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Ghastly Lagos Auto Accident Claims 15 Lives



Scene of the accident

By ; RAYMOND
TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Tragedy occurred in Lagos during hours of the heavy down pour, as two trucks and one 18 seater commercial bus collided in Badagry area of the state, leaving 15 passengers dead.

The accident, as learnt, happened at Agemowo axis in Olorunda Local Council Development Area (LCDA) on the Lagos Badagry Expressway.

Aside from the deceased, no fewer than nine persons including five males and four females were said to have sustained injuries and were currently on admission at the hospital. It was learnt that the

deceased bodies have been transferred to the Badagry General Hospital morgue by emergency officials including the Federal Road Safety Corp (FRSC).

Eyewitnesses narrated that the accident occurred at about 07:30 am on Sunday and it involved truck with number plate AKM 926 YQ, and a Mazda L2000 Bus marked MUS 411 XU and another truck.

A breakdown of the 15 deceased passengers indicated that nine male adults, five female adults and one girl were involved in the fatal accident.

Confirming the deceased number, the Sector Public Education Officer, Lagos Command, Superintendent

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Insecurity: Be Ready To Participate In Ongoing War Against Insurgency, CDS Tasks Armed Forces

**Says challenges of insecurity in Nigeria can be tackled through collective commitment*



Chief of Defence Staff in Ibadan on Wednesday.

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Major General Christopher Musa on Wednesday, tasked officers of the Nigerian Army irrespective of their ranks and formations to always be ready to face the war against insurgency.

Major General Musa gave the task in his address at the International Conference Center University of Ibadan at a lecture held in commemoration of the ongoing Nigerian Army Day Celebration

According to the Chief of Defence Staff, the challenges of insecurity currently battling with the country can be tackled through collective commitment, saying, Nigerian Army and other armed forces can actually handle the challenges facing the country through collective commitment.

"The challenges we are having in Nigeria are challenges we can handle, only if we are committed, and I'm sure we are committed, but we need to also transcend it down to ensure that our troops also have that", he said Major General Musa

added, " We have a challenges with our senior COs, and the warrant officers, most times a job that could be done by RSM you see an officer doing it, by doing so, you've taken out the initiatives from them, just allow them to do it, allow them to make mistakes, because they learn more when they make mistakes, but they don't, if they don't have the opportunity to do so and this become the problem."

"So, I want to appeal to everyone here that this is our time, please let us make it count, we have a challenge in Nigeria, we have challenges such as militancy, insurgency and whatever and together if we are committed and determined we will solve this problem and I know that God is on our side."

The CDS stressed, " All aspect of our training is to fight war, we have the war ongoing, so every officers and soldiers should look forward or should be made to do that, go and participate so that you can have the experience."

"For those of us in service, this is a golden opportunity for all of us to serve, I know as a junior officer we have been grudging to set so many

things that have not been done right well, so now it is our turn to make the change we have been yearning for, we now have the golden opportunity to make the difference, I'm so sure our bosses, commandants here will be very happy seeing us here trying to make the difference, the joy or the prayer of every commander is to produce commanders that are better than them, that means they're succeeding." Musa said.

Major General Musa said further, "For commanders the importance of the media cannot be overemphasis, we still make the mistake that the media doesn't matter, the media really matter, of you don't do that, they will do their stories as they see it, and at the end of the day, it might not be variable with you and you will start struggling to give your reactions and your own version of the story."

"Do not shy away from the media, it is very important, let them know what has happened, do not lie, what you don't know tell them you don't know, tell them you will go and find out then clarify it, it very important that you do

that." He said.

Major General Adeniyi Oyejade (rtd) in his lecture titled, "Optimizing Nigerians Army Administration For Successful Counter Insurgency Operations: Strategic Operations" said " leadership is the key to successful accomplishment of all human endeavours including CTCOIN.

According to him, "the evolving nature of security threats in today's environment has made it expedient for contemporary leaders to continually think, rethink and initiate plans towards achieving established objectives."

"In military organisations, achieving set objectives especially during active operational engagements entails careful consideration of different variables including the federating government's position, logistics or materials requirements and men", he said.

Highlights of the event was the unveiling of the ECOMOG Compendium titled: "Nigerians Army Participation In ECOMOG Operating And Lessons Learned, a 27 chapter compendium detailing account of Nigerian Army mission to Liberia.

10th Senate: Governor Nwifuru Congratulates Umahi As Deputy Leader

By ; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru has congratulated the immediate past governor of Ebonyi State, Engr. David Nweze Umahi on his emergence as the 10th Senate Deputy Majority Leader, describing it as a testament of the confidence his colleagues repose on him. Governor Nwifuru stated that the development, is a confirmation of his track records of service and political acumen as well as positive contributions towards the affairs of the Senate.

He expressed confidence that Umahi will carryout the assignment with utmost sense of responsibility and dexterity for the growth and development of the entire country.

"On behalf of the Government and good people of Ebonyi State, I heartily congratulate the former Governor of Ebonyi State, His Excellency, Engr David Nweze Umahi CON, GGCEHF on his triumph as the Deputy Majority Leader of the 10th Senate

of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"Your Excellency, your emergence is a testament of the confidence your colleagues reposed in you. With this development, your track records of service and political acumen will no doubt contribute positively to the affair of the Senate.

"Your election as a principal officer is widely celebrated in Ebonyi and beyond because we are confident that you will carry out the assignment with the dexterity you are known for over the years.

"Let me express my deepest gratitude to your Distinguished colleagues for seeing the best in you. It was indeed a right choice," he said.

Governor Nwifuru assured him of total commitment and support for him to succeed in office and attract more democracy dividends to Ebonyi State.

"Your Excellency, as you set forth your legislative duties especially with this additional responsibilities, I wish to assure you of our fervent prayers and support at all times to succeed."



Senator Umahi

Lagos Govt Conducts Health Security Capacity Assessment Preparatory to NCDC's

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

The Lagos State Government through the Ministry of Health has conducted an internal assessment of its health security capacities in readiness for the Joint External Evaluation for Health Security Capacities Assessment to be conducted by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

The three-day exercise which began on Tuesday July 4 and ran through Thursday July 6, 2023 is a forerunner to the sub-national Emergency preparedness response capacity building (SERCB) project to be implemented by NCDC across States in Nigeria.

Speaking to stakeholders at the exercise which was held at LCCI conference centre, Alausa-Ikeja, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr Olusegun Ogboye, disclosed that the goal of the SERCB being implemented by NCDC nationwide is to strengthen emergency preparedness and response at the state level with an evaluation of the states' current international health regulations and health security capacities using an adapted Joint External Evaluation tool named 'Health Security Assessment tool' for state level.

Dr. Ogboye stated further that the essence of the assessment is to support Lagos to identify gaps in the health security system and priority activities to bridge the gap.

He added that the assessment will help identify the level of the State preparedness for emergencies and identify the policies, tools and standards that exist in the various public

health emergency thematic areas with the aim of strengthening the emergency preparedness of the state.

In his words: "The whole point of this exercise is to help strengthen our emergency preparedness and response and build capacities to the things we need to have because standards are really important. So I think it's important that we all use this as an opportunity to find out what are the things that do exist in terms of policies tools and standards and guidelines of our work"

The Permanent Secretary restated the commitment of the Lagos State Government to medical infrastructural development and implementation of policies geared towards the provision of a sustainable health care delivery and robust public health emergency response capabilities in line with best practices anywhere in the world.

"I am proud to say that Lagos, we have built quite a lot of capacity over the years. We have a BSI-3 lab, which nobody else in Nigeria has, we now have even our own sequencer in Lagos so there is a lot going on, and the government will not relent in putting in place strategies in ensuring that health care delivery in the state are in line with best present anywhere in the world" He said.

He urged the participants drawn from various Ministries, Departments and Agencies to continue to work together as a team, noting that the One Health paradigm involved collaboration, coordination and synergy of all relevant MDAs in public health emergency response.

Southern Kaduna Like Blacks In South Africa's Apartheid Era - Shehu Sani

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Senator Shehu Sani, the former lawmaker that represented Kaduna Central in the 8th National Assembly, has described the situation of the people of Southern Kaduna under the leadership of All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state in the last eight years like the "blacks in South Africa during the apartheid regime".

He congratulated the people of Southern Kaduna for surviving the most difficult period of their existence in the hands of APC-led administration of Nasir el-Rufai in the state, describing it as the most hardest moment in the history of the people under any leader in the state.

Speaking as the chairman of a party organised by supporters of Senator Sunday Katung Marshal in Kaduna on Saturday, he said, "I am always so passionate about the people of Southern Kaduna because the area occupied a special place not in Kaduna state but in Nigeria as a whole."

He hailed the efforts of the people for standing their ground irrespective of any difficult situation to defend their ancestral land at all cost and their



Shehu Sani

resolution to support PDP and its candidates in every election.

He enjoined the people to pray and support Senator Sunday Katung Marshal and other representatives from the area to succeed in their official assignments and ensure that they deliver their people from Egypt to the promised land.

The PDP gubernatorial candidate in the 2023 election in the state, Isa Ashiru, enjoined Senator Sunday Katung Marshal and other representatives from the zone to remain focused and deliver their people by doing all that is necessary to restore the

good fortune of the area.

Senator Sunday Katung Marshal, while responding, thanked the organisers of the programme, saying it was a challenge to him and other representatives from the area to deliver on their mandate and make life more meaningful to the people of the zone.

According to him, "I decided that I was going to commune with my brothers from the House of Representatives and State House of Assembly to ensure that we do an assessment of the Senatorial District to actually understand what

the people really expect. That we have done, we have articulated it and all about security, with security, the people will be able to carry out their businesses, go to farm and children go to school without any problem. This we believed is very paramount to our people and very determined to brick back security in the area."

He assured that they are going to work with the Kaduna State and federal governments towards ensuring lasting peace in Southern Kaduna, the state and the country as a whole.

Suspected Bandits Kill Farmer In Nasarawa Community

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Suspected Fulani herdsmen have killed a farmer in Toto Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

Solomon Yusuf, the deceased farmer was attacked by the suspected herdsmen at a wedding ceremony in the Rakpami community in the LGA, when they allegedly stormed the area.

A statement signed in Lafia on Saturday by the Secretary of Gbagyi Cultural Renaissance Foundation in the state, Musa Emmanuel-Dnasuwa, said, "The attention of the Gbagyi Cultural Renaissance Foundation has been drawn to the activities of some disgruntled Fulani herdsmen who are poised on distorting the relative peace enjoyed by the good people of Toto LGA."

He said that the suspected herdsmen have continued unabated to kill and maim people at will, adding that they destroy farmer's crops with impunity and at the slightest provocation, threaten the life of whoever dares to confront them.

The statement lamented the uncultured and uncivil behavior of the herdsmen has again heightened the security concerns in Toto local government area, stressing that with the latest victim, Solomon Yusuf that was gruesomely murdered in cold blood by the assailants at Rakpami on Saturday, July 1, 2023, during a wedding ceremony, for reasons only known to them.

He stated that though they learnt that a suspect was arrested by the community vigilante and thereafter handed over to the police, saying that they are watching keenly to see as the law takes its course.

The group expressed gratitude to the Osu Yelwa, Musa Abu-Shekwo, for his prompt intervention that doused the tension and prevented the youths of the area from taking laws into their hands.

He appealed to the Executive Chairman of Toto LGA, Hon. Aliyu Abdullahi-Tashas, and Governor Abdullahi Sule to work in collaboration with the security agencies towards ensuring that measures are put in place to forestall any further breakdown of law and order in the area.

The statement explained to the government that their people have taken enough of the excesses, despite the maturity and a sense of decorum expressed by the Gbagyi people for the sake of peace, saying that the Fulani herdsmen have mistaken it for weakness and often take advantage of our peaceful

nature.

It appealed that the government should do something urgently to address the issue so that the situation will not escalate beyond control, pointing out that they are known as peace-loving people and hoped to maintain their reputation.

DSP Ramhan Nansel, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, when contacted, explained that the command was yet to receive official information on the matter.

He said information on the alleged killing of the man by herdsmen in the area, is yet to be confirmed, while assuring all residents of Nasarawa State that the Commissioner of Police, Maiyaki Baba, is working tirelessly to make the state safe for every one of them.

Overland Airways To Begin Abuja-Gombe- Abuja Operation Soon

*Governor Inuwa concludes discussion with airline's MD



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Overland Airways, will soon commence a scheduled commercial flight services from Abuja to Gombe.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli at the weekend, said the

Managing Director of Overland Airways, Captain Edward Boyo, disclosed this after a meeting with Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON at the Governor's Lodge in Abuja.

The operation, he said, will commence in earnest within the next four weeks, adding that it will be optimally serviced to

ensure maximum benefits of air travel on Abuja-Gombe route.

The Managing Director assured Governor Inuwa that the flight services to Gombe will be highly reliable and will contribute to economic development of Gombe state, especially given its strategic position as commercial nerve centre

with huge economic opportunities which must be properly harnessed for the benefit of the state and its residents.

He thanked Governor Inuwa Yahaya for his support and visionary disposition which attracted Overland Airways to begin the Abuja- Gombe - Abuja operation.

Gunmen Abduct Ekiti APC Chairman

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

Some unknown gunmen, on Saturday evening, kidnapped the Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), in Ekiti State, Mr. Paul Omotoso.

It was learnt that the armed to the teeth abductors whisked Omotosho away while driving along Agbado Ekiti - Imesi Ekiti Road.

According to the APC State Publicity Secretary, Segun Dipe, the party chairman was abducted while driving in his car along the road.

In his words, "The chairman was driving in a



Paul Omotoso, Ekiti APC Chairman

Venza car along the road when the bandits shot at

one of the tyres of the car. He was taken into a Toyota

Hilus van and driven off. He was alone in the car when the incident happened, according to the information we have.

"It happened in the evening, we got the information at about 6 pm. The security agencies - police and Amotekun - have been alerted, and they are all working on it," the APC spokesperson said.

When contacted on the phone, the Police Public Relations Officer, Ekiti State Command, Sunday Abutu, said that he would get back "as soon as I get the confirmation".

Atiku's Aide Warns Tinubu's Supporters Against Disrupting Tribunal Proceedings

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Special Assistant on Public Communication to Atiku Abubakar has warned supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and its candidate, Bola Tinubu, from disrupting proceedings at the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal.

Atiku's aide, Phrank Shaibu, said in a statement that the warning had become imperative following the sponsored protest that Tinubu's supporters staged at the European Union head office in Abuja after the release of the EU Observer Mission report which revealed how the election failed the credibility test.

The EU report had scored the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) low over the handling of the election. However, Tinubu's surrogates, including his spokesman, Dele Alake; former activist Festus Keyamo; and Femi Fani-Kayode, who had also been implicated in the report, rejected the findings.

A group of APC supporters subsequently stormed the EU headquarters and were given full police protection to carry out the demonstration.

Reacting, however, Shaibu stated, "We seize this opportunity to send a warning to the Tinubu government and its minions against disrupting the proceedings of the election tribunal as they have shown a clear disdain for the truth by picketing the EU office.

"Recall that in 1999, when the late legendary lawyer, Chief Gani Fawehinmi, sued Tinubu for school certificate forgery, thugs were sponsored to cause protests outside the court house. Similarly, when Tinubu was facing charges before the Code of Conduct Tribunal, thugs were similarly sponsored to protest at the trial, all in a bid to intimidate the judiciary.

"We find it curious that the same security agencies which have been issuing statements barring protests were curiously available to provide cover for sponsored pro-government protesters to picket the EU office. We sound a note of warning to the security agencies to be on the alert as the tribunal proceedings wind down. The world is watching."

Shaibu lamented that in just 40 days of Tinubu's administration, poverty had deepened, and inflation had skyrocketed.

He added that the poverty had made innocent Nigerians

susceptible to manipulation, and this was being exploited by the APC.

Shaibu stated, "Today, food has become a luxury. The purchasing power of the people has dropped no thanks to an unplanned petrol subsidy removal, which was not accompanied by any form of palliatives. With just N1,000, any ruffraff on the street could be handed a t-shirt and placard to engage in protests they know nothing about.

"This is how low Nigeria has sunk low since Tinubu took over the reins of government."

Shaibu added that Tinubu was running a government of hypocrisy by attributing the APC's failures to select scapegoats while failing to point fingers at former President Muhammadu Buhari

"Tinubu blamed Godwin Emefiele for the country's economic woes and ordered his detention while he continues to shower praises on the man who not only appointed Emefiele but gave him a national award. This is the height of hypocrisy," Atiku's aide said.

He said that rather than acknowledge that the election was flawed, Tinubu continued to grandstand, thereby infuriating Nigerians.

Atiku's aide stated, "No one needs to be told that the 2023 presidential election was one of the worst ever conducted in Nigeria's history. The 2007 election was similarly bad, but at least, the key recipient, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, admitted the poll was flawed and immediately kicked off electoral reforms. However, Tinubu, by rejecting the EU report, has ruled out the possibility of electoral reform.

"Tinubu is the opposite of a statesman. He claims the 2023 election is the best Nigeria has had since 1999 and continues to draw parallels between it and the epochal June 12, 1993 election by constantly mentioning the name of MKO Abiola and Hope 93.

"This is the height of deception. MKO's victory was spick and span. MKO Abiola represented the hope of a generation while Tinubu stole the hope of a generation. Tinubu's renewed hope is nothing but renewed hopelessness, a continuation of Buhari's eight years of monumental failure. It is simply, as the youths say, 'renewed shege'. We ask Nigerians to tarry a while as we wait for the judiciary to correct the evil that INEC imposed on over 200 million people."

Senator Wadada Laments Distortion Of Abuja Master Plan

**Says motion in place to check rot*

By; BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja

Senator Ahmad Wadada Aliyu representing Nasarawa West Senatorial District at the 10th Senate has lamented the distortion of the Abuja master plan by motorists, traders, commuters and others.

The lawmaker who spoke to journalists in his office on Thursday shortly after he tabled a motion which advocates for strict compliance to traffic rules in the Federal Capital Territory, noted that the aim of moving the nation's capital from Lagos to Abuja was due to traffic congestion, overcrowding and high rate of social vices.

He however, noted that Abuja has in recent times, surpassed Lagos with numbers of traffic rules violations indiscriminate hawking and disregard for constituted authority.

"In Abuja today, we see people driving cars on walkways, others are obstructing traffic and

violating traffic rules by engaging in hawking on express ways.

"Between farmers market and Maitama roundabout, illegal car parks have sprung up, car hire service companies park Hilux Jeep and other vehicles on walkways, depriving citizens the use of the walkways.

"Every junction in the FCT has been turned into car parks, thereby depriving the FCT revenue that it should have gotten," he pointed out.

He also lamented how drainages have been blocked due to people building on waterways and drainage system leading to constant flooding in Maitama District.

The Nasarawa born lawmaker explained that his motion is meant to make it compulsory for motorists to pick and drop commuters at government designated bus stops and to stop other malaises such as construction on drainage system and parking cars on walkways.

Ghastly Lagos Auto Accident Claims 15 Lives

Route Commander Olabisi Sonusi, explained that 24 persons were involved in the accident.

According to her, nine people sustained varying degree of serious injuries, one of them was reported to have later given up the ghost at the hospital. Fourteen were brought in dead from the crash scene.

"The injured victims are currently receiving treatment at the General Hospital, Badagry. Meanwhile, bodies of the dead victims have since been deposited at the Morgue in the same

hospital.

"The Sector Commander, Lagos Sector Command, Corps Commander Babatunde Farinloye, Commiserated with the family of the dead victims while wishing the injured quick recovery.

He further directed that families of the victims should visit the hospital for necessary action and also the Badagry Unit Command of the Corps for any information.

"He reiterated the need for caution on the parts of drivers and all motorists. According to him, this

crash was avoidable if common sense and defensive driving techniques had been deployed on the parts of the drivers.

"It was reported that the Crash occurred as a result of Speeding and overtaking under the heavy downpour by the drivers who were traveling on opposite directions, this he said, resulted in loss of control and head on collision on the parts of the affected Vehicles.

"He warned motorists to desist from speeding, obey road traffic regulations at

all times, and be more cautious as the road is under reconstruction. The rainy season is here, and it is pertinent to allow common sense speed limit to prevail.

"He therefore, warned that the Command will continue to bring to book all perpetrators of road traffic infractions".

Finally he advised occupants of all vehicles not to leave their safety in the hands of the drivers but rather see themselves as stakeholders such that they also help caution drivers any time violations are observed while on a trip".

My Senate Presidency Is To Serve, Transform Nigeria - Senator Akpabio

**Akpabio's emergence doused religious tension*

- Most Reverend Ogunmuyiwa

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio yesterday, said his emergence as the President of the 10th Senate is call for service to Nigerians and all round transformation of the country.

Senator Akpabio said this in his goodwill message at the Thanksgiving Service on the 23rd Synod/Congress of Abuja Province of the African Church.

Represented by Senator Asuquo Ekpeyong, the Senate President also tasked the church to take its rightful position in the affairs of the country.

"To me, this Senate President position is a call to serve our people and to transform Nigeria. I feel highly honoured and humbled that I am today in a position to support our President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu in building the Nigeria of our collective dreams", he said.

Senator Akpabio added, "I wish to state that God has special love for me. How does one explain the humongous undeserving blessings He continually showers on me? How would I have imagined that from my very humble beginning in Ukana Ikot Ntuen, Essien Udim, Local Government of Akwa Ibom State, that I, Godswill Akpabio will rise to the coveted office of President of the Nigerian Senate? Indeed, our God is marvellous and greater than all imaginations."

"I could not have missed this auspicious event given the significance of the theme of the occasion: The Church and Politics. The present challenge which our Country Nigeria is facing calls for urgent divine intervention through

earnest fervent prayers".

Senator Akpabio stressed, "By this, I do not in any way mean to undermine the role that we as leaders in whatever sphere, whether spiritual or temporal, must play to defeat the numerous forces that have held Nigeria down all these years. God willing and with renewed zeal and commitment, we shall begin to see progress in religious, political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of our lives."

"My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we embark on this journey of Nigeria's rebirth, it is imperative that the Church upholds its responsibility of serving as the moral compass and a reorientation platform for the citizens. Nigeria will only make meaningful progress when every stakeholder and key player participate in nation building.

"It is common knowledge that Christians are called to be the light and salt of the world. According to one writer, "we cannot be the light and the salt to this generation without getting involved in politics and understanding the ethos and structures of governance."

Senator Akpabio noted, "You may recall how the African Church at inception fought for the liberation of the Blacks from spiritual and political dominance of Western world. Indeed, time has come for the Church to take its position as a primary driver of progressive change. Its now or never, as Nigerians are eager for a new sustainable order.

"At the level of legislation, we will push for greater collaboration with the greater community which

includes the church by extension. On behalf of the Senate and the National Assembly, I thank you once again for the opportunity to join you at the Thanksgiving Service on the 2023 Synod/Congress of Abuja Province," The Archbishop Abuja Metropolitan Province, Most Reverend Dr Peter Ogunmuyiwa in his sermon, with the theme: "Church and Politics" tasked Christians to take part in politics to make a difference.

According to Most Reverend Ogunmuyiwa, he was one of those Bishops who stood against the Muslim/Muslim ticket, but a change of heart when he had a personal encounter with the then presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) now President Bola Tinubu.

"The emergence of Senator Godswill Akpabio as the President of the Senate has doused religious tension in the country. When I met President Tinubu before his election, he promised me that he would ensure that a Christian emerged the Senate President having had a Muslim as the President and Vice President respectively", he said

Most Reverend Ogunmuyiwa added, "Tinubu is a promise keeper. I expect the Senate under Akpabio's leadership to stand for the people by allocating resources to where it is most needed because that is what will speak for you. Nothing is evil in politics. Practitioners make it look as if it is evil. We pray that Nigeria shall be better and great again. I congratulate President Bola Tinubu, the Vice president and the Senate President. We are beginning to see the signs that it is no more business as usual."



Senator Wadada

1,000 Participants To Attend CASSON 47th National Conference In Kano

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The National President, Counselling Society Of Nigeria, (CASSON) Professor Malami Umar Tambuwal, who is also the Vice Chancellor, Shehu Shagari University of Education Sokoto has disclosed that over 1,000 participants are expected to attend the 47th national conference of the association, which is scheduled to hold at Bayero University Kano.

He disclosed this when he led the national and Kano State executive officers on a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor, Bayero University, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas and the Vice Chancellor, Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Professor Muktar Atiku Kurawa respectively.

Professor Tambuwal added that, "The forthcoming conference which is scheduled to hold next month would be the 47th national conference of the CASSON where

over 1,000 participants are expected to attend at Bayero university Kano, and we are certain from what we have seen during our inspection visit to the venue and other places, the conference would be one of the best without doubt," he emphasized.

In their separate responses, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas of Bayero university Kano and Professor Muktar Atiku Kurawa of Yusuf Maitama Sule University assured the delegation of their

readiness to give maximum support towards the success of the annual conference and thanked the national president and his entourage for the visit.

The national president was accompanied by some of his exco, including Dr. Vera and Madam Helen, while the Kano State executive under the leadership of Malam Ahmed Iliyasu and Associate Professor Kabir Bello Dungurawa were also in the entourage of the national president.



CASSON National President and his entourage during the visit.

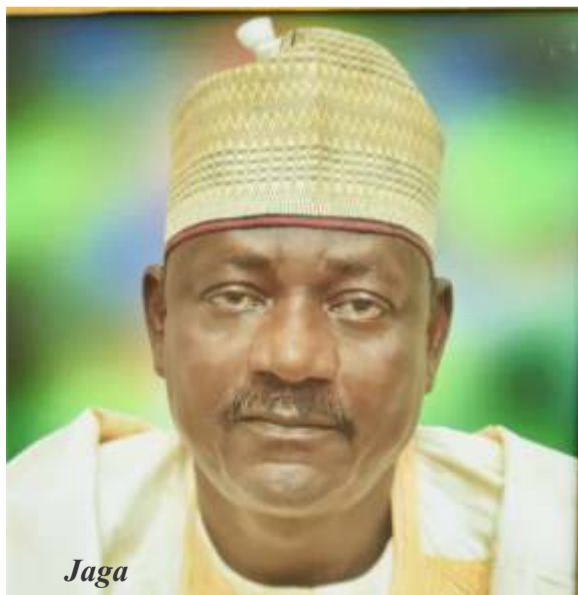
Agricultural Transformation Succeeding In Jigawa State - Mai Unguwa Jaga

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Dutse

The Jigawa State chairman of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Alhaji Idris Yau Mai Unguwa Jaga has opined that the agric sector would continue to receive boost in the state under the stewardship of Malam Umar Namadi.

He disclosed this in a chat with journalists in Dutse, where he added that agriculture remains the mainstay of the economy in Jigawa State and it is clear that the present administration would give good support to the sector without bias.

"We worked selflessly to actualize



Jaga

continuity in Jigawa State in order to ensure that agriculture receives boost under the administration of Malam Umar Namadi and we are

certain that economic progress would be realized through profitable agricultural transformation, which would be another landmark achievement in the state".

Alhaji Idris Yau Mai Unguwa Jaga added that AFAN would continue to support Malam Umar Namadi's administration and give excellent counselling where necessary, and prayed for successful commencement of this year's farming season.

Mai Unguwa Jaga used the opportunity to congratulate the newly appointed Executive Secretary of Farmers and Herdsmen Board, Dr. Salisu Abdullahi Babura, the Managing Director of the state's schools ADP, Malam Imam Muhammed, JASCO Managing Director, Malam Rabiu Khalid Maigatari and also the other appointees on their well deserved selections.

Kano Dep Gov Inspects Guzu Guzu Irrigation Farm

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The Deputy Governor of Kano State, Comrade Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo, has conducted an inspection of the Guzu Guzu Irrigation Farm in Alkalawa, Kobo Local Government Area (LGA) on Monday according to a statement signed and issued to our correspondent by the Chief Press Secretary to the deputy governor, Malam Ibrahim Garba Shu'aib.

The statement added that the visit aimed at evaluating the farm's operations and explore opportunities to enhance productivity in the region. Covering a vast area of fertile land, the Guzu Guzu Irrigation Farm has been a significant contributor to Kano State's agricultural output.

The Deputy Governor was warmly received by the Kano CARES management and local farmers upon arrival.

The Kano CARES Project Engineer, Bashir Sani, briefed the delegation on the farm's infrastructure. He highlighted that the Guzu Guzu Dam, built in 1980, was initially established for irrigation farming activities spanning 70 hectares.

"However, inadequate water supply led to farmers abandoning irrigation farming and focusing solely on rainy season

cultivation" he stated. Bashir Sani revealed that the intervention of Kano CARES included the construction of an irrigation canal, allowing farmers to cultivate approximately 200 hectares of farmland.

"The farm site has a potential capacity of 300 hectares, but the current intervention covers 150 hectares, with a target of 200 hectares" Sani disclosed. Addressing the gathered farmers, Deputy Governor Gwarzo expressed the government's commitment to investing in irrigation infrastructure and supporting the agricultural sector," he said.

He commended the farmers for their dedication and assured them of his intention to relay their needs and demands to the state governor, Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf.

"The aim is to implement targeted interventions that empower farmers, improve livelihoods, and contribute to the overall economic growth of Kano State," Gwarzo announced.

The Deputy Governor concluded by emphasizing the importance of the Guzu Guzu Irrigation Farm in boosting agricultural productivity and ensuring food security.

He assured the farmers that their concerns and requirements would be given due attention by the state government.



Kano Deputy Governor

Kaduna Dep Gov Attends POP Of Basic Military Training Course 43/2022

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, at the weekend, attended the Passing out Parade of Basic Military Training Course 43/2022 as Special Guest of Honour.

Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe represented, Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani, at the event, which took place at the Air Force Base, in Kaduna.

Highlight of the POP included review of parade by the Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice Marshall Hassan B. Abubakar; who was the reviewing officer; presentation of awards to the best graduating recruits and reviewing officer's address.



Timi Frank To Tinubu: Don't Harbour Or Negotiate With Looters

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, on Friday, called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu not to entertain, harbour or negotiate soft landing deals with ex-government officials known to have abused their offices by looting the nation's treasury.

Frank who made this appeal in a statement in Abuja, lamented that the zeal of the President in going after corrupt elements during his early days in office seems to have waned or completely dead.

He urged the President to rev up his drive to make corrupt officials account for their stewardship in order not to make the arrest and ongoing investigation of the Governor of the Central Bank, Godwin Emefiele and Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, AbdulRasheed Bawa to appear as being vendetta driven.

He also called on the President not to reward ex-governors and ex-ministers with corruption cases or criminal allegations against them by the anti-graft agencies with fresh appointment "as doing so would make his anti-corruption drive a mere child's play."

He urged the security agencies executing the anti-battle under Tinubu to extend their probe to the oil and gas sector by ensuring that those who fraudulently benefitted from fuel subsidy regime and bogus daily PMS consumption in the country, are made to refund the people's money they looted in the process. Frank said: "From all indications, your (Tinubu's) Government is negotiating with looters and that is the reason why up till now we have not seen any new action against looters after the arrest and detention of Emefiele and Bawa.

"Many Nigerians were happy and commended the actions you took on these arrests but at this time we think a lot of the people who looted the country under ex-President Muhammadu Buhari's administration would have by now been arrested and being prosecuted in court.

"Unfortunately, no further action has not been taken to bring them to justice and information at our disposal show that a lot of these looters are negotiating with your government for soft landing.

"Most importantly, the zeal with which you started the fight against corruption which Nigerians applauded with the hope that you have come to surprise the country by genuinely fighting corruption has clearly died down and probably may not happen again.

"If care is not taken, it might turn out that Emefiele and Bawa were just victims. In other words, from your body language so far, we don't think you are ready to genuinely continue the fight against corrupt government officials but only after those perceived not to have supported your bid to emerge as President.

"Otherwise there are lot of looters out there which despite the plethora of evidence of corrupt tendencies against them are going around freely and it is very likely that nothing will happen to them anymore."

Frank who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) Ambassador to East Africa and Middle East, said described a situation where former political office holders with known corrupt tendencies are now finding their way into Tinubu's cabinet.

He said: "It is very clear that most of them might be appointed into your administration as Ministers or other key government positions which would be tantamount to rewarding looters.

"For instance, it is highly unbecoming that Senator

Godswill Akpabio, with all the atrocious actions he took as Minister of Niger Delta Affairs in emasculating and annexing the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to frustrate development of the region as Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, has now been brought back and reworded with the position of President of the Senate, while Ms Hadiza Bala-Usman who was sacked over corruption allegations as managing director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) is now Special Adviser to the President on Policy Coordination.

"Most likely, Nigerians will see more known looters rewarded with juicy positions in his cabinet.

"Besides, former governors and ex-ministers that should have no role in the present administration due to series of petitions against them at the EFCC but that are perhaps pushing for positions include former Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Timipre Sylva (now angling to be re-elected as governor in Bayelsa State), former Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika, former Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), Mele Kyari, former Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq, former Personal Assistant to ex-President Buhari, Tunde Sabiu and former Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed.

"Others are former Comptroller



Timi Frank

General of the Nigeria Customs Service, Col. Hammid Ali, Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Bashir Jamo, former Managing Directors and Sole Administrator of NDDC as well as former Service Chiefs appointed by Buhari."

According to him, the poor masses are today suffering from hardship occasioned by Tinubu's policies like fuel subsidy removal, while those who fraudulently benefited from subsidy regime should be allowed to go scud free.

"Since the beginning of this administration, innocent Nigerians are the ones suffering and unfortunately they are being told to be patient in their excruciating miseries by the government.

"How long would the poor be

patient while those who looted their wealth are walking free and enjoying their loot? Now the poor masses are suffering from skyrocketing cost of living because of the removal of fuel subsidy and imminent increase in electricity tariffs.

"Going by the zeal Tinubu displayed in his first few days in office, Nigerians believed that by now many of those who abused their offices and corruptly enriched themselves during past administration would have been arrested and being probe by now. But it is clear that it is only two persons that have been arrested and undergoing investigation meanwhile there are so many of them out there," he said.

He reminded the President that Nigerians and the members of the international community are watching to see if he is genuine in his anti-graft drive or just flying kite with Emefiele and Bawa.

Governor Nwifuru Appoints Ebonyi UBEB Members

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru has approved the appointment of Chairman and members of Universal Basic Education Board (UBEB) in Ebonyi State.

In a statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Dr Monday Uzor, the governor approved the appointment of Mrs. Patience Ogodo as Chairman and five other members.

"The Governor of Ebonyi State, His Excellency Rt. Hon. Francis Ogbonna

Nwifuru FNIQB, GGCEHF has approved the appointment of the following persons as Chairman and Members of the State Universal Basic Education Board UBEB.

"They are, Rt. Hon. Patience Ogodo - Chairman; Barr. Samuel Okoronkwo. -- Member One, Mr. Chijioke Nwuzor

-- Member Two; Rt. Hon. Julius Nwokpor-- Member Three and Dr. Livinus Ezeuwa-- Secretary.

According to the Chief Press secretary, their names have been forwarded to Ebonyi State House of Assembly for screening and confirmation.

No Plans By Gov Adeleke To Sack Workers, Re-introduce Half Salary Payment - Osun Govt

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Osun State Government on Thursday, disclosed that there are no plans by the government to sack workers nor re-introduce half salary payment in the state

The government gave the assurance in a statement signed by the Spokesperson to Governor Ademola Adeleke, Mallam Olawale Rasheed. Osun State Government in the statement, described a claim by a pressure group within the Nigerian Union of Pensioners (NUP) in the state as fake news.

"The attention of the Osun State Government has been drawn to a press conference by a pressure group within the Nigerian Union of Pensioners (NUP) and fake news about plans to sack workers," it said.

Osun State Government added, "We affirm that there is neither a plan to sack workers nor any re-introduction of half salary. This was old fake news sponsored by agents of the opposition which the public is implored to ignore"

It stressed that Governor Ademola Adeleke "is available to meet all stakeholders for the development of the state", adding, "as a responsive leader, the Governor has met many groups and associations since assuming office. Many of such groups are also lined

up for appointments with the state chief executive officer including the protesting Pensioners".

"It is however, important to note that the Government of Governor Ademola Adeleke has remained committed to meeting its financial obligations to workers, both in and out of service. The government can however not pay off all outstanding salaries and pensions all at once due to paucity of funds which is known to all stakeholders". It pointed out.

The statement stressed that the administration has adopted a phased payment system but with an increase in the amount paid monthly to the pensioners among others. In recognition of the state of the economy, the monthly payment has been increased from two hundred thousand naira under the former government to five hundred thousand naira. This is a decision under implementation despite the tight financial status of the state.

It emphasized that Governor Adeleke remains the only Governor in the history of Osun state to have made workers' welfare his number one governance agenda, a fact acknowledged by the protesting Pensioners", saying, "the government remains committed to that agenda within the context of fund availability.

Late Prophet Olowere: We've Lost A Worthy Father Of Faith In Oyo - Gov Makinde

**Demise, loss of a true prophet of God - Senator Sharafadeen Alli*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde on Thursday, described the death of the founder of the Christ Apostolic Church, CAC, Oke-Agbara, Asi Bodija, Prophet Michael Ojo Olowere, popularly called Baba Olowere, as a huge loss to Christendom and the entire Oyo State.

Also, the Senator representing Oyo South Senatorial District, Sen. Sharafadeen Alli described the death of Prophet Olowere as a loss of a true prophet of God.

The governor, in a condolence message signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Sulaimon Olanrewaju extended condolences to the leadership of CAC Worldwide, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Oyo State branch and the immediate family of Baba Olowere.

The governor stressed that Baba Olowere was a worthy father of faith and one of God's Generals, who have given their all to ensure the continued prosperity of Oyo State through their prayers and other contributions, saying, "Baba would be highly missed by his followers, admirers and the Christian faithful in the state".

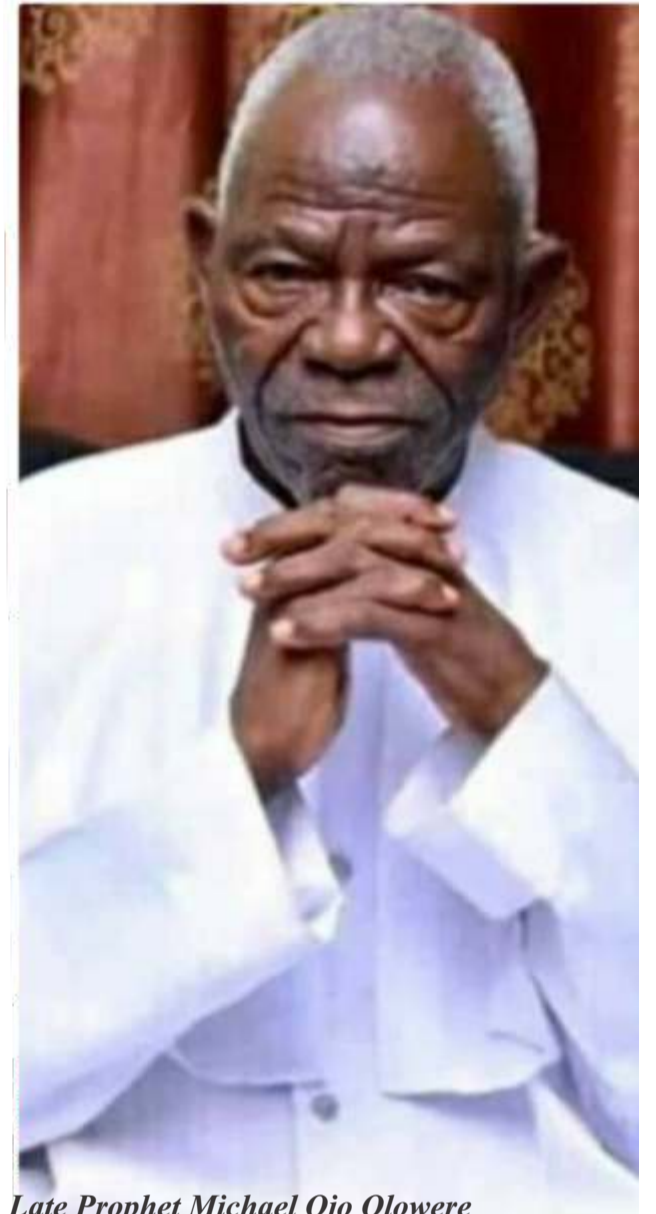
"I received the news of the death of Prophet Michael Ojo Olowere, with shock. Baba lived his life

serving God and humanity. He was a God's General who sought the good of Oyo State and Nigeria and contributed his quota to making it happen", he said. Gov Makinde added, "We have lost a worthy father of faith in Oyo State. I condole with the CAC Worldwide, the Oyo State CAN, the members of CAC Oke-Agbara, Asi Bodija and the entire people of the state. I pray that God will grant him eternal rest and give all of us the fortitude to bear this loss."

Senator Sharafadeen Alli in the condolence message he personally signed described the death of Prophet Michael Ojo Olowere, as a loss of a true prophet of God, saying, the oldest prophet in the CAC family was a deep preacher, teacher and gospel evangelist who was greatly loved by all.

According to him, Baba Olowere was a resolute and dogged believer in God. Godly, humble, disciplined, contented and respected by all and was a worthy father, evangelist and popular prayer warrior, who never discriminated against anyone irrespective of religious or ethnic affiliations.

"His death is a huge loss to the people of Oyo State, particularly the Christian community. He has indeed left behind a shoe too big for others to wear. His legacies of philanthropy,



Late Prophet Michael Ojo Olowere

orderly behaviour, respect for fellow human beings, culture of tolerance, contentment, discipline and ability to live above board will surely outlive him. I have no doubt that his affectionate love for mankind, dedication to God and quintessential lifestyle will grant him eternal rest," he said.

Senator Alli while expressing his condolences to the late Prophet Olowere family, the CAC Worldwide and Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) prayed that Almighty God grant his soul eternal rest and give his families fortitude to bear the irreplaceable loss.

Food Shortage Looms In Nigeria, Babaloja-General Raises Alarm

**Urges Tinubu to avoid those pushing for more unhealthy, unfriendly policies*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Babaloja-General of Oyo State, Alhaji Sunmaila Aderemi Jimoh has alerted of a looming food insecurity in Nigeria.

Raising the alarm while speaking with newsmen yesterday, Alhaji Jimoh also advised President Bola Tinubu to avoid those who keep pushing for more unhealthy and unfriendly policies capable of making them richer and sniffing life out of the masses.

The Babaloja General declared that to avert the looming food insecurity in Nigeria, the Federal Government should rise up and give needed assistance to farmers and traders in and across the country.

According to Alhaji Jimoh, it is only federal government intervention that can avert the threatening food insecurity and bring down prices of

commodities in and across Nigeria.

"As situation is presently, only federal government intervention can avert threatening food insecurity and bring prices of commodities down to reasonable level where common man can boast of two average meals per day", he said

The Babaloja General added, "Traders are facing terrible dilemma in Nigeria now as a result of consumer's believe that traders are behind the hike in food prices, whereas we traders serve as punching bags being hit by other economic agents, including government, manufacturers, producers, farmers and consumers".

"Coming from the worldwide turmoil and suffering caused by Covid-19, Nigerians landed in terrible starvation inflicted on them by those stockpiling money for electioneering process, in the midst

of these fuel scarcity entered, then federal government added shortage of Naira notes, which ruined and grounded economies at all levels".

Alhaji Jimoh maintained that the recent removal of petroleum subsidy which subsequently jacked up the pump price of petrol has forced transporters to increase cost of transportation for goods or passengers, farmers in turn have increased selling price of their produce, living now becomes difficult for consumers due to insufficient resources to cater for even necessities.

He stressed, "Traders, being the closest amongst all economic agents to the people, consumers see us as those who can make or mar their survivability in difficult time, hence they go to the market place with intention of having all problems relating to food and daily needs solve with their little income and

agitate when the situation is contrary to their expectations, most times it leads to unnecessary aggression and verbal attack on traders"

The Babaloja General noted further that "Prioritizing adequate and uncompromised security of lives and properties in our various rural areas, farms and forestry should be the first move towards halting the threatening food insecurity as well as absolute eradication of open grassing and pronouncement of severe punishment for the deviants, follow by provision of seeds and materials at affordable prices, good roads, borehole water, medical centres are equally very necessary". He added, "Giving out interest-free loan to farmers and traders is a good way of relieving them of the pressure coming from their business environment and society. However,

government need to put in place good control measure towards ensuring prompt repayment and sincerity of purpose", saying, "This can be achieved by engaging managers who will help in ensuring funds are not diverted but invest on good and profitable businesses and also supervise the repayment process".

Alhaji Jimoh however while President Tinubu for the work done by him so far urged the President not to allow those he said are pushing for more unhealthy and unfriendly policies capable of making them richer and sniffing life out of the masses.

"From few appointments and work done so far by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, I want to emphatically tell you that, he is truly a president of all tribes and for all religions in Nigeria.

AFAN Begins Sales Of Fertilizer To Zaria Farmers On Credit

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) Kaduna State Chapter has flagged off the sales and distribution of fertilizer for the 2023 farming season.

Performing the ceremony in Zaria, the state chairman, Alhaji Nuhu Aminu said the commodity will be sold on loan to farmers to alleviate their financial burden.

He said the timely distribution of the fertilizer for this year's cropping season is aimed at boosting agriculture and ensuring food security in the state and beyond, while creating wealth and

providing employment opportunities for the teeming youth.

The chairman said he will ensure that the commodity reaches its intended beneficiaries, while explaining that his leadership has put in place an effective framework for the sales and distribution of fertilizers across all the 23 local governments of the state to ensure that the commodity reaches the real farmers at the grassroots.

Nuhu Aminu said his leadership is mindful of the high price of fertilizers in the market which adversely affects the farmers and reduces the overall contribution of the

sector in the economic development of the state.

"We understand that the high cost of fertilizer and other farm implements can be a significant barrier to our farmers. That's why we are working diligently to make these essential inputs available to alleviate the financial burden on our farmers."

"Our aim is to empower our farmers with the essential resources to enhance crop yields, improve soil fertility, increase profitability, and achieve sustainable agricultural practices". He said.

He cautioned them against diversion or any form of mismanagement of the

commodity.

The chairman said 200 farmers will benefit from each local government area with five bags of assorted fertilizer.

Some beneficiaries of the fertilizer loan scheme, Hajiya Jummai Abubakar, Malama Hauwa Usman from Giwa Local Government Area and Umar Musa, Kabir Ahmad from Kudan Local Government Area respectively, expressed happiness over the gesture done to farmers by AFAN Kaduna State Chapter.

They assured of the judicious use of the commodities given to them to enable them pay back when due.



New Female Commissioner of Police Assumes Duty In Ebonyi



CP Augustina Nwuka Ogbodo

By ; M K P U M A
ENYINNA, Abakaliki

A new Female Commissioner of Police, CP Augustina Nwuka Ogbodo has assumed duty in Ebonyi State, following the retirement of the immediate past CP, Faleye Olaleye.

In a statement issued by the Command's Public Relations Officer, SP Onome Onovwakpoyeya stated that she took over the mantle of leadership of the command from the outgoing Commissioner of Police, CP Faleye S. Olaleye who meritoriously pulled out of the force on retirement after meritorious service.

According to SP Onome, CP Justina Nwuka Ogbodo hails from Enugu south LGA of Enugu State.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the prestigious University of Nigeria Nsukka and also a diploma in Police science from police staff College Jos.

She enlisted into the Nigeria Police Force on the 3rd of march 1990 as Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police and was subsequently trained at the police academy annex, Kaduna.

She has served meritoriously in various capacities in different geopolitical zones of the Country.

She has served as divisional traffic Officer, divisional Crime Officer, divisional police Officer.

On her promotion to the rank of Assistant

Commissioner Of Police, She served as assistant Commissioner Of Police in charge criminal investigation department, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.

On her elevation to the rank of Deputy Commissioner Of Police, she served in administration, department of Logistics and Supply, Force Headquarters Abuja, department of Administration, FCT Command Abuja, and also as deputy Commissioner of Police, homicide section Force criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department Abuja.

On her promotion to the enviable rank of Commissioner Of Police, she served as Commissioner of Police in charge of welfare, Force Headquarters Abuja and currently she is the 26th and 3rd woman Commissioner Of Police Ebonyi State Police Command.

She has attended several courses such as advance detective course, police Staff College Jos.(2002), intermediate Command Course, police Staff College Jos,(2006), Strategic planning and Intelligence - led policing (2009) and strategic leadership and command course(2017).

"CP Justina Nwuka Ogbodo is a thorough-bred Police Officer, one of the finest of our time, she can be referred to as a police officer extra-ordinaire," the statement said.

Northern APC Youth Urge Tinubu To Appoint Ikedi Ohakim Minister

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

The Concerned Northern APC Youth Forum at the weekend, reiterated their confidence in a former Governor of Imo State, Ikedi Ohakim and advised the current administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to look his way when appointing Ministers.

The APC youth said Ohakim's wealth of experience and drive for a much better Nigeria is what the country requires at this material time.

Hon. Suleiman Liba who is the Chairman of the group, said that only people of proven integrity and experience are required at this material time to help advance the course of nation building.

"Dr. Ikedi Ohakim is a statesman and a very loyal party man, who has encouraged human capital development and leadership at almost all strata of human endeavors." "Nigeria under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is poised to deliver on the goals and Dr. Ikedi Ohakim will prove a very viable catalyst to this



Ikedi Ohakim

quest."

"He is a unifying factor who believes that much more can be achieved on a united front, he has demonstrated this in his home state of Imo by bringing most warring camps together to work for the peace and progress of the state under the

leadership of H.E. Sen. Hope Uzodinma, who today, he enjoys a smooth working relationship with. "Dr. Ohakim is a man we can vouch for, even though we don't come from the same region as him, but this is about Nigeria and Nigeria is bigger than any region.

We must put aside parochialism and move our country to its original place as the giant of Africa and a true force to be reckoned with globally. "We have the potential and we can get there but only with committed individuals such as Dr. Ikedi Ohakim," he said.

Governor Eno Moves To Appease Aggrieved PDP Members In A'Ibom

**Thanks party for support*

By; PATRICK TITUS,
Uyo

The Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno has called for the restrengthening of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state through a fresh reintegration drive within the ranks of the party in every ward.

Eno who spoke during his visit to the State Secretariat of PDP in Uyo on Thursday, announced Saturday August 26, 2023 as state-wide ward meeting of party.

He described the ward as the strongest level of the party that must be firmly entrenched by intentional actions of the stakeholders and leaders whom he charged to maintain constant engagement with party faithful.

The governor extended olive branch to members of PDP in the state who defected due to grievances to return to the party and rebuild together.

Governor Eno however, said that the visit to the party secretariat was to show his appreciation for the support he enjoyed in the course of his election, holding that the commitment and resilience of party faithful alongside other Akwa Ibomites, saw to his victory at the poll earlier in the year.

"We have come here to say thank you to PDP in Akwa Ibom State. We thank the PDP family from each ward and Local Government Area in the state. Thank you for going round with us, thank you for talking to people for us. It was our election and we won together."

"I won't fail to extend my very warm appreciation to my predecessor for everything he did to make sure that our party succeeds at the polls. We thank all Akwa Ibomites across party lines who stood by us and for the privilege given us to serve". He said.

He pointed that the best way to show appreciation to the party and Akwa Ibomites in general, is to evolve people-centric

policies, programmes and projects that will meet the needs and aspirations of the citizens and move the state to greater heights.

According to him, "we will do the best we can to show that we are grateful. We will show how grateful we are by our policies and programmes. We will show to the people that beyond words, we are truly grateful for the opportunity to serve. We will continue to do everything to ensure that Akwa Ibom moves forward."

Earlier, the state Chairman of PDP, Elder Aniekan Akpan, who conveyed the message of the party, thanked the Governor for starting out well and making the party proud in his style of governance since his commencement of duty as Chief Executive of the state, reassuring that the party is solidly behind him and will relentlessly lend due support for him to succeed.

"As a party, we appreciate you for making us proud in your style of governance. You have been flagging off projects and I know it's going to be project all through."

"For what you have done, we will continue to support you. We will go in the way you lead the State and truly, that way is forward". He said.

The Governor was accompanied to the event by the wife of the Governor, Her Excellency Pastor Patience Umo Eno, the Secretary to the State Government, Prince Enobong Uwah, Director-General of the Pastor Umo Eno/Akon Eyakenyi Campaign Organisation, Amb. Assam Assam, the Deputy Speaker of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Kufre Abasi Edidem, Former Principal Officers and members of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, Former Commissioners, Chairmen of Boards, Chairmen of Local Government Councils and Senior Citizens and stakeholders of the PDP in the state.

News Direct Publisher, Ibiyemi's Death, Shocking, Sad - Gov Adeleke

**Says 'we lost a consummate professional'*

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

Governor of Osun State, Ademola Adeleke has described the death of Publisher of News Direct, Ibiyemi as a huge loss.

The governor in a condolence message issued on Tuesday

evening by his spokesperson, Mallam Olawale Rasheed, Governor Adeleke said Osun State and the journalism profession has lost a major icon, a media entrepreneur and community worker of great repute.

"I just got the news and I

must note how devastating we are. We note his contributions to the development of journalism and the growth of Osun State. We lost a consummate professional who distinguished himself during his lifetime", he said.

Gov Adeleke added, "On behalf of the people and government of Osun state, we commiserate with the family and associates of Dr Ibiyemi on this sad loss. We pray the good Lord strengthen and protect all what he left behind".

Raids: 207 Suspects Arrested For Phone Snatching, Other Mundane Crimes In Kaduna

*Orders constant raids on identified black spots

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kaduna State Police Command under the watch of CP M.Y. Garba, acting in line with the operational strategies of the Inspector General of Police, IGP Olukayode Adeolu Egbetokun PhD, NPM has recorded another tactical milestone in its relentless onslaught against criminal

elements in the state. This was contained in a statement signed by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Muhammed Jalige, dated Saturday July 8, 2023, which informed that 207 suspects were arrested within a week. The command therefore, ordered for constant raids on identified black spots following

the outcry by the good people of Kaduna State on the activities of criminals within Kaduna metropolis and environs, that has yielded a positive result with the arrest of 207 suspects in connection to various crimes especially phone snatching, ATM swap, armed robbery, thuggery (Sara-Suka) and other heinous crimes. These arrests were made in

different locations within the city centre and a number of recoveries were made. Investigations are currently ongoing, some of the suspects have been charged to court, while others are currently undergoing an in-depth inquiries after which they will also be charged to court of competent jurisdiction. The Commissioner of Police

applauded Area Commanders, DPOs and Tactical Commanders for their resilience and professionalism in curbing crimes and urged them to sustain the tempo. He equally admonished parents to warn their wards against committing all forms of criminalities as they cannot evade the prowling eyes of the Police.



Raids: 207 Suspects Arrested For Phone Snatching, Other Mundane Crimes In Kaduna



NSCIA To Swedish Authorities: Investigate Holy Qur'an Burning In Stockholm

***Urges Ummah worldwide to remain calm, peaceful, law-abiding**

By: **BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan**

The Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, (NSCIA) on Saturday, called on the Swedish Authorities to investigate the burning of Holy Qur'an in front of the main Mosque in Stockholm, Sweden.

NSCIA in a statement by its Deputy Secretary-General, Prof. Salisu Shehu also asked the Swedish authorities to "make the report public, and ensure that justice is not only done but seen to be done".

It stressed that NSCIA joined other well-meaning leaders and individuals across the world "to condemn, in the strongest terms, the provocative and blasphemous act of burning the Glorious Qur'an"

According to the Islamic body,

"This abominable and heinous act is a clear affirmation of the growing high level of Islamophobia while evidencing the impunity of Islamophobes whose hatred for Islam and Muslims knows no bound".

"The Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, (NSCIA) under the leadership of its President-General and Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Alh. Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, CFR on behalf of the entire Nigerian Muslim Ummah, joins other well-meaning leaders and individuals across the world to condemn, in the strongest terms, the provocative and blasphemous act of burning the Glorious Qur'an in front of the main Mosque in Stockholm, Sweden", it said.

NSCIA added, "Actions and

utterances credited to the self-Islamophobic mack of gross insensitivity, and disrespect for the feelings and sensibilities of nearly two billion Muslims in the World.

"The Council calls on the Swedish Authorities to as a matter of urgency investigate the matter, make the report public, and ensure that justice is not only done but seen to be done. This is one too many attacks on Mosques in Sweden, especially recalling that of 2015 and another in December 2022, following which a damaged copy of the Qur'an was left chained up and hanging outside the entrance of the Mosque"

NSCIA stressed, "It is ironical that a blasphemous act of the current magnitude would be

allowed in a country often celebrated as one of the most peaceful in the entire Europe", adding, "the Council is particularly shocked that the supposedly intelligent and civilised Swedish Police would fail to restrain, thereby tacitly granting permission for an individual to carry out such an obvious offensive and provocative act of burning a Holy Book."

It maintained that this seemingly without regard to the consequences or its potential to result in or snowball into a religious crisis not only in Sweden or Europe but also across the world adding "This begs the question for a determination of the

insensitivity or culpability of the Swedish Police in this matter."

The Supreme Council then enjoined the Ummah across the world to remain calm and continue to be peaceful and law-abiding in the face of this provocation and that the "Council acknowledges and commends the proactive and strong response made by Turkiye, Morocco and other Muslim countries on this matter."

"Once more, the Council reiterates the fact that no Holy Book should be desecrated and disrespected in such manner as recurring in Sweden. It is our strongest and surest belief that Sweden would never allow its National flag to be burnt in such ignoble manner, not to talk of burning the Bible.

Sifax Group Subsidiary Nets \$200m Kano-Maradi Cargo Handling Equipment Supply Job

By: **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

Ports & Cargo Handling Services Limited (PCHS), a subsidiary of SIFAX Group and operator of Terminal C, Tin Can Island Port, Lagos, has recorded another milestone with the successful cargo handling of equipment for the \$200 million Kano-Maradi (Niger Republic) rail project being handled by Mota-Engil Nigeria Limited.

According to a statement, the multi-million dollars heavy-duty equipment handled by the company arrived via MV-TINA vessel at the terminal last week and included wheel loader, backhoe loaders, crawler excavators, truck-mounted concrete pumps, concrete mixer trucks, telehandlers, motor graders, vibratory soil compactors, and many more.

Speaking during the unveiling of the equipment at the terminal, John Jenkins, Managing Director, PCHS, thanked the construction firm for trusting the company to handle their equipment, noting that handling such volume is an indication of the trust which clients have in the terminal operator's excellent service delivery.

He said: "I would like to thank Mota-Engil for trusting and



The containers bearing the equipment.

working with us. Our handling of this volume of cargo is an indication of our capacity to deliver excellent service.

"We have a rich blend and mix of human capital and equipment at our company and this has helped us to meet and surpass the expectations of our clients.

"The terminal has capacity to also store various cargoes

conveniently too. We put in our best to make sure that best value is delivered always. We are proud that the equipment that will be used for the rail construction are handled by us." Jenkins went further to explain that PCHS has well-established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in line with global best practices which makes service

delivery at the terminal seamless.

In his words, "We don't have documentation issues here at PCHS, we have established SOPs to make operations here very seamless. As far as PCHS is concerned we give sufficient resources in handling big and large volumes."

In his reaction, the Logistics

Manager, Mota-Engil Nigeria Limited, Nuno Colaco, the exceptional service delivery, open communication and available manpower at the terminal signpost a serious terminal operator, while noting that the handling of the equipment by PCHS was done in a timely and professional manner

Uduaghan, Accomplice Docked For Duping American Lady \$268,0000

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Two suspected fraudsters have been arraigned by the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over alleged fraudulent act.

Named Joseph Uduaghan and Precious Ojo, the duo were arraigned before Justice F. A. Olubanjo of the Federal High Court sitting in Asaba, Delta State by the anti graft agency.

Ojo and Uduaghan were arraigned on three and 10 count charges respectively for offences bordering on fraudulent impersonation, obtaining by false pretence and money laundering.

In a statement by Wilson Uwujaren, EFCC's Head of Media and Publicity, Ojo, also known as Obago, allegedly impersonated one Peter Gabriel, an American medical doctor purportedly working in Syria to defraud his unsuspecting victim, Agata Harasimowicz, an American lady, of the aggregate sum \$268,0000 (Two Hundred and Sixty-eight Thousand America Dollars).

Uduaghan on his part is alleged to have received the aggregate sum of N170 million from Ojo which he used in the construction of a hotel.

One of the charges reads, "That you, Precious Ojo (m) sometime between July 2021 and April, 2022 in Delta State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did with intent to defraud sent electronic messages which materially misrepresent your identity to Agata Harasimowicz, an American lady upon which she relied and suffered financial loss in the aggregate sum of \$268,000.00 (Two Hundred and Sixty-eight Thousand United States Dollars) worth of Bitcoin and Gift Cards and thereby, committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 14(2) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition prevention etc) Act 2015".

One of the charges against Uduaghan reads: "that you, Joseph Uduaghan (m) sometime between March and December, 2022 in Delta State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did directly use the aggregate sum of N170,000,000.00 (One Hundred and Seventy Million Naira) to build a hotel known as Obago Continental Hotel and Suites, lying and situate at Western Delta Road, Ogharefe Area of Delta State which funds you knew or reasonably ought to have known forms part of the proceeds of unlawful act of Precious



One of the suspects, Uduaghan

Ojo to wit: Cybercrime and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 15(2)(d) of the Money Laundering (prohibition) Act, 2011 (As Amended) and punishable under Section 15(3) of the same Act". Upon arraignment the defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges, prompting the prosecution counsel, Francis Jirbo to pray the court to fix a date for trial. However the defence counsel, Pascal Ugboime informed the court that he

has filed a bail application for his clients and pleaded with the court to grant them bail.

He argued that the alleged offences were bailable and that the defendants will be available to face their trial. The prosecution counsel opposed the application on the ground that the defendants are flight risk and could jump bail.

However, the defence counsel pleaded with the court to release the defendants to him pending the ruling on the bail application

CSO To NAHCON, States: Commence Registration Of 2024 Hajj Pilgrims In Earnest

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Given the early release of the 2024 calendar of events by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, the Independent Hajj Reporters (IHR), a civil society organization that monitors Hajj and Umrah activities in Nigeria and Saudi Arabia, has advised the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) to begin the registration of intending 2024 Hajj pilgrims immediately.

The organisation gave the advise in a statement signed by its National Coordinator, Malam Ibrahim Mohammed, on Saturday in Makkah.

IHR noted that the announcement of the 2024 calendar of events less than a week after the 2023 Hajj period has created a new Hajj operating system for participating countries who are desirous of being part of next year's Hajj.

"With this announcement, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has indirectly rendered the usual one-year-at-time registration of pilgrims ineffective because the Ministry of Hajj has now made it operationally mandatory for countries to complete all arrangements for the next Hajj four months after the current Hajj.

IHR said more important is a new policy of allotment of tents in Mina on to "first to ready, first to get" basis – thereby creating the need to fast-forward preparations for the 2024 Hajj.

The statement further advised NAHCON, states Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Boards, Hajj and Umrah Operators to immediately begin preparations for the services to provide the pilgrims during the 2024 Hajj.

"The yearly process of preparations for Hajj is anchored on providing memorable services during the 5-days of Hajj – being days when Hajj rites are performed.

"We must be prepared because the Hajj exercise will not get better by chance. For example, applying for airline slots, allotment of tents in Mina, provision for pilgrims' accommodation both in Makkah and Madinah, funding of visa accounts and meeting all other financial obligations, required having a pool of funds that can be easily utilised.

"The 'pay-as-you-go' system of pilgrim registration is operationally obsolete and NAHCON and states Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Boards should immediately commence the registration for the 2024 Hajj and roll out a plan of action.

"The Ministry of Hajj has so far communicated to some Hajj participating countries approving the normal quota

for 2024 Hajj – meaning that Nigeria will retain its 95,000-Hajj quota.

"For the 2024 Hajj, the Minister of Hajj said preparatory meetings would start on Rabi Al-Awwal 1, 1445AH, corresponding to September 16, during which the electronic track would open for data entry, and the list of licensed companies would be published.

"More importantly for Nigeria Airlines, the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) will activate the financial portfolio of the electronic track in the same month.

"The preparatory meetings will be completed and service packages will be made available on Rabi Al-Thani 20, 1445AH, corresponding to November 4, 2023, after which the display of Hajj and Umrah services will be launched.

"The minister said that the allotment process of pilgrims' accommodation in Makkah and Madinah and the Holy Sites would be finalized by Shaban 15, 1445AH, corresponding to February 25, 2024 – an exercise that is less than 8 months from now.

"The issuance of visa will start from Shaban 20, 1445AH, corresponding to March 1, 2024 – which is just eight (8) months away," the statement read.

"The announcement that the Visas portal will be closed on Shawwal 20, 1445AH, corresponding to April 29, 2024, means that pilgrim's registration and documentation must be concluded in 10 months in Nigeria.

"The first batch of 2024 Hajj pilgrims is expected to arrive in Saudi Arabia on the Dhul Qada 1, 1445AH, corresponding to May 9, 2024, - 10 months away," IHR stated.

It explained that going by the challenges of service delivery experienced this year, it is apparent that the one-year Hajj rolling plan being practised in Nigeria is no longer compatible with the operational plan rolled out by the Ministry of Hajj last week. "Hence, the need to begin pilgrims' registration.

"Preliminary discussion with Saudi-based service providers on accommodation in both Makkah and Madinah, Transport syndicate services and feeding arrangements need to commence along with the return airlift process.

Nigeria, as the fifth largest global Hajj contingent and highest delegation in Africa, cannot operate "pay today, travel tomorrow" Hajj arrangements, when its counterparts operate five to six years of Hajj rolling plans. There is a need to start here and now," the statement emphasised.

Leaders, Stakeholders Should Promote Peace In Nigeria - Hyat

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Kaduna State chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Mr. Felix Hassan Hyat, has called on leaders and stakeholders in Nigeria to ensure they promote peace and unity in their utterances and actions for the overall development of the country.

Speaking in Kaduna on Friday during a one-day roundtable on religion and politics, he wondered that former Governor Nasir el-Rufai could lower himself so low to raise a sensitive issue that is meant to cause division and hatred among Christians and Muslims in the country, instead of discussing issues that could enhance the corporate existence of all Nigerians.

According to him, "Leaders and stakeholders in this country should see themselves as bridge builders meant to ensure a conducive environment that will foster peace and unity for all Nigerians to go about their legitimate businesses without any problem. We should pity ourselves in the country that in spite of the abundance blessings God has bestowed in the country, only few are enjoying because of greed and selfishness."

He urged Governor Uba Sani to fear God and do the needful to the people of the state irrespective of their political and religious differences, saying, "It is only in the spirit of togetherness that we can overcome every challenge, be it security or any other thing. Kaduna state needs a

leader that has the political will to face the challenges confronting the state squarely without any favouritism for the overall development of the state. "If what former Governor el-Rufai did in terms of his appointments and distribution of resources remains the same, then we are in for it. We seriously need a radical departure of what the state experienced in the last eight years of el-Rufai's administration for the peaceful coexistence and



Hyat

development of the state." He explained that the leadership of the state government has an ample opportunity to correct the mistakes of the past by uniting the citizens and ensure all live as an entity for the peace, unity and development of the state.

Beaded Crown Wearing: Ibadan Mogajis, Baales, Market Men, Women Happy With Makinde - Sanusi

*Says this is what they have been waiting for

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

O tun Apesinola of Ibadanland and Chairman, Ilaji Hotels and Sports Resort Mogaji Dotun Sanusi has cleared the air that Mogajis, Baales, market men and women across Ibadanland are happy with Governor Seyi Makinde for approving request of Olubadan-In-Council to allow the High Chiefs to wear beaded crowns.

Speaking with newsmen over the weekend, the Chairman of Ilaji Hotels and Sports Resorts said Gov Makinde has etched out his name in gold for the great honour accorded Ibadan Traditional institution.

According to Mogaji Sanusi, Ibadan is progressing and wearing new look amidst expanding population and economic advancement of its main and less cities under Gov Makinde administration.

"I can boldly say that majority of the Mogajis, market men and women and vast majority of indigenes of Ibadan are so happy for them. This is what we have been waiting for. The question to ask ourselves are: Is this development going to bring development to Ibadan? The answer is an emphatic Yes! Is it good for our city, Yes!", he said.

The Otun Apesinola added, "The Olubadan is the one crowning all the High Chiefs unlike the 2017 episode under the late former Governor Abiola Ajimobi", adding, "What His Excellency, Engr. Seyi Makinde did was just to endorse the request of the Olubadan for his High Chiefs to wear beaded

crowns".

"We thank God it comes to reality during the time of the current Olubadan and our dear governor, Engr. Seyi Makinde. Ibadan is progressing and we believe this is the time that God bath ordained. After today, there will be more developments across our land and everything will be very fine".

Mogaji Sanusi noted, "This is a new dawn and you can see that all the traditional heads come together under the umbrella of Olubadan. All the Mogajis and Baales in the Eleven Local Governments are together. You can no longer be a Mogaji or Baale and you'll be staying in the US, if you don't have any contribution to show to the development of your community, Ibadan and the entire Oyo State, you can't be crowned"

He maintained, "This is not possible under the watch of Engr. Seyi Makinde as he has streamlined everything. The era of being outside of your community as a traditional ruler is over. If you come to Egbeda, Ona-Ara, we have Oba Tajudeen Ajibola as a crowned royal head. If he (Oba Ajibola) had not contributed immensely, he wouldn't have been crowned. It was on merit! Mogaji Sanusi stressed "This is a new Ibadan and Oyo State! We are ready for the next level and Omititun 2.0, Mogaji Sanusi noted, "Your contribution to the development of Ibadan is key. You have to show why you merit your chieftaincy title in Ibadan, henceforth".

Let's Embrace Peace, Unity, Mrs Sanwo-Olu Charges Christian Bodies

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Christians from all denominations have been implored to embrace peace and unity for the progress and development of Nigeria.

First Lady of Lagos, Dr. (Mrs) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu gave the charge at the 2023 Lagos Praise 3.0, an annual event organized by the Office of the First Lady, Lagos to create a viable platform for the state's first family, graceful ladies, and members of the Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO) to come together in collaboration with the five blocs of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Lagos State Chapter.

The governor's wife in her address, said this year's theme, "Casting Crowns," taken from Rev 4: 10-11. was chosen

specifically to signify the act of laying down one's crown and submitting to worship which is the essence of the gathering.

Dr. Sanwo-Olu urged all Christians, particularly in the five blocs of CAN to use the platform to worship God in holiness, saying the body of Christ is one.

She said, "I therefore, heartily welcome you all to this intense praise session and urge you to enjoy the presence of God and be alive in the spirit to get the best from this worship service"

"Beyond this service, I admonish us in the light of Hebrews 12: 14 that we should follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Let's embrace peace and be pure in our relationship with people"

She further explained that, "The initiative started as a platform for the First

Family, Graceful Ladies, and members of the Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO), which is also chaired by me to come together in collaboration with the five blocs of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Lagos State Chapter.

"This is with the view to worshipping and appreciating God on a consistent basis for His faithfulness and loving-kindness and also to serve as an avenue to pray for good governance, peace, and development of Lagos State."

As it is tradition participants invited for the programme cut across the five administrative divisions of Lagos State namely Ikeja, Badagry, Ikorodu, Lagos Island, and Epe (IBILE).

Those invited to give the intense praise session the needed zest include; the eminent leadership of

CAN and members of the Body of Christ, top government functionaries, security agencies, community leaders, grassroots groups, representatives of voluntary organizations, and the Organised Private sector.

There were also ministrations by the choirs from the Chapel of Christ The Light (CCTL), Evangelical Church Winning All/Fellowship of Churches of Christ in Nigeria (ECKWA/TEKAN), Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC), Christian Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (CPFN/PFN), Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN), Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN), Lagos State CAN Mass Choir and Student Choir Groups. Also featured were two popular gospel musicians, Efe Nathan and Tosin Bee.



Dr. Mrs. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu wife of Lagos State Governor

Lagos Taskforce Uncovers New Antics Of Recalcitrant Okada Riders, Vows To Checkmate Menace

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Lagos State Taskforce has reiterated its commitment to ridding the state of the menace of Okada operators who have devised new means of operating on the highways and restricted routes across the metropolis.

This was made known by the chairman of the agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye who led series of week long operations across strategic locations where recalcitrant operators have been plying commercially but with the use of a different type of inconspicuous motorcycle, popularly called "Lady Machine".

"Some of these recalcitrant okada operators who had their bikes seized in the past have acquired these more portable types of bikes called lady machine to carry out their operations on the Highways. These bikes are sleek and more evasive but their antics are no match for us." Jejeloye stated.

Jejeloye who led his officials across raids at CMS, Ebute Ero, Ijora, Ikeja-Along, Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway and Oshodi Bus Stop disclosed that the need to remind these operators of the stand of the State Government on their operations across Lagos was necessary, and no stone would

be left unturned till okada operations across restricted routes are completely stamped out.

"Motor bikes with engine capacity below 200cc are not allowed to operate on the State Highways, therefore all forms of bikes that fall within that range, be it the normal okada or lady machine will be confiscated and crushed according to the provisions of the law".

The Chairman promised to carry out more operations from dusk to dawn until the State's vision on Transportation is completely attained and sustained.

In a release by Gbadeyan Abdulraheem

Director Press & Public Affairs of the agency, Jejeloye promised to arrest both rider and passenger caught violating the laws governing vehicular operations on the Highways and restricted routes.

"We arrested 6 suspects including riders and passengers today at CMS and we will ensure that they face the full wrath of the law on the violations.

"We hope that it would serve as a deterrent to others who intend riding or patronizing okada operators along these routes. Anyone caught would be arrested and prosecuted accordingly" He concluded.

World Bank, FG Applaud Lagos Govt On APPEALS Project

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The World Bank and the Federal Government have commended the Lagos State Government for its effective and efficient implementation of the Agro-Processing, Productivity Enhancement, and Livelihood Improvement Support (APPEALS) Project in the state. They said the Babajide Sanwo-Olu-led administration in Lagos State through APPEALS Project has surpassed some of the targets set as far as the implementation within the framework of the project to boost farmers' productivity is concerned.

Speaking during the World Bank and Federal Government APPEALS Project 10th Implementation Support Mission field visit to Badagry, Lagos on Thursday, the Task Team Leader of the World Bank Mission to Lagos, Dr. Emmanuel Manievel Sene and National Project Coordinator, Mohammed Jobdi, hailed the Lagos APPEALS project's commitment to farmers in the state.

Dr. Manievel Sene said the World Bank is satisfied with the reports of the activities of the Lagos APPEALS Project based on what they saw during the field visit.

He said: "For Lagos APPEALS Project, I want to congratulate them for what they did with the farmers and for organising a wonderful visit for us. Now we know exactly what is happening on the ground. Coming here we have seen what is happening on the ground."

In his address, the National Project Coordinator of APPEALS Project, Mohammed Jobdi, said Lagos has done very well in terms of implementation

of the project by touching the lives of farmers in the state positively.

He said APPEALS Project has recorded many successes in the participating states, especially in Lagos State by using technologies and innovations to improve the productivity of farmers.

"Honestly, I think Lagos State has really done much and in terms of performance I will rate them as "satisfactory," because we started the Implementation Support yesterday (Wednesday) with the desk review, and from the reports that we have gotten, they have even surpassed some of the targets set as far as the implementation is concerned within the framework of the project. Lagos State has done well in terms of implementation," he said.

Also speaking, the State Project Coordinator of Lagos APPEALS Project, Mrs. Oluranti Sagoe-Oviebo, said the field visit is to showcase to the World Bank and Federal Government what Lagos State has been able to do with regards to cage culture and other technologies for the increased productivity of the fish farmers in the State.

She disclosed that marketers come from Benin Republic and Togo to buy fish in Badagry, adding that with technologies and innovations provided for farmers by the APPEALS Project, Nigeria will soon be major exporter of fish.

The State Project Coordinator said Lagos APPEALS Project has supported fish farmers with canning technology, blast freezers, cold room, and aggregation centers, to improve their productivity.

She said: "Lagos APPEALS Project is only aligning with the Lagos State Government



L-R: Project Operations Manager, APPEALS Project, Dr. Salisu Garba; National Project Coordinator, APPEALS Project, Mr Mohammed Sani Jobdi; State Project Coordinator, Lagos APPEALS Project, Mrs Oluranti Sagoe-Oviebo; World Bank Co-Task Team Leader, Dr. Chidozie Onyedikachi Anyiro and World Bank Task Team Leader, Dr. Manievel Emmanuel Sene, during the 10th Implementation Support Mission field visit to Afowo Cage Culture System in Badagry, Lagos.

initiative. The Lagos State Government has propagated the cage culture and the cage culture is a technology that is already on shelf.

"With APPEALS Project, the adoption rate of cage culture technology is higher because of the support of the state government. Today you can see a lot of clusters in different parts of Lagos State supported by the APPEALS Project. Lagos State Government has supported a lot of women and youths with cage culture to empower them."

She advised the farmers to utilise the support provided for them by APPEALS Project judiciously. Speaking at the event, a beneficiary of the APPEALS Project and President of Lagos State Catfish and Allied Farmers

Association (LASCAPAN), Mr. Sejiro Oke-Tojину, said the project has contributed a 40 percent increase to their production, especially with the adoption of the cage culture.

He said APPEALS Project came when they needed it most, noting that about 60 percent of farmers in Lagos State were brought back to business by the project after the COVID pandemic which affected farmers negatively.

Oke-Tojину said they are currently selling tilapia fish to the Benin Republic and Togo because of the technologies and innovations provided by the Lagos APPEALS Project in terms of cage culture, cold room and blast freezers, among others. During the field visit, Lagos APPEALS Project beneficiaries

in aquaculture, poultry, and rice production, praised the World Bank, Federal Government, and Lagos State Government for improving the productivity of farmers in Lagos State. They promised to make good use of all the support provided by the APPEALS Project.

The beneficiaries also called for an extension of the APPEALS Project for more people to benefit from the six-year project, which has impacted millions of Lagos residents, particularly farmers, directly and indirectly. APPEALS Project, which started in 2017 is expected to end this year, 2023. It was a World Bank-assisted programme supported by Federal Government and Lagos State Government.

Sit At Home: 15 Suspects Arrested, Arms, Charms Recovered In Ebonyi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Ebonyi State Police Command on Friday July 7, 2023, arrested fifteen suspects alleged to have been involved in enforcing sit-at-home order that has lasted for one week in Ebonyi State.

The police security operatives also recovered various weapons, charms, including a live eagle, army camouflage, two vehicle plate numbers, and other incriminating items in their disposal.

According to the police, among the arrested suspects were, Okwudili Otozi, and Nnenna Ali, a nursing mother.

The Police stated that the duo

are the herbalists of the alleged criminal gang who prepare charms for them before embarking on operation.

While parading the suspects at the Command's headquarters in Abakaliki, just hours before bowing out of service, the Commissioner of Police, CP. Faleye Olaleye, said the arrested persons were responsible for the attacks, sporadic shootings witnessed in different parts of the State last Tuesday, as well as the recent attack on a Police team in the state.

The 15 suspects are currently in police custody waiting for arraignment in court.



The suspects sitting

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

- All adverts are expected to be prepaid in cash or bank draft in favour of New Nigerian Newspaper's Limited.
- Series discount is subject to the stipulated number of insertions, and it is payable only at the end of a campaign (to be deducted from balance pay).
- COPY DATE:** for all the Title Heads is two working days for the North and three working days for the South.
- Cancellation of previously booked advert will be accepted in writing within four working days notice, less than 24 hours to the date of publication will attract 50% surcharge.
- Advertisers/Agencies are to provide their Camera ready artwork in electronic copies, in e.g. PDF, or JPEG format.
- Advertisers will be surcharged 20% of the applicable rate where artworks are not provided.
- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
- Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing at least 24 hours to desired alteration date.
- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
- The management of New Nigerian Newspapers Limited reserves the right to reject an advert or any publication in any of its titles where such materials are considered distasteful for public exposure or libelous.

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

GandDollar Gate: Beyond Ja'afar's Video

By: HASSAN GIMBA

This was first published on October 29, 2018. Considering the resuscitation of the issue by the new Kano State Government, I see the need to republish it.

While we knew and respected each other from a distance, I first met Ja'afar Ja'afar in 2015 when I was serving my second stint as the editor of Friday Leadership.

Journalists have a way of knowing themselves through various networks even if they had never met. Journalism is a profession like any other that builds one's reputation in the eyes of the world. Knowing the hassles one goes through to put a paper to bed or produce an article, colleagues rate themselves even from afar.

Ja'afar, with his equally double-barrelled named journalist twin brother, AbdulaZeez AbdulAzeez, is one of those not too young to write and not too old to dare firebrand journalists that enjoy their work not necessarily because of the fame it can bestow, or the money that isn't there, but largely because of the adrenaline that courses through one's veins when faced with danger. Saying the truth can be dangerous.

He may be seen as a controversial young chap by many, but hey – truth, most times, comes wrapped in controversies. Is there a prophet that was not seen as controversial in the beginning? Or a revolutionary that was welcomed without invoking controversies in society? Any change from the known or a challenge to the established order brings with it a certain dose of controversy.

We all know, not just suspect, that many of our leaders are sleazy. They steal our commonwealth, especially through contract inflation and collusion with contractors – their partners in crime. At the end of the day, no work is done or where done, poorly executed while funds have been disbursed for them.

In other cases, to cut their losses, contractors who had been short-changed by government officials deliver substandard projects and services. In most cases, they

abandon the projects midway. And those who should hold them to account cannot because they had eaten from the forbidden pot. Unfortunately, it is always the ripped-off citizens that hail their cheats and damn those who expose them.

Corruption, it has been said, is not chickenhearted; it always fights back. This is why it is hoped that it is not the case when we see pictures of pre-puberty school children, whose future is being mortgaged by the corrupt, being used as cannon fodder, bearing placards denouncing Ja'afar and “promising” to vote for Ganduje next year.

While the Ja'afar video is under probe, I would not opine on their veracity or otherwise but call on all relevant authorities to do what is needed because such a case can only be likened to the Godwin Daboh versus Joseph Tarka or even the Nasir el-Rufa'i versus the Senate saga. They are defining events that can shape our thinking as a nation.

Ja'afar risks being regarded unfavourably if the video is doctored, but he also will be a celebrity of sorts if the video is proven to be genuine. He will become our modern-day Dele Giwa and perhaps get his sculpture erected in the Journalists' Hall of Fame when we get one.

Governor Ganduje will politically fizzle out in ignominy if the video is authenticated, but his hand will be strengthened if they turn out to be doctored. People will read it as desperation by his political enemies, but especially it would be said that they set out to embarrass President Muhammadu Buhari.

The way to give a bite to the anti-corruption crusade is to give people like Ja'afar political

appointments if he comes out victorious because such people would have a reputation to guard jealously. There are others like him, but the orientation of our leaders is to give appointments to “team players”. Their definition of a “team player” is a person who will partake in defrauding people without letting the cat out of the bag.

There had been cases of people society expected uprightness from but had entered into a “quid pro quo” arrangement and smiled to their banks. Anybody who will expose vice anywhere deserves commendation.

However, my chief concern is the contractor who agreed to be part of this sting operation, assuming it happened. He risks losing it all. No longer get any patronage from that angle, because the governor must know him very well. He has a family to cater for and has commitments and obligations, yet he was fearless enough to go through with this. He is a patriotic citizen who can sacrifice his interests for



Hassan Gimba *Monday Column*

Nigeria. Not many like him around.

But if he can take this kind of risk for Nigeria, what is Nigeria going to do for him?

People fighting corruption this way not only risk their livelihoods but also their lives. So it won't be out of place for the country to give him some kind of social protection for such an

exemplary act. After all is said and done and he is proved true, the whistleblower's reward would also be a good idea, in addition to whatever else may follow.

There must be a deliberate policy by the government

to protect such people and their families, or they would be left vulnerable to the mercy of wounded public officials or the “esprit de corps” that is strong among the class of our “polithiefians”.

Those in authority only hire their own to gain control and form an army of corruption to fight back. They emasculate the upright physically, mentally and financially.

The fight against corruption must be intensified and won. For as many smooth operators, there will always be patriots who will blow the whistle. However, the fight will be lost or won depending on how the government treats or mistreats all involved.

If corrupt acts take place, the government must show its teeth and protect those who bell the cat. But if a reputation is tarnished unfairly, authorities must take action to deter others.

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

“Governor Ganduje will politically fizzle out in ignominy if the video is authenticated, but his hand will be strengthened if they turn out to be doctored. People will read it as desperation by his political enemies, but especially it would be said that they set out to embarrass President Muhammadu Buhari.”

Governor Eno Moves To Appease Aggrieved PDP Members In A'Ibom

**Thanks party for support*

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno has called for the restrengthening of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state through a fresh reintegration drive within the ranks of the party in every ward. Eno who spoke during his visit to the State Secretariat of PDP in Uyo on Thursday, announced Saturday August 26, 2023 as state-wide ward meeting of party.

He described the ward as the strongest level of the party that must be firmly entrenched by intentional actions of the stakeholders and leaders whom he charged to maintain constant engagement with party faithful. The governor extended olive branch to members of PDP in the

state who defected due to grievances to return to the party and rebuild together.

Governor Eno however, said that the visit to the party secretariat was to show his appreciation for the support he enjoyed in the course of his election, holding that the commitment and resilience of party faithful alongside other Akwa Ibomites, saw to his victory at the poll earlier in the year.

"We have come here to say thank you to PDP in Akwa Ibom State. We thank the PDP family from each ward and Local Government Area in the state. Thank you for going round with us, thank you for talking to people for us. It was our election and we won together."

"I won't fail to extend my very warm appreciation to my

predecessor for everything he did to make sure that our party succeeds at the polls. We thank all Akwa Ibomites across party lines who stood by us and for the privilege given us to serve". He said.

He pointed that the best way to show appreciation to the party and Akwa Ibomites in general, is to evolve people-centric policies, programmes and projects that will meet the needs and aspirations of the citizens and move the state to greater heights.

According to him, "we will do the best we can to show that we are grateful. We will show how grateful we are by our policies and programmes. We will show to the people that beyond words, we are truly grateful for the opportunity to serve. We will

continue to do everything to ensure that Akwa Ibom moves forward."

Earlier, the state Chairman of PDP, Elder Aniekan Akpan, who conveyed the message of the party, thanked the Governor for starting out well and making the party proud in his style of governance since his commencement of duty as Chief Executive of the state, reassuring that the party is solidly behind him and will relentlessly lend due support for him to succeed.

"As a party, we appreciate you for making us proud in your style of governance. You have been flagging off projects and I know it's going to be project all through."

"For what you have done, we will continue to support you. We will go in the way you lead the

State and truly, that way is forward". He said.

The Governor was accompanied to the event by the wife of the Governor, Her Excellency Pastor Patience Umo Eno, the Secretary to the State Government, Prince Enobong Uwah, Director-General of the Pastor Umo Eno/Akon Eyakenyi Campaign Organisation, Amb. Assam Assam, the Deputy Speaker of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Kufre Abasi Edidem, Former Principal Officers and members of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, Former Commissioners, Chairmen of Boards, Chairmen of Local Government Councils and Senior Citizens and stakeholders of the PDP in the state.



Stakeholders Laud Officials Of Ministry Of Agriculture For Signing Landmark Agreement on Boost Agriculture

By: BASHIR BELLO, Abuja

The Regulatory Officer of Delifrost Caterers Ltd, Glory Eboh has commended the efforts and commitment of Mr. Ernest Afolabi Umakhihe the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development towards the progress of the collaboration between Delifrost Caterers Ltd and the ministry to boost agriculture in the country.

Eboh who was speaking at the signing of the memorandum of understanding, said that without the contributions of Mr. Umakhihe, all the efforts of the ministry to produce and sustain the partnership would have been in vain.

She therefore, thanked the Permanent Secretary for his support and understanding, adding that he is the pillar of support in the country as a whole.

"We are very grateful to you once again, by signing this MOU you have shown that you have the heart to grow agriculture in the country.

"The speed by which you accepted to sign the MOU and your contributions even before then, shows that you are indeed a pillar of development in the agricultural sector," she said.

She further explained that signing the MOU would boost capacity of milk producing and collection communities in Niger State and it would also open up other areas of opportunities in the agricultural sector of the country.

The signing of the MOU was witnessed by Isimbabi S. Garba, Director Legal Services, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, who has also been in the forefront of ensuring that the collaboration comes to fruitfulness through various contributions.

Speaking in the same vein, the representative of Delifrost Caterer Ltd, Alhaji Usman A. A. Dan Malam also praised the efforts of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for his efforts in seeing that the signing of the MOU becomes a reality.

Dan Malam added that Delifrost Ltd would leave no stone unturned in bringing new technology and innovation to boost agricultural development in the country.

Responding, the Permanent Secretary said that the collaboration between the two agencies would open new spheres in agriculture and generate employment opportunities in the country.

Mr. Umakhihe charged the Delifrost team to ensure that agriculture is developed to meet international best practice. He further pledged the readiness of the ministry to invest more in the collaboration.

Similarly, the Director, Department of Animal Husbandry Services Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs Winnie Lai-Solarin said that the partnership between the ministry and Delifrost would go a long way in creating employment opportunities for workers in the agricultural sector while bringing new investment opportunities to the country.

The signing of the MOU was witnessed by other senior staff of the ministry.



VP Shettima Loses Cousin, Muktar Alkali Aged 57

*Consoles family in Maiduguri

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima has on Saturday, lost his cousin brother, Alhaji Muktar Alkali who passed away on Friday July 7, 2023 after a protracted illness at the age of 57.

Kashim Shettima who arrived Maiduguri around 6 pm on Saturday for a condolence visit, was received at the Maiduguri International Airport by Governor Babagana Umar Zulum of Borno, State and other government officials and All Progressives Congress (APC) leaders, supporters

and members among others, who accompanied the Vice President to the family house of the late cousin, Alhaji Muktar Alkali.

Late Alkali who passed away on Friday at the age of 57, was earlier laid to rest at the Gwange Cemetery Bama Road Maiduguri Saturday evening, around 5pm after the funeral prayers which was conducted according to Muslim rites with Governor Zulum and his encourage in attendance. During the condolence visit, both the vice president and the governor, joined others in offering special prayers for the repose of the soul of

the departed late Alkali, his parents and family, among others.

Late Alhaji Muktar Alkali was the former Provost, Borno State College of Agriculture, Muna Garage, Maiduguri.

He was also an advocate of youth employment as a way of addressing the challenges of poverty and insecurity in the country.

The event attracted notable Nigerians, Muslim clerics and traditional rulers, including the Shehu of Bama, Umar Shehu Kyari.

However, Vice President Kashim Shettima could not meet the funeral prayer of his late cousin brother, Alhaji Muktar Alkali on

Saturday afternoon as scheduled, because he was earlier in the day, at Ijebu Ode, Ogun State to represent President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the funeral service of late Otunba Michael Balogun which was held at Cathedral Church of Our Saviour in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State on Saturday.

It was from Ijebu Ode, the Vice President flew directly to Maiduguri for the condolence visit of his cousin brother, Ahaji Muktar Alkali.

He landed at Maiduguri airport around 5.40pm and moved straight to his late cousin's family house for the condolence.

Kaduna Electric MD Commends Sacrifice Of Workers, Pledges Purposeful Leadership

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Managing Director of Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company, Engr. Yusuf Usman Yahaya has expressed confidence in the ability of the workers of the Nigerian electricity sector to give the country the much-needed energy security and sustainable electricity supply.

Engr. Yusuf Yahaya made the remarks on Friday in Kaduna, when he received the national leadership of the two labour unions in the electricity sector who were in Kaduna to participate in the signing of the revised condition of service of Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company.

He stressed the importance of harmonious industrial relations in the Company in particular, while calling on the labour leaders to ensure further alignments of common goals and objectives of the two parties, the workers and their employers in order to have sustainable development in the sector. The electricity boss described "the 2023 Revised Condition of Service signed by the two parties today as not only a reference document, but also a framework for more constructive engagements and alignment of common goals and objectives of the Company and that of the workforce."

According to him, "the executive meeting he held earlier with leaders of the Labour Unions has accorded the two parties an opportunity to provide more useful insights on labour issues and operational challenges of the Company".

"The relationship between the Management and the Labour Unions under my watch has been cordial and we shall not take that for granted; we are in partnership in the mutual interest of both the Company and the workforce; we shall continue to strengthen what is working for us and collectively work on areas that need improvement", he said.

Engr. Yusuf Yahaya charged the leadership of both the Senior Staff

Association of Electricity and Allied Company, SSAEAC and the Nigerian Union of Electricity Employees, NUEE to educate their members on the significance of having an approved condition of service which he described as "a solemn commitment from both sides to live by the rules and discharge their duties diligently".

"The Revised Condition of Service has placed certain rights and obligations on all of us.

I pledge to ensure that the Management under my leadership live-up to its obligations; I therefore charge the leadership of the unions to bring to the attention of all their members, the obligations placed on the workforce which we are all duty bound to comply with", he reiterated.

The Kaduna Electric Managing Director also congratulated the Electricity workers over the recent election of the immediate past Secretary General of NUEE, Comrade Joe Ajero as the President of Nigeria Labour Congress describing the electoral victory of Comrade Ajero as a vote of confidence on the Nigeria Electricity workers by the entire Nigerian workers.

In their separate remarks, the President General of S S A E C , Comrade Benedizu Chika and the President of N U E E , Comrade Martins Ezegwu commended the Managing Director for what they described as "putting the welfare of the workers on the front burner".

According to them, they have observed a significant paradigm shift in workers welfare and discharge of other statutory obligations by the Company and called on the Managing Director to look for ways of settling inherited unpaid workers' pension.

They pledge the unions readiness to partner and engage with the management of Kaduna Electric with the view to addressing all labour related issues.

High points of the event was the signing and exchange of the 2023 Revised Condition of Service.



Legendary Eedris Abdulkareem Shoots Video On Ajadi To Inspire, Motivate Youth On Leadership Aspiration

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

It was a vintage scenario of Light! Camera! Action! at the creatively crafted studio known as Selfie City in Lagos, when Nigeria's iconic music star, Eedris Abdulkareem wrapped up the visual production on Olufemi Ajadi's antecedents.

The production was a song that details the rise from obscurity to prominence of Ajadi, the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) gubernatorial candidate in the 2023 general elections in Ogun State.

It was directed by Fizzle and Bizzle productions, and covered by some media outfits, the video gives a bite to the motivational story of Ajadi's inspirational journey through deprivation, wants and eventual triumph.

Done in the classical Eedris

Abdulkareem style of using music to promote the maxim of 'each one teach one', the song is ultimately meant to inspire and motivate Nigerian youths to keep the faith and never to give up on their dreams and aspirations.

Abdulkareem, in the song, used Hon Ajadi as a youthful example of resilience and the will to succeed irrespective of the odds.

The legendary afro hip-hop musician said Ajadi believes in the project called Nigeria, who is



Composite photo of Eedris (left) and Ajadi.

interested in supporting the next generation of youths to take their due positions in the political leadership.



Agara, Aluo, Nkechi Obi Head Leagues' Boards

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

A former deputy governor of Nasarawa State, His Excellency Silas Agara has been appointed as Chairman of the Nigeria Nation-Wide

League One, which has been reconstituted along with the boards of the Nigeria National League and the Nigeria Women Football League. Agara will have Mr. Adeoye Adepeju as

his vice, with Malam Sabo Muhammed Dutse, Mr. Ogheneochuko Ambakaderemo, Mr. Tunji Onatolu, Barr. Bucknor Akintade and Mallam Danladi Ibrahim as members. Mallam Hassan Abdullahi Garo will be the chief executive officer.

Mr. George Aluo is the new Chairman of the Nigeria National League, with Hon. Khamisu Ahmed Mailantarki as his vice. Mr. Yakubu Sarma, Mallam Sani Mohammed, Dr. Donald Ikpe, Chief Joseph Uzoma Ebowusim and Chief Dotun Sanusi will serve as members, while Mr Emmanuel Attah will be the chief executive officer.

Renowned marketing expert Nkechi Nneka Obi will head the Nigeria Women Football League, with Hajiya Hussaina Suleman as vice chairman. Alhaja Rukayat Lola Alaya, former FIFA referee Hadiza Musa, Mr. Ayodele Thomas, Ms Henrietta Ehiobor and Mr. Danny Nazzal will be members.

The boards will be inaugurated once the President of NFF, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau returns to the country from continental assignments in Morocco and Cote d'Ivoire.

AT A GLANCE:

NIGERIA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Mr. George Aluo (Chairman); Hon. Khamisu Ahmed Mailantarki (Vice Chairman); Mr. Yakubu Sarma (Member); Mallam Sani Mohammed (Member); Dr. Donald Ikpe (Member); Chief Joseph Uzoma Ebowusim (Member); Chief Dotun Sanusi (Member); Mr. Emmanuel Attah (CEO).
NIGERIA NATION-WIDE LEAGUE ONE: Hon. Silas Agara (Chairman); Mr. Adeoye Adepeju (Vice Chairman); Mallam Sabo Muhammed Dutse (Member); Mr. Ogheneochuko Ambakaderemo (Member); Mr. Tunji Onatolu (Member); Barr. Bucknor Akintade (Member); Mallam Danladi Ibrahim (Member); Mallam Hassan Abdullahi Garo (CEO).

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

Ridwan 'Scorpion' Asian Title Bout: Ogunkeyede Of WALBOG Motors Pledges Support

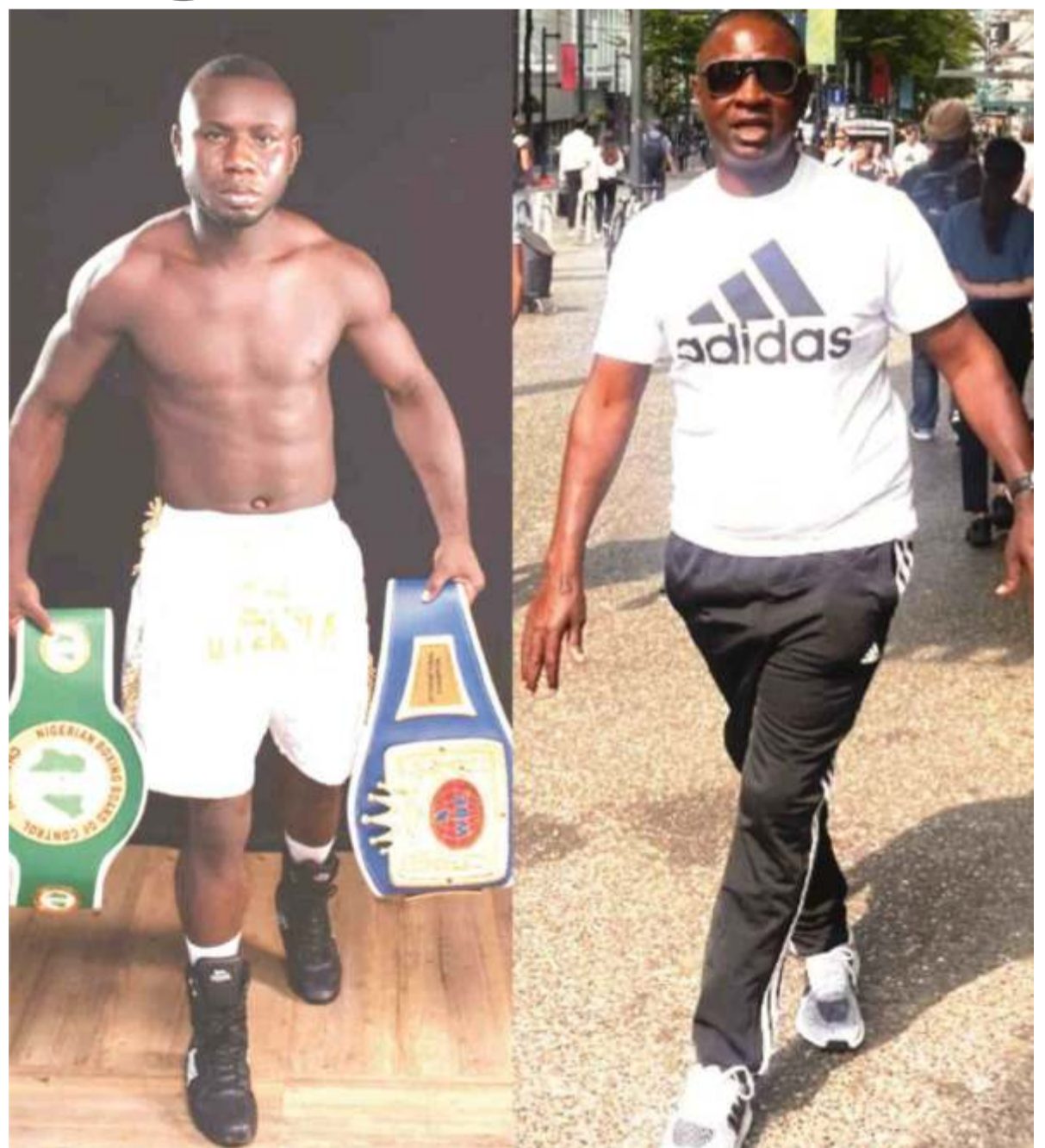
By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Philanthropist and CEO WalBog Motors, Olawale Ogunkeyede has pledged support to the reigning Japanese Featherweight Boxing Champion, Ridwan Oyekola, popularly known as 'Scorpion' who is presently in the country to seek support towards his forthcoming bout against Keisuke Matsumoto on August 30 in Japan.

Ogunkeyede who is also the sponsor of the money spinning grassroots annual WalBog Motors Football Tournament that is being organized among youths teams in Oyo State disclosed to New Nigerian Sports, his interest to support Scorpion while in Canada and returning to the country. The business mogul recalled how he had assisted the boxer in the past, while he was preparing for the World

Boxing Federation (WBF) belt that he won against the Argentines' Lucas Montessino saying that his encounter with Scorpion in December 2020 attracted his love for the game of boxing and he will always be ready to lend his support.

'Scorpion' will be challenging for the Japan Title Belt and WBO Asia Title Belt in the much anticipated bout slated for Tokyo on the 30th of August against a Japan born boxer who has a sterling boxing record of eight wins from eight professional fights. It will be recalled that 'Scorpion' during a press conference recently held in Ibadan as part of his preparation for the coming fight in the Asian country, has stated that he greatly relies on the support from Nigerians and governments at both state and national level to come out victorious.



Nigerian, Faith Ojedokun Bags Engineering First Class Hons At Russian University

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A Nigerian and a female indigene of Oyo State, Faith Ebunoluwa Ojedokun on Tuesday July 4 in far away Russia, bagged First Class honours degree in Mechanical Engineering on Tuesday July 4, this year (2023) at Belgorod State University with the Green-white-green flag of Nigeria again flying proudly at the convocation.

Faith Ebunoluwa Ojedokun, an indigene of Ilero, Kajola Local Government Area of Oyo State made Nigeria proud at the Belgorod State University, which is one of the oldest in Belgorod and the largest university in the region.

The university has 25,000 students from 85 regions of Russia, 1,800 foreign students from 76 countries, 72 institutions and faculty, 2 branches, 98 departments and 74 research centers and laboratories. It is a well rated university in the whole of Europe.

Faith, who was admitted into the prestigious university in the year 2018, has always been a

precocious academic genius. Her academic prodigy developed since her early age; winning her an award at her alma mater, The International School, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

During an interview with Faith Ebunoluwa's father, Mr. Gbenga Ojedokun, who is a Research Administrator at Nigeria's premier University of Ibadan, Nigeria, he said, "Faith has consistently demonstrated uncanny academic abilities from birth. She has always been among the most studious and dedicated students in all of the schools she attended".

According to Mr Ojedokun, Faith always singlehandedly focussed on her studies and the pursuit of academic excellence, which has paid off now. I sincerely thank God for His grace upon my daughter'.

Faith attended Staff School, University of Ibadan, Nigeria for her primary education and The International School, University of Ibadan, Nigeria for her secondary school education.

On her future plans, Faith who has the mastery of both English

and Russian Languages, said she would most certainly love to proceed on postgraduate studies after which she eagerly hope to return and contribute her quota to the development of her fatherland, Nigeria.

Indeed, for a young female who has proven her mettle by graduating with a First Class Honours degree in a male dominated profession as Mechanical Engineering, assistance from governments and private organisations in the pursuit of her higher laurels in academics and other chosen fields of human endeavours is



Faith Ebunoluwa Ojedokun at the graduation ceremony in Russia

highly desired.

It is noteworthy that Nigeria, nay the whole of black civilisation

must invest in such promising future stars as Faith and her ilk.

Erudite Student Wins British Council's Country Best Award for Cambridge A' Level

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A student of Erudite Millennium, Miss Aisha Boladale has won the British Council's Country Best Award for Cambridge A' Level Biology.

This was made known by the Erudite Millennium Founder/Chief Executive Officer, Mr Saheed Oladele, while speaking with journalists on Saturday in Ibadan,

Mr Oladele said Boladale scored 91% to beat all other Cambridge A' Level scholars in Nigeria as the winner at an event held at Civic Centre, Victoria Island Lagos on Thursday. He maintained that Boladale is a representative of October/November 2022 set where the co-educational institution recorded 80% success rate.

"We won British Council's Country Best Award for Cambridge A' Level biology on Thursday. Kudos to Aisha Boladale for making Erudite Millennium Ltd proud. She scored 91% to beat every other Cambridge A' Level scholar in Nigeria. Aisha is a representative of our Oct/Nov 2022 set where we recorded 80% success rate", he said.

Boladale while speaking lauded Erudite Millennium for what it has made out of her during the one-year stay, saying, "The educational institution is one-of-a-kind in Africa, known for its exemplary performance in different foreign programmes such as Cambridge, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), IELTS, TOEFL, GRE, and lots more".



Boladale receiving the award

"I personally joined Erudite in January 2022. I took part in the one-month training for the American College Test (ACT) and got 35 out of 36 in ACT English. Then I joined the Cambridge October November class. I was quite taken aback when I realised it was only going to be an 8-month long programme, thinking, 'HOW IS THAT GOING TO BE POSSIBLE?! I'M GOING TO FAIL THIS THING!!!', she said.

Boladale added, "However, Erudite Millennium made it happen, and I came out with 16/16 points (A*AA: 91% in biology, 89% in chemistry and 83% in physics). Then, I proceeded to sit for the SAT after one month of training and scored 1410 out of 1600".

According to her, "What makes Erudite different from other institutions is the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) Programme, aimed at teaching students the most sought-after skills of the 21st Century, which will not only give them an edge over their peers when getting considered for foreign scholarships, but also provide a money-making opportunity for the young generation.

In his remarks, Boladale's father, Dr. Abiodun Boladale said he was surprised to be told that his daughter recorded such achievement, saying, "My Aisha Scoring 16 points in Cambridge A levels, that's incredible. She has just been offered admission by University of Ibadan, effortlessly, into 200 level to study medicine and surgery. That is aside offers from universities abroad. Thank you for navigating this journey", he