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Disobedience To Court Orders: Arewa CSOs Plan Massive Protest Against DSS

Say failure to release individuals granted bail by court would see mass mobilization to Yellow House

By AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

Arewa Civil Society Organisations, have given the Director General of the Department of State Services (DSS), Yusuf Magaji Bichi, 48 hours ultimatum to comply with the court orders and release all individuals in their facility as ordered.

Failure to comply with the ultimatum, the Arewa Civil Society Organisations, said they would be compelled to

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Drama As Security Agents Bundle Out Expelled AA Chairman From INEC Headquarters

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

A mild drama ensued on Tuesday at the national headquarters of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Abuja, as security agents sent a former member of the Action Alliance (AA), Mr Kenneth Udeze out of the commission's conference room where chairmen of various registered political parties met with the INEC chairman, Professor Mahmoud Yakubu.

The meeting, which was at the instance of the INEC Chairman, Prof Yakubu was called to assess the last general election. The commission had invited the chairmen of all

the registered political parties to the meeting, including that of the Action Alliance, Dr Adekunle Rufai Omoaje.

Omoaje who was recently recognized by INEC and had his name inserted into the commission's official website, was said to have arrived the venue of the meeting promptly and duly cleared by security personnel, including officials of the Department of State Services (DSS) after which he was given all the necessary souvenirs for the meeting.

However, it was later discovered that the seat meant for the AA chairman (Omoaje) had been occupied by Udeze before his arrival.

To this end, security personnel at the venue of the meeting, accosted Udeze who was said to be an impostor, but he refused to leave his seat until he was forcefully chased out.

Security operatives attached to the INEC headquarters later chased Udeze out of the venue of the meeting and Omoaje who is the authentic national chairman of the Action Alliance took over the seat prepared for the party.

Udeze was said to have breached all security arrangements made ahead of the meeting as he was not cleared by the security personnel before entering into the meeting.

It would be recalled that

Udeze had been suspended and subsequently expelled from the party by the National Think Thank Committee of the party for various alleged offences.

Reacting to the development, the national chairman of the party, Dr Omoaje hailed the security agents in the matured manner at which the matter was handled.

He warned Udeze to desist from his lawless acts and stop impersonating as a member of the AA or an official of the party, just as he called on all security agencies to put their search light on Udeze henceforth, stressing that he had since seized to be a member of the party.

Akpabio To Upcoming Politicians: Be Loyal Followers

**Salutes Senator Bamidele at 60*

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio, on Tuesday, urged upcoming politicians in the country to be loyal followers.

Senator Akpabio said this when he led members of the Senate to a book launch, to mark the 60th birthday anniversary of the Senate Leader, Opeyemi Bamidele, in Abuja.

The Senate President eulogized the sterling qualities of the Ekiti State Lawmaker, such as his

unalloyed and untainted loyalty to his mentor and leader, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Senator Akpabio charged upcoming politicians to emulate the Senate Leader, who was first and foremost, a loyal follower and disciple of the Tinubu school of politics, which has led to where he is today in Nigeria.

The President of the Senate also described him as an ally, a committed and loyal member of the APC and leadership of the Senate.



Coalition Exonerates Fed Poly Nasarawa Rector Of Abuse Of Office, Corruption Allegations

By ISAAC ODEH,
Kaduna

A coalition of 52 anti-corruption organizations, operating as Justice and Equity Forum (JEF), has exonerated the rector of the Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa, Dr. Abdullahi Alhassan Ahmed, over allegations of corruption and abuse of office, leveled against him by some civil society organizations in recent times.

The group explained that it exonerated the rector after it carried out its independent probe into the activities of the rector in the institution and discovered that he has not done anything contrary to his official mandate.

It said the allegations of enrichment, abuse of office, and primitive acquisition of wealth leveled against the rector were mere imagination of his accusers.

To this end, the group

which gave the rector a clean bill, also passed a vote of confidence on him, "for his pragmatic, accountable, and transparent leadership qualities since he assumed office in the prestigious institution."

In a statement, signed by its National President, Barrister Morgan Gbadamosi and Secretary, Dr. Amaka Olisah, the Justice and Equity Forum, called on members of the public to disregard the allegations against the rector as they have been found to lack substance.

JEF said its findings showed that the faceless groups who accused the rector were sponsored by some persons to give him a bad name and also extort money from him.

JEF further called on the EFCC to Investigate and prosecute the fake organization to server as deterrent to others.

Strike: Coalition of CSOs Disagrees With NLC, Says it's Counter Productive

**Want NLC to negotiate with FG instead*

By; ISAAC ODEH,
Kaduna

Northern based Coalition of Civil Society Organisations on Wednesday, cautioned Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) against the planned indefinite nationwide strike action in view of the long term gains of fuel subsidy removal by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu-led administration.

In a recent development, NLC gave the Federal Government a seven-day ultimatum to reverse all perceived anti-poor policies, including the recent hike in the pump price of petrol, or face an indefinite nationwide strike from August 2. Consequently, NLC directed all affiliates to commence mobilisation of workers and civil society allies for a mass protest across Nigeria.

But the Coalition disagree with NLC's decision, saying that any form of nationwide strike by the labour unions now, will not only compound current economic hardship faced by the masses, but also be counter productive and a catalyst for impending chaos.

The Coalition of Civil Society Organisations in a statement jointly signed by the Chairman and Secretary, Comrade Muhammad Usman Ali and Comrade Markus Bulus, appealed to Nigeria Labour Congress to rather call for an emergency meeting with the Federal Government to discuss and resolve areas of concerns on the issues of fuel subsidy removal and other perceived harsh government policies affecting the Nigerian workers.

The statement further reads, "We believe the Tinubu-led government has demonstrated that it can listen to the plight of labour unions and should the government fail to

meet demands after the meeting, NLC is free to embark on the planned long-lasting strike and mass protest.

"But we want to remind NLC that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is just 57 days in office as President. With the colossal damages done to economy by previous leaders, which are beyond imagination, he needs some time to correct them.

"On the other hand, we urge NLC to work together with the FG to ensure that monies saved from subsidy removal are monitored and judiciously used to better lots of workers and Nigerians instead threats of strike."

While defending the removal of subsidy, the Coalition asked NLC to consider that removal of subsidy has stopped smuggling of petroleum products; stopped payment of homongous amount money to fraudulent businessmen and made products available at filling stations.

It also said removal of subsidy will ensure private sector participation in the importation of petroleum products; ensure the ready availability of petrol at all times for all Nigerians with no diversion by marketers and curb the greed for higher profits and sabotage by a few players in the oil industry, which will positively affect the economy.

"We hope that soon the competition in the industry and market forces will drive down the price of petrol in the long run as witnessed in the telecoms sector for the benefit of Nigerians; permanently banish queues from petrol stations." It added.

However, the Coalition commended President Tinubu for bolds steps taken so far to change the course of governance in the country.

2023 Polls: Mahmud Struggling To Repair Battered Image Of INEC - CUPP

**Says there's total lost of public confidence on commission*

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP), an umbrella of opposition, has slammed the chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmud Yakubu, following his admittance that there were glitches in the course of the 2023 general elections

CUPP expressed this in a statement signed by its National Secretary, High Chief Peter Ojonugwa Ameh, made available to our correspondent on Wednesday July 26, 2023. "It is obvious and noticeable how Mahmud is running up and down in an attempt to try to repair the battered image of the commission and by

extension his reputation as well.

"There is total lost of public confidence in the commission so therefore, if the commission goes ahead to conduct a self examination through a non transparent process of reviewing the elections," the statement said.

CUPP warned that if the commission continues with the purported self review process, then it will amount to nothing in the eyes of the general public.

"The commission cannot review itself without the elements of biase, so if Yakubu Mahmud is interested in reviewing the 2023 general election, the right thing to do is to set up an independent commission of inquiry to investigate and examine the unverifiable claims of

the commission that there was a glitch, their terms of reference should include but not limited to the following;

* Make known to the public the Nature of the glitch and what caused it.

* Names of those in charge as at the time it occurred.

We need to know that this was not a deliberate attempt by members of the commission to undermine the integrity of our election by subverting the right of the people to vote and elect their leaders through a free, fair and credible process," CUPP said.

According to the statement titled, "INEC planned purported review is an obvious attempt by the commission to hide behind one finger" CUPP

explained that if the commission is truly concerned about credibility, then setting an open independent public inquiry on the glitches that the commission claimed undermined the integrity of 2023 Presidential election is the best way to go.

"The suspicion and lack of public confidence in the election is so overwhelming that INEC review will not elicit the kind of public trust needed to either justify what happened or uncover the fraudsters within the commission that deliberately thwarted the process by which Nigerians could have established a credible election process," the statement pointed out.



From L-R: Governor of Niger State, His Excellency Mohammed Umar Bago, Executive Chairman of El-Sunnic Integrated Resources Ltd. Sir, Sunny Echem and Lead Engineer, Mariamo Barragan after a meeting with the governor on providing long lasting solution to water scarcity in the State. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

11 States Left Out As Tinubu Submits Ministerial Nominees To NASS

*Opposition chieftains, Wike, delabu make list, el-Rufai, Badaru lead ex governors pack

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The long awaited ministerial nominees forwarded to the National Assembly (NASS), yesterday, had 28 names on the list, with 11 states completely left out as at time of filing this report. Our correspondent reports that the states yet to be captured on the list sighted, are, Adamawa, Bayelsa, Gombe, Kano, Kebbi, Kogi, Lagos, Nasarawa, Osun, Yobe and Zamfara.

Reasons why they are yet to be captured is still sketchy, however, it was gathered that leadership tussle in Adamawa All Progressives Congress (APC), may be responsible for the absence of a nominee from the state, although, there have been speculations that Senator Aisha Binani was expected to be named.

From the list sent to NASS for screening and approval, 28 ministerial hopefuls, including those from opposition parties was sighted.

The list includes immediate past governor of Rivers State, a chieftain of main opposition, People's Democratic Party (PDP).

Also captured, is Mr. Waheed Adebayo Adelabu, who contested the March gubernatorial elections in Oyo State under another party, Accord.

Also featured prominently on the list are two North West immediate past governors, Nasir el-Rufai of Kaduna State and Badaru Abubakar of Jigawa.

Read the full list below:

1. Abubakar Momoh
2. Ambassador Yusuf Miatama Tukur CON
3. Arch. Ahmed Dangiwa
4. Barr. Hannatu Musawa
5. Chief Uche Nnaji
6. Dr. Berta Edu
7. Dr. Dorris Aniche Uzoka
8. H.E. David Umahi
9. H.E. Nyesom Wike
10. H.E. Badaru Abubakar CON
11. H.E. Nasiru Ahmed Elrufai
12. Rt. Hon. Ekperipe Ekpo
13. Hon. Nkiru Onyeojiocha
14. Hon. Olubunmi Tunji Ojo
15. Hon. Stella Okotette
16. Hon. Uju Kennedy Ohaneye
17. Mr. Bello Muhammad G.
18. Mr. Dele Alake
19. Mr. Lateef Fagbemi SAN
20. Mr. Muhammad Idris
21. Mr. Olawale Edun
22. Mr. Waheed Adebayo Adelabu
23. Mrs Iman Suleiman Ibrahim
24. Professor Ali Pate
25. Professor Joseph
26. Senator Abubakar Kyari
27. Senator John Eno
28. Senator Sani Abubakar Danladi

Gov Uba Sani Sacrifices 50% Salary To New Trust Fund For Poor In Kaduna

*Warns Commissioners against flamboyance

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State has warned the 14 newly sworn-in Commissioners in the state against flamboyant lifestyles and launched a government-owned Trust Fund for the support of vulnerable, underserved populace.

Speaking during the swearing-in ceremony which attracted a very large crowd of enthusiastic citizens, the governor said his administration has finally taken shape to bring succour to the citizens of Kaduna State, especially the poor, underserved and vulnerable.

Uba Sani said the state is in a period of emergency that calls for BELT TIGHTENING. "We must take firm measures in Kaduna State to cut down on the cost of governance. We must, as political leaders, show our people the way. We must avoid ostentatious lifestyles. We must not be telling our people to make sacrifices while we are busy living in opulence," he said.

Saying the Commissioners were carefully selected to drive his administration's SUSTAIN Agenda, Uba Sani said Commissioners must also use the old cars. We must collectively make sacrifices. If we lead by example, our people will follow and support us. The Governor seized the opportunity of the swearing-in to touch on some burning national

issues as they affect Kaduna State and certain measures he has decided to take to better the living standards of citizens of Kaduna State.

"It marks a major milestone in the journey of our administration. Those who made it to the cabinet were considered based on their proven track records, skills and competences, as well as dedication and commitment to the service of Kaduna State," he said.

"I stated that the Commissioners are joining our administration at the most challenging time in the history of our country. We are confronted with serious economic challenges.

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

Uba Sani his administration is already matching words with action in Kaduna State and vowed to continue to use the old cars inherited from the previous administrations in Kaduna State.

"I signed my first Executive Order on Tuesday, 25th July 2023. It is on "Financial Inclusion in Kaduna State". We are committed to improving the lives of our citizens, especially the poor, underserved and vulnerable.

"Majority of our people are excluded from financial services, and by extension access to opportunities from the State and Federal Government. This is unacceptable. We shall develop a credible STATE REGISTER that will capture our people in the rural areas, as well as the urban poor.

"We shall assist them to open bank accounts to enable them to benefit from available opportunities. Our goal is to effectively integrate the poor, underserved and vulnerable in Kaduna State into the financial ecosystem, so that they can benefit from State and Federal Governments social investment programmes, as well as donor agencies interventions. Our people-centered administration will not rest until we positively impact the lives of the poor, underserved, voiceless and vulnerable in our state," he said.

Consequently, he said, his administration will establish a TRUST FUND FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE IN KADUNA STATE to cater for the needs of the poor, underserved and vulnerable in Kaduna State.

"A Committee will be set up to develop a Framework for the Establishment of the Trust Fund. I will donate 50% of my salary to the Trust Fund for the next two years. This is part of my sacrifices

towards reducing the cost of governance in Kaduna State, and to better the lot of the poor, underserved and vulnerable in our state," the Governor said. He charged the Commissioners to adopt the inclusive approach to leadership, build a team and see everybody as important.

"They must get down to work immediately and deliver on the 7-Point Agenda of our administration, namely: Safety and Security, Upgrade of Infrastructure, Strengthening Institutions, Trade and Investment, Agriculture, Investing in Human Capital, and Nurturing Citizens Engagement.

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

Warning the Commissioners to rise to the demands and challenges of their assignments the Governor said excuses for lacklustre performance will NOT be accepted.

"In the service of our dear state, we must put personal friendship aside. We shall strictly assess them based on performance indicators. Anyone that fails to measure up will be shown the way out. I however assured them that they will be given the support and tools they require to perform optimally," he said.

Syndicate Member Caught Stealing Onboard Ibom Air Lagos-Abuja Flight

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

A suspect, Ogeneochuko David, identified as a member of a large syndicate specializing in stealing onboard aircraft has been apprehended in Ibom Air for allegedly taking another passenger's laptop from his bag in the overhead cabin.

A statement signed by the General Manager, Marketing and Communication of Ibom Air, Aniekan Essientette and made available to New Nigerian in Uyo yesterday, said that the incident occurred on Wednesday, during the boarding of Ibom Air flight Q1300 from Lagos to Abuja.

According to Essientette, the owner of the laptop upon noticing that his laptop was stolen from his bag, drew the attention of the crew members who immediately swung into action

and discovered the missing laptop in the possession of the suspect, David.

"The owner of the laptop, who suspected the movement of the said Mr. David within the aircraft, decided to check where his laptop was kept and immediately realized the item was no longer there. He raised the alarm by notifying the crew members accordingly.

"A search was immediately instituted, which led to about half an hour delay, and the laptop was found with Mr. David. He was immediately offloaded and handed over to the Federal Airport Authority (FAAN) Aviation Security (AVSEC) for further investigation, who then handed him over to the Police for further investigation. The police have since confirmed that the suspect is a member of a large syndicate specializing in stealing onboard aircraft". Essientette stated.

She reiterated that Ibom Air, in line with its corporate policy, has zero tolerance for such criminal activity on board its flights and would prosecute any offenders to the full extent of the law.

To be on a safer side, the General Manager advised the passengers to report any suspicious activities they observe during their flights to the crew members immediately, as early intervention can prevent potential thefts and ensure a safer travel experience for everyone on board.

"The report of an increase in stealing onboard aircraft highlights the importance of passengers to be extra vigilant and attentive to their belongings during flights. Following instructions from the crew members and taking necessary precautions can help minimize such incidents." The General Manager added.



El-Rufai

Governor Inuwa Yahaya Hails Nigerian Army's Contributions To Gombe's Prevailing Peace, Security

*Says security of lives, property of citizens remains paramount

*Receives New Commander, 301 Field Artillery Regiment

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has stressed that the security of lives and property of the citizenry remains paramount in his administration and will continue to work assiduously to guard it.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya stated this while receiving in audience, the newly posted Commander, 301 Field Artillery Regiment Gombe, Col. Musa S. Ahmed in company of the immediate past Commander, Col Abiah O. Ndah.

Governor Inuwa, while formally welcoming the new Commander, assured him of the usual support of the State Government to the Nigerian Army and other security agencies in the task of combating security challenges and maintaining the prevailing peace and tranquility in Gombe State.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Wednesday July 26, 2023, said that he used the occasion to commend the 301 Field Artillery Regiment Gombe for its role in strengthening the state's security initiative, and ensuring peace and stability across the state.

The Governor also lauded the Nigerian Army in general for upholding professionalism on duty, pledging that his government will continue to sustain partnership and maintain cordial relationship with them in the task of combating crimes and criminalities.

The Governor thanked the immediate past Commander, Col Ndah for his services to Gombe State, and for contributing immensely to the maintenance of security during his period of service, and wished him success in his new assignment.

On his part, the new Commander, 301 Artillery Regiment, Col Ahmed urged for continued support and cooperation of the government and people of Gombe State to the Nigerian Army, being an integral part of the security architecture in the State to enable them achieve success in their national assignment. He assured to work in synergy with the state government and sister-agencies towards maintaining peace, law and order.

Also, the immediate past Commander, Col. Ndah thanked Governor Inuwa for his unwavering support to the 301 FAR and the Nigerian Army as well as other security agencies; and in particular, for his commitment to the protection of lives and property of the citizenry.

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi was present at the meeting.



Only Through Interagency Collaboration Can Insecurity Be Curbed - Oyo CP

*Visits NSCDC Commandant

BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan
The new Commissioner of Police in Oyo State, CP Adebola Hamzat on yesterday, advocated collaborative effort with the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps "NSCDC" towards combating insecurity in Oyo state.

CP Hamzat made the call during a courtesy visit to the Oyo State Command of the NSCDC headquarters at Agodi, Ibadan

The Commissioner of Police emphasized the commitment of the Nigeria Police Force to continue working with Civil Defence and other sister agencies in the state for positive results.

CP Hamzat further enjoined the two agencies to work in unison without rivalry towards enhancing

adequate security of lives and property in the state.

He however, appreciated the warm reception he received from the NSCDC Command.

Receiving CP Hamzat, Oyo State Commandant of the NSCDC, Dr Michael Adaralewa lauded the new Commissioner of Police, CP Adebola Hamzat, for the trust reposed in NSCDC

Dr Adaralewa and assured CP Hamzat of the Corps' readiness to partner with the Police Force especially in information gathering geared towards tackling insecurity in the state.

Commandant Adaralewa later used the medium to admonished the citizens of the State to always furnish the two sister agencies with credible information that will help to nip crime in the bud.

Crack Down On Marlian Group, Zulum Orders Security Operatives

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Zulum has directed security operatives to crack down a notorious "Marlian" group believed to be terrorizing residents in some parts of Maiduguri and Jere within the metropolis.

The "Marlian" group, which is populated by some youth associated with drug abuses, has gained notoriety for engaging in a wide range of criminal activities, such as extortion, robbery, drug and substance abuse, and acts of terrorism including the killing of security operatives.

Governor Zulum, on Wednesday in Maiduguri, held an emergency security meeting at the Government House and thereafter, briefed journalists.

"I have summoned this emergency security council meeting to address the emerging security threat that is bedeviling the Maiduguri metropolis and parts of Jere Local Government Area, with a view to coming up with additional implementable strategies to guarantee the needed peace and security"

Zulum began.

"Intelligence reports before my office from different sources, have indicated increasing activities of youth gangsterism operating in some parts of the state capital and Jere Local Government. This syndicate specialized not only on phone snatching in broad daylight, robbery and possession of locally made weapons, but has now graduated into the killing of innocent lives, including security operatives," the governor declared.

Zulum, who was deeply concerned about the escalating violence expressed Government's determination to restore peace and ensure the safety of all residents.

"I want to assure the general public that Government of Borno State, under my leadership will not allow such a matter to deteriorate. I have received assurances from the security operatives of their commitment to tame such dastardly acts and our administration is ever committed to dealing with such matters within the shortest possible time" Zulum said.

North-Central Leaders, Stakeholders Back Ganduje For APC National Chairman

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The All Progressives Congress (APC) Youth leaders from the North-Central and other stakeholders have expressed support for the candidacy of former Kano State Governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, to emerge as the next National Chairman of the ruling party.

Ganduje's name has been reportedly favoured by President Bola Tinubu and the governors of the APC following the resignation of the former National Chairman, Senator Abdullahi Adamu.

The report has, however, generated reactions with some members of the APC demanding that the North-Central produce Adamu's replacement.

Addressing a press conference yesterday in Abuja, Convener of the Coalition of North-Central APC Youth Leaders and Support Groups, Comrade Okpokwu Ogenyi, said the stakeholders from the zone have endorsed Dr. Abdullahi Ganduje, who he described as "a party man who has distinguished himself as an intellectual of high repute."

Comrade Ogenyi expressed optimistic that APC under Ganduje shall complement the implementation of President Tinubu's blueprint for the benefit of Nigerians.

"The North Central States consists of Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau, Kwara, Kogi, Niger and the Federal Capital Territory, FCT. The zone is



Convener of the Coalition of North-Central APC Youth Leaders and Support Groups, Comrade Okpokwu Ogenyi speaking in Abuja yesterday.

a political hub owing to its political dominance ranging from the Military government down to the current civilian rule.

"We the people of North Central have occupied National Chairmanship position of all ruling parties in the Country and have done well in terms of party administration. We are proud to say that a Chairman from the zone led the party to victory in the last residential election.

"Today, our father who was the National Chairman of the APC has resigned his position thereby making the post vacant. As you maybe aware, there is no vacuum in governance so a competent hand must be employed in order to over

our party forward.

"It is on this note that we wholeheartedly endorse Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje as the National Chairman of our great Party, APC. Abdullahi Ganduje is a party man who has distinguished himself as an intellectual of high repute.

"As North Central Youths, one maybe tempted to ask why we should not clamour for the position to be retained in the zone. The truth is, we have contributed our quota and wish other zones to be also given the opportunity to participate in the Party's administration."

While calling on all stakeholders from North-central and other zones to respect President Bola

Tinubu's choice of Ganduje, the convener said: "We the North Central people are far above trivilism, greed and selfishness when it comes to the National interest. We firmly believe that Dr Ganduje is the best man for the job at this moment. Remember, Ganduje served Kano State for eight years and he performed credibly well. Kano under Ganduje became an example of development not only in Nigeria but Africa at large.

"We are optimistic that APC under Ganduje shall complement the implementation of President Tinubu's blueprint for the benefit of Nigerians."

Reps Sports Committee Chairman: SWAN President Congratulates Ekene Adams

Following his emergence as the Chairman of Committee on Sports in the House of Representatives, President of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Isaiah Kemje Benjamin has congratulated Honourable Abubakar Ekene Adams. This was expressed in a statement signed by his media Aide, Okpani Jacob

Onjewu Dickson, dated Thursday July 27, 2023.

"This appointment is well deserved. Honourable Ekene Adams has been an athlete, an administrator and a core lover of sports.

"I recall years back, when few disgruntled elements tried to cause confusion in Kaduna SWAN when I was the chairman, he made a difference by coming in to pacify all parties involved, " SWAN

President recalled.

He expressed optimism that Honourable Ekene Adams would do a lot to impact sports positively as Reps Sports Committee chairman.

"We wish him well as he chairs the committee and appeal to all members of his committee and agencies they will oversight to give him the maximum cooperation, " Benjamin said.

It would be recalled that Honourable Ekene Adams, the Chairman and CEO of former Kada City FC, which played in the Premier League, was until his venture into politics in 2023, the General Manager of Remo Stars. He also chaired a sports committee created by immediate past Kaduna State Speaker, Ibrahim Zailani.

Healthcare: Submed Donates Brand New Ambulance To Katsina Govt

By; **BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Kaduna**

In a significant boost to the healthcare services in Katsina State, Governor Mallam Dikko Umar Radda on Tuesday, received a generous donation of a brand new Ambulance from Submed Nigeria Ltd.

The presentation ceremony took place at the Muhammadu Buhari House, where His Excellency Malam Dikko Umaru Radda was presented with an Emergency Intensive Care Ambulance by SUBMED Nigeria Limited, a reputable company specializing in the sales and supplies of

medical equipment in Nigeria.

The governor, visibly pleased with the well-equipped ambulance, took the time to inspect the vehicle before it was taken into service.

Expressing his appreciation, Governor Radda acknowledged that the Ambulance is fully equipped with all the necessary medical facilities to provide immediate first aid to patients en route to the hospital. He emphasized that this contribution will play a crucial role in supporting the healthcare needs of patients in the state.

As a testament to the government's commitment to ensuring efficient

healthcare services, Governor Radda announced that a skilled and trained driver would be designated to operate the Ambulance. Special training will be provided to the selected driver to handle the vehicle effectively and ensure prompt response during emergencies.

The presentation ceremony was attended by esteemed dignitaries, including the Secretary to the Government of the State, Architect Ahmed Dangiwa; the Chief of Staff at the Government House, Alhaji Jabiru Tsauri; and the Principal Private Secretary to the Governor, Abdullahi

Aliyu Turaji.

Governor Radda extended his heartfelt gratitude to management of Submed Nigeria Ltd for this generous donation, emphasizing that such partnerships between the private sector and the government are vital in advancing healthcare delivery programs in the state.

The addition of the Emergency Intensive Care Ambulance to Katsina State's medical resources will undoubtedly bolster emergency response capabilities and contribute to the well-being of the citizens.



Fare Hike: Immigration Boss Donates Fleet Of Buses To Personnel

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Consequent upon the recent hike in transport fares caused by the removal of fuel subsidy, the acting Comptroller General of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Caroline Wura-Ola Adepoju, has taken a significant step to ease the burden on officers and men of the service by presenting a fleet of buses for their transportation needs.

According to a statement on Monday, 24 July 2023, the initiative was part of her dedicated welfare package plans aimed at

improving the lives of personnel.

At a brief ceremony held at the NIS Service Headquarters in Abuja, the acting CGI officially handed over the buses to the Officers and Men of the Nigeria Immigration Service.

During her address, she emphasized the importance of supporting and uplifting the welfare of the personnel, recognizing their dedicated service to the nation.

"The provision of these buses is expected to ameliorate the financial challenges posed by the

recent increase in transport fare and ensure a more comfortable and affordable commuting experience for our staff" she said.

The Acting CGI revealed that additional buses are already being procured to cover major routes within Abuja. She also expressed her commitment to extending this initiative to other state Commands across the country.

Ag. CGI Adepoju admonished the bus drivers to uphold the highest level of commitment and diligence in their duties. She

emphasized the importance of adhering to the speed limit of 60km/h, ensuring the safety and security of the personnel during their travels.

Furthermore, the acting CGI called upon all officers and men of the Nigeria Immigration Service to personally take responsibility for the proper maintenance and care of the provided buses.

"This collective effort will ensure the longevity of the vehicles and enable the NIS to sustain this beneficial initiative in the long term" she added.



Ag. Immigration Boss Wura-Ola, senior officers and one of the buses

AGILE Projects Commissioned At GGSSS Daura

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

School Based Management Committee (SBMC) of Government Girls Science Secondary school (GGSSS), Daura has commissioned projects executed under the Adolescent Girl Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) programme in the school. The projects executed include, total renovation of the school assembly hall

and provision of desk and chairs in the hall, as well as the renovation of 18 classrooms for conducive atmosphere of learning.

Addressing the gathering, the SBMC chairman of the school, Alhaji Hamisu Ibrahim Magayaki said they spent over twenty six (46) million naira on the projects.

He said the projects would no doubt improve the conducive atmosphere of learning in the school.

Magayaki commended the World Bank for the

support towards the success of the projects.

In her address, the school Principal Hajiya Sa'a Haruna enumerated the types of the projects carried out in the school.

She warned the students to safeguard the buildings against vandalism.

The representative of the state Ministry of Education, who is also the Daura zonal co-ordinator of Education, Alhaji Ahmed Abubakar said over 500 schools have benefited from the AGILE

programme in Katsina State.

He expressed satisfaction with the quality of the projects.

Alhaji Ahmed Abubakar commended Katsina State Government and International donors for the support.

In a good will message, the Secretary of Daura Local Government, Alhaji Laminu Gidado expressed satisfactions with effort of the SBMC of the school and called on the students to make good use of the

Givers Embassy To Open Lagos Church On Sunday

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Givers Embassy Church, reputed as the only church in Nigeria that does not collect offerings and tithes will be opening its Lagos worship center at the NUT Pavilion, Alausa, Ikeja on Sunday July, 30th, 2023.

According to the General Overseer, Dr. Edward Olutoke, the church which was first established in 2017 in Abuja, is out to fill the spiritual needs of members, offer help to them by empowering them and avoid the general practice of Pastors taking away from their congregation to live in affluence while majority of their members wallow in poverty.

He explained that it's an aberration that instead of churches imitating the early missionaries who built schools and hospitals where people pay little or nothing to enjoy their services, present day churches in the country are only interested in playing on the intelligence of their members, manipulate them into parting with their money why they benefit nothing from the church, positing that Givers Embassy is out to correct the anomaly and be of help to members whom they intend to bring out of poverty.

"At Givers Embassy, we believe in redefining the traditional concept of church, embracing a holistic approach that addresses the spiritual, emotional, and practical needs of our congregation.

"Our vision is simple yet powerful: to be a beacon of light and hope in the lives of individuals and communities. We strive to create an atmosphere where people can experience spiritual growth, find purpose, and unlock their full potential. Our ultimate goal is to make a positive impact on society by empowering individuals to live meaningful, fulfilled lives.

"When one look back, you will discover that early missionaries built schools and hospitals which the poor masses had access to but unfortunately, schools and hospitals owned by different churches is out of the reach of their poor members whose offerings and tithes were used to establish these facilities.

"Today, you'll see a lot of Pastors buying private jets

with fleet of cars in their garages while their members wallow in poverty and this is what Givers Embassy is out to correct", he explained.

Olutoke who also doubles as President of Ikeja Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture further explained that apart from opening the Lagos branch, the church also known as 'Poverty Fighters' will on that day, unveil its Employment Academy which is a pioneering initiative aimed at empowering individuals with essential skills and knowledge to thrive in the job market. Through practical training sessions, mentorship programs, and partnerships with businesses, the academy seeks to equip participants for successful career paths while they are being supported with N30,000 monthly stipend.

Also on that day, Ikeja branch of the 'Blessed Fruit Foundation' for widows and orphans founded by Prof. Sola Fosudo will be unveiled.

This charitable organization is dedicated to providing support, education, and essential resources to vulnerable individuals within the community, especially widows and orphans.

Unveiling of "Big Jesus Naija" ; Talent Hunt and Reality Show will also take place. The "Big Jesus Naija" promises to be an exhilarating showcase of talent, creativity, innovations and inspiration. This talent hunt and reality show will provide a platform for aspiring artists, singers, dancers, innovators and entertainers to display their gifts, gain exposure, and compete for exciting prizes.

Olutoke further noted that Givers Embassy has rapidly gained recognition as a unique spiritual community, promoting a message of giving, love, leading of the Holy Spirit and empowerment.

"The church's distinctive approach to worship emphasizes the importance of giving back to society while relieving its members from the burden of compulsory tithes and offerings just as he noted that the church stands on the divine tripod of three scriptures namely; Isaiah 43.21, Luke 4.18 and John 14.26."

ABU Postgraduate School Gets New Dean

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria
The Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Prof. Kabiru Bala, has approved the appointment of Prof. Muhammad Nasir Shuaibu as the new Dean of School of Postgraduate Studies. Prof. Shuaibu replaces Prof. Sani A. Abdullahi, who had successfully rounded off his second term as Dean of the Postgraduate School. A letter conveying Shuaibu's appointment explained that the assignment took effect from July 12, 2023 and is for a period of two years. Prof. Shuaibu, who is currently the Director, Centre for Biotechnology Research and Training (CBRT), Ahmadu Bello University, will by the appointment, be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the school.

The letter also said the appointment was in recognition of his administrative and academic leadership qualities and in the hope that he would bring his worthy experiences to bear in the service of the University.

This, according to the letter signed by the Vice-Chancellor, was necessary, as the University was now emphasizing on postgraduate training.

While urging Prof. Shuaibu to be fair and firm in all his official dealings, the Vice-Chancellor also enjoined him to see himself as part and parcel of the University

Management and be prepared to make sincere inputs for the development of the institution.

Prof. Shuaibu joined the services of Ahmadu Bello University as a Graduate Assistant at the Department of Biochemistry soon after the mandatory national youth service (NYSC) in 1993, and he rose to become a Professor of Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology in 2014.

Shuaibu published a number of articles in high impact journals and presented several papers at many scientific conferences in the area of malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). He attended different trainings in research ethics, curriculum design and high impact research, and International Accreditation Assessor with NIH, MIT and Royal Society of Biology respectively.

He has graduated and mentored a number of MSc and PhD students both at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and Nagasaki University, Japan, where he obtained his PhD in 2004 at the Department of Protozoology, Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Prof. Shuaibu was the Head, Department of Biochemistry, Ahmadu Bello University from 2016 to 2020; and the Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, Ahmadu Bello University between 2018 and 2023.



Professor Shuaibu

Southern Kaduna: Pray For Success Of Political Leaders, Senator Katung Charges People

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Senator representing Kaduna South Senatorial District at the National Assembly, Barr. Sunday Marshall Katung, has enjoined the people in his constituency to continue to pray for their leaders to deliver on their mandate for the overall development of the country.

Speaking when he embarked on a thank you tour across the eight local government areas that made up the constituency, Senator Katung said that

without prayers, leaders with good intentions for their people can be influenced by evil people who do not want anything good to come out from them.

He said, "We need to earnestly pray for those in leadership positions in the country for divine guidance for them to successfully carry out their assignments to the overall development of the country and its peaceful coexistence."

The lawmaker pledged to continue to protect and defend their interest, assuring that he would

lobby for developmental projects that will enhance the development of the entire zone.

He maintained that as the political leader of the zone, he would pursue and bring all lawmakers in the state and National Assembly from the zone under one umbrella, to pursue a common legislative agenda that will emancipate the people and ensure a conducive enabling environment for the people to go about their legitimate businesses without any hindrance.

Various speakers who

spoke during the three tour hailed the efforts of the Senator, saying that he has started on a good footing as the first elected Senator who return to thank his people for giving him their mandate since 1999.

The people pledged to give him their maximum support and cooperation to enable him succeed in the discharge of his legislative agenda and advised him not to renege on his promises to the people but to work diligently towards ensuring the people fully enjoy the dividends of democracy.



Dr Adaralewa commissioning the new NSCDC office

Oyo NSCDC Will Collaboration with Other Security Agencies In Maintaining Law, Order - State Commandant

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oy o State Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Dr Michael Aderalewa has said that the command will work in collaboration with other security agencies for the maintenance of law and order in the state.

Dr Adaralewa stated this while speaking at the commissioning of Area "k" command office of the NSCDC in Iresaadu. He disclosed that the

command is ready to make available all necessary material both human and material resources to ensure protection of lives and property and make the area well secured.

"It's one of the visions of the Commandant General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Dr. Ahmed Abubakar Audi for the Corps to be more direct to the citizens for grassroot protection and approved the establishment of the Area "K" command office as a means of consolidating

the commendable efforts of the Oyo State Government, Ogbomoshosho local government and security actors in the state".

Commandant Adaralewa stressed that the newly commissioned Area "k" command office in Iresaadu shall superintend over six (6) divisions which are: SURULERE IRESAAPA, SURULERE SOUTH (OKO), OGO-OLUWA (AJAAWA) OGO-OLUWA (ODO-OBA), OGO-OLUWA II (OPETE).

The commissioning

ceremony was attended by dignitaries including: Chairman Surulere Local government. Iresaadu-Hon. Isaiah Adegbite, Aresaapa of Iresaapa-Oba Moses Olayiwola Ajiboye, Oba Olosu of Osu-Oba Adeniyi Adetunji, Oba Alarolu of Arolu-Oba Adebayo, Oba Olumogele of Mogege-Oba Kazeem Olapade, Oba Aregba of Iregba-Oba Gbadegesin Sunday, Oba Olowosoke of Olowosoke-Oba Yunisa Oyeniyi and Olujado of ijado-oba-Alhaji A.O Adigbile

Kaduna Governorship: Tribunal Admits BVAS Machines From Ashiru, PDP As Exhibits

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

About 316 Bimodal Voters' Accrediting System (BVAS) machines were presented and admitted as exhibits at the ongoing sitting of the governorship election petition tribunal led by the Justice Victor Oviawe-led panel on Tuesday in Kaduna.

At the resumed hearing on Tuesday, the BVAS machines were admitted as exhibits based on the subpoena served on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to bring before the court, the said items as applied by the 1st and 2nd petitioners; Isa Ashiru and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) through their counsel, Samuel Atung (SAN).

Yusuf Zubairu who was at the court on behalf of the Commission, (INEC) made a written statement on oath before the registrar of the tribunal on the 25th day of July, 2023 to present BVAS machines of 19 Local Government Areas of the state.

In his deposition before the court, the Commission was subpoenaed on *Duces Tecum* (to tender) and *Duces Tecum Ad Testificandum* (to tender and testify) and demonstrate how the machines were used to collate election results in the state at the last gubernatorial poll.

Zubairu, who is a staff of INEC at the ICT/ Voters' Research Department, testified that the results on the Irev was the true reflection of the votes cast during the 18th March,

2023 gubernatorial election in the state.

Ashiru, however, in one of his prayers before the tribunal alleged that he and his party, (PDP), won the governorship election going by the Irev results.

Zubairu, who is a witness also added that the BVAS machines cannot be tampered with, either before, during or after the election, just as he explained to the court that each machine has its unique identity number.

The witness, while demonstrating, use of one of the machines, told the tribunal that polling unit 050 of Makera Ward in Kaduna South LGA had 715 total voters registered, but only 107 voters were accredited for the election. In his defence, earlier before the tribunal granted the application of the 1st and 2nd petitioners'

counsel for the witness to demonstrate; using the BVAS machines, Chief Duro Adeyele (SAN) who is the counsel to the Kaduna State Governor, Uba Sani, objected to the admissibility of the BVAS machines through the witness.

The counsel also argued that the witness' deposition did not state that the witness (Yusuf Zubairu) would open and demonstrate the BVAS machine before the tribunal, saying, "demonstration of BVAS' machine is not in the witness' statement."

In his counter, the Ashiru and PDP's counsel explained that the Commission was subpoenaed to (*Duces Tecum Ad Testificandum*) tender and demonstrate the machine before the court.

Breach Of Rights: A'Ibom Court Awards N20.1m Cost Against Applicant

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

A High Court sitting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State has ordered one Sampson Silas Udoh to pay twenty million, one hundred thousand Naira (N20.1m) to two of his nieces for breaching their fundamental rights by stopping them from inheriting their late father's property.

The Court presided over by Justice Ntong Ntong gave the order on Wednesday July 26, 2023 in a judgment delivered in a suit brought by Mr. Sampson Silas Udoh, an indigene of Itiam Etoi in Uyo Local Government Area of the state for the enforcement of his fundamental rights against his nieces.

In the suit filed 16th August, 2022, are the respondents, Mrs Bakabasi Victor James and Miss Ndantiabasi Isaac Silas, as well as Mr. Williams Ubetem, the Investigating Police Officer, IPO attached to the State Police Headquarters, Ikot Akpan Abia and the Commissioner of Police, Akwa Ibom State Command.

According to the Court, "the main contention of the applicant is that his nieces being female children of his late elder brother, Mr. Isaac Silas Udoh, should not inherit their father's property" because they are women, while the respondents said their father built his own house on his own land between 1976 and 1980, which they live from birth till date without any problem, until they attempted to appropriate the inheritance and their uncle unleashed mayhem on them."

Justice Ntong Ntong in a one hour judgment described the action of the applicant, "as obnoxious

and repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience" stressing that "the maltreatment is opprobrium, offensive and unconstitutional".

He said it was high time "paramount rulers, clan heads, village heads and community leaders in Akwa Ibom State came to terms with the facts that female children have equal stake with their male counterparts to inherit their parents properties."

The Court said, "the first and second respondents acquired their father's property at Isaac Silas Udo Obot's compound, Nung Udoetok Ibom Adia Abasi of Itiam Etoi, Uyo, a fact contained in exhibits canvassed in their counter affidavit in the minutes of the peace meeting and property sharing agreement of Udoetok Ibom Adia Abasi Family, dated 11th January, 2019." Justice Ntong held that "the applicant cannot be allowed to take advantage of the vulnerability of his nieces just because they were born girls and women into their family."

He said "from the totality of credible evidence before the Court, the Police and other respondents did not and are not likely to encroach or infringe upon the rights of the applicant. Instead it was the applicant that infringed upon the fundamental rights of his nieces, with impunity, which cannot be allowed to stand."

The Court also held that "the application for the enforcement of the applicant's fundamental rights has failed woefully in its entirety and dismissed same with cost of total sum of twenty million, one hundred thousand Naira payable to the 1st and 2nd respondents at ten million, fifty thousand Naira, each."

Migrate To Flexible Teaching, Learning Modalities, Provost Tells Tertiary Institutions

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

Tertiary education institutions need to migrate to flexible teaching and learning modalities by recalibrating the curriculum, incapacitating and upgrading the infrastructure.

Professor Faruq Haruna Abdurashid, Provost, Federal College of Education, Kontagora, stated this while delivering a keynote paper at the annual International Conference organized by the Faculty of Education, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria.

He said these strategic actions have to be continuously assessed, modified and enhanced to respond to volatile, uncertain and changing scenarios in times of crisis. According to him, teaching and learning continuity amid the pandemic and beyond requires an analysis of the parameters by which the University operates from the perspective of the stakeholders..

Professor Faruq noted that

the disruption of COVID-19 and possible future pandemic in the educational system is of great magnitude that Universities have to cope with at the soonest possible time.

He advised Higher education institutions to develop a resilient learning system using evidence-based and need-based information so that responsive and proactive measures can be instituted. The keynote speaker said, coping with the effects of COVID-19 in Higher Education Institutions demands a varieties of perspectives among stakeholders.

"Consultation needs to include the administration who supports the teaching and learning processes, the students who are the core of the system, the Faculty members who perform various academic roles and others who shares the responsibility of learning to the completion of the educational requirements of the students".

"In the context of the

pandemic Universities have to start understanding and identifying medium-term and long-term implications of this phenomenon on teaching, learning, students experience, infrastructure, operations and staff".

"Scenario analysis and understanding of the context of each University are necessary to the current challenges they are confronted with".

Professor Faruq said, educational system must prepare to develop plans to move forward and address the new normal after the crisis.

In his message, the Executive Secretary, Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Dr. Hamid Bobboyi who was the chairman of the association, said the commission has established 37 Smart Model Schools across the country.

Represented by his Deputy, Professor Bala Zakari said UBE has assist States with Classrooms buildings and provision of Tablets and trained

teachers to become Computer literate.

He said currently the projects executed by UBEC have reached 80% across the six geopolitical zones.

Earlier in his address, the Vice Chancellor Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Professor Kabiru Bala said, education is a cornerstone of progress with a new era of integration of imaging technologies paving the ways on advancement on knowledge dissemination and acquisitions.

He said, one of the most significant in the recent years, has been the rise of artificial intelligence mechanism.

According to him, these technologies have potentials to disrupt the learning experiences for students

The theme of the conference was, "Emerging Educational Innovations, Creativity and Research for Transformation of Teaching and Learning In The New Global Realities".

Don't Distract Us With Unconstructive Criticisms - Gov Makinde

***Swears in new commissioners, SSG, HoS, Perm Secs**

By: **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

Oyo State Governor, Engineer Seyi Makinde on Wednesday, urged the people of the state not to distract his administration with criticisms that are not constructive, but should rather, allow the government to serve the best interest of the people.

Governor Makinde gave the appeal while speaking at the swearing in ceremony of new commissioners in the state held at the Executive Chamber of the Governor's Office, Secretariat, Agodi, Ibadan.

The governor emphasized that his administration is determined to give the people of Oyo state of quality service delivery under Omituntun 2.0 and that he and the political appointees and top civil servants would serve the state to the best of their abilities.

"This is a government that is still being formed. So, I will appeal to our people that if they cannot help us by criticising us constructively, they should not distract us. Let us serve the interest of the people of the state to the best of our ability", he said. Gov Makinde added, "Since we sent the names of commissioner-nominees to the House of Assembly, we have been inundated with all sorts of analyses - like who is from where? Who brought who and all that. Well, let me state it clearly that we started it during our first tenure", he said.

"This is the first administration that had commissioners from all the 14 federal constituencies of Oyo State, and I know who came from where. I read a story where people from Oyo criticised the

fact that the Governor is from Ibadan, Deputy Governor from Oke-Ogun, Chief of Staff from Ogbomoso and the Speaker from Ibarapa. And now, the SSG is also from Oke-Ogun. But have we forgotten Oyo Federal Constituency?

Gov Makinde stressed "Well, in front of me today, we have three commissioners being sworn-in from Oyo Federal Constituency. So, if you say one commissioner per constituency, Oyo Federal Constituency has three. So, when people do these analyses, I wonder why."

The governor noted that contrary to the notion that administrations are often lax and non-committal during second terms, his government is looking to leave a strong legacy in the state and that it would not let the people of the state down, adding that the appointment of the new political office holders "is a call for more work. Some of the commissioners worked with me during the first tenure and some of you already know how I work and nothing is going to change".

"Some people have said that the second term administrations are usually very lax because they are not looking for anything. Well, we are looking for a strong legacy to give back to Oyo State. So, we are not going to let our people down".

"I want you to know that we have a lot to do for our people. We already prepared the roadmap for sustainable development 2023-2027. Please, key into it. These are very difficult periods".

Gov Makinde stressed, "A lot has happened in this second



tenure, and from what we have seen, a lot will be required from us. Please, there should not be laxity. You have all taken the oath of office and I expect you to deliver according to the oath you have just taken,"

Maintaining that his administration has continued to follow through on its commitment to run an all-inclusive government that leaves no zone behind, the governor said all the 14 federal constituencies in the state have at least one commissioner among those sworn-in.

Responding on behalf of the appointees, the newly sworn-in Secretary to the State Government, Professor Adeyemo promised to work with the vision of Governor Makinde to deliver the agenda of

Omituntun 2.0 to the good people of Oyo State.

The Commissioners and their portfolios are

* Mr. Akinola Ojo (Ministry of Finance)

* Professor Tunji Babatunde (Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning)

* Barr. Seun Ashamu (Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources)

* Mr. Biodun Aikomo (Ministry of Justice/Attorney-General)

* Mrs. Toyin Balogun (Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Inclusion)

* Mr. Abdulmojeed Mogbonjubola (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources)

* Mr. Williams Akin-Funmilayo (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban development)

* Dr. Wasiu Olatunbosun ((Ministry of Culture and Tourism)

Prince Dotun Oyelade (Ministry of Information)

* Mr. Segun Olayiwola (Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters)

* Alhaja Faosat Joke Sanni (Ministry of Special Duties)

* Professor Daud Shangodoyin (Ministry of Public Works and Transport)

* Barr. Olanikanmi Olaleye (Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development)

* Mr. Ademola Ojo (Ministry of Trade, Investment, Industry and Cooperatives)

* Professor AbdulWaheed Soliu (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology)

* Mr. Adeniyi Adebisi (Establishments and Training).

CEO Naija Live TV Set To Marry Beautiful Bride

***Releases Ijaw Fishing Tradition Pre-wedding photos**

***Says she's been a mother, companion, adviser, protector**

***Invites general public to marriage ceremony**

By: **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The owner and Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O) of NAIJA LIVE TV, Mienpamo Onitsha Saint, has officially announced date of his marriage with the love of his life.

Releasing some amazing pictures to the media, the renowned blogger noted that she has always been a mother, companion, sister, adviser and a protector in every situation. He said, "My people, you're all

invited to honour this day as I take the bold step to formally present myself to the family of my 'Joy giver' to do the needful.

"No Relationship is perfect but how you manage to tackle responsibilities as at when due matters. As an Ijaw man who believes in the core traditions of the Izon Nation, I am also not perfect.

"She saved my life on the 9th of May 2020, when the enemies invaded my

peaceful family home for doing my job. She always acts the role of a mother, companion, sister, adviser and a protector. Even when all odds were against me, she stood by me. Thank you my sweet mimi.

"Thank you for always standing by me," he said.

The big occasion is slated to hold on August 26, 2023, at Tamara Halls, Otioyio Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.



ABU Congregation Elections: Kankia, Ajiya Emerge Council Members

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria
Two Deputy Registrars of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Malam Aliyu Dalha Kankia and Dr. Musa Ajiya have emerged Members of Council, following their victory at the University Congregation elections held on Tuesday July 25, 2023.

A statement issued by the Public Affairs Directorate of the university, said they clinched all the two council seats for the congregation.

With their emergence, the two Senior Registry staff will represent the Congregation on the

University Government Council as internal members.

The 2023 congregation elections into the University Council, Senate, and Committees/Boards, which were conducted in four polling units (IAR, Kongo Campus, ABUTH Shika, and Main Campus), were generally described as free, fair and peaceful.

The turnout for the elections was also impressive with Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, who is the Chairman of the University Congregation, at Mamman Kontagora Square, Main Campus, to cast his votes.

All the 152 elected members of the Congregation to Senate of the University from ABU Business School, Faculties, Institutes and Centres, were unopposed, while a total of 45 others were elected to represent the Congregation on the various committees and boards of the university.

The Chairman, Congregation Elections Committee, Prof. Hamza Mani, appreciated the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, for providing a level-playing ground for the polls.

Prof. Mani described the elections as rancor-free when he presented the election results to the

Vice-Chancellor in his office at the Senate Building today (Wednesday, 26th July, 2023).

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor commended members of the electoral body for organising what he described as "peaceful elections", and urged all those elected to work for the good of the University. The Chairman, Congregation Elections Committee, Prof. Hamza Mani, was in company of other members of the electoral body, including the Secretary, Malam Salihu Sintalma Babale, when the election results were presented to the Vice-Chancellor.

Africa's Largest Christian Pilgrimage Carrier, Bishop Oyedepo Prays For UfitFly Brand



Bishop David Oyedepo and Evangelist Ajibola Ogunkeyede

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The founder of the Living Faith Church Worldwide and presiding Bishop of the Faith Tabernacle, Bishop David Oyedepo has expressed delight at the big accomplishment of the foremost destination management firm, UfitFly in moving Christian's pilgrimage from Nigeria to the holy lands of Israel and Jordan.

The globally recognized clergy prayed for the continual growth of UfitFly brand while recently hosting the team-lead of the tour broken firm Evangelist Ajibola Ogunkeyede at the Living Faith headquarters in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria, and expressing joy over the unblemished record gotten by UfitFly over the years in moving Christian's pilgrims. Ogunkeyede who took to

his social media handle to celebrate his meeting with Bishop Oyedepo, said: "meeting Bishop today was indeed a great moment to the Ufitfly team while the Bishop prayed fervently for continuous global brand recognition".

He added that, "the meeting led by Evang. Joseph Adebayo Adedokun (Baba Ayewa) who also has been a grand patron to the Ufitfly brand over the years. I can say this is indeed a new dawn and the beginning of a big thing in the often".

The UfitFly boss however, added that, "this is historic and a golden opportunity which I dearly appreciate. We will continue to represent the travel industry in good faith and we won't relent in serving Nigerians both Christians and Muslims an unbeatable pilgrimage experience."

How Suspected Bandits/kidnappers Vandalized My House, Carted Away Vital Documents - Walid Jibril

By: IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

A former Board of Trustees (BoT) chairman of the main opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP), Senator Walid Jibril has revealed that recently, some suspected bandits/kidnappers forcefully entered his rented apartment at Brains and Hammers Estate Apo 3 FCT Abuja and seriously vandalized the main bedroom, carting away vital documents.

Senator Walid Jibril Sarkin Fulani of Nasarawa State, revealed this to journalists in Kaduna.

He further said that, "they tied my house boy, Awwalu and told him that they came to take away five billion Naira hidden by me and also take away some so-called ammunition kept by me, but unfortunately they found nothing at all".

Walid Jibril continued revealing that, "I was not at home when they came in the afternoon, they forced my house boy Awwalu to the bed room but found nothing.

"Then they took away my house boy and later dropped him somewhere after informing him that they took the action, looking for such big

amount of five billion Naira and some ammunition on kept in the house.

"The bandits came in about seven Jeeps, eight persons with sophisticated arms," Sen Walid revealed.

Senator Walid Jibril said he had since reported the matter to the Inspector General of Police who directed the CP FCT to handle the matter and the Commissioner of Police is still on investigation.

"I want every one to know that even the Brains and Hammers Estate is fully a rented house, which expires in three months.

"I disabuse the mind of anybody who is thinking that I have such money mentioned by the bandits. All my bank accounts are free for checking by any authority, please".



Senator Walid Jibril

"I have never kept such amount of money or any ammunition in my house. It is important also for the general public in the whole world to note that I do not have any personal house in Abuja FCT, also, I don't have any personal house in my local government headquarters in Nasarawa or any house in Nasarawa State capital in Lafia.

"Just because I want to remain a man of honour and integrity who never worked with the Federal Government for a single reason that I want to

remain as company executive in the Nigerian Textiles and now a national life patron of the industry and also a strategic member of the National Council of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria.

"I voluntarily resigned from a prestigious position of national Board of Trustees (BoT) chairman of People Democratic Party which means that I am a true Nigerian politician that served up to that position", Jibril added.

Southern Kaduna In Diaspora Congratulates Chief Of Defence Staff, Gen Musa

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Southern Kaduna People in the Diaspora resident in the United States of America ((SOKADUSA), has congratulated Major General Christopher G. Musa on his recent appointment by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

A statement issued by Alice Chat Osunde and Pastor Ayashim K. Stanley, President and Secretary of the forum said, "The Southern Kaduna People in the Diaspora resident in the United States of America (SOKADUSA) wish to congratulate i on your appointment as Chief of

Defence Staff (CDS) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Indeed, this landmark appointment is a befitting crown on your meritorious military career, having served the nation and humanity at different capacities with distinction over the years." The statement hailed the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for recognizing the invaluable contributions of the Chief of Defence Staff to the army according him with the high honour, saying, "the confidence reposed in you by his excellency suggests great trust in your competence as he seeks to execute laudable policies to significantly improve the economic and social well-being of all

Nigerians."

The group expressed belief that his appointment as Chief of Defence Staff signifies the wish of the President to foster a sense of belonging among all Nigerian communities especially the Southern Kaduna localities.

The group believes that the great vision for the country can only be realized if the President would appoint and deploy outstanding and talented Nigerians as he has by his appointment, to vital positions for the benefit of the country.

According to the statement, the challenges confronting the people of Southern Kaduna and the entire country call for dynamic leadership that is focused and capable of

aligning itself as an instrument for long lasting peace, hoping that the tenure as Chief of Defence Staff would forge an agenda that is geared towards advancing security, peace and unity, ingredients necessary for positively transforming the lives of Nigerians.

"The membership of Southern Kaduna in the Diaspora resident in the United States (SOKADUSA), therefore, rejoices with the Chief of Defence Staff on his new appointment and prayed that the Almighty God grant him good health and great wisdom to successfully meet the demanding challenges of the new office," the statement said.

Disobedience To Court Orders: Arewa CSOs Plan Massive Protest Against DSS

*Say failure to release individuals granted bail by court would see mass mobilization to Yellow House

mobilize their members to come out in numbers and match to occupy premises of the Yellow House for a peaceful protest demanding the unconditional resignation of Mr Yusuf Magaji Bichi, Director General of the Department of State Services (DSS).

Its Chairman, Adamu Aminu Musa, in a statement made available to our correspondent yesterday, explained, "The Arewa Civil Society Organisations will be compelled to mobilise members under it's umbrella to come out in numbers and match to occupy premises of the yellow house for a peaceful protest demanding the unconditional resignation of Mr Yusuf Magaji Bichi, Director General of the Department of State Services (DSS)."

It lamented the DSS continuous attack on the Judiciary by defying several court orders, illegally holding Nigerian citizens in detention, thereby violating their fundamental human rights. It noted that the secret service on the 10th of June, 2023 arrested Mr Emeziele in Lagos, held him in detention for over a month without charging him to court or releasing him, stressing that after arraignment before a judge he stills remain in detention, and in connection to Emeziele's case, Alhaji Aminu Yaro and his wife, Sa'adatu Yaro

were also arrested since 12th of July, 2023 and have been in detention too, all against their fundamental human rights.

The statement noted that two separate Judges, Justice Nicholas Oweibo and Justice Edward Okpe have presided over the cases in Lagos and Abuja on 25th of July, 2023 and have both granted bail to Mr Emeziele and his subsequent remand in Nigerian Correctional Service and immediate release of Alhaji Aminu Yaro and his wife but regretted that an order restraining DSS from arresting or administering any inhuman or degrading treatment on the couple in the interim was issued.

Despite legal interventions, the statement said that the DSS has strong blatantly thrown deaf ears to the orders given by the court, refusing to release them, saying that it is a violation of human rights, maltreat and abuse of Nigerian citizens whom they ought to protect.

The statement regretted the dehumanisation of Nigerians by DSS under Bichi as very alarming and disturbing and called for help from all and sundry, the intervention of Amnesty International and National Human Rights Commission to look into Bichi's activities with the view to saving innocent Nigerians from further degradation.



Cross section of the newly appointed special advisers to the Osun State Governor held at the Bola Ige House parking lot, Secretariat Abere Osogbo. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Ebonyi: 11 Inmates Regain Freedom

By; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

No fewer than 11 inmates of Afikpo Correctional Centre have been freed by the Chief Judge of Ebonyi State, Justice Elvis Ngene. The inmates that regained freedom were among those with minor offences who were released

unconditionally by the chief judge as part of his constitutional duties.

According to Justice Ngene, 16 matters were treated, while 10 inmates were released on bail, one discharged, while five others were further remanded in custody.

They chief judge further noted that more attention

was given to those who have been in detention for years without trial, the juvenile and the sick, among others, who were considered.

He enjoined the released inmates to be good ambassadors of the state and desist from acts capable of attracting the long arm of the law in

order to be useful and add value in the society.

Mr. Benjamin Kalu (26) and Mr. Opkara all expressed joy over their release and pledged to be good citizens.

They also appreciated Ebonyi State Government for facilitating their release from detention.



Zulum Inspects Community Schools, Housing Estates In Maiduguri

By; SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri
Governor Babagana Umara Zulum, on Wednesday, was on an early morning inspection tour to assess the level and progress of infrastructural works in Maiduguri the state capital.

Zulum was at the first site as early as 6:00am, a time most people were still in the comfort of their homes. The projects visited by the governor were the ongoing construction of new mega

school at Gamboru Ward, another new mega school at Karamti Community and the ongoing construction of new housing estate in Police Ground along Maiduguri-Kano highway.

Zulum's vision for the state is so enormous, that most times find it difficult to sleep in the night and many a times, he even goes to extent of going out late in the night to see things for himself and where he does not, he goes to those places as early as

6:00am in the morning a he sleeps and wakes up with Borno on his mind, that is what residents see in him and that is what he does every time and every day.

This is coming immediately after his visit to Baga to distribute food and other items to the resettled IDPs of the town on Tuesday, along with top government and SEMA officials among others, in fulfillment of his pledge to provide schools in many communities towards

addressing school age children roaming the streets without going to acquire education, which is one of the root causes of the lingering insurgency in the state.

He said Borno State Government under the able and dynamic leadership of Governor Zulum is doing everything humanly possible to change the face of the state and with the support and prayers of the masses, his dream for the state is heading towards reality.



Uba Sani Hosts Kaduna Elders, Says Togetherness Remains Key To Successful Societies

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has said that the state believes that the best societies across the globe are products of consensus and togetherness.

Governor Uba Sani expressed this when he had the privilege of hosting highly respected and esteemed elders from across Kaduna State during an interactive meeting at the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, in Kaduna.

He said, the aim of the meeting was to initiate a very important process of mutual familiarization between the Kaduna State Government and esteemed and revered elders of Kaduna State.

In a brief remark at the meeting, the governor stated that our administration aims to champion the public good and unity among all our people.

According to him, "we believe that the best societies across the globe are products of consensus and togetherness. This tells us

that consensus and togetherness, amidst plurality of identities, must be the foundation of any efforts towards societal growth and development.

"I reiterate the fact that in tackling our security challenges, we intend to encourage a collaborative approach that will be focused and decisive.

"Criminals will not be accorded refuge and comfort in their religious or ethnic identities. They shall be exposed as outlaws, and never shielded or allowed to claim justification.

"I therefore, invite our esteemed elders to partner with us in the interest of our communities, and for the peace, stability and progress of our dear state.

"Contributions at the meeting were robust, incisive and insightful. Key suggestions and resolutions centered on how to strengthen and sustain collaboration between the State Government and elders to enhance the welfare and security of the citizens.

"Our elders committed themselves to a pact with the

State Government to continually offer advice on policy, safety and security issues.

"We thank our elders for honoring us with their distinguished presence. Our State owes them a debt of gratitude for their selfless services.

"We shall continue to tap from their invaluable experiences. May Almighty God continue to keep, protect and strengthen them," he said.



Higher Education Reform: Gov Inuwa Inaugurates Visitation Panels

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has inaugurated visitation panels to state's institutions of higher learning to assess their condition and recommend ways for improvement.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, speaking during the inauguration at the Government House, Governor Inuwa said the step was meant to ensure accountability in management of the institutions and improved access to higher education in the state.

He said, "the decision to constitute these panels is borne out of my firm desire to ensure efficient and transparent management of our tertiary institutions, thus fostering accountability and improving access to higher education in Gombe State".

The governor noted that the move became imperative for the institutions to improve and meet the needs of both students and the state for a qualified and competitive manpower in the rapidly-changing economy.

He charged members of the visitation panels to conduct a thorough and impartial assessment of the institutions, assess their degree of compliance with existing

regulations, look into staff welfare and financial discipline.

While calling on the management of the institutions to give the panels necessary support and cooperation, the governor encouraged members and leadership of the panels on transparency, integrity and fairness in the course of their assignment.

The institutions to be visited are Gombe State University, Gombe; Gombe State Polytechnic, Bajoga; Gombe State College of Education, Billiri; Gombe State College of Education and Legal Studies, Nafada and Gombe State College of Health Science and Technology Kaltungo.

The panels are expected to complete their assignment and report in two months for

further actions.

In a vote of thanks on behalf of members and leaderships of the panels, Barrister Achana Gayus appreciated Governor Inuwa Yahaya for finding them worthy to serve.

He assured the governor of their unwavering commitments to diligently discharge their duties.

Earlier, the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi said members of the panels, who are people of proven integrity and academic standing, were carefully chosen in view of their respective backgrounds and capacity to deliver.



ExxonMobil, NNPC Inaugurate Host Community Trusts In Akwa Ibom

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited (MPN), a subsidiary of ExxonMobil and operator of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC)/MPN Joint Venture has inaugurated two Host Community Development Trusts covering its Oil Mining Leases in Akwa Ibom State, in compliance with the provisions of the Petroleum Industry Act. A statement in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State capital by the media relations department of Mobil indicates that the formal inauguration event took place on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, and Wednesday, July 26, 2023, in Uyo. The Trusts are the Incorporated Trustees of NNPC/MPN JVE MOIMEE Host Community Development

Trust (Eket, Mbo, Onna, Ikot Abasi, Mkpato Enin, Esit Eket and Eastern Obolo communities), and the Incorporated Trustees of NNPC/MPN JV Ibeno Host Community Development Trust (Ibeno community).

Speaking during the unveiling ceremonies, the General Manager, Joint Venture Operations of Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited, Mark Fraser, noted that the inauguration events signal a significant milestone for the NNPC/MPN JV and its host communities in Akwa Ibom State, as it sets in motion the commencement of a new era of organic and sustainable community development.

According to him, "with the inauguration of these Trusts, our communities in Akwa Ibom State will now be in the driver's seat and determine the pace, nature

and impact of community development projects and programs in the respective host communities.

"We are delighted that the collaborative efforts involving our company, partner, communities, regulator and state government have resulted in the success we are witnessing today. We are confident that with the quality of individuals selected by the communities to serve on the Trusts, the people will enjoy the benefits as envisioned by the framers of the Petroleum Industry Act. The ultimate objective is for the Trusts to help enhance peace and further accelerate development and prosperity in our host communities."

He further stated that the Joint Venture has enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with the host communities and has

continued to play its part through significant revenue contributions and community development initiatives, noting that the JV has consistently remained the highest private sector employer of labour in the state.

Also speaking at the event, the Manager, Stakeholder Relations, NNPC Upstream Investment Management Services (NUIMS), Julie Utang, representing the Chief Upstream Investment Officer, NUIMS, Bala Wunti, commended all stakeholders for successfully harmonizing various interests, culminating in the eventual incorporation of the two Trusts.

She stated, "as we get into the next phase, we should remain guided by the provisions of the enabling Act and regulations, ensuring we sustain our collaborations to derive optimal value."

Ebonyi: USAID--IHP Interventions, Welcome Development, Says Health Expert

By; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Following the media tour to some USAID IHP facilities across Ebonyi State, the medical officer in charge of Ezzamgbo General Hospital, Dr Nwambeke Ogbonna has lauded the efforts of media practitioners in the state for engaging in such a selfless task to ascertain the level of support programmes, activities and interventions carried out by USAID IHP to assist primary and secondary healthcare centres in the state have received.

Dr. Nwambeke, described the tour as a welcome development, saying it will go a long way to evaluate the support and activities of USAID IHP in the 212 supported facilities.

He applauded IHP for the unimaginable support, intervention, and achievements in all parts of the state's health facilities, saying that many lives have been saved, especially those of women and children under five, who are mostly vulnerable.

According to Dr. Nwambeke, before the intervention of IHP in Ebonyi State health facilities, the situation of the hospitals was not conducive for patients as they lacked basic medical facilities to discharge their job effectively, but with their numerous support and activities, there is a positive change in the health sector of the state.

"The situation of this general hospital was not really comfortable before USAID IHP interventions came to assist us, we lacked maternal and child healthcare services, family planning, nutrition, health education, trainings and retraining on service delivery, etc."

"Before IHP interventions, all these things were in a low end, but since they came, there are positive changes as we now have maternal and child healthcare services, family planning, nutrition, health education, trainings and retraining on service delivery. They have implemented so many programmes in our facilities, which we have never had in the past."

"USAID IHP has provided family planning commodities, surgical check list, working tools and job

aids are part of what they brought and so many others.

"It has helped us to carry out efficient diagnosis and treatment. The situation now is fair, even though we are not yet there," Dr Nwambeke explained.

The health expert further called on the government to urgently intervene to rescue the health sector in Nigeria, as there is massive brain drain across the country, since most medical personnel have left the country to seek greener pastures, saying that despite the interventions of USAID IHP, there is a need for more health workers that will do the job.

"All over Nigeria, there is massive brain-drain in health sectors. Health workers are leaving in droves for greener pastures. Despite USAID IHP interventions, we still need more health workers to do the job. If you provide all the commodities and there is nobody to make use of it, it is definitely not going to work."

"Gradually we are getting there; as you entered here, you saw only one doctor and a total of five nurses. We are waiting for government to recruit more health workers because the manpower is grossly inadequate."

"Most pregnant women do come for antenatal care, but end up having deliveries outside our facility because we lack midwives."

"The major challenges on the ground are manpower needs, capacity building, and other key health facilities to make the job easier," the expert said.

At Echealike PHC, the Assistant OIC in the facility, Mrs. Adaora Juliet, commended IHP for their health support, saying that they have provided so many facilities like delivery kits, scissors, measuring tapes, height, register, ambu bag, and max, among others. She, however, lamented the lack of potable water, an ambulance, a motorcycle, and other medical equipment that would facilitate their job.

Some of the health facilities visited by the team of journalists at Ohaukwu LGA include, Ezzamgbo General Hospital and Ezzamgbo Primary Healthcare Centre, while MBGS Ndiofia Nnoyo and Echealike PHC in Ikwo LGA, among others, were also visited.

Only Through Interagency Collaboration Can Insecurity Be Curbed - Oyo CP

**Visits NSCDC Commandant*

BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The new Commissioner of Police in Oyo State, CP Adebola Hamzat yesterday, advocated collaborative effort with the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps "NSCDC" towards combating insecurity in Oyo state.

CP Hamzat made the call during a courtesy visit to the Oyo State Command of the NSCDC headquarters at Agodi, Ibadan

The Commissioner of Police emphasized the commitment of the Nigeria Police Force to continue working with Civil Defence and other sister agencies in the state for positive results.



CP Hamzat with Oyo NSCDC state Commandant

CP Hamzat further enjoined the two agencies to work in unison without rivalry towards enhancing adequate security of lives and property in the state. He however, appreciated the warm reception he received from the NSCDC Command.

Receiving CP Hamzat,

Oyo State Commandant of the NSCDC, Dr Michael Adaralewa lauded the new Commissioner of Police, CP Adebola Hamzat, for the trust reposed in NSCDC

Dr Adaralewa and assured CP Hamzat of the Corps' readiness to partner with the Police Force especially

in information gathering geared towards tackling insecurity in the state.

Commandant Adaralewa later used the medium to admonish the citizens of the State to always furnish the two sister agencies with credible information that will help to nip crime in the bud.

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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Kaduna: United And Empowered, A Prime Hub For Development And Investment

By: YAHAYA GOJE LERE

In the heart of Nigeria lies a city that epitomizes unity and progress, Kaduna. A harmonious tapestry of cultures, traditions, and aspirations, this vibrant city stands as a shining example of how diversity can be a catalyst for development and a magnet for investment. Welcome to Kaduna, where unity and collaboration pave the way for a promising future.

Kaduna is more than just a geographic location; it is a melting pot of dreams and aspirations from people hailing from various backgrounds and walks of life. Here, the spirit of unity transcends boundaries, connecting hearts, and weaving a resilient fabric of togetherness. Communities intertwine, celebrating their diversity, while cherishing their shared vision for progress. Our thriving city offers a treasure of investment opportunities across a multitude of sectors. Blessed with vast agricultural lands and abundant natural resources, Kaduna presents an open invitation to agribusiness investors seeking to harness its fertile soil for sustainable food production. Visionary entrepreneurs can explore the vast potentials in the technology and innovation sector, where a burgeoning ecosystem of startups and tech hubs awaits collaboration.

Kaduna's strategic location serves as a gateway for both domestic and international trade, making it an attractive destination for infrastructure investments. The state government's commitment to improving transportation networks and modernizing facilities further solidifies Kaduna's position as a hub for commerce and investment.

The hospitality and tourism industry flourishes, as visitors are drawn to the city's rich cultural heritage, captivating landscapes, and warm hospitality. From historical landmarks to the serene beauty of its natural attractions, Kaduna presents a kaleidoscope of experiences that leave a lasting impression on every traveler.

Collaboration is the heartbeat of Kaduna's development journey. The government,



private sector, and civil society unite in a synchronized effort to uplift communities and create sustainable development initiatives. Our shared goal is to empower local entrepreneurs and businesses, nurturing an environment that fosters growth and prosperity for all.

With a commitment to education and skill development, Kaduna is nurturing a generation of leaders and innovators who

will steer the city towards a brighter future. Investment in education is an investment in the very foundation of our collective success, creating a knowledgeable workforce ready to face the challenges of a dynamic world.

As a New Kaduna United, we believe in the power of unity, positivity, and inclusivity. Our mission is to amplify the success stories of Kaduna, painting a vivid picture of a city

that thrives on its unity and commitment to progress. Through our "Be Informed" series, we aspire to inspire investors, entrepreneurs, and change-makers to be part of Kaduna's transformative journey.

Together, we envision Kaduna as a beacon of hope and prosperity, where dreams are nurtured, innovations flourish, and every individual contributes to a united,

dynamic, and prosperous community. Welcome to Kaduna, where unity is our strength, and investment is our promise for a brighter tomorrow.

Come, join us, and be a part of this remarkable journey as we shape a new narrative for Kaduna, united and empowered, standing tall as a prime hub for development and investment.

Let us rise together, inspired and informed, towards a future of boundless opportunities and shared success.

Welcome to Kaduna - United and Empowered!

Yahaya Goje Lere is the Project Leader, he can be reached via, 08169324864 or aeromila@gmail.com

"As a New Kaduna United, we believe in the power of unity, positivity, and inclusivity. Our mission is to amplify the success stories of Kaduna."

Tearing at the Seams: Nigeria Loses Belief in the Common Good

By Jibrin Ibrahim

“If most of our leaders are bandits covered up in fine agbada and flying around the world with our stolen money, there is no surprise that there is no anger or rage against the petty thieves stealing a manhole cover or a copper cable to sell and feed their families. When there is no confidence that those who occupy public office have a commitment to defending the common good, then amoral behaviour becomes the standard. The path to political repair must therefore involve a gradual improvement in the competence and integrity of the country's political leadership.”

IN these strange times, the story of the Nigerian State is daily written in the crime pages of our newspapers and broadcasts. One set of stories that is emerging repeatedly is the dismantling and theft of the country's infrastructure. This week, it was reported that thieves have removed and stolen the recently installed airfield ground lighting systems at the domestic runway (18L/36R) of Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) in Lagos. The runway lights are critical because they help pilots to do landing and take-off safely at night, or in low visibility conditions. As these are highly specialised lights with specific use on runways, the thieves must have access to security zones and have knowledge of where they can sell them. It was only in November 2022 that the runway was reopened for 24 hours flight services after the successful installation of the ground lights.

Last week, some of the road fittings installed on the newly inaugurated Second Niger bridge were vandalised by robbers. Specifically, the metal expansion joints are removed and sold as scrap metals by the robbers. This problem has been on-going in Lagos for years where similar joints and metal reinforcement for bridge safety are regularly removed and sold compromising the integrity and safety of the bridges. Railings and crash barriers from manholes meant to reinforce bridges from vibrating, as well as protect vehicles from falling from the bridge are also removed and sold.

In Lagos and Abuja, it is very dangerous to walk at night or while it is raining because manhole covers are systematically removed and sold

off by thieves. One has to be eternally careful not to fall into such dangerous pits all over the roads. These manholes protect sewer or maintenance holes; cable access or inspection chambers, and are the top opening to an underground utility vault, which is used to house an access point for connections, inspection, valve adjustments or performing maintenance on underground and buried public utility and other services including water, sewers, telephone, electricity, storm drains, and even gas. By removing the covers, such vital municipal services are often compromised.

“Of course, people are conscious that law enforcement agencies who have policing responsibilities are not doing their work and are sometimes paid off by the robbers to facilitate the theft. The real problem is the collapse of civic space and consciousness that the common good has to be protected not just by law enforcement agencies but also by the entire society. Nigerians have lost the sense of the protection of community and society. Nigerian society has also become very amoral and notions of ethics, good behaviour and respect for others have disappeared.”

The government therefore finds itself in an unwinnable race in which the covers are continuously stolen as soon as they are replaced. Also last week, the Borno State Government banned collection and sale of scrap metal upon discovering that most of the so-called scrap is government property stripped from classrooms, offices and stores. The same week, two trailer loads of rail track and metal plates were arrested in Nasarawa as robbers were simply dismantling and selling off the rails.

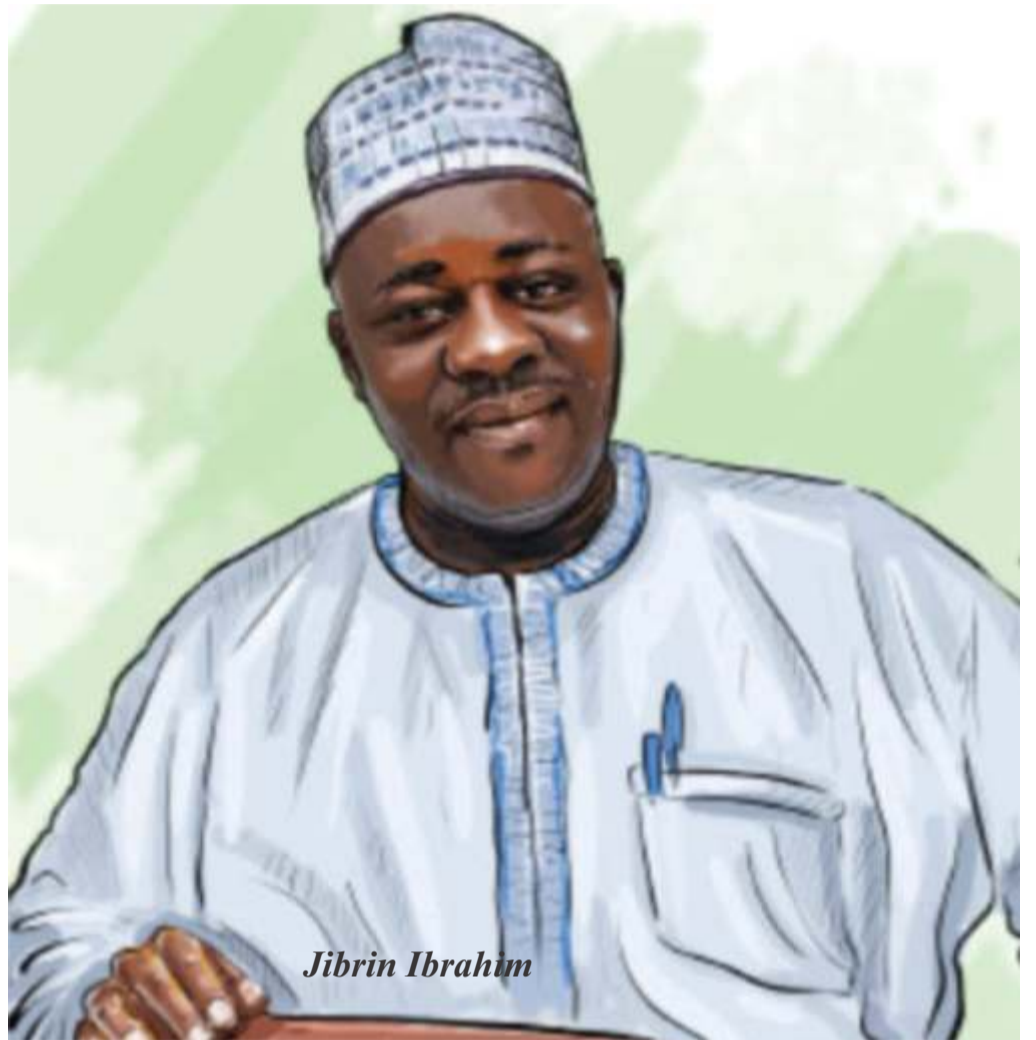
Another dimension is the theft of electricity cables from the network. Regularly, electricity supply is disrupted because cables have been removed and sold. Copper cables are apparently in high demand because they feed a significant jewellery industry all over the country. The removal of such cables makes the already catastrophic electricity supply in the country much worse.

Over the past few years, a number of metal smelting industries have developed in Nigeria and it seems that to

maximise profits, they work with metal thieves stripping the country's infrastructure to make their products. The real tragedy of such action is the threat they pose to public safety as bridges might collapse due to removal of metal reinforcements and the railways are forced to close to stripping of the rail tracks.

“The constitutional injunction that the State shall provide for the security and welfare of Nigerians has become meaningless. People therefore arm themselves not only for self-protection but also to deprive their neighbours of their belongings and often of their lives. In such a context, who will bother about a few metal parts removed from a bridge and sold off. The idea of enlightened self-interest has no meaning.”

A lot of these thefts are in broad daylight and people sit and watch as infrastructure meant for their welfare are dismantled and sold at great risk to their lives. Those dismantling metals from bridges may one day be victims of fallen bridges themselves and yet they remain in the business and their neighbours simply watch them. Of course, people are conscious that law enforcement agencies who have policing responsibilities are not doing their work and are sometimes paid off by the robbers to facilitate the theft. The real problem is the collapse of civic space and consciousness that the common good has to be protected not just by law enforcement agencies but also by the entire society. Nigerians have lost the sense of the protection of community and society. Nigerian society has also become very amoral and notions of ethics, good behaviour and respect for others have disappeared.



Jibrin Ibrahim

The core of the problem is the general rise of criminality in Nigeria. Experts indicate that there are over six million small arms and light weapons in Nigeria in the hands of bandits, militants, jihadists, secessionists and kidnappers. They are all engaged in criminal activities against both state and society. Security agencies are completely overwhelmed and have become either onlookers or co-conspirators in these criminal activities.

The constitutional injunction that the State shall provide for the security and welfare of Nigerians has become meaningless. People therefore arm themselves not only for self-protection but also to deprive their neighbours of their belongings and often of their lives. In such a context, who will bother about a few metal parts removed from a bridge and sold off. The idea of enlightened self-interest has no meaning.

The real poison that has disappeared the notion of the public good from the country is the vision Nigerians have of their successive leadership, characterised by massive and senseless corruption. To many Nigerians, our leaders are for the most part thieves and criminals who have stripped the nation of its assets and made the country poorer in spite of its vast human

and natural resources. Nigeria's main revenue source is petroleum and now it is public knowledge that a significant part of the production is stolen by criminal cabals who can only work if they have protection from people in government and security agencies.

This week, a ship with 800,000 litres of stolen crude was arrested and government announced that particular ship has been stealing our crude oil for twelve years. If most of our leaders are bandits covered up in fine agbada and flying around the world with our stolen money, there is no surprise that there is no anger or rage against the petty thieves stealing a manhole cover or a copper cable to sell and feed their families. When there is no confidence that those who occupy public office have a commitment to defending the common good, then amoral behaviour becomes the standard. The path to political repair must therefore involve a gradual improvement in the competence and integrity of the country's political leadership.

Ibrahim is a professor of Political Science and development consultant/expert, and Senior Fellow of the Centre for Democracy and Development. He is also the Chair of the Editorial Board of Abuja-based online newspaper, PREMIUMTIMES.

Onward Western Soldiers, Marching to Third World War

By Owei Lakemfa

THE gathering of 32 European countries and their North American first cousins in Lithuania under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is the clearest indication yet, that they want to put humanity on the path to another World War.

British Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, made a truthful summary of the July 11-12, 2023 NATO Summit in little Lithuania, one of the first bolts to loosen from the defunct Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which led to its collapse. He said what the summit achieved was to strengthen the military alliance, put it in its most combat-ready form since the Cold War, work out its “comprehensive war-fighting plans”, scale up defence production to “boost our stockpiles” of weapons and reaching a minimum defence spending of two per cent.

“Since cluster bombs are 'steel rain' designed to fall on targets spread over wide areas, it means they do not have an accuracy and can therefore hit unintended targets such as civilian populations. The US military documents, reveal that the CBU-97 cluster bomb, for instance, “provides multiple kills per pass” against a wide range of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and other vehicles. Cluster bombs are weapons and crimes against humanity.”

He also celebrated the full membership of Finland which has a 1,340-kilometre border with Russia, the longest by any European Union member. This means that NATO is fully peeping into Russia, and Finland would soon warehouse NATO weapons.

Sunak added with glee: “...And very soon we'll be doing the same with Sweden. We are stronger with them by our side... and in time we will be stronger with Ukraine as a NATO ally too.”

In reiterating British commitment to the military defeat of Russia in the Ukraine War, the British leader announced: “Together with our G7 partners we have agreed to provide the long-term bilateral security commitments that Ukraine needs.”

The more recent commitments of the United States (US), for instance, was President Joe Biden's Friday, July 7, 2023 announcement to provide Ukraine with cluster bombs which represents perhaps the most dangerous escalation in the war. This move further shuts the doors against peaceful negotiations to end the war in Ukraine.

Cluster bombs are bombs that disperse and scatter huge number of mini-bomblets over wide areas some of which fail to explode on impact and thus become like landmines, lying in wait for

years after a war, to explode when stepped upon by innocent civilians.

Since cluster bombs are 'steel rain' designed to fall on targets spread over wide areas, it means they do not have an accuracy and can therefore hit unintended targets such as civilian populations. The US military documents, reveal that the CBU-97 cluster bomb, for instance, “provides multiple kills per pass” against a wide range of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and other vehicles. Cluster bombs are weapons and crimes against humanity.

“Biden, in this dangerous escalation of the war in Ukraine, claims that Ukraine has assured him that the cluster bombs would not be used against Russian territory. So, against what will it be used? Ukrainian territory? Does it make sense for Ukraine to use these dangerous weapons against its own territory when it knows that like mines, they can remain concealed and unexploded for years? If Biden thinks the rest of us are so thick-headed as to believe such assurances, are the Ukrainians so silly as to plant mines they would be unable to detect on their own territory?”

These bombs are so dangerous that 111 countries, including NATO members: Germany, UK and Canada, have signed and ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions, banning its use, production and stockpiling.

The US last used them 20 years ago when in April 2003, in collaboration with the UK, it fired about two million cluster bombs, most of which were called Dual-Purpose Improved Conventional Munitions, in Iraq.

The outcry against the US was so much that on March 11, 2009 President Barack Obama signed into law a permanent ban on nearly all cluster bomb exports by the US.

Biden, this July 8, in rationalising his decision to supply Ukraine with cluster bombs said: “This is a war relating to munitions. And they're running out of that ammunition, and we're low on it and so, what I finally did, I took the recommendation of the defence department to – not permanently – but to allow for this transition period, while we get more 155 weapons, these shells, for the Ukrainians.” The logic in Biden's argument is that if the US also runs low on cluster bombs, it can supply Ukraine with nuclear weapons.

Biden, in this dangerous escalation of the war in Ukraine, claims that Ukraine



has assured him that the cluster bombs would not be used against Russian territory. So, against what will it be used? Ukrainian territory? Does it make sense for Ukraine to use these dangerous weapons against its own territory when it knows that like mines, they can remain concealed and unexploded for years? If Biden thinks the rest of us are so thick-headed as to believe such assurances, are the Ukrainians so silly as to plant mines they would be unable to detect on their own territory?

In continuing in Biden's illogical decision, his National Security Adviser, Jake Sullivan, said: “We recognise that cluster munitions create a risk of civilian harm from unexploded ordnance... But there is also a massive risk of civilian harm if Russian troops and tanks roll over Ukrainian positions and take more Ukrainian territory and subjugate more Ukrainian civilians because Ukraine does not have enough artillery.” Silly rationalisation.

“Sweden has for centuries kept its head while others were losing theirs. Apart from building a humane society based on a wide range of social security measures and promotion of social justice, it had been a pacifist nation. Shedding its war-like garb after its July 27, 1814 war with neighbouring Norway, Sweden in 2014 celebrated 200 years of peace during which it did not take part in any war. Even during the madness of the First and Second World Wars, it refused to be drawn into conflicts. Despite this, it made it its duty to rescue Jews endangered by Nazism in Europe.”

Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who is sure to liberally use the new weapons, responded excitedly that the new package is a “timely, broad and much-needed defense... that (would) bring Ukraine closer to victory over the enemy”. He added that: “The expansion of Ukraine's defence capabilities will provide new tools for the de-occupation of our land and bringing peace closer.”

The tragedy in all these is that Russia will respond in like manner and the world will get closer to a new World War in which all, including nuclear weapons, would be game.

Sunak's reminder that from all practical purposes, Sweden, the dove of Europe, has become a member of the hawkish NATO alliance following the successful bribing of Turkey to drop its objections, is a sad one.

Sweden has for centuries kept its head while others were losing theirs. Apart from building a humane society based on a wide range of social security measures and promotion of social justice, it had been a pacifist nation. Shedding its war-like garb after its July 27, 1814 war with neighbouring Norway, Sweden in 2014 celebrated 200 years of peace during which it did not take part in any war. Even during the madness of the First and Second World Wars, it refused to be drawn into conflicts. Despite this, it made it its duty to rescue Jews endangered by Nazism in Europe.

It also refused to be aligned during the Cold War. Most importantly for us in Africa, when big powers like the US and UK shored up the evil racist and Apartheid regimes that held down our people in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, Sweden stood by the oppressed. It also refused to join its European and American brothers in supporting the on-going Israeli genocide against the Palestinians. Equally, it supported the Saharawi against re-colonisation by their Moroccan neighbour.

The Swedes also gave humanity Olof Palme, one of the most compassionate, thoughtful and reliable leaders the world has ever produced. In his assassination on February 28, 1986 when he was Prime Minister, Olof Palme became a true martyr and symbol of peace in a highly fractured world. In Sweden joining NATO, Olof Palme will be turning in his grave.

FIFA Women's World Cup 2023: Falcons Bank On Winning Mentality To Overwhelm Matildas

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Nigeria and Australia will set alight the Lang Park in Brisbane/Meaanjin on Thursday night in what is one of the most-anticipated clashes of the group stage at this ninth edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup finals.

With the maximum three points from their opening match against Republic of Ireland in Sydney on 20 July, the Matildas know they have a fight on their hands against nine-time African champions, Super Falcons, who refused to bow to Olympic champions Canada in Melbourne the following day.

The Super Falcons know only a win will be good enough to stand them in good stead for a place in the Round of 16, as only the two top-placed teams in each of the eight groups will make progress in a tournament that has welcomed 32 teams for the first time ever.

"Of course, it is the World Cup. You have to accept the fact that you are going to play the best teams in the world and you have to be alive to that responsibility and face it with your full chest," team captain Onome Ebi told

thenff.com after the tournament draw that was conducted in Auckland, New Zealand in October 2022.

On Tuesday, Ebi reiterated the position of the Super Falcons: "We will go in there and play to win. There are no two ways about it. Only three points will be good enough for us."

Ebi says their five-match unbeaten streak is one of the callipers that will keep the girls going strong on a turf much more familiar to their opponents and in front of dozens of thousands of a partisan crowd at the Lang Park. Before the draw with Canada, the Super Falcons had pipped Costa Rica 1-0, edged Haiti 2-1, trounced New Zealand 3-0 and slayed Lions Women's Football Club 8-1 before the World Cup.

Nigeria is one of only seven countries (the others being USA, Brazil, Germany, Sweden, Japan and Norway) to have featured in every single edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup finals since the competition was launched in 1991. Australia missed the inaugural edition in China, but have been at every other final tournament since then.

Goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie



has returned to training after being excused for one day following the MVP-winning performance against Canada in Melbourne, and consistency is expected in the selection of the rearguard, with Michelle Alozie and Ashley Plumtre on the wings, and veteran Osinachi Ohale and youthful Oluwatosin Demehin at central.

The co-hosts will have to do

without their talismanic captain Sam Kerr, who has been the face on most advertisements pertaining to the tournament here.

Antithetically, Nigeria has gained with the return of the fabulous Rasheedat Ajibade – whose goal against Cameroon in the Women Africa Cup of Nations' quarter-finals secured

Nigeria's passage to these finals – and midfield battering ram Halimatu Ayinde from suspension.

Asisat Oshoala, who suffered a knock against the Canadians, could be excused, with Nigeria sufficiently blessed in Desire Oparanozie, Jennifer Echegini, Gift Monday and Uchenna Kanu.

Service To Humanity: Nimrod Doing What Dangote Is Not Doing, Volleyball Enthusiast Says

By: TOM GARBA, Yola

Service to humanity is one of God's calls to all and this is what a volleyball enthusiast, Adamu Karlai said while describing the impact President of Nigerian Volleyball Federation (NVBF), Engr Musa Nimrod has achieved.

According to him, Nimrod has created a brand of humanitarian service to himself, more than Nigerian billionaire, richest business mogul, Alhaji Aliko Dangote has.

Karlai, a passionate Adamawa-born volleyball lover who lives in Abuja, said Nimrod has impacted the lives of many people in Kaduna and other Northern states.

He said that the NVBF President is God fearing and through his benevolent gestures for many years, he has been providing potable water in Kaduna communities without wanting his name in print, distinguishing himself as a man who is truly sent

by God to serve humanity.

Karlai said he has witnessed how the critical sports stakeholder has trained hundreds of youth in various sporting activities that are today making Nigeria proud in other countries.

He said Nigeria is in dire need of people like Nimrod who is detribalized and sees all humans as equal, irrespective of tribe, religion, or even place of origin. According to him, Nimrod is a Christian and most of his close associates are Muslims and those he empowered are youth, mostly from Northern Nigeria.

He extolled Nimrod to be a man with a big heart and bold to serve humanity with the little resources he has, a virtue he said, is more than Dangote who is only known as the richest man in Africa, not as the richest humanist.

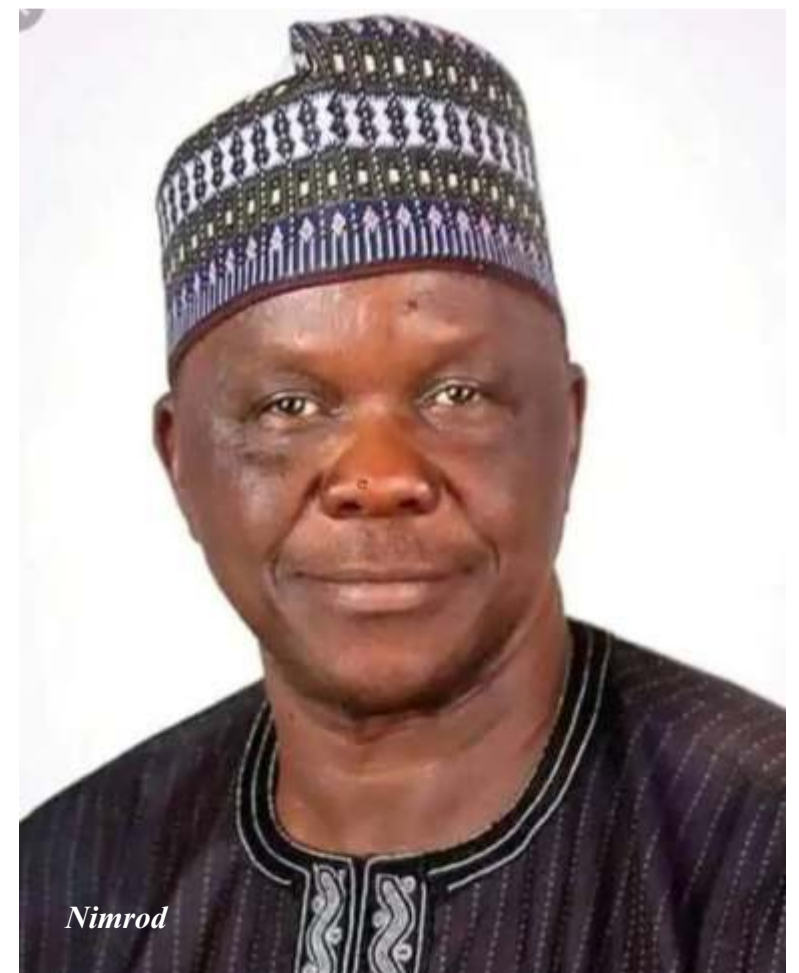
"This man is our Dangote, he made himself available to the common man, he is a passionate philanthropist who is all the time

ready to help the downtrodden in our society.

"He endeared himself to many by his hatred of injustice especially when it is being meted on the less privileged, he is a multi-billion dollar man in kind and character and has hundreds of youth as his mentees. May God Almighty bless him." Karlai said.

He pointed out that Nimrod has opened a foundation with the aim and vision to cater to the need of youth, especially those from the Northern part of the country and with less privileged backgrounds.

While praying for Musa Nimrod to live a fulfilled life to eternity where God will pay him better for the many sacrifices he has rendered to mankind, he called on well-to-do Nigerians to emulate his exemplary lifestyle, seeing that he is only after humanity, not after religion or tribe, before he supports someone in dire need.



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**Service To Humanity:
Nimrod Doing What
Dangote Is Not Doing,
Volleyball Enthusiast Says**

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UMTH @40: WHO, FG, Borno Govt Strengthen Ties Towards Better Healthcare

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Country Representative, Doctor Walter Kazadi Molumbo has pledged more support for the Nigerian government in strengthening the healthcare and public system, especially during emergencies.

Doctor Molumbo, who was represented by the WHO Zonal Coordinator, Northeast Zone, Doctor Jalal-Eddeen Salah, disclosed this during the ceremony to mark the 40th anniversary of the University Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) in Borno state.

The Country Representative, who celebrated the milestone of the institution, also emphasized that the journey ahead is just as crucial and the world of healthcare is continuously evolving and must adapt to collectively meet the emerging challenges and opportunities.

"One of the lessons that the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us is the importance of a strong healthcare system and global



The WHO Zonal Coordinator, Northeast Zone, Dr Jalal-Eddeen Salah delivering speech of the Country Representative

solidarity.

"It is through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation that we can effectively combat existing and future health threats".

"In this regard, the WHO remains committed to supporting the efforts of the CMD and the Nigerian

government in strengthening the healthcare and public health systems"

He further explained, "Our partnership will focus on various aspects including promoting preventive health measures and strengthening disease surveillance.

"We are also committed to

building the capacity of healthcare professionals through training and knowledge transfer as we move forward", headed.

The Special Guest of Honour, His Excellency, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Distinguished Senator Kashim Shettima, who was represented by the Special Adviser to the President on Health, Dr. Salma

Ibrahim Anas, said the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital has contributed immensely to medical care for people far and near including the neighbouring countries of Niger Republic, Chad, and Cameroon.

"This is indeed an epoch-making

event as it defines a significant milestone in the task of training, services, and research. The mandate of this federal institution is focused on all three to ensure delivery of quality healthcare to the citizens of Nigeria"

The Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum in his remarks commended the UMTH and WHO, among other partners, saying the teaching hospital has contributed immensely to the healthcare delivery and manpower development across the region.

Governor Zulum reaffirmed his commitment to providing the necessary support and resources to ensure the hospital's continued success in serving the people of Borno State.

The Special Guest of Honour commissioned and unveiled the Zainab Shamsuna Child and Adolescent Centre, and also laid the foundation for the new Ahmed Bola Tinubu ICT Centre and the Heart Centre, among other projects.

Federal Lawmaker, Tunji-Ojo Stakes N50m To Empower Market Women In Ondo

By; ADEBIYEADO, Akure

The Lawmaker representing Akoko North East/Akoko North West Federal Constituency at the Green Chambers, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo has expended N50 million to empower 1,000 market women in Ondo State.

The move, the lawmaker said, is to help reduce poverty level and hardship among the less privileged as well as strengthening the economy of the constituency.

Represented by his Special Adviser on Women Affairs, Akadri Atinuke at a programme organised to launch the

initiative, Tunji-Ojo said the gesture is to fulfil his promise to the market women who are very important drivers of the constituency's economy.

While encouraging the beneficiaries, he urged them to continue to work hard and make good use of the opportunity to help

In his words, "Akoko North East and Akoko North West Local governments are the economic hub of Akoko. We promised to invest in the prosperity of Akoko and this is what we are doing today. We will not stop here."

One of the beneficiaries, Alhaja Muhammed Risikat appreciated Tunji-Ojo for the gesture, and

prayed that God continues to bless him and strengthen him to do more.

According to her, "This initiative will help boost our trades and expand the economic capacity of our Federal Constituency. We appreciate BTO for fulfilling his promises always. He will continue to prosper."

The empowerment is coming weeks after the lawmaker gave out 50 million naira bursary to students in the Federal Constituency.

Tunji-Ojo has been praised by constituents for the infrastructure drive and employment opportunities facilitated by him.



Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo