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"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

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Dollar Videos:
Kano Agency
Summons Former
Gov Ganduje
For Questioning

Story on Page 4

We'll Galvanize Support To Tackle Insecurity, Socio-economic Challenges In Northern Region, Governor Inuwa Yahaya Vows

*Shares success story of his stewardship in Gombe
*Pays congratulatory visit to SGF, Sen. Akume

Story on Page 14



Sabo GRA: Beautiful Houses, Ugly Roads, Residents Beg Kaduna Govt For Infrastructure

*President General optimistic of Kaduna Govt intervention soon

Story on Page 10

Sit-At-Home Violence: Protect Northerners, AYCF Tells South-East Govs



Senator Godswil Akpabio receiving the JAMPUR INTERNATIONAL GROUP FZE team.

Story on Page 4

Nigeria Is Very Safe, Ready For Investors - Senate President

Story on Pages 4 & 6

Homeless Widow Blessed With Bungalow 25 Years After Husband's Death

Story On Page 6

We Are Committed To Unity Of Nigeria, Safety Of Lives, Properties - Tinubu

*Assures better funding, equipment, robust welfare packages to advance efficiency of military.

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Arewa Youths Consultative Forum (AYCF) has asked governors of South-Eastern states to take measures to protect the lives and properties of Northerners living as minorities in south-eastern communities as the IPOB Sit-at-home enforcement violence escalates. A statement by President of the AYCF, Yerima Shattima yesterday, condemned what he called the mindless, unrelenting violent disturbances created by certain interest groups in the South-East, in the form of the agitation for a separate State of Biafra.

"Aware that the perpetrators of violence

relentlessly pursuing this agenda of destruction and collective mayhem, fervently hope it will engulf the entire country and bring about mass killings and suffering of innocent people, the AYCF is calling for guaranteed protection of the lives and properties of Northerners in the entire southeast.

"We are worried that often the mindless violence and extremist terrorist actions perpetrated by IPOB and its followers in the South-East resort to the long-practiced tactics of attacks against northerners and against agents and symbols of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

"We are therefore, compelled to demand from the South-East governors action to ensure an

Africa Must Be An Integral Part Of 21st Century Scientific Research - ABU Don

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The global community should see Africa as an integral part of the 21st Century scientific research, the Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Prof. Maryam Aminu-Mukhtar, has declared.

Prof. Maryam, who doubles as Head of Department of Microbiology, Ahmadu Bello University, made the declaration at the opening ceremony for the 55th Annual (Hybrid) Conference of Science Association of Nigeria (SAN) held at CBN Centre for Economics and Finance, ABU, Zaria.

She said that it was their collective responsibility as scientists that they should see to the transformation and development of science and scientific research in Nigeria and Africa at large.

Maryam, who spoke in her capacity as chairperson of the conference local organising committee (LOC), also stressed that the synergy between the academia, research institutes, and industries was "very necessary", as the collaboration was needed to shape the face of science in Africa.

The distinguished professor of microbiology described as "exciting" the presentations made at the conference, especially



Prof. Maryam Aminu-Mukhtar

those ones calling for a better future of scientific research and practice in Nigeria and Africa as a whole.

She noted that this year's conference had the highest number of abstract submissions in the history of Science Association of Nigeria (SAN), as more than 300 well-written abstracts from researchers were accepted.

"This is a plus to the local organising committee (LOC) and SAN Council members! We are hopeful that more articulated achievements will be

recorded by SAN in years to come", she said.

Prof. Maryam expressed gratitude to SAN Council members, LOC members, all participants, especially NUC's former Executive Secretary, Prof. Peter A. Okebukola, all awardees, members of the international community, experts, and the Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Prof. Kabiru Bala, for serving as pillars for the four-day event.

She described the conference as a huge success, assured that all

the deliberations at the conference would be holistically considered and that whenever the book of proceedings was ready, it would be available on the SAN's website.

Maryam was appointed the Secretary of the Project Management Committee to the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development, and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) in November, 2021.

NCCSALW Vows To Checkmate Proliferation Of Illicit Weapons In Nigeria

**Warns against impersonation*

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

The National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW), has assured Nigerians, particularly those in the North West of its commitment to checkmate the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the country.

The Zonal Coordinator, Northwest Zone of the NCCSALW Center, Air Vice Marshal Haruna Umar Mohammed (retired) gave the assurance in a statement he signed and made available to newsmen in Kaduna.

According to AVM Mohammed, the center remains the only government body saddled with the responsibility of ensuring the collection, storage, destruction, management and stockpiling of obsolete, seized, unmarked and illegally held small arms and light weapons.

AVM Mohammed disclosed that the centre was established in May, 2021 with offices in each of the six geopolitical zones of the country.

He said the center keeps weapons collected from peace accords or programmes, or those voluntarily handed over and as well, create and maintain a national database on all small arms and light weapons.

Mohammed further stated that, the center is domiciled in the office of the National Security Adviser, Abuja and it replaces the Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

"He recalled that the center received 760 small arms and light weapons recovered from bandits and criminal elements

by the 8 Division Nigerian Army Sokoto in its Area of Operational Responsibility in June 2022.

"The handing over took place at 26 Battalion, Giginya Barracks Parade Ground Sokoto. The weapons were recovered from Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara and Katsina States respectively."

"In addition to the arms recovered, over 14,000 ammunition of different calibre were handed over to the center as well.

"On the 24th November, 2022, the centre carried out arms destruction exercise. The by-products of the destroyed weapons are being recycled for other purposes while on March 15th, 2023, there was voluntary surrender of one (1) AK47 rifle, one (1) magazine and two hundred and ten (210) rounds of 7.62mm live ammunition to the NCCSALW, Northwest Zonal Office in Kaduna," he confirmed.

The NCCSALW Zonal Coordinator, however, expressed dismay over the attitude of some unauthorized bodies that are deceitfully parading themselves as the local organization for the control of Illicit small arms and light weapons, as well as creating false impressions of legitimacy and authority.

He therefore, urged Nigerians to disregard these unauthorized bodies and report them to security agencies.

He advised citizens to also report any suspected bodies parading themselves as staff of the Centre to the Headquarters of the Northwest Zonal Office located at Kaduna.

Don't Split Afenifere, Adebajo Cautions Gov Makinde

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Leader of the Pan Yoruba socio-cultural organisation, Afenifere, Pa Ayo Adebajo on Wednesday, cautioned Governor, Seyi Makinde not to split Afenifere.

Pa Adebajo while reacting to Gov Seyi Makinde's comment that frontline Afenifere members will unite Pa Adebajo and Pa Reuben Fazoranti, asked him not to interfere in the Afenifere leadership issues.

According to Pa Adebajo, he has no issue with Fazoranti, hence no need for Gov Makinde to

make any attempt to split the group,

"What Governor Makinde does not know about, he should not interfere. I have no dispute with Baba Fazoranti. He should not be one of those who want to split Afenifere, and that is not what I stand for," he said.

Frontline Afenifere leader to unite Pa Fazoranti, Pa Adebajo in Yoruba's interest- Gov Makinde says its time to begin the process of fostering unity in Yorubaland.

It will be recalled that Governor Seyi Makinde on Tuesday said frontline leaders in Afenifere are ready to resolve the

differences between the two leaders of the group, Pa Reuben Fazoranti and Pa Ayo Adebajo.

The governor who was speaking in Ibadan after attending a meeting of frontline leaders of thought in the pan-Yoruba sociopolitical group, Afenifere held at the Otunba Subomi Balogun Conference Centre, University of Ibadan, said with the general election out of the way, "it is time to begin the process of fostering unity in Yorubaland"

"We are all aware of the issues between our two Afenifere leaders; Pa Ayo Adebajo and Pa Reuben Fazoranti. Basically,

partisan and election issues have come and gone and we are now talking about the unity of Yoruba race. So, these frontline leaders thought it fit to come together to start the process of seeking for unity in Yorubaland", he said

Governor Makinde added, "And we know that once our two Babas come together, we will also have the deserved unity in Nigeria. If you put it in proper perspective, whenever Yorubaland is united, Nigeria is united, and whenever we have issues and challenges in Yorubaland, it usually spirals into other parts of Nigeria".

Sit-At-Home Violence: Protect Northerners, AYCF Tells South-East Gvs

environment in which the Northerner is safe and secure wherever he chooses to live and work in the Southeast just as the North is ready to support other Nigerians to benefit from our tolerance and accommodation if they show appropriate respect for the context of their livelihoods.

"It is in our culture to welcome and live with outsiders, and we must never be tired of reminding other Nigerians that the laws of the land demand that every Nigerian lives and earns his legitimate living in any part of

Nigeria without discrimination or molestation," Shettima said.

He however, said the North is very much aware that unlike the previous set of governors of South-Eastern states, the current state administrations are showing some level of commitment in resisting the terrorist tactics of the IPOB.

"We also commend the renewed gallantry of our troops under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to checkmate the maneuvers of all terror outfits in the country," he said.



CP Delta State Police Command, Wale Abass briefing the press.

Delta Police Recovers 34 Firearms, 489 Ammunition, 469 Cartridges, 8 Cars

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A total number of 34 firearms, 489 ammunition and 469 cartridges have been recovered by police operatives in Delta State in the last six months. Similarly, eight stolen vehicles were recovered within the period under review.

The Delta State Commissioner of Police, Wale Abass made the disclosure at a media briefing on Wednesday on the breakthrough recorded by the command between January and June 2023.

He hinted that the successes were recorded based on his directive to Area commanders, Divisional Police Officers and Tactical Commanders to sustain raids of criminal hideout and blackspots that is ongoing within their areas of responsibilities.

Abass added that he had admonished them on the need to remain committed to their primary duties, which include protection of lives and property, maintenance of law and order and to always lecture their men to be civil when

dealing with public, because the Command under my watch will deal decisively with any erring officer.

The Commissioner of Police gave the breakdown of the recoveries to include six firearms, 220 live ammunition and 110 cartridges recovered by a combined team of Police and military personnel led by the DPO of Ekpan Division CSP Aliyu Shana at a Kidnappers hideout in Agadagba area of Ekpan, recovery of a stolen Mercedes Benz SUV in Abuja amongst others.

He further assured residents of adequate protection, just as he solicited for their continuous understanding and support especially in the area of information.

Abass also urged to monitor their environment and report any suspicious persons or movement to the Police through any of the following numbers CONTROL ROOM NUMBERS : 08036684974, 08125958005, 09053872287, 09155570007 (PPRO'S OFFICE).

Flooding: Residents Raise Alarm Over Submerged Ariyo Bridge

**Chide contractor, ask Gov Makinde to wade in immediately*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Residents of Ona Ara Local Government Area of Ibadan, comprising Olunloyo, Ariyo, Asolo, Amuloko, Odeyale, Akanran axis on Wednesday, asked Governor Seyi Makinde to save perennial flooding. The residents alerted that the flooding has degenerated into flooding and traffic congestion on the road whenever there is heavy rain.

According to our investigations though the banks of the Ariyo River have been dredged and widened, due to the low level of the bridge, it is always overflowed by flood anytime it rains, and drivers would have problem driving through it until its volume diminishes.

It was gathered that following Tuesday night heavy downpour, hundreds of people returning home in the area were subjected to heavy traffic snarls amidst wailing and groaning vehicular traffic holdup forcing many people to be on the road till midnight

when the flood eventually eased.

According to residents in the community, those that are brave enough to trek through the flood when vehicles could not move, waddled through, knee-deep in the water with some good Samaritans assisting the too young and too old people to trek through the thick flood.

A resident in the Community, Madam Khafilat Ololade who had to alight from a bus and waddled through the river, lamented that "If as old as I am, I am still on the road at 10.45 p.m and I am still going to a settlement after Odeyale, when do I know I will get home tonight?"

"How emotionally stable can I be to come out tomorrow morning to do my business? This condition is disturbing and it is not good for our health. Our Governor should quickly find a palliative solution to this as an Engineer that he is. We love him", the woman in her 60s, said.

A driver, Taiwo Ayinde on his part urged Gov Seyi Makinde to look into the plight of residents in the area, saying, "Governor

Makinde is a man of the people, but pending when the bridge is rebuilt, he should, please, not allow casualties to be recorded as it had been during some past administrations".

Also, a resident, Tajudeen Oluwole on his part charged the Oyo state government to " as a matter of concern, direct the Contractor handling this project to provide some palliative to ease the problem".

"Though Governor Makinde is trying with the construction going on on this Olorunsogo/Akanran Road, and we know the dualization will also get here, thereby providing a permanent solution to this perennial flooding problem at Ariyo, I feel the government can urgently, as a matter of concern, direct the Contractor handling this project to provide some palliative to ease the problem".

Oluwole added, "The contractor can introduce some palliatives to this problem by further dredging the streams, building temporary bulwarks to prevent water flowing over the bridge; and by quickly clearing the

culverts that are blocked around this bridge".

"A major problem again is the bad state of the road as there are many potholes on the bridge, causing slow vehicular movement even if it does not rain. Fear of falling in the ditches and deep potholes by drivers, also contributes always to the traffic bottleneck on the bridge.

Another resident, Boluwaji Adelere said, "The CEO of Ilaji Hotels and Resorts, Chief Dotun Sanusi, has for many years been responsible for periodic repair of the road.

"The billionaire businessman has been a great asset to our Ibadanland and our immediate communities here in Ona Ara. He has been of immense help; repairing roads and providing communities with electrification projects to make them live better lives. But it appears the philanthropic businessman is tired. If not, he would have effected some repairs on the road again and the deplorable state it is now, would have been ameliorated a bit.



The Acting Comptroller General of Customs, Mr Bashir Adewale Adeniyi paid a courtesy visit to the governor of Osun State Senator Ademola Adeleke at his country home Ede Osun State. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Dollar Videos: Kano Agency Summons Former Gov Ganduje For Questioning

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Former Governor Abdullahi Ganduje of Kano State has been summoned for questioning by the Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission (PCACC) over the dollar videos.

Some videos of Ganduje allegedly collecting kickbacks from contractors was in 2017 released by an online publication, 'Daily Nigerian'.

The former governor, in the videos, could be seen collecting the dollars

before rolling them into his white dress, "babanriga", which he had denied the allegation, insisting they were doctored.

Barr. Muhuyi Magaji Rimingado, chairman of PCACC, said the authenticity of the videos had been confirmed, while speaking on Wednesday at a one-day public dialogue on 'Anti-Corruption Crusade in Kano'.

Rimingado confirmed yesterday while speaking in a programme, that Ganduje has been invited for questioning.

Homeless Widow Blessed With Bungalow 25 Years After Husband's Death

Story on Page 6



Nigeria Is Very Safe, Ready For Investors - Senate President

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio, yesterday, assured foreign investors of the safety of their investments in Nigeria.

Senator Akpabio gave the assurance in his office, while receiving the J A M P U R INTERNATIONAL GROUP FZE, led by the CEO, Mohammed Shafiq. He stressed that in line with this, the Federal Government under President Bola Tinubu is committed to providing conducive business environment for Foreign investors in the country.

"I welcome you on behalf of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Nigeria is very

safe and ready for investors. I am aware you are already investing in Nigeria in the area of mining, power and trading. Thank you for employing Nigerians in your companies", he said. Senator Akpabio pointed out that the decision of the Federal Government to put in place a single rate for foreign exchange was a deliberate attempt by the government to further assure foreign investors of the safety of their investments anywhere in the country.

"The current administration has been able to normalize our foreign exchange rate by having only one window. Investing in Nigeria is worth the while because of the returns in investments

based on our population of over 200 million and the land mass"

Stressing that, "The President is ready to ensure that people get value for their investments, himself being a strong businessman", the Senate President said, "he has a track record of achievements in Lagos State when he was the governor. Lagos today, has become one of the largest economy in Africa because of the foundation he laid."

Akpabio assured his visitors of the safety of their investments through legislations, saying "I assure you that the Federal Government will do everything humanly possible to protect your

investments by putting in place enabling laws on investments and security for its citizens and foreign investors."

Earlier, the CEO of J A M P U R INTERNATIONAL GROUP FZE Mohammed Shafiq said he was in the Senate to formally congratulate the President of the Senate on his emergence as the Chairman of the National Assembly and to wish him well in office.

"We are here to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Senate and to intimate your on our readiness to continue to partner with the government in the area of mining, agriculture and power."

Katsina Govt Appoints Kogina Jibia SSA IDPs

By, SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has appointed Kogunan Jibia, Alhaji Saidu Ibrahim Danja as his Senior Special Assistant (SSA) for Victims of Banditry and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The appointment of Alhaji Ibrahim Danja according to a statement by Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed came as part of the Governor's commitment to addressing the challenges faced by individuals affected by banditry and internal displacement within the state.

The appointment of Sa'idu Danja, Kaula Mohammed said was announced in an official letter released by the Secretary to the Government of the state Architecture Ahmed Musa Dangiwa who expressed pleasure in conveying the approval of Governor Radda for the appointment. He said the Governor recognized Danja's dedication and service to the state, highlighting the belief that Danja would faithfully and diligently fulfill the responsibilities associated with the position.

"This appointment reflects Governor Radda's confidence in Danja's ability to serve the community's best interests and contribute to the state's efforts in addressing the challenges faced by victims of banditry and internal displacement," Dangiwa

said.

He, however, extended his heartfelt congratulations to Kogunan Jibia on this well-deserved appointment.

He explained that, the Governor's decision to establish the position of SSA for Victims of Banditry and IDPs Support highlights his administration's dedication to alleviating the suffering of those affected by these pressing issues. Danja's appointment signifies the importance of providing specialized support and assistance to victims, ensuring that their needs are adequately addressed and their voices are heard.

As Senior Special Assistant, Alhaji Sa'idu Ibrahim Danja would be responsible for coordinating efforts to support victims of banditry and internally displaced persons, collaborating with relevant agencies, organizations, and community leaders. His role would involve developing and implementing initiatives to address the immediate and long-term needs of those affected, including access to shelter, healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities.

Mohammed Kaula stressed that, Governor Radda expressed confidence on Alhaji Sa'idu Ibrahim Danja's ability to make a positive impact in this crucial role and emphasized his administration's commitment to prioritizing the well-being and recovery of all victims.



Senator Godswil Akpabio receiving the JAMPUR INTERNATIONAL GROUP FZE team.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya Visits NSA, Malam Nuhu Ribadu

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, His Excellency, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON and Chairman, Northern States Governors' Forum, on Wednesday, paid a visit to the National Security Adviser, NSA, Malam Nuhu Ribadu in his office in Abuja.

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

According to the statement, he was accompanied by the Federal Commissioner at the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission, Malam Muhammad Kabir Usman Kukandaka, the Governor extended the goodwill,

solidarity and best wishes of, not only the government and people of Gombe State, but the entire Northern Region.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for appointing Ribadu to man such a strategic position, especially at this critical time.

He described his appointment as a 'round peg in a round hole', expressing confidence that as a retired police chief and pioneer Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) with sound legal, security, anti-corruption and political backgrounds, Malam Ribadu has all it takes to coordinate the activities of the security chiefs and foster inter-agency synergy to guarantee the peace and stability of the country.



Jigawa Governor Appoints 21 Heads Of Agencies

By: JABIRU A. HASSAN, Dutse

The Governor of Jigawa State, Malam Umar A. Namadi has approved the appointments of 21 heads of Agencies of the Jigawa State Government.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Secretary to the Government of Jigawa State, Malam Bala Ibrahim and issued to newsmen in Dutse by Ismaila Ibrahim Dutse, his Public Relations Officer.

Those appointed are, Ahmed Umar Labbo Executive Secretary, Pilgrims Welfare Board, Kamilu Aliyu Musa, Executive Secretary, Jigawa (State and Local Government) Contributory Pension Scheme Board, Dr. Salisu Abdullahi Babura, Executive Secretary, Farmers and Herdsmen Board, and Aisha Suleiman Jahun, Executive Secretary, Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission.

Others are, Muhammad Mangi, Executive Secretary, Jigawa State Library Board, Ramatu

Muhammad Dodo, Executive Secretary, Agency for Nomadic Education, Dr. Abbas A. Abbas, Executive Secretary, Agency for Mass Education, TPL Abdulkadir Umar Suleiman, Executive Secretary, Urban Development Board and Haladu Hassan, Executive Secretary, Alternative Energy.

Similarly, Umar Farouk Wada is the Director General, Manpower Development Institute (MDI), Furera Isma Jumare, Director General, InvestJigawa, Imam Muhammad, Managing Director, Jigawa Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (JARDA), Engineer Adamu Garba, Managing Director, Jigawa State Small Town Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (STOWA) as well as Babandi Isah Gumel, Managing Director, Jigawa State Savings and Loans Bank.

Engineer Labaran Adamu was appointed Managing Director, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA), Halliru Sa'id, Managing Director, Jigawa State Investment and Properties,

Engineer Ahmed Lawal, Managing Director, Jigawa State Environmental Protection Agency (JISEPA), Engineer Zubairu Alhaji, Managing Director, Rural Electricity Board (REB), while Madaki Abdulkadir Ja'e is the new Managing Director, Dutse Capital Development Authority (DCDA). Rabi'u Khalid Maigatari, Managing Director, Jigawa State Agricultural Supply Company (JASCO) and Arc. Saleh Abubakar Gumel, General Manager, Jigawa State Housing Authority.

The statement said the appointment of the new appointees is purely on merit, competency and integrity.



Governor Namadi

personal "It is therefore, hope that, the appointees will justify the confidence reposed on them" the SSG said, pointing out that all the appointments take immediate effect.

Homeless Widow Blessed With Bungalow 25 Years After Husband's Death

By: MKPUMAENYINNA, Abakaliki

The former Senior Special Assistant to former ex David Umahi, Rev. Dr. Mrs. Jacinta Nwakaego Nworie has donated a brand new bungalow building to a homeless widow whose name was given as Cecilia Ujebe to alleviate her plight over the years.

According to Dr. Nworie, the widow in question has been homeless for over 25 years after the death of her husband, which has made her vulnerable to all manner of things, stating that her husband's mud house was totally dilapidated which prompted her to start the new building project for her.

She further explained that her two sons died abandoning her with a surviving daughter who left the village with the widow's grandchildren to Enugu State since the don't have any shelter to place their heads, but after the new bungalow was erected, she has returned back with the children to be integrated with the family.

Reverend Nworie also added that as the President of Lions Club, and former SSA on Lagos Liaison office, she is always passionate to assist widows and the downtrodden to lead a good life, saying that she is instrumental to the return and rehabilitation of Ebonyians who were hawking in Lagos State, through former Governor Umahi.

"I have been a pastor for the past 25 years. When former Governor Umahi won

election, he heard my story, how I used to repatriate some children they were using for hawking exploitation in Lagos. I am the one who let Umahi know about the governor and he did something about the hawkers in Lagos.

"Before now, I have been passionate about the dying souls in Nigeria.

"I am married here, this village is called Igwemini village, Okposi Umuohara in Ezza North LGA.

"This widow had her two sons and they all died mysteriously. One of them, who had psychiatric problem was taken to one pastor, where he was tied and he died there. So, the woman came to me and appealed for money to bury her dead son, but I heard her story that she has been homeless for 20 years. I told her that she needed shelter instead of money to bury the dead. She has been managing a dilapidated mud house. Infact, one woman was even mocking her that she will never live in a good house.

"Her husband died 25 years ago when her mud house collapsed and there was no hope. One politician around here moulded blocks and packed here, but never did anything until I started building for her. I made up my mind that I am going to give her a home, here is the bungalow. I added more rooms for her to occupy and rent others in order to generate income to feed herself.

"She has nothing doing, she is a vulnerable widow. She has no helper. Her

only surviving daughter ran away with kids because they have no shelter, but one of the things I achieved in erecting this building is that, her only daughter that ran away with this widow's grandchildren is back home after the building project was completed.

"They brought back the grandchildren and reconciled them with the family," she narrated.

When asked whether she has intention of extending this kind gesture to others, Rev. Nworie said givers never lack, according to the scripture, because since she embarked on the building project to provide shelter for the widow, God has lifted her in a remarkable way because givers, never lack.

"Give and it shall be given on to you. Since I started building this house for this woman, I have no cause to regret. Since I Left office, I am better than when I was appointed because God has been sustaining me. Lions Club International and friends also supported me. It took me barely one year to build this house for her," she disclosed.

Also speaking after commissioning the new bungalow building, the Parish Priest in charge of

St. Andrew's Catholic church, Umuohara, Rev Fr. Mathew Isukpa applauded Rev. Mrs. Nworie for doing a good work to help the less privileged in line with the biblical injunction that said, the test of true faith or true religion is by doing good work'.

"Saint James says that the test of true faith or true religion is by doing good work. So, this woman has actually carried out the injunction and I congratulate her. Let this widow do her best to judiciously use the house. I want to advice other well-to-do individuals to emulate the gesture of this woman by always helping the poor," Reverend Father Isukpa advised.

One of the family members, Mrs. Roselin Mgbada commended the efforts of Rev. Nworie who saw her condition and came for rescue, adding that after the death of the widow's two sons, she has been engaging in menial jobs like weeding farms, among others.

"This woman gave birth to two sons and a girl, but the two sons all died except the lady. It's Mrs. Nwakaego Nworie that saw her condition and decided to build for her. This widow is just doing a menial job by engaging in weeding farms. I am happy about what happened here because I didn't expect it," she said.

On her part, they beneficiary, Mrs. Cecilia Ujebe who was overwhelmed with joy, prayed God to bless and keep Rev. Jacintha Nworie who remembered her when she was homeless, noting that she has been passing through a lot of challenges until Mrs. Nworie located her.

The event featured formal presentation of gifts from the widow's family members to Rev. Nworie for the good job she has done and dancing celebration by the friends and well wishers who came to celebrate with her.

Staff Of Defence Industries Corporation Intensify Protest In Kaduna

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Staff of Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), Kaduna, have vowed to continue with their protest until their demands are fully met by the management of the company.

The staff have since Monday July 3, embarked on peaceful protest since demanding their unpaid emoluments.

The staff are demanding for IPPIS enrollment, payment of peculiar allowance, payment of full minimum wage arrears, payment of full promotion of 2020, 2021 and 2022 and urged the management to be truthful in activities and shun victimisation of staff.

The spokesman of the protesting staff, Yusuf Suleiman told New Nigerian that the staff expected the Director of Finance, Miss Remi Ojunakaye to address the workforce on the true position of things, saying that Director of Human Resource, Lurence Abor later addressed the staff with nothing to offer as a means to call off their peaceful protest.



The protesting DIC staff

"What the staff want is for government to call on the management so that their demands will be appropriately meant. Since on Monday, the staff have not gone

to the office and are not ready to go to the office unless their demands are properly addressed and assured beyond reasonable doubt that their demands will

be immediately taken care of.

"So long as they do not come to attend to the demands of the staff with concrete evidence of when and how their demands will be made, the (staff) will not stop the protest. If the management refused to attain to staff agitations on how to pay them their allowances, the (staff) will employ the services of a lawyer to seek redress in the court of law."

He explained that the the management is presently meeting at the headquarters, stressing that their next line of action would determined what to do as they are waiting to hear the outcome of the meeting.

According to the spokesman, "We have long been fooled by the management by short changing us on many entitlements that were approved by the federal government and our promotional arrears and many other things that we are derived of what belongs to us. This time around we are leaving no stone unturned till all our demands are fully made."

1.5m School Girls Enrolled In Northern Nigeria In 10yrs Under GEP3 - Report

By: ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Over 1.5 million girls were enrolled into Schools within 10 years in six Northern States in Nigeria under the Girls Education Project Phase 3, otherwise known as GEP3.

The project which commenced in 2012 and ended in 2022, targeted 1m girls and surpassed its target with over 500,000 girls by household, according to findings of an evaluation of the project presented in Kaduna on Wednesday.

The findings revealed that 23,655 girls benefited from the cash transfer program and over 67,000 teachers and Integrated Qur'anic Schools (IQS), facilitators were trained; teaching competency improved from 12% to 52%.

2.6 million children continued education through alternate learning during COVID-19; back-to-school campaigns conducted in 18,567 schools, resulting in 94% of children returned to school and over 135,000 girls benefited through 4,514 functioning Girls for Girls (G4G), groups; school attendance improved from 43% to 70%.

The report further added that over 3,800 schools and IQS implemented RANA with

improvement in foundational literacy and that functionality of Schools Based Management Committee (SBMC) and Community Based Management Committees (CBMCs) increased from 30% to 80%, per cent of schools with whole school development plans including activities on girls' enrolment and retention increased from 45% to 67%.

GEP3 was funded by Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UK, through UNICEF and implemented by the Federal and State Governments of Nigeria with the aim to improve access, enrolment, retention, and learning outcomes for girls in basic education in Northern Nigeria, states of Bauchi, Katsina, Niger, Sokoto, Zamfara, and Kano states.

Speaking during the dissemination meeting of the findings, the Officer in Charge (OiC), UNICEF Kaduna Field Office, Dr. Idris Baba, noted that the success of the project can be attributed to adopting a comprehensive societal approach, considering a wide range of social, psychosocial, cultural, and economic factors that affect girls' education.

"The combination of multiple intervention types, targeting various stakeholders and

utilizing different change inducing modalities, was instrumental in inducing the desired shifts in perceptions and behaviours.

"The Girls' Education Programme 2012-2022 in Northern Nigeria has made remarkable progress in reducing inequalities and improving girls' access, enrolment, retention, and learning outcomes in basic education. The achievements, lessons learned, and recommendations presented in this brief demonstrate the program's effectiveness and provide valuable insights for future interventions." He added.

In her remarks, Director, Senior Secondary Education Department, Federal Ministry Education, Hajiya Binta Abdulkadir, who was represented by Mrs. Monica Ogah, Director, Unity Schools Division, stated that GEP3 was a success in so many ways, as it changed the narrative in school enrolment and completion at the Basic Education level.



implementation of GEP1 and GEP2. The increasing need to improve enrolment, retention and completion rate at the Basic Education level cannot be overemphasized hence GEP 3 focused on three thematic areas. "Enrolment Drive, improving teacher Capacity to deliver effective learning and improved governance to strengthen education. Under these thematic areas, other activities like the Cash Transfer programme, Community engagement (School Based Management Committee- SBMC), Centre Based Management Committee-

CBMC, Mothers' Association all helped to achieve improved access, retention and completion of school.

"GEP3 also provided capacity development for teachers and school administrators. Through strategies like the High Level Women Advocates (HILWA), G4G and other activities, girls were supported and mentored to enroll, remain, complete and transit to higher levels of education. These strategies impacted positively on girls enrolment and completion of school."

Court Fixes Date For Hearing On Suits Of Oba Oginni Against Army Over Infringement On Rights

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

A hearing for the suit filed by Trent Law Firm on behalf of HRH Olatunde Oginni JP at the High Court of Oyo State of Nigeria in the Ibadan Judiciary Division Holden at Ibadan in the matter of an application for the enforcement of fundamental rights has been fixed for 12th August.

A human right organization, Access to Justice and Human Rights Protection in Nigeria according to Oba Oginni has showed interest in the matter as the CEO of the body, Nlerum Okogbule has pledged to keep a watch on the legal proceedings and ensure that right justice is served to whoever erred in the infringement on fundamental human right case.

It would be recalled that men in military uniforms came with a caterpillar and destroyed properties worth millions of naira on Friday, 10th of June

2022 at The De Executive Suites located along Queen Elizabeth road Ibadan, without any court order or valid court judgment which necessitate the business mogul and traditional leader to approach court demanding for justice over the illegal action.

The respondents in the suit are the Attorney General of the Federation, the Minister of Defense, the Nigerian Army, the Chief of Army Staff, The General Officer Commanding (GOC) 2nd Mechanised Division of the Nigerian Army, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment, Ibadan Oyo State, and Major Banire, the former Commander, Operation Burst, Oyo State.



"This is a case of gross misuse of power by some people in positions of authority, and a gross violation of our

fundamental human right, by coming to destroy multi millions naira worth properties without any court order or valid court

judgment from the military that accompanied the caterpillar for destruction", said the monarch.

Customs FOU Zone A Reels Out Half Year Achievement

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Federal Operations Unit (FOU), Zone "A" Command, Ikeja Lagos has unveiled its achievement for the first six months of the year, declaring that a total number of 580 seizures were made with a duty-paid value of ₦4,022,960,075.

The Command's acting Comptroller, Hussaini K. Ejibunu made the disclosure on Wednesday June 5, 2023, at a press briefing.

He hinted that the command also arrested 60 suspects and recovered a total of ₦400,599,515.66 as revenue through the issuance of demand notices within the period under review.

"Within the first six months of the year, our activities resulted in a high volume and value of seizures with some suspects arrested. We also succeeded in preventing the entry of dangerous or harmful substances like illicit drugs into the society.

"Our strategic intervention also achieved recovery of revenue through the issuance of demand notices to complete underpaid duties into the federal government coffers that were being evaded by some importers and their agents.

"For the period under review, we made 580 seizures with a duty-paid value of ₦4,022,960,075. We also arrested 60 suspects and recovered a total of ₦400,599,515.66 as revenue through the issuance of demand notices".



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" For the period under review, we made 580 seizures with a duty-paid value of N4,022,960,075. We also arrested 60 suspects and recovered a total of

N400,599,515.66 as revenue through the issuance of demand notices.

" :We wish to express our profound gratitude to sister security agencies for their unflinching synergy in the course of our operations; special mention to the Department of State Security Services- Oyo State Command for the arrest of a notorious suspect that was on the wanted list for attack on a Customs patrol team escorting exhibits. Interestingly, this suspect was arrested and handed over the Unit yesterday", Ejibunu disclosed.

Speaking further, he added that the Command succeeded in convicting 11 suspects through

the Federal High Courts, for offences bordering on improper importation, assault of Customs officers, possession of foreign parboiled rice and for being in possession of Pangolin scales meant for export.

Ejibunu said some other smuggling and related cases instituted in the courts are at various stages of prosecution and would be followed up diligently.

According to him, prominent among the seizures is rice which amounts to 36,742 X 50kg bags of foreign parboiled rice equivalent to 62 trailer loads. Some of them were ferried through bush paths using motorcycles and rickety vehicles

as means of conveyance.

Also notable among other seizures include,
14,015 (7,728) parcels of Indian Hemp
1,064 bales of used clothing
450 x 106 kg drums of carbide
2 x 20 containers of unprocessed wood
1,448 pieces of foreign rugs
30 units of used motorcycles
44 units of used vehicles (Tokunbo)

218,575 litres of premium Motor Spirit (PMS)
860 cartons of foreign poultry products
833 pieces of used tyres.

" Let me reiterate that for the second half of 2023, our onslaught against smugglers will be fiercer with a renewed determination to uncover them, using intelligence-backed enforcement.

" We shall get recalcitrant traders and their agents arrested and prosecuted in addition to seizing their wares.

" At this point, members of the trading community are advised to further embrace compliance and shun any act that would place them on the wrong side of the law.

" We advise them to keep themselves abreast of the import and export prohibition lists because claims of ignorance will not suffice as an excuse whenever they are caught", he warned.

Acting Comptroller FOU Zone A Ikeja, Lagos DC Ejibunu

Jigawa State Electorate Would See Development Under Namadi's Administration - Optimistic

Governor Umar Namadi has been described as a leader who is also making efforts to ensure that Jigawa State becomes an exemplary domain for the electorate to benefit from democratic dividends under his stewardship. In an interview with our NEW NIGERIAN, in Dutse, a youth who is an ardent supporter, Basiru Optimistic spoke on this and several salient issues. **JABIRU A HASSAN** captured the interview. Excerpts:

You are known for supporting the Jigawa State Governor for a long time, why are you still solidly behind him?

I am happy to be interviewed by this historic newspaper that circulates across this great country, and my support to His Excellency, Malam Umar Namadi Dan Modi is from God who inserted him into my heart. He is a good person who also takes things easy and simple. I am of the opinion that Malam Umar Namadi would continue to become a blessing to our state for his good foresight.

You always promote him whenever you hold interactive sessions with journalists, is this a sponsored project?

In politics nowadays, it is about competency and delivery. That is why I remain behind Malam Umar Namadi because he is a resourceful leader who is acting satisfactorily. I am certain that our state would develop and become one of the best by the end of his tenure.

What can you say about the appointments being made by the governor?

All the appointees were selected based on merit, and I am optimistic that they will deliver in accordance with their positions. I am very happy with the way our able governor is making his appointments to have a most formidable government in Jigawa State.

You are not assigned to any role officially, would you continue projecting the image of Namadi's administration?

Yes I would continue promoting my governor. He is my best and my contribution to his success as governor would be a continuous programme and I am even planning to expand my project of public enlightenment about his success stories.

What is your message to the people of Jigawa State?

I am calling on the good people of Jigawa State to continue supporting the administration of his excellency Malam Umar Namadi Dan Modi. The governor is planning big for our state and from what is being seen, Jigawa State would develop in every sector.

In conclusion, I am calling on my colleagues, the youth to play politics of development and progress, democracy is now getting full recognition in Nigeria, we have to work with unity and selfless services in order to make our state more relevant in development.



Basiru Optimistic



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Sabo GRA: Beautiful Houses, Ugly Roads, Residents Beg Kaduna Govt For Infrastructure

*President General optimistic of Kaduna Govt intervention soon

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Despite being one of the best planned Government Reserved Area (GRA) in Kaduna metropolis, the Tsaunin Kura Layout (Sabo GRA) has been left abandoned by successive governments in terms provision of infrastructure.

Created in the late 1970s, the GRA today, still leaves much to be desired from the Kaduna State Government.

A visit to the area, shows a fast springing of modern houses which are architectural masterpiece, but their beauty is overshadowed by the terrible road conditions.

Residents of the community told our correspondent that no season brings them respite, as the rainy season comes with muddy roads, the dry season leaves them with dusty environment as cars drive through the bustling community.

A resident, Mr. Cletus Ogbonna, who is also the Welfare Secretary of the Tsaunin Kura GRA Residents Association, said that their roads are for now, only motorable, following self help from public spirited individuals and efforts of the association.

According to him, driving in and out of the community leaves a trademark of dust in the dry season, and mud in the rainy season on their vehicles.

Mr. Ogbonna said not even those who are pedestrians or employ the services of commercial motorcyclists are spared the trauma of plying their sprawling streets.

"Many residents especially in this rainy season get splashed with mud while going to work on foot or on Okada. This happens as vehicle owners struggle to drive through the mud filled pot holes, thereby splashing water on them.

"Those driving their personal vehicles are not left out as a victim, I was driving to catch up with a supply of sports material from a good client, when a vehicle coming from the opposite direction, attempting to navigate the roads without her vehicle getting stuck, splashed water that

messed up my vehicle and even into my car, soaking and staining my clothes. I eventually missed the appointment," he lamented.

Also speaking, the President General of the community, Dr. Danjuma Sale informed that they are hopeful that soon, help will come their way.

"Last year, we visited the Kaduna Capital Territory Administration and they acted promptly by sending their engineers to the community to measure potential roads they would commence work on.

"We were actually hoping they would start work last year, especially on the ring road, but we were disappointed. We are, however, hopeful that with this new administration, we would be accorded priority," he said.

Another resident, Mr. Daniel Moltu, who is also the Chairman of Zone D Sabo GRA, said that but for the efforts put in by the community, their roads would have since been not motorable.

"Before the rainy season, we called a meeting of our zone and set up a committee on roads to see how through self-help, we can manage our roads this season.

"They immediately set out to work and have since dug drainages and brought in laterites to fill up some terrible spots.

"We are appealing to the Kaduna State Government to look at our plight and intervene urgently," he appealed.

Meanwhile, a visit to Zone B area of the community by our correspondent, showed that some self help projects of drainages were been put in place to create ways for the water from the main entrance into the community around Our Lady of Fatima College axis.

Efforts to reach out to those handling the project as at time of filing the report proved abortive.

It would be recalled that the pioneer, President General of the Sabo GRA, Comrade Dr. Silas Adamu, before his tragic demise in a ghastly auto accident along Kaduna-Abuja highway two years ago, made frantic efforts at attracting infrastructure to the community.



Nigerians Urged To Keep Praying For Security Agencies

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Nigerians irrespective of tribe, religious background and political affiliation have been charged to keep praying for the success of all the security agencies in the task of safe guarding the nation.

A group under the aegis of The Prayer And Support For The Nigerian Armed Forces And Other Security Agencies (PSNAFSA) made the call during a special session in Lagos to mark the 2023 Army Day celebration, with the theme; Sound Administration As A Panacea for Effective Military Operations.

According to a statement by its Convener, Mary Abayomi - Fatile, the group maintained that it is imperative for Nigerians to keep praying and supporting all security agencies to carry out their duties effectively.

Earlier, the Chief of Army Staff, Major General Taoreed Lagbaja, represented by the GOC, 81 Division Nigerian Army, Major General Obinna Ajunwa assured all personnel of the Tinubu led federal government's commitment to the welfare of officers and men of the Armed Forces.

According to him, personnel will get more beneficial training's, provisions of best health facilities among several other benefits.

"Army officers welfare is our priority because they deserve the best living conditions in order to be able to defend the nation and discharge their duties



From Left: Convener of PSNAFSA Mary Abayomi Fatile presenting gift items to wives of Military officers at the session.

effectively."

After the session, The Prayer And Support For The Nigerian Armed Forces And Other Security Agencies, PSNAFSA, took time to meet Over 40 widows with gift items to provide succor to the family members.

Speaking at the event the Convener of the group, Mrs. Mary Abayomi-Fatile said that the widows deserve more than what was provided to them and called on the Lagos State government to collaborate with the Nigerian Armed Forces in empowering the

widows of fallen heroes in addition to what is being given to them during the Armed Forces Remembrance day celebration.

Mrs Fatile also called on Nigerians to join hands with the Armed Forces and other security agencies to put an end to insecurity bedeviling our nation.

She called on the media to also be patriotic in their reportage and not sensationalise security issues especially the online media and boost the moral of the fighting troops. She appealed to Religious

and Traditional rulers and other stakeholders to always remember personnel of security agencies in their prayers rather than condemning them.

Mrs. Fatile appealed to Nigerians to pray for God's guidance for the new Security Chiefs and the CDS as they go about their duties.

Some of the widows who benefited from the gesture expressed appreciation and gratitude to the group for reaching out to them.

Kogi Takes Delivery Of Over 20 Additional Basic Life-Support Ambulances

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Kogi State Government has boosted healthcare delivery by taking by procuring additional 21 ambulances for rural hospitals across the 21 local government areas.

This development was contained in a statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to Governor Yahaya Bello, Onogwu Mohammed and made available to Journalists yesterday.

The Toyota Hiace ambulances of high roof are equipped with various features such as patient and driver cabin intercom, oxygen supply system, portable and rechargeable suction machines, first aid boxes with emergency drugs, fire extinguishers, and wash hand basins.

The buses are also equipped with electrical systems, vinyl flooring, wall-mounted sphygmomanometers, and flexible examination lights.

Inspecting the ambulances, Governor Bello urged citizens and residents of Kogi State to enroll in the Bello Healthcare Plus initiative,

highlighting that the program is completely free of charge.

He emphasised that his administration will continue to prioritize the well-being of the people as a healthy population is crucial for development.

The 'Bello Healthcare Plus' package includes the free distribution of delivery kits, postpartum hemorrhage packs, hypertensive packs, episiotomy packs, and free maternal/newborn healthcare services to pregnant women from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Kogi State Government has also commissioned several medical facilities in various regions of the state, further enhancing healthcare in the state.

Other than this, the Kogi State Government introduced the Kogi State Health Insurance scheme, providing free healthcare services to the people of the state.

The Kogi Care intervention has been another significant achievement of the Governor Bello-led administration.

Navy Intercepts Over N60m Worth Of Canabis Sativa In Lagos

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Operatives of the Nigeria Navy have intercepted substances suspected to be Cannabis Sativa valued at over N60 million, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt.

The interception was made possible through the utilization of Falcon Eye, a state-of-the-art maritime awareness domain facility technology.

Commodore Kolawale Oguntuga, the commander of Nigerian Navy Ship (NNS) BEECROFT, made the during a press conference held in Apapa.

He stated that the interception

took place in the early hours of July 3 near Ibeju Lekki.

"On this day the falcon eye was able to detect the activity of criminals transferring bags of cannabis from boats to land.

"As soon as we realized it, patrol teams both on water and land swiftly swung into action to ensure that the criminals did not escape.

"On sighting our men, they fled and we were able to confiscate the consignment and we recovered over 200 bags. Each bags weighs about 50kg so we are talking about 10,000 kg of these drugs.

"We are going to make sure due process is done by handing over

the illegal substance to the appropriate agency.

"We will also ensure that it is handled appropriately with the standard procedure," he said.

The commander, however, warned the perpetrators to desist or face the wrath of the law.

"The Nigerian Navy under the leadership of the Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Emmanuel Ogalla, is poised and resolute to ensure that these criminals are punished.

He expressed his gratitude to the Chief of Naval Staff, acknowledging the unwavering support provided in the pursuit of a crime-free nation.



The bags of the substances during the briefing.

Fuel Subsidy: Zulum Releases 80 Luxurious Buses, Pick-up Vans To Farmers

**Urges farmers to cooperate with soldiers*

By; SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri
To reduce high cost of living caused by withdrawal of fuel subsidy, Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, on Tuesday, released 80 buses and pick up vans for free transportation of farmers from their communities to farmlands. The 80 means of transport will comprise 50 luxurious buses to be allocated from

the fleet of the Borno Express Corporation, a state owned transport company, while the state 30 pick-up vans will be hired and provided by the state government.

“We are here purposely to support the farmers, you can see thousands of them have gathered and their numbers can reach up to 100,000. Due to the removal of fuel subsidy which although has a long-

term benefit, cost of transportation has increased. Therefore, Borno State Government has decided to provide 50 buses (and 30 pick-up vans) to convey farmers to their farmlands this rainy season”, Zulum said.

Meanwhile, Governor Zulum while addressing thousands of farmers, urged them to cooperate with soldiers, Police and other security agencies deployed to roads to protect citizens including farmers

who go to outskirts to access their farmlands.

“I want to urge you (farmers) to give maximum support and cooperation to the Nigerian Military. They (soldiers) are here to protect you”, Zulum said.

The governor expressed gratitude to the military for their sacrifices in protecting Borno's people which is now enabling farming activities across the state.



Fuel Subsidy: Zulum Releases 80 Luxurious Buses, Pick-up Vans To Farmers

**Urges farmers to cooperate with soldiers*



We'll Galvanize Support To Tackle Insecurity, Socio-economic Challenges In Northern Region, Governor Inuwa Yahaya Vows

**Shares success story of his stewardship in Gombe*

**Pays congratulatory visit to SGF, Sen. Akume*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Governor of Gombe State and Chairman of Northern States Governors' Forum, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has expressed commitment to galvanize support among his colleagues and other critical stakeholders across the north with a view to finding a lasting solution on issues bordering on security and socio economic development among the people of the region.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, the Governor stated this while answering questions from newsmen shortly after he visited the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator George Akume in his office in Abuja.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya who recalled with nostalgia when the North was an indivisible entity and peaceful region devoid of crimes, ethno-religious conflicts and other socio-economic challenges, said his leadership as Chairman of the NSGF will give priority attention to restoring its past glory through constant engagements, peer reviews and deliberate action and consensus building.

He observed that the region is now challenged by insurgency in the North East, ethnic and religious crisis within the North Central as well as farmers/herders clashes and the subsequent effect of banditry and cattle rustling among others.

"Whether we like it or not the issue of banditry is as a result of farmer-herder clashes that led to people losing their sources of livelihood hence the incessant fighting, and that is why there is insecurity in the North. But I am sure if we continue to collaborate and engage with one another, with the understanding and accommodation of everybody's interest, the better for us and that is what we are doing, and I believe it is going to be for the betterment of the whole North and the entire country".

"So, we must use this platform to properly place the North on the smooth trajectory of social cohesion, economic emancipation and infrastructural development in line with the vision of our heroes past".

Responding to a question on his administration's economic and infrastructural revolution, Governor Inuwa

Yahaya explained that "in our quest to meet the yearnings and aspirations of our people, we came up with a 10-year Development Agenda fashioned in line with the global Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs".

"The secret is that our administration has placed high priority on human capital development as the catalyst of growth with special focus on education, health and youth development as well as agriculture, commerce and trade.

He said with the development agenda being implemented, Gombe is now a terminus that encapsulates growth, development, peace, and shared prosperity for all.

"In Gombe, we have comparative advantage in our tremendous human and natural resources, and our strategic position at the centre of the Northeast sub-region.

Governor Inuwa explained that his administration was able to deliver the goods in education, health care, infrastructure, industrial and commercial development; hence the ranking of the State as the best in Ease of Doing Business for two consecutive times by the KPMG, a reputable consultancy firm commissioned by the Federal Government.

On the prevailing peace in Gombe State, Governor Inuwa Yahaya attributed it to the cordial relationship existing among the different ethnic and religious groups in state, saying "this is the basis upon which Gombe is able to continually maintain peace and tranquility despite sharing borders with some insurgency hit neighbouring states.

He also explained that the synergy with which his administration engages security agencies and the traditional Institution in the state equally plays an important role in maintaining the peace and neutralising any form of crime and criminality in the state.

"We are a cross breed because in our state you find alot of different ethnic groups; we are a cosmopolitan state and within the State itself there are a lot of cultures that have crossed- breed and become one; we have a very good understanding of one another and to that extent there is an enabling ground for every religion and tribes".

Governor Inuwa Yahaya pointed out that the open arm with which his administration received the bulk of those that fled the Boko Haram crisis in the contiguous states of

Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states through the resettlement and assimilation policy also contributed to the peace of the State.

On details of his visit to the SGF, the Gombe State Governor revealed that he was in his office to congratulate him on behalf of the government and people of Gombe State as well as the entire Northern region in his capacity as chairman of Northern

Governors' Forum.

He described Senator Akume's appointment as a well- deserved one considering his outstanding leadership qualities and background as former Chairman, Governor, Senator and Minister. He assured him of the support, solidarity and goodwill of the people of Gombe State and the entire northern region.



Strike: Resident Doctors Issue Fresh 2-week Ultimatum To FG

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

A fresh notice by the Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) has been issued to the Federal Government to meet its demands within two weeks or risk industrial disharmony in the health sector.

This was contained in a communique issued on Wednesday after its virtual Extraordinary National Executive Council Meeting (E-NEC), signed jointly by NARD's National President, Dr Innocent Orji, Secretary-General, Dr Chikezie Kelechii and the Publicity and Social Secretary, Dr Umar Musa.

Members of the association had embarked on a five-day warning strike on May 17, urging the Federal Government to address its concerns before May 29 otherwise there would be industrial disharmony.

After the two-week ultimatum issued to the Federal Government on April 29 expired May 13 without the issues being addressed, the industrial action was embarked upon, with members of the association suspending the strike on May 21.

The NEC meeting was held to appraise the level of implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Federal Government on May 19 following the five-day warning strike embarked upon by the association on May 17 and also discussed other pressing issues bordering on the welfare of NARD members.

According to the communique, "NEC hereby wishes to further extend her already expired ultimatum issued to the government by two weeks with effect from July 5, 2023."

The NEC of NARD insisted on immediate implementation of minimum of 200 per cent increment in the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS) and upward review of the associated allowances as requested in her previous letters on the subject matter, saying that since the current economic realities in the country cannot justify the continued payment of CONMESS as it is at the moment or any increment below the 200 per cent as demanded.

For purposes of emphasis, the communique stated that at the expiration of further extended ultimatum by July 19, if all these demands are not met, they cannot guarantee industrial harmony in the health sector nationwide.

The communique noted that it has been seven weeks since the end of the five-day warning strike embarked upon by the association to press home its demands, lamenting that the resolutions of the conciliatory meeting chaired by former Minister of Labour and Employment had not been implemented as they also expressed worry that the circular on one-for-one replacement of clinical staff who exited the various tertiary hospitals across the country was yet to be released.

NEC, therefore, recalls that the conciliatory meeting agreed that the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation will release the implementation guideline on or before June 5 for onward transmission to the Tertiary Hospitals for implementation, lamenting that it has not happened till now that doctors and nurses in these tertiary hospitals continue to break down and suffer burnout effect, assaults and harassment consequent upon the severe manpower shortage occasioned by this.

The communique explained that the 2023 Medical Residency Training Fund (MRTF) had yet to be paid as agreed during the conciliatory meeting and that the skipping arrears too had not been paid several years after repeated request for it to be paid. On the increase in CONMESS, the meeting noted that the parameters it used in arriving at a demand for minimum of 200 per cent increase had significantly changed, following the removal of fuel subsidy and the attendant massive increase in fuel price and general cost of living.

According to the communique, using the current parameters for the members to be returned to the same expenditure level of CONMESS when it was implemented in 2014, an upward review to the tune of 550 per cent is required, pointing out that their members now find it difficult to transport themselves to work and carry out other numerous responsibilities required of them as medical doctors because of these factors.

The association then called for the immediate payment of all outstanding arrears owed its members, including the hazard allowance and the skipping arrears of 2014-2016, and the arrears of consequential adjustment of minimum wage as well as the immediate release and implementation of the guidelines on one-for-one replacement of clinical staff to cushion the effect of the massive manpower shortage in hospitals nationwide.

We Are Committed To Unity Of Nigeria, Safety Of Lives, Properties - Tinubu

***Assures better funding, equipment, robust welfare packages to advance efficiency of military.**

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The President, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu yesterday, declared that his administration is committed to ensuring unity of Nigeria as well as safety of lives and property.

President Tinubu said this at The Sports Arena of the 2 Div Nigerian Army Headquarters, Ojo, Ibadan, during the Grand Finale of the 2023 Nigerian Armed Forces Day Celebration (NADCEL 2023).

Represented by the Vice President, Kashim Shettima, President Tinubu stressed that in ensuring this, there will be better funding, equipment and robust welfare packages to advance the professional efficiency of the military.

President Tinubu emphasized that that the "Nigerian Army has remain one of the strongest pillars of hope for the Nigerian citizenry as we forge ahead to achieve a united, peaceful and prosperous nation.

"My administration will continue to do everything within the constitution and power to ensure the safety

of the law abiding citizens as well as unity of our dear country, as for the members of the Nigerian Army and the entire Armed forces I assure you of untainted commitment to your welfare", he said. The President added, "I'm aware of the issue of inadequate equipment and insufficient funding among other factors constraining your efficiency, the federal government under my leadership has instituted a mechanism that will address all these shortfalls."

Speaking further, President Tinubu charged the army personnel to adhere to international best practices in their operations as well as military-civilian relationship while tasking them on the need to be resolute as their sacrifices will not be in vein.

"My remarks will be incomplete without commending the Chief of Army staff for his proactive measure in organizing this well package NADCEL 2023, especially as he only recently assume office, this also showed his readiness in support to tackle all the security

challenges, I assure you, I will continue to support all the laudable initiatives put in place in the pursuit of national defense and security of our nation."

The President stated, "At this juncture I wish to congratulate all the serving and retired Army personnel on this auspicious celebration of the 160 years anniversary of the prestigious Nigerian Army. We appreciate the services and sacrifices of our hero past and those still alive, without whose efforts we enjoyed as a nation will have been I jeopardy."

Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Major General Taoreed Lagbaja while speaking disclosed that the "Nigerian Army is indeed one of the potent tools of the nation building" and that the Nigerian Army has come a long way and it's living up to it's assigned constitutional roles.

"We have contribute to domestic and global through internal security as well as peace keeping operations, it's through our concerted efforts that the activities of insurgents, terrorists, bandits and other forms of criminalities that threatens the corporate existence of

this country have been greatly reduced," he said.

Major General Lagbaja added, "The Nigerian Army is indeed one of the potent tools of the nation building, it is on this note that I proudly state that this celebration remains a very important platform for us all to remember the invaluable sacrifices that our personnel have continue to keep Nigeria a united, indivisible and prosperous nation additionally while reflecting on the past".

The Chief of Army Staff stressed, "NADCEL present opportunities for the Nigerian Army to reflect on its future by fine-tuning and redirecting it's efforts to remain in perfect harmony with it's constitutional roles of defending the territorial integrity of Nigeria and it's constitutions."

"It is on this premise and in line with the current development of the Nigeria Army that the theme for this year celebration which is Sound administration as panacea for effective military operations was chosen."



Osun State Speaker, Rt. Hon Adewale Egbedun second left and Oyo State Speaker, Rt. Hon. Debo Ogundoyin second right and other participants at the 2023 edition of the conference organised by youth initiative for advocacy growth and advancement held in Abuja. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Traditionalists Raise Alarm Over Alleged Death Threats To Member In Ilorin

**Ask Tinubu, Gov AbdulRasak, security agencies to wade in*

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

Isese Practitioners in Nigeria under the Auspices of Isese Welfare Association (IWA) yesterday, urged President Bola Tinubu to urgently wade into a brewing security situation in Ilorin, Kwara State.

The association in a statement made available to newsmen on Thursday, also called on the Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRasak, the Department of State Security and the Police authority to look into the matter and ensure the provisions of the nation's constitution on freedom of religion is followed to the letter.

In the statement signed by its Coordinator Aderemi Ifaolepin and Secretary-General, Ifagbenusola Popoola IWA said one of its members, Omolara Olatunji, popularly known as Yeye Ajesikemi was being allegedly threatened by some Muslim who were against her celebration of the 2023 Isese Festival in Ilorin.

According to the Coordinator of IWA, every available means of intimidation and death threats were allegedly applied to discourage the organizer of the event to cancel the celebration, which is held globally by adherents of Isese religion.

Aderemi Ifaolepin claimed that instead for the police authority in Kwara State to wade in and enforce the provisions of the constitution in allowing the freedom of religious beliefs, the victim was told to cancel the event.

"We greet you all in the name of all the Irùnmọlẹ / Ọrìṣà and particularly Almighty Olódùmarè. Over the week, we have seen how some Muslims in Ilorin, Kwara State capital seriously threatened and intimidated an Oniṣeṣe (a practitioner of Isese - Yorùbá Indigenous Religion) in the person of Yèyè Ajèṣìkẹmí Olókun (Omolara Olatunji) whose Isese festival was scheduled to take place along Secondary School Road, Oke Andi, Ilorin, Kwara State between 22nd and 24th of July, 2023 which has to be cancelled, due to serious threat to her life, and supposedly for security reasons, based on the stern warning and advice of the police", he said.

Ifaolepin added, "We are constrained here to ask these simple and straight questions: is Ilorin no more a Yorùbá community or no

more part of Yorubaland? Is Ilorin now solely a Muslim Community? Do people still have the rights under Nigerian Constitution to practice whatever religion they subscribe to?

"If truly, Islam is a religion of peace, is threatening others over their belief system an act of peace? What does peace mean to these sets of fanatical Muslims in Ilorin?"

It is not only unethical, unlawful and a gross act of misconduct against the right of freedom of worship, but a sheer act of wickedness for the fanatical Muslims in Ilorin community to dictate the mode of worship and religious practices to be observed in "Ilorin Emirate".

He stressed further, "Certainly, this act of religious intolerance by these fanatical Muslims in Ilorin calls for a review and reflection by the appropriate authorities. Now is the time to say NO to this uncivilised acts of denying others their constitutionally guaranteed rights of observance of their Indigenous Religious obligations"

"Consequently, we urge the President of Nigeria, His Excellency, Ahmad Bola Tinubu, who is a true son of Yoruba land to wade in and give directives to the security agencies to give utmost protection to our people, same appeal goes to the State Governor, an injustice to one, is an injustice to all."

Stressing need for peaceful coexistence among religious bodies and practitioners to engender human development, IWA stated that it will not keep quiet or turn blind eyes to any injustice to its members from any quarter.

The body emphasized its support to the organizer of the event in Ilorin, Kwara State, Yeye Ajesikemi and other Oniṣeṣe (Isese Practitioners) in the State and all over the world,

"We, at Isese Welfare Association (IWA), aka Isese Assembly through this medium wishes to inform the general public that we are solidly behind Yèyè Ajèṣìkẹmí and all other committed practising Oniṣeṣe in Ilorin, Kwara State. And that we will not keep quiet or turn a deaf-ear to this ugly development orchestrated by these sets of extremists/fundamentalists hiding under a religion to threaten and intimidate others. Embrace peace! Love one, love all!!! Live and let others live!!!"

Customs Boss Adeniyi Promises Enhanced Professional Devt, Welfare, Improved Training Programmes

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

The acting Comptroller General of Customs, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi has assured officers and men of the service of an enhanced professional development, welfare and improved training programs, Adeniyi also promised to ensure a conducive working environment, and provide necessary resources, which he said is paramount in his administration.

The Customs acting Comptroller General gave the assurance during a comprehensive tour of

Nigeria Customs Service Headquarters, Abuja, where he engaged officers one on one, gaining valuable insights into their daily work.

In a statement by the National Public Relations Officer of the Agency CSC Abdullahi Maiwada, the Customs Boss appreciated the challenges and contributions of officers and men of the Service to build a Customs that supports and empowers human resources.

It reads, "The Acting Comptroller General of Customs Bashir Adewale Adeniyi MFR dsm fniprpsc (+) has embarked on a

comprehensive tour of Nigeria Customs Service Headquarters, engaging one on one with officers and gaining valuable insights into their daily work.

"During these interactions, the CGC listened attentively, appreciating the challenges and contributions of officers and men to build a Customs Service that supports and empowers human resources.

"We are committed to enhancing your professional development, welfare, and well-being. Our initiatives to improve training programs, ensure

a conducive working environment, and provide necessary resources is paramount in our administration", he emphasised.

"The CGC commended outstanding officers for their dedication and exemplary service. "Let us celebrate our unsung heroes who go above and beyond to safeguard our nation's borders. Together, we will foster a culture of teamwork, transparency, and pride in our work".

"The CGC's tour is a teaser towards embarking on a transformative journey, driven by the commitment to an incredible Customs family".



Ag. Comptroller Adeniyi (sitting) while listening to the officers during the interaction

Izalah Eye Foundation Treats 51 Patients In Katsina State

By, **SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina**

Katsina State Izalah Eye Foundation has successfully completed eye surgical operations on fifty one eye patients in the state.

Chairman of the foundation, Alhaji Ibrahim Dabo Bujawa disclosed this in a statement by Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Foundation, Alhaji Hassan Mohammad Tukur shortly at the end of the exercise carried out at Katsina Eye centre located at old market, Katsina.

Alhaji Dabo Bujawa announced that the exercise was sponsored by a former permanent secretary in the state and a

member of Katsina Izalah Eye Foundation, Alhaji Aliyu Garba Kankara.

Alhaji Bujawa revealed that the 51 patients were selected from the 34 local governments across the state.

Alhaji Ibrahim Dabo Bujawa expressed happiness with the collaborative effort between Katsina Izalah Eye Foundation and the management of Katsina Eye centre, which made it feasible to achieve the feat. He prayed for Allah to abundantly reward the sponsor of the eye surgical operations, stressing that there was the need for wealthy Muslims to spend resources in the way of Allah for the rewards that

abounds.

Responding, the Medical Director in the Eye centre, Dr Ahmed Tijjani Hamza Kofar Bai who was represented by the Director of Nursing services in the Eye centre, Hajiya Jamilatu Haruna expressed gratitude to Izalah Eye Foundation for the sustain collaboration in restoring the sight of huge number of people in the state.

Hajiya Haruna used the occasion to request the leadership of the Foundation to team up with the Eye centre in the advocacy programmes to enlighten parents to be aware of the eye problems of their children.

Hajiya Jamilatu Haruna

also harped on wealthy people to emulate the philanthropic gesture of the former permanent secretary to restore the eye sight of the most vulnerable in the society.

Alhaji Hassan Mohammad Tukur recalled in the statement that Alhaji Aliyu Garba Kankara had recently through the Izalah Eye Foundation sponsored the operations of 73 eye patients in Malumfashi zone.

During the exercise in Malumfashi, 96 eye patients received medicated glasses while 219 received various medications at General Hospital, Malumfashi with patients from Kankara, Kafur and Malumfashi Local Governments.

Lagos NSCDC Commandant Decorates Promotees, Urges Loyalty, Dedication, Discipline, Professionalism

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Commandant of the Lagos Command, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Usman Alfarai has charged newly promoted officers to justify their new ranks by being more professional, loyal, disciplined and dedicated in the discharge of their duties.

He also tasked them to be good ambassadors and keep the flag of the Corps flying.

Alfarai gave the charge while decorating the new promotees with their ranks at the State Command's Headquartered, Alausa, Ikeja.

In a statement made available to journalists by the command's spokesperson, DSC Abolurin Oluwaseun, the Commandant expressed, profound gratitude to the former Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola, the Secretary of the Board, Mallam Ja'afaru Ahmed rtd, the Commandant General, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), CG Ahmed Abubakar Audi and his entire top management team for recognising the performance of the officers for promotion.

He extolled them for deeming it fit to recognize and reward hardwork, professionalism, discipline and dedication to

service, through the elevation of officers, whom he said, have distinguished, themselves after seating and passing their promotional examinations in Lagos State Command.

"In the light of the welfare package of the Commandant General, Dr Ahmed Abubakar Audi, mni, OFR, I am extremely happy to express joy and happiness on behalf of the Command and officers, who got promotion from their old ranks to their new, enviable and well deserved ranks," Alfarai said.

As a result of the 2022 promotion results recently released, by the Civil Defence Corrections Fire and Immigration Services Board (CDCFIB), a total of 164 officers were promoted by the Board.

They include three Assistant Commandants of Corps moved to Deputy Commandant, 14 Chief Superintendents of Corps to Assistant Commandants of Corps.

Other categories include 24 Superintendents of Corps moved to Chief Superintendent, 21 Deputy Superintendents of Corps moved to Superintendents of Corps (SC), 21 Assistant Superintendents of Corps I moved to Deputy Superintendents of Corps, 38 Assistant Superintendents of Corps II moved to Assistant



R-L: Lagos NSCDC Commandant Usman Alfarai being assisted by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DFA) Lagos Command DCP Ewah to decorate a promotee

Superintendents of Corps I and 48 Inspectors of Corps to Assistant Superintendents of Corps II.

The event also featured good will messages from other sister agencies and invited dignitaries. On behalf of the management and staff of the Command, Alfarai thanked all security chiefs, from various sister

agencies, their representatives, distinguished invited guests, senior officers, families and friends of the service, who made the event a colourful one.

In attendance at the event also were the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Administration and Finance, DCP Bassey Ewah Samuel, who represented, the Commissioner

of Police, Lagos State Command, CP Idowu Owohunwa, Officials of Department of State Services, Federal Fire Service, Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigeria Correctional Service, Lagos State Fire Service, Federal Road Safety Corps, National Identity Management Commission and others.

FG, Oyo Govt Inaugurate Mobile App To Track, Report Animal Diseases - Coordinator

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Federal Government in collaboration with Oyo State Government has inaugurated a new software application National Animal Disease Information System (NADIS) Mobile Application, to track and report animal disease outbreak in Oyo State.

NADIS Co-ordinating and Director, Oyo state Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Mr. Gideon Alade stated this on Wednesday in a statement made available to journalists in Ibadan on a training organized for private and public animal health workers, held at the Conference Room of the State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

According to Mr Alade, the app will enable veterinary outfits, both public and private or the University sectors to accurately report cases of disease outbreak near them, which will be followed by prompt intervention from Government at all levels. He stressed that the application can be downloaded on Play Store as VETSARK or via mobile browsers by typing nadis.mobile.ng, adding, "by doing so, disease outbreaks can easily be curbed before causing much damage".

Mr Alade pointed out that the purpose of the training session was to teach private and public Vets on how to use the National Animal Disease Information System (NADIS), and also to improve and expand their

surveillance points.

The lead facilitator at the training, Dr. Olaseju Taiwo, a Vet and Pest Control expert from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, said the new software has two applications, the NADIS-mobile which is for collection of data from the field, and NADIS-admin for viewing reported diseases and for analysis.

In his presentation, the Head, State Disease Reporting Records Collation and Epidemiology Unit, Dr. Kareem Akeem, stated that disease reporting must be systematic and timely, and that "it is a form of communication about diseases affecting animals which involves the collection and submission of data on disease cases to the appropriate

authorities, responsible for surveillance and control."

Dr. Akeem maintained stressed that Laboratories, livestock producers, research institutions, animal owners and government agencies are key entities that play a role in identifying and reporting disease cases.

In his opening remarks, the Co-ordinating Director, Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Alhaji Opawusi Olalekan, said the purpose of the training is to equip animal health workers with the needed knowledge on disease reporting, adding that the training will help them on how to improve their practice at their various veterinary outfits for the good of the public.

Welcoming participants to the training session, the State

Director of Veterinary Services, Dr. (Mrs.) L.S. Azeez said the training was timely considering the recent outbreak of deadly zoonotic diseases such as Anthrax, that ravage few African countries, killing animals and people.

Dr Azeez noted that the training will assist the State Government to have timely and accurate disease reporting format and also to curb and prevent outbreak of disease and tasked Private Veterinary Outfits to give their maximum cooperation to the government officers in collation of disease reports throughout the State.

The training was attended by veterinary doctors from the private, public, and university sectors, alongside all the directors of agriculture from the 33LGs of the state.

NIMET Prediction: NEMA Holds Flood Sensitization For Zaria, Igabi Communities

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As a follow up of the NIMET's Seasonal 2023 Prediction, a Sensitization and Awareness, Flood Response and Evacuation Simulation, and First Aid in Emergency Training was staged for Wuchichiri and Magume Communities in Zaria by Stakeholders in Disaster

Management under the DRASS Project.

The Simulation and training were facilitated by responding stakeholders and this was followed by a joint NEMA, Federal Fire Service, Nigeria Red Cross and SAESI's advocacy and interactive session with Communities of Rafin Guza River Bank in Igabi Local Government Area.

The team interacted with the Mai Unguwa of Rafin Guza, some Community Leaders, the Chief Local Diver and other members of the community along the river bank. Issues discussed include rising of the water level, evacuation of people living in houses close to the river bank, safety measures in mode of transportation among several others.



Movement For National Reformation Congratulates Tinubu, VP Shettima

**Commends Nigerians, Tinubu's government*

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Movement for National Reformation (MNR) has congratulated President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Vice President Kashim Shettima for their victory at the 2023 presidential election and subsequent swearing into office as President and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

A statement issued and signed on Wednesday, made available to journalists in Maiduguri by HRH, Chief Samuel Adai Onimisi, the National Vice Chairman of the Movement for National Reformation (MNR), also congratulated the people of Nigeria for sustaining the country's hard-earned democracy.

It further stated that, "President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is a formidable chip of the old blocks of our founding nationalists who fought for Nigeria's independence.

"The Movement considers the emergence of Tinubu's Presidency as a historic attainment of the progressive block in Nigeria whom power eluded at the controlling height

after leading a successful independence struggle.

"We confidently trust in the track-records of the President and his Vice, mostly in their capability to demonstrate good governance at a larger scale and therefore urge Nigerians to cooperate with the government to deepen our democracy and build a prosperous Nigeria that shall be the pride of all.

"It is therefore, a significant opportunity for the progressives in Nigeria to commit to total support of the Presidency of this staunch progressive democrat as he deploys his vision to lift the country out of economic stagnation and decay, and the injustices that have blighted the prospect for inter ethnic peace in the country.

"For the MNR, the Tinubu-led federal government is potentially a positive departure considering the President's proven competence, and capacity to address the needs and wellbeing of the country's diverse nationalities, coupled with his international appeal to attract favourable bilateral relationships.

"It is therefore, compelling on the Movement to lend maximum

support to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's government in every way and everywhere as he sets out to elevate Nigeria to enviable height in the emerging African and global politics.

"The MNR calls on President Tinubu to urgently and courageously engage Nigeria's ethnic nationalities in order to find a lasting solution to this intractable and destabilising element in Nigeria's search for the path to nationhood and unhindered national development.

"It is with confident anticipation that the MNR look forward to the Tinubu Presidency in the knowledge that this President has capacity and courage to set the tone for the emergence of a new Nigeria built on the foundation of ethnic nationalities justice and equity," the statement said.

It added that, "He remained a rugged member and a critical stakeholder in the robust roles of the NADECO struggle while sharing close affinity with its founder, Chief Anthony E. Enahoro and other co-founders of MNR and the Pro-National Conference Organizations (PRONACO).



VP Shettima

"It was the foremost advocate for the return of the country to true federalism through Restructuring and also served as the parent body of the Pro-National Conference Organizations (PRONACO) which produced the Proposed Power-Sharing Constitution in which the interests of ethnic

nationalities in Nigeria were adequately addressed in the context of true federalism.

"MNR was a principal partner in the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO) struggle which fought against the continued stay of the military in power."

Afenifere Not A Political Party But A Philosophy - Afenifere Worldwide Leader, Pa Fasoranti

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Leaders of Afenifere Worldwide, Chief Reuben Famuyide Fasoranti yesterday, cleared the air on status of the Pan Yoruba socio organization.

Chief Fasoranti in a statement by Afenifere National Publicity Secretary of the organization, Comrade Jare Ajayi declared that Afenifere is "a Philosophy and not a political party".

According to the Afenifere Worldwide leader, the clarification at this time becomes very necessary in view of a wrong insinuation in some quarters that could mislead members of the public as to what exactly Afenifere is.

Pa Fasoranti stressed, "rather than being a political party, Afenifere is a philosophy steeped in freedom for all and life more abundant for everyone. Thus, the social and cultural intent is greater than the political angle as all Yoruba people cannot belong to the same political party".

"It is a fact that the defunct Action Group (the pioneer political party founded by Chief

O b a f e m i

Awolowo) went with the cognomen, Afenifere, when it came to campaign in Ibadan so that the average Yoruba men and women who were not so educated could understand what the party stood for", he said. Pa Fasoranti added, "As a matter of fact, the Yoruba name for the party was Egbe Olope (a party with the symbol of palm tree). This was in line with the practice then whereby political parties were identified more with the symbols of their respective logos. Same thing is happening even now".

"Political parties are, of necessity, characterized by certain attributes, the crux of which is that they must be registered by the Independent National Electoral Commission



Pa Fasoranti

(INEC)", adding, "And for an organization to be so registered, it must fulfill certain conditions." The Afenifere Worldwide leader said, "among these conditions is the need for any organization seeking registration with INEC to have members and offices in at least 24 out of the 36 states in Nigeria. Besides, such an organization must be 'opened' to

all Nigerians irrespective of tribe, tongue, religion etc".

Pa Fasoranti noted, "In the case of Afenifere, its membership is restricted ONLY to people of Yoruba extraction. Thus, even if it seeks registration with INEC, it would be disqualified on that ground. Second, since Yoruba people are naturally domiciling fully in less than ten states in the country, it means

that it cannot meet another important condition for INEC registration'

"It is a known fact that Yorubas are 100 per cent indigenous in six states namely Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ekiti, Ondo and Lagos. They form very sizeable number in both Kwara and Kogi. They are also indigenous in some parts of Delta and Edo states. If all these

are put together, they are just about ten! Far short of the minimum number of states required to be registered as a political party in Nigeria."

He pointed out that were Afenifere to be a political party, each time INEC invites political parties, the organization would have been invited. Same thing holds when the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC), the umbrella body of all registered political parties in Nigeria, summons a meeting. But, as we know, Afenifere was never invited to any IPAC meeting"

"To us, not only has the presidential election of February 25, 2023 produced a President for Nigeria, the person declared by INEC as the winner of the election is currently the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria until and unless otherwise declared by competent courts in the land. We are saying this not just because the individual in question, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, is Yoruba and our preferred choice, but because he is the one that all legal apparatuses in the land declared as President."

NBA, FIBA'S Basketball Without Borders Camp To Return To South Africa This July

By: **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The National Basketball Association (NBA) and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) yesterday, announced that the 19th edition of Basketball Without Borders (BWB) Africa will be held at the American International School of Johannesburg in South Africa from Friday, July 28 to Monday, July 31.

This marks the 15th time that the NBA and FIBA's global basketball development and community outreach program will be held in Johannesburg and first since 2018.

BWB Africa 2023 will bring together 40 boys and 40 girls

from more than 25 African countries to learn directly from current and former NBA, WNBA and FIBA players, legends and coaches and compete alongside their peers from across the continent. The campers and coaches, who will be announced prior to the camp, will also take part in life skills, leadership development and NBA Cares programming.

"Interest in basketball and the NBA continues to grow in South Africa, and we are excited that BWB Africa will return to Johannesburg next month, 20 years after the first camp was held at the American International School in 2003," said NBA Africa CEO Victor Williams. "We look forward to

welcoming some of the best young players on the continent, who have earned the right to represent their country at this prestigious camp and who will now have the opportunity to learn directly from players and coaches who have reached the highest levels of the game."

"This year's 19th edition of BWB Africa in South Africa is sure to be an excellent camp for all participants," said FIBA National Federations & Sport Director Zoran Radovic. "Basketball is growing rapidly in Africa, which was particularly evident in the recent BAL season. This camp will provide a valuable opportunity for young players to showcase their skills and learn from experienced

professionals on and off the court. We look forward to seeing this young talent shine later this month."

Thirty-eight former BWB campers were among the 120 international players on opening-night rosters for the 2022-23 NBA season, including 2022-23 Kia NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP) Joel Embiid (Philadelphia 76ers; Cameroon; BWB Africa 2011 in Johannesburg), who became the first former BWB camper to be named NBA MVP, and 2019 NBA champion Pascal Siakam (Toronto Raptors; Cameroon; BWB Africa 2012 in Johannesburg). In total, 12 former BWB Africa campers have been drafted into the NBA

since 2003. Fifty-four former BWB Africa campers have been featured on Basketball Africa League (BAL) team rosters over the league's first three seasons.

BWB Africa 2023 will be supported by Nike, a global partner of BWB since 2002, which will outfit participants with Nike apparel and footwear, and Gatorade, which will keep players and coaches hydrated throughout the camp.

BWB has reached more than 4,000 participants from 136 countries and territories since 2001, with 111 former campers advancing to the NBA or WNBA. The NBA and FIBA have staged 69 BWB camps in 46 cities across 32 countries on six continents.



Basketball Without Borders Africa



FIBA

We Are Basketball

Volleyball: Nigeria Devours Ghana In U-21 Nations Championship

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Nigeria women's team devours Ghana 3-0 (25-11, 25-15, 25-8) in their first match at the ongoing 2023 African U21 Nations Volleyball Championship (Zone 3) in Niamey, Niger Republic on Thursday.

Nigeria's Coach, Rakiya Mohammed introduced her starting six; Kelechi Ndukaba, Aisha Abdulraheem, Maryam Ibrahim, Sarah Ali, Deborah Chukwu and Mariam Usman which sent shivers to the spine of the Ghanaian team.

Nigeria wasted no time to win five points before their opponents managed to win a

point. Captain of the side, Kelechi Ndukaba went on to win seven straight points to put Nigeria at an advantage; 14 to 3 points. The first set ended 25 to 11 points in favour of Nigeria.

The second set started well with Nigeria getting her points from services as Maryam Ibrahim took her own six points. Nigeria led by 23 to 7 points before Ghana won eight points which made the game end 25 to 15 points in favour of Nigeria.

The third set had Nigeria take charge of the court with Libero, Mariam Usman shining like a million stars. Nice win the third set under 10; 25 to 8 points.

The Captain of Nigeria U21 women's team, Kelechi Ndukaba was voted the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the game. An elated head coach of Nigeria U21 women's volleyball team, Rakiya Mohammed said the world is yet to see the best of the girls.

Mohammed revealed that the players are ready to take the trophy to Nigeria and prepare for the 2023 FIVB U19 Girls World Championship next August in Croatia and Hungary.

She said, "I am happy with the performance of the players, they showed determination, passion and zeal on the

court. I want to assure you that the best of the girls are yet to be seen by the world.

"Our next mission is to beat the Niger Republic on Friday (tomorrow) and assert our dominance in West Africa. Immediately we end this championship, some of the girls will resume camp ahead of next month's World Championship."

Meanwhile, the President of Nigeria Volleyball Federation, Engineer Musa Nimrod applauded the performance of the National U21 women team.

He promised that the Nigeria Volleyball Federation will ensure the players get the maximum support to excel in subsequent



Ogun YSFON Picks Date For Revived MKO Abiola's Cup

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON), Chairman in Ogun State, Alhaji Waheed Kashimaawo Lawal has hinted that a date has been picked for the commencement of the national football tournament that was instituted to immortalize the late business Mogul and Pillar of sport in Africa, Bashorun MKO Abiola in year 2000, but has rested since 2006.

The Under-18 Boys Soccer Tournament according to the Ogun YSFON boss, will attract participants from not less than 30 states and FCT with expectation to run from between 20th August to 26th August this year to coincide with the posthumous birthday of the late Sports Icon which is 24th of every August.

Alhaji Lawal said "like the Ramat Cup which is held annually in the City Kano in honour of the late Nigerian Head of State, Gen. Muritala Ramat

Muhammed, MKO Abiola's Cup will also be organized by Ogun YSFON in honour late Bashorun MKO Abiola in the ancient city of Abeokuta Ogun State".

Ogun YSFON Chairman in a chat with newsmen further eulogised the late Pillar of Sports in Africa, MKO Abiola saying apart from being the Pillar of Sports in the whole of Africa, Abiola also did a lot more for the development of Sports in Nigeria and Ogun State.

"Don't forget that Abiola owed a football Club based in Abeokuta (Abiola Babes), he was the first Club owner that increased his Players' salary by more than 200percent, and while defending his decision, he said footballers are like soldiers sent to the war from who must be fully equipped and the only way to equip footballers is to give them more and more money".

"Abiola was also the first to give car loan

to the footballers when the players of Abiola Babes in 1984 got cars and he was the first club owner to fly an injured player abroad for treatment, and above all, MKO Abiola was a Grand Patron of YSFON while alive, so Ogun YSFON has thought it wise to revive the annual football tournament in his honour in order to immortalise him".

"Support is being expected from the Ogun State Government and spirited individuals and corporate organizations which include the owner of Remo FC, Mr. Kunle Soname and Agroterra Sport Academy, Abeokuta, Ogun State", Lawal disclosed.



Alhaji Waheed Kashimaawo

Board Member Predicts Brighter Future For Nigeria's Cycling

**To organise tournament to celebrate Tinubu's first 100 days in office*

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Board member Nigeria Cycling Federation, Femi Thomas has said that the sport is gradually gaining grounds in Nigeria but more still need to be done for the country's cyclists to measure up with international standards.

Thomas in an interview with newsmen, said there is need for both corporate bodies and the Federation to work in tandem to

take Nigerian cycling to greater height.

"Quality equipment, good athletes welfare packages and regular competitions are paramount in taking cycling to greater heights in Nigeria.

"There is also need for partnership between the government and corporate bodies in putting in place the necessary macheneries that will improve the sports in the

country," he said.

Femi Thomas who is an ex-cyclist stated that 'Team Nigeria' are already in camp perfecting strategies for the world championship billed for next year in Glasgow, Scotland.

"Team Nigeria has been in camp for over two months in Abuja preparing for the world championship. The Federation is doing all within it's power to ensure the country does well in

Glasgow", he stressed.

He hinted that plans are on to organise a cycling tournament to celebrate the first 100 days in office of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

According to him, the championship will also highlight the numerous achievements of the President in sports when he was Governor of Lagos State.

"The championship we're planning will be a good opportunity for every

organisation to promote and project their brands. It will also open up Nigeria for foreign investors to come in and invest in the country.

"President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is a lover of sports and he showed it during his time as Governor of Lagos State and that's why it's necessary we organise the competition to commemorate his first 100 days in office", he concluded.



Tribunal: YPP Candidate, Sen Akpan, Tenders WAEC Certificate

***Affirms with WAEC On Chronicling Of Names on Certificates**

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

At a resumed hearing at the 2023 Governorship Election Petitions Tribunal, sitting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State yesterday, the candidate of the the Young Progressives Party (YPP) in the election in the state, Senator Albert Bassey Akpan, tendered his WAEC certificate to the tribunal.

Senator Albert affirmed to the court that his surname, Akpan, is the first in chronicling of his name by the West African Examination Council certificate of 1989, which he sat for.

The YPP's candidate's testimony is in correlation with the position

of Barr. Adekanbi Olaolu, a senior staff of the West African Examination Council and subpoenaed witness, who told the court last month, the examination body usually chronicles the name of a candidate for its examination, beginning from the candidate's surname.

Counsel to the second respondent (Eno, Umo Bassey), Paul Usoro (SAN) during cross examination asked the witness (Sen. Akpan), if he has met anyone with the name 'Bassey, Umo Eno', before.

Responding, the YPP candidate told the Tribunal that he has not met 'Bassey, Umo Eno', but has

met 'Eno, Umo Bassey', and the two are different individuals.

Recall WAEC had in June tendered a results listing of candidates for Victory High School, Ikeja, with the name 'Bassey, Umo Eno', as candidate with number '15520232'. Olaolu had also told the Tribunal that the examination body depends on what individual candidates submit to them through their respective institutions, while admitting it is not the duty of the body to determine which is the surname of a candidate.

Olaolu, while testifying, asserted that candidates who sat for WAEC examinations however have a window to reconcile their

names through a well spelt process, of which the PDP candidate (Eno, Umo Bassey) failed to leverage on.

A certified true copy of records with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) affirmed that the candidate of the PDP (Eno, Umo Bassey) swore to an oath confirming his surname as 'Eno', on his form EC9 with INEC, as against 'Bassey', which appears on the controversial 1981 certificate he submitted to the election umpire.

Counsel to the 1st (INEC) and 3rd (PDP) respondents, Abdullahi SAN and Oyetibo SAN, respectively, also cross examined the YPP candidate on

the same subject, to reaffirm the petitioner's earlier position.

The petitioners closed their case, while the court asked the respondents to prepare for their defense.

The case was adjourned to Monday 10th July, 2023 for the respondents to commence their defense.

YPP governorship candidate, Senator Akpan had one part, petitioned the Tribunal challenging the authenticity of the WAEC certificate the second respondent and PDP governorship candidate in the said election (Eno, Umo Bassey) presented to the INEC.

Global Realtors Connect Incentivises Over 2,000 Realtors With Professional Training

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Global Realtors Connect, a real estate consultants community network powered by Paradise Investment Network Cooperative (PINCOOP) has incentivised and equipped over 2,000 realtors with professional training and knowledge of the industry.

At the second edition training event of the Global Realtors Connect in Oriental Hotel Victoria Island Lagos which brought together experts in different fields of the real estate industry, thousands of participants were enlightened about the latest industry trends and the processes of selling and attracting investors.

According to PINCOOP and Global Realtors Connect founder, Christy Kanu, the Global Realtors Connect is gradually growing bringing to fruition the objectives of the initiative which was established

earlier in 2023.

"In just the second edition of Global Realtors Connect training event "Realtor's Guru breakfast meeting, we can confidently say the community is expanding as many more people are freely benefitting from our expert training initiative on all things real estate. We have designed a curriculum to create a community of real estate professionals who are being trained to acquire relevant knowledge and expertise of the industry where they will be exposed to various opportunities in the real estate sector and also real estate products with great commissions, incentives and perks to begin their real estate marketing journey" Christy explained.

She said that, "Global Realtors Connect is still working on its vision of becoming the largest realtors and realestate marketers network in Africa in the next five years with members open to

several opportunities including, direct property sales, mouthwatering commission plans, bonuses and incentives, all-expenses-paid overseas familiarization trips and standard referral programme amongst others."

Specifically, at the second realtors training breakfast event of the Global Realtors Connect, over 2,000 persons participated



From Left; Christy Kanu, Founder of PINCOOP being appreciated by realtors.

cutting across different fields of the real estate industry including professionals, consultants, beginners and enthusiasts both in-person and virtually.

Participants at the second edition

of the Global Realtors Connect programme expressed their excitement at the programme, promising to put into practice what was learnt to result in more sales closures.