great Assets To Make Nigeria Better - Hon Peller

**Groups honour him with Grand Commander of the Nigerian Youth title*

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Ayedero of Yorubaland, Hon Shina Peller at the weekend, said the youth are great assets to make Nigeria better.

Speaking at the conferment of Grand Commander of the Nigerian Youth (GCNY) on him by National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Arewa Youth Forum (AYF), Nigeria Youth Alternative Council, Nigerian Youth in politics and others, Hon Peller disclosed that there is the need for the government, public and private organizations in Nigeria to invest in the youth.

The Ayedero of Yorubaland pointed out there is no doubt in the fact that the youth are great assets that can be leveraged to make the country better. According to Hon Peller, " It is very important for the government, public

and private organizations to invest in the youth as they are great assets that can be leveraged to make the country better".

He stressed that the Grand Commander of the Nigerian Youth (GCNY) honour was an encouragement as well as another challenge for him to intensify his efforts in initiating and supporting youth-driven initiatives.

The Ayedero of Yorubaland then expressed profound gratitude to the Nigerian Youth Leaders and Stakeholders for honouring him with the farewell dinner and for conferring him with the title of the Grand Commander of the Nigerian Youth.

Speaking, President of the NYCN, Comrade Solomon Adodo said the farewell dinner and the conferment of the title on Hon Peller " is in

recognition of Honourable Peller's unparalleled contribution to youth development and empowerment of the masses.

Comrade Adodo disclosed that the dinner was put together by the frontline youth leaders of different youth organizations in Nigeria, and that the purpose was to celebrate the former federal lawmaker for his sojourn in service to Nigeria and for being an outstanding legislator who is ever supportive of youth-driven initiatives, as well as for being an advocate of a common man.

The President of the Nigeria Youth Alternative Council (NYAC), Nixon Chukwuka Odumbu on his part described Hon Peller as a great leader who makes leaders.

He said Hon Peller was the one who single-handedly sponsored his

campaign as a House of Representatives candidate for Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency under the African Democratic Congress (ADC) in the 2023 general election.

Convener of the event, Comrade Olufowobi Olanrewaju Desmond, who is the Vice President of the Nigerian Youth in Politics, said the event was organized to celebrate Honourable Peller for his outstanding contribution to youth development.

He maintained that the Ayedero of Yorubaland, through his NGO, Lead Generation Initiative (LGI), has trained thousands of Nigerian youths across the six geo-political zones of the country on active citizenship, effective communication, community development, leadership and good governance.

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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

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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

Palliatives: As NASS Gets N70bn, Poor Masses N12bn, What About NYSC Corps?

By: AUWAL AHMED IBRAHIM

As hunger is crushing Nigerians to death and the Federal Government is implementing the sharing formula of the N819bn supplementary budget for palliatives, Nigerians groan as National Assembly (NASS) takes the lion share of the money, while 12 million Nigerians get N8,000 for six months.

The prizes of foodstuff soar and people suffer after the subsidy removal, youth corps members posted to various states to serve the country are suffocating of hunger as N33,000 cannot afford their transportation and feeding with the current inflation index.

While NASS is sharing the palliative money, nothing is said about the welfare of youth corps members that dedicate their strength and vigour to serve the nation. 400,000 youth corps members are annually posted to various states to serve the people and the nation, hence as unemployed, need succour at this time of economic hardship to survive, and their situation should be considered.

Even in a response to the sharing formula of the 12 billion Naira by the National Social Safety Nets Coordinating Office (NASSCO), there was no mention of corps members among the beneficiaries of the palliatives.

Despite the fact, not only the youth corps members face the hardship of the time, the masses do, as the present hunger hunts Nigerians.

How painful could this be, when a father is crowded by his wife and three children, the second child of three years old said to the father, "Daddy I am hungry, I need food... I will die of hunger." And the helpless father bursted into tears, without mincing words, sluggishly and staggering, went outside the room crying profusely like a baby? That was a true story.

For a bitter truth; Nigerians are living a hellish life, they helplessly watch their loved ones dying of diseases because of poverty and hunger, amidst the subsidy removal.



President Tinubu

Many families, even children of tender age eat only once a day. Poverty has taken over the affairs of Nigerians as we surrender to its wickedness.

Nothing is easy and cheaply accessible in Nigeria, life has become unbearable and very expensive, that only less than a quarter of the population can afford the conditions.

Only few are exceptional from the heat of the moment, after the subsidy removal, civil servants have become the true servants of hunger, marketers and traders are eating from their capital. Almost, all Nigerians are living a deficit life. Inflation is trending, while schools have become expensive for students to bear. People now give collateral of their goods, items and working tools to collect food for their families. Marriage have become flexible because of poverty and hunger among loving couples.

Food prizes have skyrocketed and nothing is cheaply affordable to satisfy the venomous hunger. One can wonder how the price of sweet potato become unbearable. A portion of N200 after two months is now N1,000, maize flour jacked to N1,000. In fact all food items have jacked up and the prizes are soaring.

Hunger has destroyed hope, ambitions have become empty and Nigerians' visions lies on survival. Poverty becomes the devil among the saints, while poverty gives birth to crime and criminal life is becoming tougher and suffocating. How can maximum security be achieved in the peak of banditry, kidnapping and insurgency?

Subsidy removal, even though good for Nigeria, the effect is devastating because no pre-measures were taken to address the post challenges.

While Nigerians are in abject

poverty, others cannot eat three meals a day, National Assembly members didn't opt to sacrifice anything for Nigeria's development amidst the fuel subsidy hardship.

In less than two months the 469 National Assembly members proposed 140% salary, 70 billion Naira palliative, proposed N40bn for cars, N24bn for accommodation, N110bn allowances for wardrobe, newspapers, kitchen, domestic staff and travelling for themselves.

Even though NASS got N328.1bn in the 2023 budget and collects the highest salary than all government workers in Nigeria, they always seek and ask for more. While the 469 National Assembly members are voted to represent the voters, they argue most about their interests and represent themselves than the citizens.

But, if the National Assembly

members and the President should prioritize the voters' interests and work accordingly, there will be no: political thuggery, political dogs, political beggars, political warfare and venomous hunger in the land. But, unfortunately, politicians can do anything to get power for unlimited favours.

With many suggestions from people on how the government should share the palliative fund to ease the difficult experience of Nigerians, the government should consider the three most important aspects of human existence, agriculture, education and health.

Auwal Ahmed Ibrahim is a lecturer of Mass Communication Department, Kaduna Polytechnic and can be reached via auwalahmed@kadunapolytechnic.edu.ng

Thanksgiving For Boss And Nigeria In Yola, God Was Glorified

By: TOM GARBA

A mirror verse in one of the holy books states that; "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof; and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." philosophically, in life endings are better than beginnings, and sticking to a noble course is better than standing out. This is the best description of Barr Boss Mustapha CFR, the immediate past Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Nigeria who had a good ending to his tenure. On the successful completion of his tenure as the SGF alongside his boss, President Muhammadu Buhari, encomiums have been pouring in, and people from all works of life continue to heap praises on Boss Mustapha, describing him as a mentor and godly leader with unparalleled features. This is honour for the deserved. Notable Nigerians joined Adamawa people in giving thanks to God for the successful tenure.

This was what happened last Saturday in Yola, Adamawa State capital, at the St Monica's Cathedral of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN), where the Adamawa Archbishop, Most Reverend Musa Panti Filibus and President Lutheran World Federation in appreciation to God, organized a special thanksgiving service for sustaining Boss Mustapha to complete six years SGF stewardship to Nigerians. He encouraged him to continue his good works for the benefit of mankind, while challenging other leaders to emulate Boss' exemplary leadership and lifestyle.

The journey started on October 30th, 2017, when President Muhammadu broke the news of his appointment as the new SGF, an office he held, and worked meritoriously in the overall interest of the Nigerian masses.

The herculean job of the SGF office is more than what one can imagine, Boss Mustapha admitted to this fact and revealed to worshipers that he saw the hand of God throughout his service to the nation.

The weekend in Yola was more of "casting crowns, bowing hearts, and lifting hands was all they came to do" in honour and giving adoration to God by hundreds of people in and outside Adamawa State.

God received the honour on behalf of Boss and a show of love to the people was depicted to understand that the former SGF was not the kind of leader that when the game is over, both the king and the pawn return to the same box.

He returned home with honour, dignity, and acceptability. He is not the same used and non functional bulb, he left office with a radiant light of a good politician and a man of the masses.

Boss was described as a good man, a great leader in Nigeria, who is still relevant to support the country's course of destiny.

Boss' personality was described that he is not like a used and finished bulb. He exited the office of the SGF with a high voltage of light and glitters around in glory to God. Boss got the honour of being prayed upon with his family and on his behalf, the glory was returned to God, having the beauty of a rising sun.

Testimonies were poured on the immediate past SGF that he has a good name, which is better than precious oil; and always wants to maintain that till the day of death.

Yola was agog with prominent Nigerians who joined Adamawa elite in the thanksgiving as a delegation of former President Goodluck Jonathan, Dr. Goodbless Azipa and former Vice President Yemi Osibanjo, Senator Babajide Omoworare were in attendance and joined Adamawa people to thank God on behalf of

their illustrious son.

Encomiums were poured in from eminent Nigerians on Boss, who was instrumental to both the economic and spiritual growth of the country.

It was a victory that the Herculean task of the SGF office made Boss a strong man who attempted to encapsulate a rhapsody of the embodiment of a decent politician, a lawyer, and a pastor, all in one piece. It's such a huge task, to say the least. Congratulating him for doing well.

The encomiums on him continued to flow as a rare breed politician and highly cerebral personality.

To a large extent, he is a pride to humanity and many see him as a man with accuracy and diction, but I call him God's general, a public administrator par excellence, and an ambassador of decent politics in our present-day generation.

A man who provided exemplary leadership for the younger generation by steering the engines of economic growth, wealth creation, vision, and opportunities while the SGF. As an astute lawyer and politician who has continued to lead by example, he has been a support system for innovation and all-round development.

Especially during the COVID-19 lockdown. Some of us know him as highly cerebral and divinely endowed with wit and wisdom, and of course, gifted with a very good wife to match. With the full support of former President Muhammadu Buhari, he has impacted the growth of the



economy.

The current SGF, H.E Senator George Akume, Deputy Speaker House of Representatives, Mr. Benjamin Kalu alongside some members of the House of Representatives, former Chief of Defense Staff, General Lucky Irabor, immediate past governors of Plateau and Kebbi states, Simon Lalong and Atiku Bagudu, Gombe State Deputy Governor, Dr. Manassah Daniel Jatau all were in attendance to thank God for the selfless service rendered to Nigerians by Boss Mustapha.

The host governor, Rt. Hon. Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri gave an elaborate speech and described Boss as a dedicated statesman and selfless public servant, who sacrificed and prioritized the nation's interest. He said that he is a true statesman, committed and selfless public servant.

What a man! What a nature of a

good man. Indeed, God uses men to move and to interfere in the affairs of men. Boss is God's vessel, using him as a scepter in his girdle, an oracle voicing out His intention to mankind. He is one of those men where God's grace is located.

For this, the former SGF has unraveled a foundation by the name Gidahyel in memory of his late father that will support orphans and the less privileged in society with board members, and directors in the likes of Engr Musa Nimrod to chart a good course for the upliftment of mankind, especially the youth and the downtrodden.

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Aboru, Aboye: Attacks on Africa's Highly Tolerant Traditional Religion

By Owei Lakemfa

THE firestorm among some Christian leaders in Western Nigeria over the lyrics of a new song by Gospel artist, Tope Alabi, is in its fourth week.

She had sang in Yoruba that she is "Aboru Aboye" which translates to "I am a sacrifice which God has accepted." This caused an uproar with some Christian leaders accusing her of introducing traditional religion idolatry into Christianity. They claimed that 'Aboru Aboye' is the language of Ifa priests, so she is promoting indigenous religion to the detriment of Christianity. "Those sitting in judgement over Tope Alabi, and she sitting in judgement over others, remind me of the admonition in the Gospel of Matthew: "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye...You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

The charge is led by Funmi Aragbaye, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Gospel Musicians Association of Nigeria (GOMAN), who in finding Alabi guilty of heresy declared: "Tope Alabi believes she is above everyone and God... She doesn't belong to anyone; she is neither here nor there. The current state of the country is why many act the way they do. People take God for granted for being so merciful. Many people today are just worshipping God with their mouths; it doesn't come from their hearts."

Aragbaye, popular for her 1990's hit: 'Mo Gbo Ipe Olorun (Divine Call) added: "Most people preaching do not know what they are preaching about. They emerged from nowhere onto the scene."

General Superintendent, Apostle Adeboye Ajakaiye of the Cherubim and Seraphim Church, also joined the fray: "I know the devil twists the things of God for his own use... These days, you can't distinguish a Christian from the world in all ways, from dressing, talking, use of worldly vibes in Christian songs, dancing, etc." Tope Alabi has in the last few days risen to her own defence that Yoruba language is used by people of all faith.

Just as Hosea said: "My people perish from lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6), so are those attacking Alabi lacking in

the basic knowledge that all peoples have their own cultures and religions. So, when new religions come or rise, they usually borrow from the local language. For instance, the Hebrews called God Yahweh, Elohim, Adonai, Tzevaot, Shaddai, while the Romans Latinised Yahweh as Jehovah. All these have found their way into Christianity. The Izon call God 'Oyin', among other names. The Hausas call Him Ubangiji, while the Igbo call him Chineke (Creator of the Universe), Chukwu or Olisa.

The Yorubas call the Almighty by various indigenous names but the most popular being Olorun (Owner of the universe) and Olodumare. Odu, means pot and mare means inexhaustible. Noted philosopher, Professor Sophie Oluwole, explained that Olodumare, which Yorubas irrespective of religious inclinations call God, literally means: "the man who has the pot that is not exhaustible. In English, it means Almighty; everything is within it."

So, why would the religious leaders who condemn Alabi, accept Olodumare but reject Aboru Aboye when it is the same Yoruba language?

Ironically, Evangelist Tope Alabi is no different from her traducers; she is no less a fanatic. When in 2021, rising gospel artist, Adeyinka Alaseyori, released a hit song: 'Oniduro Mi', meaning that the Almighty is my Guarantor who never fails, Tope Alabi roundly condemned her for alleged unChristian conduct.

In claiming divine inspiration, Alabi attacked the young artist: "God is beyond being a guarantor to Man...when we receive heavenly inspiration to sing, there are some deliberations we must have with the Holy Spirit before we can bring out such a song. If we keep singing the gospel just as the Spirit-inspired, there is the possibility that we all will be singing absurdly. As gospel singers, God has given us the brain to digest, chew, and fully comprehend the inspiration given to us before we bring it to life."

Those sitting in judgement over Tope Alabi, and she sitting in judgement over others, remind me of the admonition in the Gospel of Matthew: "Do not judge,



or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye...You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." (Matthew 7: 1-5)

It is instructive that while indigenous African religions have a very high level of tolerance and appreciation of other peoples' faith, the same cannot be said of the main religions.

"While some religious adherents try to impose their faith on other people and even incinerate human beings for alleged religious infractions, others show good examples. Perhaps the most tolerant and even-handed political leader in the country today is the immediate past Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola. In his eight years as Osun State Governor, he elevated the indigenous religion to the same pedestal as Islam and Christianity."

For instance, Yeye Ajesikemi Olokun Olatunji, who despite being a devotee of Aje Olokun, is helping to build a mosque in Ilorin, has decided to cancel the traditional Isese Festival slated from July 22 to 24, 2023 because some Muslim leaders object to holding the festival.

Although a lot of money has been spent on the preparations, guests around the country and abroad invited, and she has the constitutional and human right to practise her faith, she said: "I cancelled the celebration because I don't want any crisis; I don't want people to see me as a troublemaker and I don't want people to

label me as having caused a religious crisis in Ilorin."

Explaining the tenets of her religion, she said: "God has shown each individual what they will do to succeed and enter paradise...God knows the heart of every human being and it depends on your mind and communication with your Creator. I know that God answers prayers; it depends on how you pray to Him."

In this, she is showing a deep understanding of faith, tolerance, a high sense of civility and gumption, and a superiority of position. As the Yorubas say: your character is what portrays your religion.

While some religious adherents try to impose their faith on other people and even incinerate human beings for alleged religious infractions, others show good examples. Perhaps the most tolerant and even-handed political leader in the country today is the immediate past Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola. In his eight years as Osun State Governor, he elevated the indigenous religion to the same pedestal as Islam and Christianity. At state functions, prayers were offered in the three religions, and he attended the main indigenous religious festivals in the state, including the Osun-Oshogbo, the Iwude Ijesha and the Olojo Festival in Ile-Ife. His administration also introduced a public holiday, the 'Isese Day' for adherents of indigenous religion. So, we do not lack good examples. Like Chinua Achebe wrote in Things Fall Apart: "You will have what is good for you and I will have what is good for me. Let the kite perch and let the eagle perch too. If one says no to the other, let his wing break."

NVBF President Congratulates New SWAN President

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

President of the Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF), Engineer Musa Nimrod has congratulated

Isaiah Kemje Benjamin, following his emergence as the President of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN).

He expressed this, when SWAN President accompanied by some Kaduna State executive of the association, paid him a courtesy visit at his office in Kaduna on Monday. Engineer Nimrod, who is also the Chairman, Kaduna State Volleyball Association (KADSV), described the victory at the SWAN Triennial Delegates Conference in Omoku, Port Harcourt Rivers State last Thursday, as a challenge to develop sports further in Nigeria.

He prayed for a successful tenure, while urging SWAN president to be a team player to achieve the desired results

Nimrod, who is Kaduna SWAN patron, pledged to always support the association whenever the need arises. Earlier, Mr Benjamin told NVBF president that he was on the visit to thank him and present the certificate of return to him.

He thanked him for the support he has always rendered the association, while soliciting for same to be maintained with the new Kaduna SWAN Chairman and his executive, as well as the national executive of the association.

SWAN President informed him that the visit was the first on series of others billed to take place to all sporting federations in the country.



National SWAN President, Comrade Isaiah Benjamin presenting his certificate of return to the President Nigeria Volleyball Federation, Engr. Musa Nimrod in his office in Kaduna on Monday July 17, 2023.

Plateau: Group lauds OPSH for neutralizing 3 bandits

*Hails GOC/Commander for leading men in frontline

*Condemns unpatriotic comments from state's lawmaker against military outfit

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A Jos-based peace advocacy group, operating as Conference of Plateau State Peace Builders Network (COPPEBN), has hailed the internal military outfit, in Plateau State, Operation Safe Haven (OPSH) for its recent prompt action in quelling what could have been an escalated crisis in the state by neutralizing three notorious bandits.

Recall that the internal security outfit had during routine operations in Mangu, Riyom, Bokkos, and other parts of the state, killed three notorious bandits and recovered sophisticated weapons from them

Reacting to the latest security breakthrough in the state, the Conference of Plateau State Peace Builders Network (COPPEBN), said the development besides other milestones recorded by the military in the state had led to relative peace and calm in the once-troubled area.

The group, in a statement, on Saturday, by its National President, Dr. Dung Bot, and Secretary General, Barr. Mrs. Lucy Wuyep appealed to

Operation Safe Haven not just to sustain the tempo but also to extend the operation to all the local governments areas of Plateau State.

The group which particularly commended the General Officer Commanding, GOC 3rd Jos for leading his men in the frontline, described the development as a game changer that we must all commend.

It however, expressed shock at what it described as "a reckless, sentimental, and callous statement made by one of our state lawmakers, Hon. Kundagbenia Dewan Gabriel of Plateau State House of Assembly, condemning the gunning down of the three bandits in Mangu and further described the criminals as people supporting the military in fighting crime in the area.

"This statement is not only callous and unfortunate but it's also unbecoming of a lawmaker who should have put patriotism and honesty at the forefront instead of political sentiment," the group said.

"We passionately appeal to the military authorities to sustain the tempo and extend the operation to all the local governments of Plateau State. The action of the

GOC by leading his men from the front at the battleground and moving the operational headquarter of OPSH to Mangu Local Government Area is a game changer that we must all commend," it said.

The statement read in parts: "We write to express our profound satisfaction with the robust, and massive ongoing military operations led by the General Officer Commanding, GOC and Commander of Operations Safe Haven, Jos, Major General AE Abubaker, in Mangu, Riyom, Bokkos and other parts of Plateau State which have led to the killing of three notorious bandits with sophisticated weapons recovered from them and other milestone recorded leading to the relative calm in the once troubled area.

"We passionately appeal to the military authorities to sustain the tempo and extend the operation to all the local government areas of Plateau State.

"The action of the GOC in leading his men in the frontline at the battleground and moving the operational headquarter to Mangu Local Government is a game changer that we must all commend.

"The killings of the three bandits

in Mangu no matter who they are, have sent a clear message to troublemakers that the military means business and will go to any extent to comply with the presidential directives that anyone found with prohibited firearms should be gunned down. We're so happy and proud of Operation Safe Haven so far," it said.

The group said it was, "however shocked by a reckless, sentimental, and callous statement made by one of our state lawmaker, Hon. Kundagbenia Dewan Gabriel of Plateau State House of Assembly, where he condemned the gunning down of the three bandits in Mangu and further described the criminals as people supporting the military in fighting crime in the area.

"This statement is not only callous and unfortunate but is also unbecoming of a lawmaker who should have put patriotism and honesty at the forefront instead of relying on political sentiment

"Playing politics with peace and security will only keep us in Plateau in the same circle of crisis and endless violence.

"As leaders that he's, what we expected from the young lawmaker was not to misinform

the public but rather, stand for the truth by calling a spade a spade no matter who is involved.

"We must rise above ethnic, political and tribal sentiments when dealing with security issues.

"We must condemn criminality even if our siblings are involved. This is the only way we can get it right and return our communities to peace and prosperity and not to take sides with people carrying Ak47 rifles just to get a nod from his constituents," the group said. The organization said while people must join hands to fight the attackers in our communities" we must be bold to tell some of our criminal youths the truth."

"How can the bandits killed be described as locals helping the military to defend the land? Who authorized them to carry Ak 47 to defend the land? Was it the military or who? Is it possible to be defending the land with the military and the military does not know or assigned you? The group asked.

It charged the public, particularly the citizens of the state to ignore what it described as "attention-seeking young legislation who is only out to seek relevance and weep cheap sentiment for political points."

Gusau Challenges League Boards To Take Nigeria's Domestic Football To Next Level

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau on Monday, charged chairmen and members of the newly-constituted Boards of the Nigeria National League, Nigeria Nation-Wide League One and the Nigeria Women Football League to come up with feasible plans and marketing strategies that will take Nigeria's domestic football to new heights.

At the inauguration of the boards inside the Conference Room of the NFF on Monday afternoon, Gusau also warned that the boards should have clear plans on how to sustain organization of matches and generally fulfil its responsibilities before the commencement of any season. "We have picked men and women of high calibre, integrity and drive in order that we will have sustainable Leagues. We do not want a situation whereby a league will get to the middle of the season and be saying there is no longer money to run its programmes. We believe we have, in the new boards, men and women who can turn things around.

"I am indeed happy to be here performing this action this afternoon, at a time and period that our domestic football is gaining fresh momentum thanks to the impressive organization of the Nigeria Premier Football League in the recently-concluded season, and also the colour, razzmatazz and positive vibes from the Super 6 of the NPFL, the NWFL and the NNL, and the pre-season Super 8 Tournament that ended in Lagos at the weekend

"Therefore, the task of the new Boards of the different Leagues is to ensure that the momentum is not only sustained, but greatly enhanced in order to take Nigeria domestic football to new heights of excellence." The NFF supremo insisted that the Leagues are the drivers of the domestic game, and must do the job of transforming the game of football in Nigeria to a robust and profitable business.

"The Nigeria Football Federation is determined that our football should be developed from the grassroots, with so much focus on young players, young referees and young coaches. While we will put up the policies, the Boards of the Leagues will have to put in the energy and drive to implement these policies and

generally improve the lot of the domestic game.

"Last year, the Federal Government promoted sports from the category of recreation to business. Football is therefore big business, and we must start to treat it as such. You all have the responsibility to develop workable marketing strategies and media plans to build viable products of the NNL, NWFL and the NLO."

Responding, His Excellency Silas Agara, Mr. George Aluo and Ms Nkechi Obi all promised to work with their various board members to achieve a positive turnaround of the state of Nigeria's domestic game.

Also at the occasion were Rt. Hon. Nse Essien (Member, NFF Executive Committee); Dr. Emmanuel Ikpeme (Deputy General Secretary); Coach Augustine Eguavoen (Technical Director); Mr. Ademola Olajire (Director of Communications); Dr. Robinson Okosun (Deputy Director, Technical); Dr. Ayo Abdulrahman (Deputy Director, Competitions); Mr. Ali Abubakar Muhammad (Head of Member Associations) and; Mr. Barnabas Joro (Head of Protocol). There were also the chief operating officers of the Leagues: Mr. Emmanuel Adesanya (NNL); Ms Modupe Shabi (NWFL) and; Mr. Sola Ogunnowo (NLO).

THE BOARDS:
NIGERIA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Mr. George Aluo (Chairman); Hon. Khamisu Ahmed Mailantarki (Vice Chairman); Mr. Yakubu Sarma (Member); Mallam Sani Mohammed (Member); Dr. Donald Ikpe (Member); Chief Joseph Uzoma Ebowusim (Member); Chief Dotun Sanusi (Member); Mr. Emmanuel Attah (CEO).

NIGERIA NATION-WIDE LEAGUE ONE: Hon. Silas Agara (Chairman); Mr. Adeoye Adepeju (Vice Chairman); Mallam Sabo Abdullahi Dutse (Member); Mr. Ogheneochuko Ambakaderemo (Member); Mr. Tunji Onatolu (Member); Barr. Bucknor Akintade (Member); Alhaji Salisu Ibrahim (Member); Mallam Hassan Abdullahi Garo (CEO).

NIGERIA WOMEN FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Ms Nkechi Nneka Obi (Chairman); Hajiya Hussaina Suleman (Vice Chairman); Alhaja Rukayat Lola Alaya (Member); FIFA Hadiza Musa (Member); Mr. Ayodele Thomas (Member); Ms Henrietta Ehiobor (Member); Mr. Danny Nazzal (Member).



Gusau with chairman and members of the NNL Board



Gusau with chairman and members of the NWFL



Gusau with chairman and members of the NLO

Flood: Ondo Assembly Calls For Sensitization Of Residents Against illegal Waste Disposal

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

Following the incessant flooding across the State, the Ondo State House of Assembly has called for sensitization of residents on the effect of improper waste disposal.

The House unanimously made the call at a plenary presided over by the speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Olamide Oladiji yesterday. The House also warned inhabitants of the Sunshine State to desist from dumping refuse on waterways across the state. It would be recalled that flood had ravaged some part of State capital a few days ago after a heavy downpour.

While sympathizing with the affected people and communities, the House called on relevant agencies of government and stakeholders to be more proactive in prevention and management of disasters especially in the coastal Communities of Ondo State.

The speaker noted that the rainy season is the most celebrated, it is a season that comes with succour and relief from the scorching heat of the dry season and springs forth green

vegetation, the kind that rekindles the hope of hitherto expectant farmers who take advantage of the season to cultivate the land and sow their crops, expectant of bountiful harvests.

He added that the rainy season comes with windstorm and excessive rainfalls causing devastating flood, and threat to human life.

"Distinguished Colleagues, as elected representatives of the people, we cannot fold our arms and watch helplessly as our people relish in untold hardship, poverty and squalor. We must take a proactive position. To this end, the Ministry of Environment is summoned to appear before the House on Tuesday, 25th of July, 2023 in order to brief members on its disaster prevention plan for this year".

"Also, we call on government and other relevant stakeholders to take proactive measures on disaster prevention, mitigation, response and rehabilitation of affected citizen".

"The Clerk of the House is mandated to write to Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and other relevant stakeholders sensitising them to the plights of affected people and the need to come to their aid".

The speaker thereby set up a 7 man adhoc committee on environment to effectively engage stakeholders, find solution to the perennial flooding problem.

Earlier in his address, the Speaker welcomed the lawmakers from the 6 weeks recess, adding that it would have availed them the opportunity to get over the stress of election and prepare them afresh for a serious legislative business, the business for which they were elected by their varying constituents.

"This Assembly will not be unduly antagonistic to issues and policies that will add value to the lives of the people who we were elected to serve. We will work with the executive arm to bring the desired democracy dividends to residents of our darling sunshine state".

"Together with the executive arm, we shall explore every avenue humanly possible to develop the land and the people even in the face of glaring



challenges confronting us as a nation. We shall strive very hard in our own little way to ensure that our Common destiny as a nation and as a people is not frittered in whatever way

unimaginable".

He, however, urged them to brace up for the tasks ahead as this is an opportunity to register their footprints in the sand of time.

With Dangote, Nigeria No Longer Imports, But Exports Cement - Coordinator

*Trains bricklayers in Oyo State on use of Falcon Cement

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The National Artisans Coordinator, Dangote Cement, Mr Johnson Olaniyi has disclosed that with Dangote, Nigeria no longer import but start exporting cement for other countries

Mr Olaniyi said this while addressing participants at a one-day practical on Falcon Cement variant, one of the brands of the Dangote Cement held at Oremeji/ Idi-Osan axis of Ibadan on Monday.

According to him, "In 2004 the total consumption of cement in Nigeria is 10 million, local production was 24%, import was 36% then you only know when you're paying for your cement and you didn't

know when you're likely to get it, but Dangote came and changed the trend".

Mr Olaniyi during the training advised the artisans not to be far from their workers on site to ensure appropriate usage of mixture of cement and sand which are the major components of the materials needed for a building construction.

"We are here today to share product knowledge with bricklayers in Oyo state, is not as if they don't know what they're doing, we are here to add value to what they're doing, and we are here to lecture them on one particular products of Dangote cement, that particular brand is known as Falcon Cement", he said.

Mr Olaniyi added, "I want them to fall in

love with it because it will give them more than what they anticipated for, and that's why we have the practical demonstration of tiling, screeding, plastering and block setting, we allowed them to do it themselves because whatever you do you don't forget, and the overall benefits is that when they go their various sites they will be using the products, they will be adding value to Dangote cement, they're doing a business that will value to them and also to Dangote cement."

"More importantly now that the price of the building materials are so expensive we now want them to have the real benefit of using Dangote cement, particularly on screeding and tiling, because they're

going to get it cheaper and get it better. If you're using Dangote Cement that means you're using a product that has a name and integrity, that means you're doing a job that is perfect".

He stressed further, "We are lucky to have Dangote as a Nigerian, if you have been to Tanzanian, Zambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast and many other countries when you say you're a Nigerian, they will say is that not where Dangote come from? They will look at you and say you're a brilliant person, I'm 35 years old in cement industry and I know what I'm saying".

Tasking the bricklayers not to be too far from their business sites, particularly

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