

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 5 No. 176

Wednesday 26th July, 2023

Muharram 8 1445 AH

AIG Zone 9 Urges Officers To Shun Bribery, Corruption

Story on Page 10

End Arbitrary Detention Of Sarkin Hausawa, AYCF Urges DSS, FG

Story on Page 8



Arewa Consultative Forum Vows To Ensure United North, Nigeria

*New National Working Committee assumes office

Story on Page 4

Ripening Fruits With Calcium Carbide Killing Nigerians, NAFDAC Raises Alarm

Says drugs hawkers are merchants of death

Story on Page 8

Emefiele: Group Blasts DSS' Shameful, Unprofessional, Attack Outside Court

Story on Page 10

IGP Egbetokun Relaunches Application For Quick Response On Emergencies **PAGE 6**



DSS officials sighted manhandling an officer of the Nigeria Correctional Services outside court premises, after Suspended CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele was granted bail. It was gathered the scuffle resulted over who takes custody of Emefiele. Photo: Google

Story on Page 4

Apapa Customs Generates N502bn

Story on Page 6

Uba Sani Signs Kaduna Executive Financial Inclusion Order

Story on Page 6

Senate President, Akpabio A Listening, Selfless Leader - Senator Yari

National Transport Databank Will Digitize Transport, Logistics Sector -NITT DG

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Nigerian Institute for Transport Technology (NITT) Zaria in collaboration with Intelligence Transport System (ITS) UK and other key stakeholders would develop the National Transport Data Bank to strengthen Nigeria's transport and logistics industry.

Dr. Bayero Salih-Farah, Director-General of the institute, stated in Zaria, that the data is for the five modes of transport which are road, air, marine rail and pipeline.

According to him, the data generation is to enable the institute to act as the center of transport intelligence, which is one of the

mandates of the institute; adding that data is a major foundation of any intelligence.

He noted that lack of comprehensive data in the logistics and transport industry is one of Nigeria's problems in the sector, hence their decision to generate the data.

The DG said the data bank would also enable key players in the sector to monitor vehicular movement across the country.

"When you sit at our ITN Center, you will be able to monitor traffic volumes and passenger movement across the country from one screen at the centre.

"The national transport data bank would also enable people the

opportunity to access real-time information," he explained.

He said the institute is already in partnership with NITDA and other relevant stakeholders in data protection management.

Dr. Bayero added that the partnership is to ensure that NITT deploys the right technology towards safeguarding the information in the database for proper utilization by the key players in the sector.

According to him, the national data bank project would be a game-changer for the transport and logistics sector; forming the basis upon which intelligent transport systems would be deployed across the country.

"In addition, the data bank would also form a basis upon which the transport system would be more robust, smart and digitalized whereby one would enjoy the transport services seamlessly and simultaneously without hindrances," he assured.

He added that the data bank would also enable a person to move from train to air to road (bus services) with one payment.

"This is the vision we have for the transport data bank system," he disclosed, adding that the institute under his stewardship is also working to elevate the standard of NITT to enable it achieve the vision of becoming a leading transport and logistics institute in Africa.

Investigate Attempted Boko Haram Attack On Atiku, Frank Challenges FG

**Demands security beef up around ex-VP*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A political activist and former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, has called on the Federal Government to urgently investigate attempted Boko Haram attack on the Presidential Candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Atiku Abubakar. Frank also asked the Federal Government to beef up security around the former Vice President, even as he called the attention of the calling on the international community to the development in Nigeria.

The political activist revealed that some suspected Boko Haram members made attempt on the life of Atiku Abubakar on Sunday at his residence in Yola, Adamawa State.

In a statement released on Monday in Abuja, Timi Frank said the arrested suspect confessed to Police a grand plot to plant bomb the Modibbo Adama Central Mosque, the residence of the Atiku as well as the American University in Yola.

The statement reads: "Security information reaching us earlier today has it in authority that about 4 Boko Haram members all the way from Danboa, Borno State made their way at about 9:45pm local time yesterday (23/07/2023) to the Yola residence of His Excellency, the Waziri Adamawa (Atiku Abubakar) and identified themselves upon confirmation of the residence as to their mission in Adamawa.

"Reacting swiftly, the Dougirei Police command was immediately tipped off as the ring leader was promptly arrested with the rest fleeing from the premises.

"Upon investigation by the SCID Adamawa State Police HQ, it was verified and confirmed that the suspect confessed to a grand plot to plant bombs in the Modibbo Adama Central Mosque, the residence of the Waziri as well as the American University in Yola.

"These confessions of the dreaded Boko Haram sect are troubling and worrisome, as this is the first time an attempted attack of this magnitude would be planned on the person of HE Atiku Abubakar."

Narrating the incident further, Frank said: "It is quite shocking that this is coming at a time the Federal Government had given assurance to the citizens of the decimation of the dreaded group, let alone an attempt on a high profile personality like H.E Atiku Abubakar.

"Having received the official Police HQ Situation Report, we would like to call on the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency beef up adequate security around the former Vice President, with swift investigation into unravelling the circumstances leading to Atiku as a target by this group.

"There is no gainsaying that it will be foolhardy on the part of the Federal Government treat this security breach with kid gloves as after effects in the event of any eventuality will be enormous for the country to contain.

"Furthermore, we must note that all through the active years of the Boko Haram sect ravaging the North-east not a single attempt was made on the person of H.E Atiku Abubakar, and we are curious as to the timing of this planned attack in this manner."

He, however, called on International Community "to take notice, that only recently the INEC confirmed in the PEPT on HE winning in 21 states and therefore sending shock waves to the opposition and current government on the possibility of a rerun election.

"Perhaps this grand plot is being sponsored by top opposition politicians to assassinate the former VP in a bid to cause chaos and deny him any chance of retrieving his stolen mandate. We are therefore circumspect in this regard.

"Therefore, any collaborators or sponsor of this dastardly ideas must be fished out forthwith to forestall any untoward reactions towards the FG and rogue politicians alike. Nonetheless, it is imperative for the FG to immediately get to the root of this matter urgently with a view to bringing all accomplices to book.

"I am confident that the Federal Government will take this security breach as a matter of national emergency."

My Administration Won't Take Excuses But Results, Gov Eno Warns Cabinet

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno has that his administration would be operating a new template where laziness and non-performance in service delivery will not be tolerated from members of his State's Executive Council.

Eno stated this at Akwa Ibom Dialogue, a formal launching of his administration's blueprint tagged: ARISE Agenda on Monday in Uyo, the state capital.

The governor, who is due to constitute the members of his cabinet within days, having sent the list of nominees to the state legislature last Thursday for ratification, urged them to key into it, but warned that excuses would not be tolerated and anyone who fails to perform would be removed from office.

Governor Eno, who explained that he was bringing back all the Commissioners in the last administration to help in the realisation of the ARISE Agenda, however warned them not to be lazy.

"I would like to inform the incoming Commissioners that you are coming into a new season. You maybe

old on the job but there is a new template. I have fulfilled my part of the bargain with you to ensure that as colleagues, we come back together and run the government because you laboured during the elections.

"We worked together, I didn't just have the heart to throw you away but truth is, there is work to be done. The truth is, we will not take excuses, we will take results. We still need your wisdom, we still need your ideas, that is why there is a continuity in this government, so we can sit together and finish. But how far you will travel will depend on you. If you don't deliver, you will hear the announcement on the news," he stated.

While speaking on his ARISE Agenda, the Governor said the agenda would be focused on Agriculture, Rural Development, Infrastructure, Security, and Education, adding that it was time Akwa Ibom people took ownership of the dream and articulate its realisation together.

He explained that the ARISE agenda is further



Akwa Ibom Governor

broken down into 17 focal sectors targeted for short, medium and long term implementation, urged the people, irrespective of their political leanings to eschew hatred and join hands together to build the state.

Speaking as the special guest of honour at the event, immediate past governor, Mr. Udom Emmanuel called on the people to cooperate with Governor Umo Eno to actualize his ARISE agenda, saying Akwa Ibom has the human resources to realise the

goal.

Emmanuel said execution, planning and acceptance of the agenda would drive its actualisation and warned the people against distracting the governor with negative comments.

Also speaking, former Governor, Obong Victor Attah said the ARISE was the restoration of the dream he had for the state that was beginning to fade and urged that the policies realized from the dialogue and the blueprint of the agenda should be implemented for the state to make progress.

Arewa Youth To Protest Against Hunger, Call For NNPC GCEO Mele Kyari Sack

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Arewa Citizens Watch for Good Governance (ACWGG), has called on state governors and the Federal government to quickly roll out palliatives to cushion the dying hunger of the common man that could not go to farm following the activities of bandits and cannot afford high prices of food items in the markets.

The forum called on other Civil Society Organisations to commence mobilisation of members to protest against the artificially induced hunger and high-cost living in our country if nothing is done within 10 days from today (Monday).

Chairman of the forum, Alhaji Aliyu Sani, in a statement issued on Monday in Kaduna said that the group is saddened to express its deep concern of millions of voiceless Nigerians over the

escalating energy prices in Nigeria and growing hunger in the country that has led to increasing cases of petty theft and high mortality in northern Nigeria and called for the immediate removal of the Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL), Mr. Mele Kolo Kyari misleading President Tinubu into removing PMS subsidy without provision of palliative measures.

It called for a comprehensive investigation into the subsidy regime and the corruption allegations within the oil and gas sector, as evidenced by the suspicious drop in daily consumption of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and the astronomical rise in the general revenue of the country.

According to the statement, "The

recent increase in NNPC's output, without corresponding investment in the Company, has instead exposed the pervasive corruption within the sector. We find it alarming that the Company was declaring paltry production volume, which falls short of our OPEC quota even though the country has not recorded any major disaster. The criminals in the Oil and Gas Sector are only responding to the body language of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed's Zero Tolerance to bad governance, hence, the magical performance by people desperate to keep their offices. This raises serious doubts about the integrity and competence of the current leadership at NNPC."

It added, "As a nation blessed with abundant natural resources, it is only fair that the benefits of these resources are felt by all

citizens, not just a select few. The mismanagement and corruption within the oil and gas sector have hindered economic growth and contributed to the financial burden faced by ordinary Nigerians. We expect the administration to go after those that have benefitted from the opaque Subsidy aspiration just as Nigerians are bearing with the hardship induced by the sudden removal of the subsidy. Our people cannot continue to die of hunger, while the people that put in the situation that warranted the removal of the subsidy continue to enjoy the privileges of their offices."

It expressed disapproval of the reported plan to re-award the pipeline surveillance contract to Tompolo, a move that they consider detrimental to the capacity of the Armed Forces to curtail internal and external

aggression, adding that it shows granting such a contract to individuals with questionable backgrounds raises serious concerns about the government's commitment to transparency, accountability, and the fight against crime and urged the President to stop it forthwith and prioritize using the money for the contract to fund our Armed Forces to deal with oil thieves in the Niger Delta region.

The statement opined that stoppage of the contract would lead to the emergence of activities of militants, calling on the Nigerian Military to take swift and decisive action to crush any form of anarchy, while taking a firmly stand against the activities of militants that threaten national security and impede the progress of the great nation.

Railway Vandalism: NSCDC Apprehends 12 Suspected Vandals, Impounds 2 Trucks, Seals 2 Warehouses

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

At least, 12 suspects have been nabbed in connection with the vandalism of large quantities of railway sleepers by operatives of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) within two weeks.

Two trucks loaded with the consignment were also impounded, while two illegal warehouses with vandalised railway sleepers were sealed within the same period.

Director, Public Relations of the Corps Olusola Odumosu, a Commandant of Corps, made the disclosure in a release on Sunday.

According to him, the arrests were made during three separate operations by the Commandant General's Special Intelligence Squad (CG's SIS) at Kafanchan-Kwoi Road, Jama'a LGA, Kaduna State and Agwan-Kuje village, Kadarko area in Keana LGA of Nasarawa State and National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)

orientation camp, Keffi-Abuja express way.

"Following intelligence report, the first five arrest was made when suspected vandals were loading vandalized and stolen railway sleepers at a bush in Nasarawa.

";A long open body Man Diesel trailer already loaded with over 500 pieces of vandalized railway sleepers alleged to be owned by the Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC) was also concealed under sacks of groundnut dust.

"Retrieved from the suspects was a forged copy of the Nigeria Railway scrap delivery paper", Odumosu hinted.

In another operation at the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) orientation camp, Keffi-Abuja express way, three suspected vandals were also arrested while conveying large quantities of vandalized railway sleepers concealed with rice chaff inside a J5 Boxer Bus.

Another four suspected

vandals were arrested by the CG's SIS while loading railway sleepers into an already filled illegal warehouse in Kaduna.

Acting on a tip-off, the squad immediately swung into action and succeeded in intercepting one white long open body truck fully loaded with large quantities of vandalized rail track irons, covered with a blue trampoline.

All the arrested suspects and the exhibits are subject to preliminary investigation by the Corps which will help to make further arrest and subsequent prosecution to reduce the rate of critical infrastructural vandalism in the affected territories.

Citizens are advised to continually provide credible and useful information that will help in the arrest of vandals and criminals across the country.

Likewise, citizens with criminal intent of robbing the nation of its assets are advised to desist as the Corps will not spare anyone caught in the act.



One of the impounded trucks with the stolen railway sleepers and suspects

Apapa Customs Generates N502bn

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Apapa Command of Nigeria Customs Service has collected a total of N502,987,516,219.26 from January 2023 to date and made 16 seizures worth a duty paid value of N1.4 billion within the same period.

Customs Area Controller of the Command, Comptroller Auwal Baba Mohammed, who described the revenue collection and seizures made as fallouts of increased compliance, urged officers to redouble their efforts in revenue collection, trade facilitating and strict enforcement of anti smuggling activities.

The command made a collection of N9.2b on July 20, 2023. This feat is the highest daily collection it ever achieved in its existence since the port was established.

The Command Public Relations Officer CSC A. Usman made the disclosure in Tuesday in a release on behalf of the Customs Area Controller.

He gave a breakdown of the achievements as follow:

ANTISMUGGLING

The seizures made within the period comprised of prohibited drugs, used tyres, rice, vegetable oil, and sundry items.

It is noteworthy that the command made a seizure of two pistols inside one groupage cargo. One suspect is arrested, and the matter is undergoing investigation.

TRADE FACILITATION

The Command under the leadership of Compt. AB Mohammed has achieved an increased level of compliance by importers, exporters, and their agents through deliberate system profiling and manifest tracking.

Under the CAC's direct supervision, dedicated officers of the command are using the system profiling yardstick to gauge the integrity levels of importers and consignees.

This has helped in treating traders in line with their

previous transaction records, which is reassuring that compliance pays through time saving and cost efficiency.

The Controller urged all port users to be complaint and advised that compliant traders are shielded from the risk of getting their consignments seized; imposition of penalties after demand notices and possible arrests for prosecution as the case may require.

According to Comptroller Mohammed, non compliant traders spend more time and money paying for terminal space due to demurrage plus higher cost due to DN's and penalties.

Comptroller Mohammed has also raised the level of electronic manifest tracking to accelerate trade facilitation leveraging on available technology.

The CAC described this feat as a masterstroke in the journey towards trade facilitation and ease of doing business.

CAC CHARGE ON OFFICERS

At a recent monthly meeting of Terminal/Unit Heads, Comptroller Mohammed exhorted all officers of the command to sustain and improve upon the level of discipline the command has been noted for under his watch.

He characterised discipline as the foundation of good work etiquette, such as punctuality, diligent application of Nigeria Customs Service Act (NCSA) 2023 and other noble virtues that align with the law.

He further stressed that Nigeria has high expectations of the NCS and that the service is looking up to Apapa Command for its highest collection.

Compt. AB Mohammed charged officers/men of the Command to use their knowledge of the job and the rules guiding the service to facilitate legitimate trade.

He said, "As we facilitate trade for compliant traders, let's be wary of the possibility of releasing uncustom goods in error or in the guise of facilitating trade

"I hereby charge you to do better in the second half of 2023 as the glory for the successes recorded in the first half belongs to all of us" the CAC said.

Arewa Consultative Forum Vows To Ensure United North, Nigeria

**New National Working Committee assumes office*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has vowed to continue pursuing the sustenance of a united North and Nigeria by extension.

Chairman of ACF, Arc. (Chief) Gabriel Yakubu Aduku gave the assurance, while delivering his acceptance speech at the assumption of office of new members of the National Working Committee yesterday in Kaduna

Acceptance Speech by Arc. (Chief) Gabriel Yakubu Aduku, OON, Chairman, National Executive Council, on the Occasion of the Official Assumption of Office of the New Members of the National Working Committee held on Wednesday 25th July, 2023.

"One thing is imperative, that is, our collective resolve to sustain the lofty vision of the

Organization's founding fathers which is to continue to pursue ideals of a united, prosperous and peaceful North and by extension Nigeria," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the newly constituted members of the National Working Committee, he said that they accept the offer to serve in Arewa Consultative Forum in various capacities.

"I stand here today full of gratitude to God Almighty whose undeserving benevolence we have enjoyed up to this day.

"My profound appreciation goes to the members of the Board of Trustees, the National Executive Council and other stakeholders of this noble organization for finding us worthy to serve in the respective positions we are being made to occupy in this Forum beginning from today," he said.

According to him, "it is

the same spirit of furthering the above ideals that the leaders of this revered Forum spotted in us while we were yet pursuing our individual life's endeavour that made them bring us on board.

"Therefore, we want to assure everyone that our commitment to this course will be total, by the grace of God," he declared.

Earlier, the forum announced the renewal of the appointment of Alhaji Murtala M. Aliyu Mutawallen Gombe, as the Secretary General of ACF, which is for a second term.

Others are, Senator Ibrahim Idu as Deputy Chairman, Alhaji Ibrahim Moriki, Deputy Secretary General, Alhaji Mohammed Kari, Vice Chairman North East, Alhaji Abdulateef Shittu, Assistant Secretary General, Professor Turku Buba, Publicity Secretary and Mr. Sumner Shagari Sambo, Deputy Publicity Secretary.

Also included are, Honourable Ahmed Mohammed, Assistant Publicity Secretary, Barrister Achanna Gaius Yaro, Legal Adviser, Barrister Basir Mohammed Sanusi, Deputy Legal Adviser, Mrs. Gladys Alex Shaahu, Assistant Legal Adviser, Alhaji Ibrahim Sidi Bamalli, Treasurer, Alhaji Salman Yusuf, Deputy Treasurer and Architect Aliyu Tarfa, Assistant Treasurer.

Alhaji Tajudeen Aminu Santa was named Financial Secretary, Mr. Stephen Kwapnoe, Deputy Financial Secretary, Alhaji Samaila Suleiman Kangiwa, Assistant Financial Secretary, Air Commodore Bashir Yakasai, Auditor, Alhaji Kamilu Sanusi, Deputy Auditor and Honourable Mohammed Kabir Ajanah, Assistant Auditor.



CHANGE OF NAME

SHEGUN - I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Shegun Rachael Awonuke now wish to be called and addressed as MRS. RACHAEL AWONUKE REMILEKUN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

Ondo Summit To Attract \$2bn Investments, Create Jobs, Aiyedatiwa Says

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure
The acting Governor of Ondo State, Hon. Lucky Aiyedatiwa, has said the state organised "Develop Ondo 2.0 Investment Summit" is aimed at attracting \$2 billion investments to Ondo State. Aiyedatiwa stated this on Monday in Akure, while declaring open the state-organised investment summit, which he said, would also create 70,000 new jobs, and engage with 100 donor partners and 1,500 investors. He said that the realm of renewable energy pointed to us a greener and more sustainable future.

The acting governor said that Ondo State was blessed with abundant renewable energy sources, such as solar and biomass, making it an ideal location for investments in renewable energy generation and related infrastructure.

Aiyedatiwa noted that the tourism sector held enormous promise, with the state's captivating landscapes, wildlife reserves, historical sites, and cultural heritage which already attract visitors from far and near. "This summit is the second of its kind, building upon the success of its precursor, "Develop Ondo 1.0."

"It serves as a platform to connect stakeholders from diverse sectors, facilitating constructive dialogue, knowledge sharing, and the forging of strategic partnerships that will be the catalyst for accelerated development in our State.

"The "Develop Ondo 2.0" theme reflects our unwavering

commitment to growth and progress, with the number "2.0" symbolising our drive for continuous improvement and innovation.

"The response from potential investors thus far has been highly encouraging, with growing interest in exploring the investment opportunities that Ondo State offers.

"Our previous summit has borne witness to remarkable success stories, illustrating the effectiveness of this platform in attracting Investments and fostering economic growth in our state and enormous values to our partners and investors," he said.

Earlier, the Director General of Ondo State Performance and Project Implementation Unit (PPIMU), Mr Babajide Akeredolu, said as a delivery unit, his office was committed to ensuring that the goals and objectives of the present administration were achieved.

"We have prioritized Collaboration, Communication, Collection (of data) and Coordination as key success pillars on this mission.

"We firmly believe that the marriage of development and investment promotion is essential for the sustainable growth of our state," he said.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Deputy Resident Representative (Operations), Nigeria, Ms Fati Attahiru, in her address expressed the readiness of UNDP to support and collaborate with the state towards building a sustainable and inclusive economy that leaves no one behind.



IGP Egbetokun Relaunches Application For Quick Response On Emergencies

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

An application, tagged, the Police-VGS QERRS, modeled to ensure prompt response and referral in the event of emergencies such as accidents, natural disasters, medical emergencies, criminal incident reporting, intelligence sharing has been unveiled by the Acting Inspector General of Police Kayode Egbetokun yesterday.

With the swipe of a button on a phone emergency, notifications will be sent directly to a dedicated team of police operatives who will ensure a swift, live, and coordinated response to reach in the shortest possible time.

The Force Public Relations Officer CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi who made the disclosure in a release, stated that the Police-VGS app is a lifeline that can make all the difference in saving lives, combatting the menace of crime, and securing our communities. He disclosed that Egbetokun was joined by dignitaries at the IGP Smart Conference Hall, Louis Edet House, Force Headquarters, Abuja, for the unveiling of the Police-VGS Quick Emergency Reporting and Response System (QERRS), a smart policing initiative aimed at

revolutionizing police response to emergency and ensuring swift and efficient action in critical situations.

Adejobi explained that the application that has been modeled to ensure prompt response and referral in the event of emergencies such as accidents, natural disasters, medical emergencies, criminal incident reporting, intelligence sharing, etc. With the swipe of a button on a phone emergency notifications will be sent directly to a dedicated team of police operatives who will ensure a swift, live, and coordinated response to reach in the shortest possible time.

"The Police-VGS app is a lifeline that can make all the difference in saving lives, combatting the menace of crime, and securing our communities."

The Ag. Inspector-General of Police, equally noted that the Police-VGS, an additional option to the already launched C4i-NPF Rescue Me App, represents the epitome of the Nigeria Police commitment to the security and safety of members of the public. He further urged every resident of Nigeria to embrace the innovation wholeheartedly stressing that its adoption will impact policing services significantly.



IGP Egbetokun flanked at the occasion.

Uba Sani Signs Kaduna Executive Financial Inclusion Order

By ; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani yesterday, signed his first Executive Order, the "Financial Inclusion In Kaduna State, Order 2023".

Governor Uba Sani signed the Executive Order in his office, in pursuant to the state government's efforts to address the exclusion of about 2.1 million poor.

Also, underserved and vulnerable citizens in the rural areas from financial services in Kaduna State and to ensure they benefit from the State and Federal Government's Social Intervention Programmes. According to him, "this is pursuant to the state government's efforts to address the exclusion of about 2.1 million poor, underserved and vulnerable citizens in the rural areas from financial services in Kaduna State and to ensure they benefit from the State and Federal Government's Social Intervention Programmes. "In exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 5 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) and all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I made the following orders."

Governor Uba Sani said, "a Financial Inclusion and Literacy Committee is hereby constituted to fashion strategies and modalities to ensure the inclusion of the poor, underserved and vulnerable in Kaduna State, as well as equip them with financial skills



to enable them make sound financial and investment decisions.

"The target of the State Government is to include about 1million poor, underserved, unbanked and vulnerable citizens in the financial services sector in the next one year.

"The State Government, in collaboration with key stakeholders, including CSOs, NGOs and Financial Technology Companies (FINTECHS) will develop a State Financial Inclusion Strategy.

"The State Government shall develop a State Register of the Poor, Under-Served and Vulnerable. The Register will be subjected to various stages of integrity tests.

"The State Government shall work with banks and other financial service providers to open bank accounts for un-banked citizens, and embark on aggressive sensitization programme to ensure the mass participation of our citizens in this exercise. "The State Government, in collaboration with regulatory agencies in the financial sector will organize Financial Literacy Workshops to equip citizens with financial skills that will enable them make sound financial and investment decisions.

"The State Government shall consult with key stakeholders like Traditional Rulers, Religious Leaders, Local Government Chairmen,

Youth, Women and Community Development Associations to ensure the mass sensitization and involvement of the citizens in this financial inclusion drive.

"The Committee on Financial Inclusion and Literacy is hereby directed to liaise with all relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies in ensuring the full implementation of this order.

He thanked the president for listening to the agitation of some very important stakeholders within our country, to put on hope on the distribution that suppose to be transfer to the vulnerable people, within the country because we believe that is very good decisions.

Senate President, Akpabio A Listening, Selfless Leader - Senator Yari

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A former aspirant for the office of the President of the 10th Senate, Senator Abdulaziz Yari yesterday, described the President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio as a listening and selfless leader.

Senator Yari who said this at the unveiling of a book written by the Senate Leader, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele in Abuja declared that Senator Akpabio has all it takes to lead the 10th Senate, to deliver on its promises to Nigerians.

The former Governor of Zamfara State,

emphasized that the 10th Senate are "all very proud of the current leadership of the National Assembly, led by Senator Godswill Akpabio.

"He is a listening leader and with how he handled the sitting of today, by rulling against his position on an issue, is a clear demonstration of quality

leadership", he said Senator Yari added, "with his disposition today and his relationship with President Bola Tinubu, they will take both take Nigeria to the next level".

"The Senate is united behind him and together we will take Nigeria to the promise land".

There Was Over Voting During Kaduna Governorship Election, PDP Witnesses Tell Tribunal

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

During a cross examination of witnesses at the ongoing governorship election tribunal in Kaduna on Monday, a witness testified that there was over voting of 100 votes in his polling unit.

The witness, Haruna Abubakar, who adopted his deposition as his evidence before Justice Victor Oviawe-led panel, explained that seven hundred voters were accredited, while eight hundred votes were counted at the conclusion of the election.

Abubakar, a businessman, told the court that after he voted, he stayed back but after the counting, the election result was not announced at the polling unit as prescribed by the Electoral Act.

Though, when asked by the counsel to INEC, Alhassan Umar, if the witness could recall the number of valid and rejected votes, he said "no".

Hauwa Hussaini, another witness at the court, explained that she was at

her polling unit on the day of election at exactly 8:45am to cast her vote, saying, "After I was duly accredited at the polling unit, I cast my vote and stayed back until the votes were counted."

When asked during the cross examination by the counsels to the respondents how she could determine over voting, she said that over voting is when the number of votes is more than the accredited voters.

Lantana Mikaila, another witness who made her deposition before the court on the 18th of July, 2023 told the court that the election process was peaceful at the early stage, but later there was disorderliness.

However, at the resumed hearing on Monday, the petitioner, candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Isa Ashiru and his party, called five witnesses to give their testimonies of over voting in their respective polling units.

The court adjourned the case to 25th July, 2023 to further cross examine other witnesses.

We Will Improve Almajiri System Of Education In Kaduna State - Sheikh Abdulrahman Zakariyya



By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Sheikh Abdulrahman Zakariyya Usman, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani, on Islamic Matters, has emphasized that the mission and resolution of the government is to help stem the Almajiri students movement to achieve the necessary progress in building the nation, because everything can be restored in line with modern times to get quality education.

The Senior Special Assistant to the Governor, stated this shortly after receiving an award from

the Northern Publishers Forum (Arewa Publishers Forum) led by Sani Muhammad Garba.

The Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Kaduna State, Abdulrahman Zakariyya Usman, said that the state government under the leadership of Governor Uba Sani has placed the issue of peace, mutual unity and understanding, especially for religious groups, at the forefront.

"I assure everyone that the government of Uba Sani, through my office as an adviser on Islamic matters, we will work with every religious group, even those who do not have any religion, without any

difference.

"It is not a government that will just stare at the community without doing anything that will move them forward, that is why Uba Sani's government is fully aware of the plan that will look at this case very much, with the aim of making progress based on this way of the disciple because it is a way of teaching the reading of the Qur'an and it is a way that any reform and reform that is meant to be made in God's judgment without interfering with anyone or putting the people in any trouble".

He also appealed to other religious groups that the

government of Malam Uba Sani is indeed one that seeks the unity of the nation, because no government will progress if its people are not united.

"Because no one will invest any of his wealth if there is no peace and stability, that's why this government has nothing to hope for beyond unity and thinking about how to move the country forward and spread the issue of peace among the people, this is the great hope of the governor and his government blessed by the grace of God.

"I am also very grateful for this honor given to me, may God bless us all," he said.

Black Sunday: Pregnant Woman, 3 Children, Others Burnt To Death In Ondo Tanker Explosion



By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

Almost 20 persons were said to have lost their lives on Sunday after a petrol tanker exploded at Ore, Odigbo Local Government Area of Ondo State.

It was gathered that some residents had stormed the scene to scoop fuel after the ill-fated truck fell, spilling out petrol freely.

It was further gathered that one of the persons struggling to scoop the free flow of fuel held a phone which was said to have

ignited a large inferno.

In the explosion, three children including a pregnant woman who reportedly came with a sum of N100,000 to buy the spilled content were among the 20 persons burnt to death.

A bystander who gave his name as Cyriacus said he and others were inside the church when the tanker fell and spilled its contents on the road.

Cyriacus said some persons rushed to scoop fuel despite prior warning by their Pastor not to

indulge in the dangerous act.

"We were inside the church when we heard that tanker fell. The rain was also falling. People were taking fuel when fire started after a spark from a phone.

"Three children died and we have counted over 15 bodies. A pregnant woman that wanted to buy the fuel also died. The money is still with her."

Ondo Police spokesman, SP Funmilayo Odunlami-Omisanya, said she was yet to get details of the incident.

Ripening Fruits With Calcium Carbide Killing Nigerians, NAFDAC Raises Alarm

**Says drugs hawkers are merchants of death*

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has raised the alarm that the unwholesome habit of some fruits vendors, who adopt the use of Calcium Carbide in forcing fruits to ripe, is posing life threatening risks to consumers, who are ignorant of health challenges it causes. This informed the holding of North-West Zone NAFDAC Media Sensitization Workshop On Dangers Of Drug Hawking and Ripening Of Fruits with Calcium Carbide organized for Association of Nigeria Health Journalists, held on Tuesday July 25, 2023 at Sultan Bello Conference Hall Kaduna.

In a paper presentation titled, "Dangers of Artificially Ripening Fruits with Calcium Carbides" by Director (Chemical Evaluation & Research) NAFDAC, Dr. Leonard Omokpariola, he explained that several dangers come from ripening fruits artificially.

"Naturally ripened fruits are good sources of vitamins and minerals," he said.

He however, said that fruits ripened using Calcium Carbide lead to cancer, shortage of oxygen to the brain, organs failure and possibly death

According to him, artificial ripeners include, Calcium Carbide, acetylene gas, ethephon, ethylene, ethylene glycol, explaining that artificial ripening not only reduces the nutritional value of fruits, but also poses health risks.

"Natural ripening of fruits is a physiological process, makes fruits soft, increases sweetness and takes place only after proper maturity," he said.

He however, said that if fruits must be ripened, they can be done without posing threats to consumers by using an apple, or the peel from a ripe banana.

Earlier in her keynote address, the Prof. Moji Christianah Adeyeye said that there have been clarion calls by well-meaning Nigerians on the need to take stringent regulatory actions to stem the dangerous tide of Drug Hawking and Ripening of Fruits with Calcium Carbide.

"In addition, several national dailies and non-governmental organizations have raised concerns on the looming danger and health implication of these two nefarious activities by certain unpatriotic and unscrupulous citizens in our country.

"Since 2019, we immediately took some decisive steps such as sensitization of the public through different media outlets, enforcement through intelligence and raids in fruit markets that have resulted in seizures and destruction of violative products.

"The flag – off for this sensitization workshop today is again a fulfilment of my promise to sustain and strengthen NAFDAC's existing collaboration with Association of Health Journalists in Nigeria towards mobilizing, educating, sensitizing, and conscientizing Nigerian Journalists to play frontline role in our concerted efforts to eradicate the menace of Drug Hawking and Ripening of Fruits with Calcium Carbide in Nigeria," she said.

According to her, a sensitization workshop of this nature is a training the

trainers' programme with the great expectation that participants will assume the role of champions in the vanguard of the campaign against drug hawking and the use of calcium carbide to ripen fruits.

"You will recall that NAFDAC recently organised similar sensitization workshops in eight cities across the country to raise awareness on the dangers of using bleaching creams. This was in line with my resolve to intensify and widen the scope of our publicity and public awareness campaigns as part of the transformative programmes of my second tenure of office," she said.

She assured that NAFDAC will constantly engage the mass media as they strive to bring down to the grassroots level, positive impacts of their regulatory activities.

Speaking further, she said that the menace of drug hawking poses serious challenges to Healthcare Delivery System in the country and this underscores NAFDAC's resolute determination to totally eradicate the illicit trade.

"Many Drug Hawkers are knowingly or unknowingly merchants of death who expose essential and life saving medicines to the vagaries of inclement weather which degrade the active ingredients of the medicine and turn them to poisons thus endangering human lives.

"Most of the drugs sold by the illiterate and semi-literate Drug Hawkers are counterfeit, substandard or expired, and therefore do not meet the quality, safety and efficacy requirement of regulated medicines.

"Prescription drugs are also sold by the itinerant Drug Hawkers who also hold consultation, recommend and prescribe medicines to their gullible "patients".

"Drug Hawkers are also the major Distributors and Suppliers of narcotic medicines to criminal networks such as Armed Bandits, Insurgents, Kidnappers and Armed Robbers. Drug Hawkers constitute serious threat to our national security.

"Drugs are sensitive life-saving commodities which should not be sold on the streets/motor parks or open markets just like any other article of trade. I wish to warn that any Drug Hawker arrested by NAFDAC will be prosecuted, will face a jail term, and our Enforcement Officers are currently carrying out synchronized nation-wide operation. No offender will be spared from facing the full wrath of the Law. In this regard, we solicit the co-operation and support of all other Law Enforcement Agencies, Nigerian Journalists and well-meaning Nigerians in riding the country of this harmful and shameful practice," she appealed.

On ripening of fruits with carbides, she described it is another public challenge facing Nigeria today, explaining that the agency has deployed a multifaceted approach to tackle the menace.

"Fruits provide the body with micronutrients that improve immunity and prevent diseases among other benefits. Fruit ripening is a unique aspect of plant development, which makes the fruit edible, softer, sweeter, more

palatable, nutritious, and attractive.

"However, the consumption of fruits such as mango, banana, plantain, guava, orange, grape, etc or any other fruits ripened with calcium carbide is dangerous to health.

"Fruits artificially ripened with calcium carbide may be ripe on the skin, the inside remain unripe. You can identify such artificially ripened fruits if you notice that the fruits are all yellow whereas the stem is dark, this is true especially with banana and plantain. In addition, naturally ripened fruits usually have brown or black spots, while those artificially ripened have traces of powdery substances and peel off quickly.

"Effect of artificial ripening on fruit quality include but not limited to:

Considerable loss of properties such as colour, taste and feel, and such practice does not give the natural aroma and flavour to the fruits.

"These fruits do not possess uniform colour and are less juicy than when ripened naturally and have comparatively shorter shelflife.

"Calcium Carbide when sprayed with water reacts chemically to produce acetylene, which acts like ethylene and ripens fruits by a similar process. Calcium carbide generally contains impurities such as arsenic, lead particles, phosphorus, etc., that pose several very serious health hazards.

"Consumption of fruits containing these impurities may cause cancer, heart, kidney and liver failure. They may also cause frequent thirst, irritation in mouth and nose, weakness, permanent skin damage, difficulty in swallowing, vomiting, skin ulcer and so forth. Higher exposure may cause undesired fluid build-up in lungs (pulmonary oedema).

"Acetylene produced by Calcium Carbide affects the neurological system and reduces oxygen supply to the brain and further induces prolonged hypoxia.

"The impurities are hazardous to pregnant women and children and may lead to headache, dizziness, mood disturbances, mental confusion, memory loss, cerebral oedema (swelling in the brain caused by excessive fluids), sleepiness, seizure etc.

"Calcium Carbide is alkaline in nature and erodes the mucosal tissue in the abdominal region and disrupts intestinal functions.

Consuming such artificially ripened fruits could result in sleeping disorders, mouth ulcers, skin rashes, kidney problems and possibly even cancer.

"Other symptoms of poisoning include diarrhoea (with or without blood), burning or tingling sensation in abdomen and chest difficulty in swallowing, irritation in eyes/skin, sore throat, cough, shortness in breathing, numbness etc.

"It is gratifying to announce that apart from sensitization campaigns and Enforcement activities, NAFDAC has commissioned a scientific study on the best approach towards mitigating the health hazards posed by ripening of fruits with carbides. I have mandated some of my directors and support staff to take these campaigns to the nooks and crannies

of this country. We are confident of winning the war against these two hydra-headed public health menaces.

"It is, therefore, a great pleasure for me to declare open this Media Sensitization Workshop while urging you to assist NAFDAC in publicizing and disseminating knowledge acquired to the general public," she said.

She appreciated all stakeholders collaboration and support for NAFDAC to rid the country of the menace of substandard and falsified medicines, unwholesome foods, corrosive cosmetics, and other substandard regulated products. Director Public Affairs NAFDAC, Dr. Abubakar Jimoh in the opening remarks, said that they have been going round the country since December in efforts to break ignorance.

He explained that the workshop was targeted at journalists, but they decided to expand it to include other stakeholders like Police, Customs, NDLEA, NSCDC and others.

He said when the present NAFDAC DG came on board in 2017, she has been waging the war against fake drugs and unwholesome practices.

He said so far 800 journalists have been trained and another 800 will still be trained.

"For the journalists to support us, they have to have the knowledge," he said.

He praised the journalists for attending the North West in numbers.

In another paper presented titled, "Food Safety Concerns: Unethical Practices" by Director (Food Safety & Applied Nutrition) Mrs Eva Edward, she warned against tampering with expiry date of products.

She also warned against false claims (mislabeling) information on products.

She informed that in 2022, 120 tonnes of animal skin, (ponmo) was impounded by NAFDAC, with street value of over N25m destroyed.

"Food fraud is for economic gain, detrimental to health and must be stopped," she warned.

Presenting a paper titled, "The Menace of Drug Hawking in Nigeria" Director (Investigation & Enforcement), Mr Francis Ononiwu said that medicines sold by drug hawkers are expired, substandard and falsified and are illegally obtained through unregulated distribution chain.

He said illiteracy and ignorance contributes to patronage of street hawkers.

"Poor drug distribution system contributes to drug hawking," he lamented.

Other presentations at the one-day event, include, "Good Distribution Practices and Surveillance Activities Towards Prevention and Curbing of Substandard and Falsified Medicines in Nigeria" by Deputy Director Incharge (Post Marketing Surveillance), Pharm. Bitrus Fraden and "Influence of Mass Media Campaign on Health Behavioral Change" by Deputy

Director (Public Affairs) Mrs Christianah Obiazikwor.

Jigawa Governor's Healthcare Delivery Services Successful - Dr Jahun

By; JABIRU A HASSAN, Kano.

The National Chairman, Association Of Youth Healthcare Professionals Of Nigeria (AYHPN) Dr. Hafiz Muktar Jahun has said that they would continue to work selflessly towards the successful implementation of all programmes related to healthcare delivery in Jigawa State.

He made the disclosure in an interview with our correspondent, adding that professionals in health sector are always ready to give their contributions in order to actualize all policies introduced by the Dan Modi administration, especially when the governor is very interested in boosting healthcare sector.

"I observed that our leader, his Excellency, Malam Umar Namadi FCA, is very ready to promote the healthcare system in our great state, because from what we are seeing, his unscheduled

visitations to hospitals and other medical centres, Jigawa State, would make it an exemplary domain in the area of healthcare delivery. We are very happy with this development," he emphasized.

Dr. Hafiz Muktar Jahun called on all categories of healthcare staff across Jigawa State to work harder in order to appreciate the present administration on its determination to give special consideration to health workers which is one of the best gestures from the state government. The AYHPN National Chairman, reassured that with the present administration's policy on healthcare services, Jigawa State would overcome all challenges surrounding the sector.

He was optimistic that more progress report on healthcare in Jigawa State would continue to be achieved in order to give true reputation of Malam Umar Namadi's blueprint on the sector.



Dr Jahun

Makinde Appoints Prof Olanike Kudirat Adeyemo Oyo SSG Designate

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde on Monday, announced, a Professor at the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Ibadan, Prof Mrs Olanike Kudirat Adeyemo, as the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) designate.

The announcement was contained in a letter signed personally by Governor Makinde.

Professor Adeyemo, who served as the Head of the Oyo State COVID-19 Decontamination and Containment team of the Oyo State COVID-19 Taskforce, was born on July 17, 1970.

She bagged the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), Master's degree in Veterinary Public Health (MVPH) and Ph.D. Veterinary Public Health, in 1994, 1998 and 2005 respectively from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Professor Adeyemo, who is a COMSTech Distinguished scholar and the Pioneer Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships) at the University of Ibadan, Ibadan between 2017 and 2021, joined the services of the University in March 1999 as Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine. She became Lecturer I in 2002, Senior Lecturer/Assistant

Professor in 2005 and Reader/Associate Professor in 2008. In October 2011, she became a full Professor.

From August 2013 to July 2015, she was a Schlumberger Foundation-sponsored Visiting Scholar at the Center for Human and Environmental Toxicology, Department of Physiological Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA.

Between March 13, 2017 and March 12, 2021, Professor Adeyemo served as the Pioneer Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships), University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

A 2013 Fellow of the College of Veterinary Surgeon, Nigeria and a Registered Veterinary Surgeon, Adeyemo is a Fellow of many academies, such as the International Science Council (ISC), The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Pollution Mitigation, the Nigerian Academy of Science, the African Academy of Sciences and the African Scientific Institute (ASI), USA.

She is also a member of

many learned societies, including Society of Toxicology (SOT), the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association (NVMA), the Fisheries Society of Nigeria (FISON), the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association (WAVMA) and the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSDW).

Professor Adeyemo's scholarship and leadership are around "One Health" trans-disciplinary research that cuts across traditional boundaries and paradigms to create novel conceptual, methodological, and translational innovation at the environment-livestock-wildlife-human interface with significant policy implication for

Nigeria, the African Continent, and the rest of the world.

She is the host PI on the project (2020-2023) titled "Improving Biosecurity: A Science-based Approach to Manage Fish Disease Risks and Increase the Socio-economic Contribution of the Nigerian Catfish and Tilapia Industries" in collaboration with colleagues at Mississippi State University, USA and WorldFish, Malaysia is facilitated by USAID grant under the Fish Innovation Lab for Fish. The project is aimed at improving Nigerian aquatic animal production biosecurity and health management.

An erudite scholar, she has many publications to her credit.



Prof Olanike Adeyemo

NNPP Katsina Exco, Supporters Resign From Party

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

All executive members of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in Katsina State, including the Chairman, Honourable Sani Liti Yankwani with teaming supporters across the state have relinquished their membership and positions in the party.

A letter of Notification of the resignation signed by the state chairman, Honourable Sani Liti Yankwani to the acting national chairman of the party in Abuja, said, "We the undersigned and our teaming supporters across the state decided to relinquish our membership and our

positions in the party.

"We are very much grateful to the National Leader in person of Engr. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso for the opportunity given to us to serve in various capacity," the letter added.

Similarly it said, "We also thank the former chairman of the party Professor Rufa'i Alkali for his leadership and maturity he has shown during his tenure."

However, "We also thank the entire National Working Committee of the Party. We say a very big thank you for your contribution."

The Executive Officers of the NNPP who tendered their resignation include, the

state chairman, Honourable Sani Liti Yankwani; A Hadi Mai'adua Vice Chairman Funtua Zone; Sale Halisu Mashi Ph.D, Vice Chairman Daura Zone; Honourable Bello Abbas Usman State Auditor; Alhaji Sabi'u Ibrahim Sullubawa Assistant Financial Secretary and Adamu Guga Ex-Officio.

Others are, Alhaji Danjuma Taballawa Assistant Legal Adviser; Hajiya Ubaida Sanusi State Women leader; Hajiya Rabi Dankaba Women leader Daura Zone; Shehu Labo Assistant Treasurer and Abdulaziz Mohammed Daura Zone Youth leader.

Consequently, the North West Zonal Chairman of the NNPP, Honourable

Shehu M. Bello was in Katsina on a fact finding mission where he was informed by Katsina State acting chairman of the party, Umar Ahmad Jibril on need for more unity and understanding among NNPP faithful across the state.

Ahmad jibril emphasized the importance of reminding people of Katsina state on the activities of party, assuring that, following the Resignation of the state party chairman, Honourable Sani Liti Yankwani and other stakeholders, NNPP in Katsina State would continue to exist and called on the party's Supporters at all levels to remain loyal for more success.

Nigeria Society Of Engineers Inducts 350 ATBU Graduate Engineers

By; MOHAMMED KAWU,
Bauchi

No fewer than 350 graduate engineers of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), Bauchi were at the weekend, inducted, with the ceremony organised in collaboration with the Nigerian Universities Engineering Students (NUESA), ATBU Chapter

The NSE State Chairman, Engineer Mohammed Hadi Ibrahim at the 1st induction held at 1,000 seat capacity complex of the institution, said the ceremony was part of the process of becoming a registered engineer.

He said, "Initially before their graduation they are called student members but now that they have graduated and upgraded, their membership turns to private membership after induction,"

According to the NSE chairman, the induction ceremony was significant because it was the maiden edition and ATBU is one of the few Universities in the North East that carries out the induction process.

"We mentored these students from their admission point and their graduation and I don't have any iota of doubt of their academic excellence and performance. I believe they can face any challenge wherever



Graduate Engineers Being Inducted

they find themselves as graduate engineers of ATBU".

Dr. Hadi added, "As an engineer, you are expected to be discipline, bridge the gap between what is obtainable and practicable work outside. I believe they are up to the task and can go to any length in terms of achievements"

Also speaking during the event, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Mohammed Abdulazeez congratulated the new inductees on the bulk membership registration, and urged them to work hard, be disciplined and

maintain focus in order to establish themselves and succeed in their chosen profession.

Represented by the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Ibrahim Dodo Suleiman, the Vice Chancellor revealed that the induction of graduate emginners would soon be centralized in universities across the country.

In a goodwill message, the Dean of Students Affairs, Professor Sarki Abdullahi, described engineering as a profession that

is dedicated to serving humanity in all endeavours.

Professor Abdullahi, urged the graduate engineers to count themselves fortunate for choosing engineering as a profession.

He however appealed to them to students to wait for the University Senate to approve their results and issue them degrees

before parading themselves as engineers.

Abdullahi urged the graduate enginner inductees to be responsible in order to reach the zenith of the profession, saying

"Now you are graduate members, after five years you become a corporate members."

"By the time you practice for as a corporate member for 10 years or thereabout, you can then apply to be a Fellow, which is one of the highest esteemed positions as an engineer.

"From there we have others such

as the Africa Society of Engineers, the Global ones among others. The only way to participate is to be responsible by paying annual dues of practice".

Professor Robinson Ejilah, the first Nigerian elected member of Board of Directors for Engineers Without Borders, has in a Goodwill message, urged the Nigerian government to place priority on education of engineers, scientists and technicians to accelerate the development of the country.

Robinson, who was the 13th National Chairman of the Nigerian Institute of Mechanical Engineers, told the engineer graduate inductees that, "Engineer as a profession is a profession destined for greatness".

"All that you have acquired all these years you are going to impact it in a manner that will bring about speedy and transformative national development.

"I want to associate with your successes stories and I am delighted as your parents who are also here with us. I am proud as a teacher and hope you end up as engineers that can bring about transformative change and human development", Robinson concluded

AIG Zone 9 Urges Officers To Shun Bribery, Corruption

Mkpuma Enyinna,
Abakaliki

The Assistant Inspector -General of Police (AIG), Mr. Echeng Eworo has urged officers and men of the force to shun bribery and corruption, stating that anyone caught will be made to face the full wait of the law.

He encouraged them to always stand to discharge their duties effectively and efficiently to ensure a free crime society since security of lives and properties are their priority.

Eworo, in charge of Zone 9, Umuahia gave the charge yesterday, during his one-day working visit to Ebonyi Police Command, Abakaliki.

They AIG urged officers and men of the command to shun all sorts of bribery and corruption noting that anyone caught will face the full wrath of the law. He

encouraged them to maintain peace and unity wherever they found themselves for the growth and development of this country.

"I urge you to continue to fight the good fight and ensure that you take the fight to the people at various communities.

"Do not shy away from your responsibilities. Always stand for the right thing for effective protection of the people," he added.

The AIG described police as leading "agency" in protection of lives and property, urging the personnel to embrace professionalism in the job.

"The police is all about the people. Always ensure that you protect them. Be objective and do what is right. Remember that all the Unite in the command were set up for a reason in crime fighting processes," the AIG advised.

Emefiele: Group Blasts DSS' Shameful, Unprofessional, Attack Outside Court

By; AMOS TAUNA,
Kaduna

The Concerned Northern Forum, has noted with dismay what it described as "Tuesday's shameful, unprofessional conduct" by operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS) and continuous attack and disrespect on Judiciary and members of the general public.

The forum said that to the surprise of Nigerians, DSS officials refused to concur with the order to immediately release Alh. Aminu Idris Yaro and his wife and also against the judgement of the court, moved to re-arrest Mr Godwin Emefiele after a shameful public show in front of the Ikoyi High Court in Lagos.

The chairman of the forum, Mohammed Danlami, in a statement yesterday, said, "On the

strength of today's shameful, unprofessional conduct by operatives of the DSS and for the continuous attack and disrespect on Judiciary and members of the general public, both the DG and Lagos State Director of DSS should resign to save the reputation, dignity of the service and that of our country before the international community." Following the shameful act, the forum called for the urgent setting up of a special panel of inquiry to look into the dramatic scene that took place between operatives of the DSS and officials of the NCoS outside the court in Ikoyi to get to it's root for decisive disciplinary actions to be implemented.

He noted that the DSS operatives were seen in physical and violent confrontations with the

officials of the Nigerian Correctional Service, operatives of the DSS dragged the NCS Boss, loose his shirt opened and forcefully dragged him outside the court room as if he was not a uniform man, stressing that the way and manner they conducted themselves was not representative of the service but behaved as if they were common thugs on the street.

The chairman explained that the shameful act followed the arraignment of Mr Godwin Emefiele before Justice Nicholas Oweibo of the Federal High Court in Lagos, Alhaji Aminu Idris Yaro and Sa'adatu Ramalan Yaro before his Lordship Justice E. Okpe in the High court of FCT, Abuja on the 25th day of July 2023.

In the case of the former, the statement stressed that the Judge, ordered that

Godwin Emefiele be granted bail and sent to Nigerian correctional centre pending the perfection of his bail condition, saying that in the case of the latter, the Hon. Judge ordered for his immediate release and that of his wife and a restraining order that prevents the DSS from arresting them.

The forum hailed the efforts of the two judges that presided over the cases of suspended CBN Governor, Mr Godwin Emefiele and the traditional leader, Alhaji Aminu Idris Yaro (Sarkin Hausawan Lagos) and his wife, for been rational and impartial.

The forum urged the DSS to respect court orders, hand Emefiele to Nigerian correctional service officials and release Alhaji Aminu Yaro Sarki and his wife immediately.

NNPP Will Win 2027 Guber election In Ogun State - Ajadi

By; BAYO AKAMO
Ibadan

Achieftain of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Ambassador Olufermi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo has disclosed that NNPP will win the Ogun State governorship election in 2027.

Speaking with journalists in Ibadan during his investiture as patron of the Correspondents' Chapel of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Oyo State Council on Saturday, the NNPP Chieftain said the people of Ogun State are now eager for positive change.

The NNPP governorship candidate in Ogun State during the last general elections in his lecture entitled "Contesting in Nigeria's 2023 general elections: Ogun state experience", said he had a terrible experience during the campaign for the 2023 general elections.

Ambassador Ajadi emphasized that he is not satisfied with the outcome of the 2023 gubernatorial election in Ogun state, pointing out that many residents of the state who were ready to vote for the party, could not find the name of party on the ballot paper as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) omitted the name of party on the ballot papers during

the election.

"If we are going to re-contest the election again, I am sure of my party's victory in the state. If we are to conduct the election again, I am sure of my party's victory. I am not comfortable with the outcome of the election due to how INEC robbed our party because they know that Nigerians are clamouring for a new Nigeria", he said.

Ambassador Ajadi added, "And as a result of that they do not want any political party to come up aside the two giant political parties in the country; APC and PDP. And as a result of that Nigerians found it difficult to recognise only logo while the INEC omitted our party's name on the ballot papers during the election."

"Because other political parties names were seen on the ballot papers, they saw the name aside the logo on the ballot papers. The constitution of Nigeria does not only recognise logo without name on the ballot papers".

The NNPP Chieftain noted, "Even, if the political party did not write them, they should know that they supposed to write the name of the party which is New Nigeria's Political Party (NNPP). I have a copy of the letter sent to them from

the national that this party's name is not included in the ballot papers that they should make a correction, but it is so unfortunate that on that very day, on the day of election, the presidential election, we found out that the name of our political party was missing on the ballot papers.

"I personally wrote a letter to INEC in Ogun state that the governorship election coming up, that they should make sure that our political party name is included in the ballot papers they are going to print, but it is so disappointing that one the day of governorship election, we could not find the name on the ballot papers. So therefore, we went to court that the INEC has failed Nigerians, because people cannot recognise our political party and we were strike out that they cannot do anything on that".

The Chairman of Correspondents' Chapel, Comrade Raji Adebayo in his speech urged the federal government under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to review the implementation of subsidy removal policy and hasten the palliatives to cushion its effects and that President Tinubu should channel the proceeds from subsidy to infrastructural

developments.

"It is with a great joy that I welcome you all to the first edition of this lecture since our executive came on board in the last nine months and the Investiture of our lecturer, Hon Olufermi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo the gubernatorial candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in the 2023 elections in Ogun state.

"The experience is everywhere, even we are experiencing post election happenings presently, among which is the removal of fuel subsidy, and I think everyone of us is feeling the impact of a policy. This is why we all have to participate in the electoral process because whether you like it or not, the effects of a poorly implemented policy can cause disruption in the lives of those who voted and those who did not vote. But I will appeal to federal government under the leadership of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu to review the implementation of the policy and hasten the palliatives to cushion the effects of the subsidy removal. We implore him to channel the proceeds from subsidy to infrastructural developments. We need good roads, medical facilities, education, and particularly security."

Genevito Farm Produces 15,840 Litres Of Palm Oil Monthly - MD



By; PATRICK TITUS,
Uyo.

The Managing Director of Genevito Farms in Ibekwe Akpan Nya, Mkpat Enin Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, Apostle John Okoriko said the facility has the capacity to produce 15,840 litres of palm oil monthly.

Speaking with newsmen in Uyo at the weekend, Okoriko said that the farm has 4,000 stands of palm trees, 75 hectares of land as well as the staff strength of 120 employed from the community. According to him, the palm seedlings were obtained many years ago from Nigeria Institute for Oil Palm Research Centre (NIFOR) in Abak and the seedlings are nursed yearly for expansion of his farm and for other farmers in rural communities in the state.

He said that the plantation has nursery section where palm tree seedlings are raised for other farmers and for the expansion, harvesting unit and planned milling department for full fledge production of a brand of palm oil known as special palm oil (SPO) for export.

"Last year, we had 7,000 seedlings from our nursery and it was not enough for farmers. We are nursing more seedlings to expand our farm and supply other farmers.

"The farm has a nursery unit with good species of sprout out nuts packaged in nursery bags as best management practice to prepare the seedlings for transplants which takes only two years before fruiting.

"By next week, we would harvest the farm for the month of July and our harvest is always very bountiful. This is the period we use both permanent and casual workers on the farm.

"Engaging this number of persons in the rural area, means a lot in terms of fighting unemployment and involving women to process palm oil."

Apostle Okoiko, who is also the President of the Solid Rock Kingdom Church Worldwide, described palm oil production as a lucrative

investment as nothing in palm fruits is wasted in the entire production chain.

"Nothing is wasted in palm trees. The production is simple, automatic markets to end products, direct impacts on development of rural dwellers while increment of income to rural communities can be achieved as well as engaging youths in the production chain", he explained.

Okoriko listed the uses of palm fruits to include provision of raw materials for industries, fuel and biodiesel, food and bakery industries and cosmetics, adding that other end products can be used to produce poultry feed.

He stated that the farm enjoys technical assistance for manpower training from Niger Delta Initiatives (PIND) and SOLIDRIDAD and called for collaboration with state and federal governments to enable expansion as over 50 hectares of the land is uncultivated.

Okoriko mentioned challenges facing the farm as lack of capital, inadequate amenities, lack of farm implements, no vehicles to move around the farm during harvest, lack of power supply and storage facilities.

He said that the farm if expanded to optimum, can generate employment opportunities to change the fortunes of rural communities in the area.

Meanwhile, the farm manager, Mr Obot Nta has said that the objective behind the farm is to sensitize local communities that they can survive economically through palm fruit farming, if they can plant good hybrid.

"Our vision is to make sure that in the next 10 years, all the wild palm trees are replaced with new hybrids.

"We need government to assist us. Every month, many people come to buy palm fruits from our farm. More workers will be employed. If government gives us a production mill, we would help to reduce unemployment especially in the rural communities," he said.



Ambassador Ajadi with the Correspondents' Chapel Patron plaque

E-payment, Online Application, Solution To Extortion, Rowdiness At Passport Offices - Comptroller

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The best and only way by which extortion and rowdiness can be curbed at the passport offices is the e-payment and online application introduced by the Nigeria Immigration Service.

The Comptroller, Rivers State Command of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) Sunday James made the submission at the weekend.

According to him, enforcement of e-payments and e-application will go a long way to remove touts and touting from the passport process and also reduce the traffic that results in rowdiness and over crowding of a small spaced office meant to accommodate reasonable number of applicants but end up accommodating more than necessary people, that turn up due to physical appearance.

He posited that the e-payment will remove extortion and extra charges associated with touts and all elements of corrupt and exploitative acts by unscrupulous elements who takes advantage of unsuspecting citizens, who may be desperate to have a passport for reasons best known to the applicants and the touts cashing on this demand. His words, " The Nigeria Immigration Service being the agency saddled with the mandate to administer the processing and issuance of the passport among many of its statutory duties, the

Minister is by the power vested in his office empowered when and where necessary to revoke or withdraw the travel document, known as e-passport.

" The passport is a travel document and property of the Federal Government of Nigeria, the holder at anytime is only privilege to be in possession by reason of constitutional provisions and right as a bona-fide citizen.

"The government or its appointed agents are empowered by the law to issue and can revoke or withdraw same where and when necessary, and may deny anyone who might have committed a passport related offence of the privilege of acquiring one for a stipulated period of time as enshrined in the Immigration Act 2015.

" The enforcement of e-payments and e-application will go a long way to remove touts and touting from the passport process and also reduce the traffic that results in rowdiness and over crowding of a small spaced office meant to accommodate reasonable number of applicants but end up accommodating more than necessary people, that turn up due to physical appearance.

" The e-payment will remove extortion and extra Charges associated with touts and all elements of corrupt and exploitative acts by unscrupulous elements who takes advantage of unsuspecting

citizens, who may be desperate to have a passport for reasons best known to the applicants and the touts cashing on this demand.

" With e-payment, human contact is removed and the system will work seamless, without bottlenecks between the applicant for passport and the institution, the Nigeria Immigration Service.

" :Emplacement of e-application and e-payment will make the system of application and payment electronic based thereby reducing space and time, and improving the electronic documentation, since the application will be done online, through a dedicated and safe email or platform, payment into government account and the institution receiving and processing officially and electronically.

" :The response and feedback mechanism must be electronically, to complete the transaction cycle, with a help desk established for contact, information where and when applications are made for follow-up, applicants may seek to confirm or get information on issues.

" The officers posted to such help



Comptroller Sunday James

desk must be patriotic, dedicated and motivated possibly with special official packages in the form of allowances and by extension other officers serving in the passport office should be made to enjoy special remuneration to discourage extortion and tendencies to want to make the process look as if

difficult and not functional, thereby exploiting the vulnerability of applicants.

" This in my view will reduce or eliminate touting, extortion, delays and encourage dedication and patriotism in Passport service delivery and administration".

Timi Frank Petitions IGP Over Extrajudicial Killing Of Man, By Police Under Sylva's Tenure As Governor

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, has called on the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, to urgently reopen probe into circumstances leading to the extrajudicial murder of a young man by police in Bayelsa State during the tenure of Chief Timipre Sylva as governor.

Frank made this appeal in a petition titled: "Who killed Ken Niweigha? A call to the inspector General of Police to investigate the tenure of Timipre Sylva as the Governor of Bayelsa State and police complicity in his murder" which was addressed to the IGP Egbetokun.

Frank's petition dated 24th July, 2023, was signed by his lawyer, Ernest Onyebuchi Olenyi, Esq of Enahoro & Associates chambers based in Abuja.

The petition reads in part: "The tragic incident at the heart of this petition involves the extrajudicial killing of Mr. Ken Niweigha, a prominent figure in the Odi Community of Bayelsa State.

"According to news reports and Amnesty International's research, the circumstances surrounding his death are highly contentious and have raised significant concerns about the conduct of the Nigerian police and the state of the justice system under the watch of the then Chief Security Officer and Governor of the State, Chief Timipre Sylva.

"On May 26, 2009, Mr. Ken was arrested by the police and subsequently taken to the State Criminal Investigation Department (State CID) in Yenagoa.

"During his arrest, he was paraded in front of the media, accused of leading the Egbesu Boys armed group in Bayelsa State, and implicated in the killings of 12 policemen, which led to the infamous Odi massacre in 1999.

"The police claimed that Ken had agreed to cooperate and lead them to his hideout in Odi, where he would surrender all his weapons and be prosecuted.

"However, conflicting narratives emerge from different sources, raising questions about the veracity of the police's version of events.

"The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), an affiliation of armed groups in the oil-rich Niger Delta, claimed that Ken Niweigha was executed by the police, asserting that extra-judicial executions are 'shockingly common' in Nigeria, attributing this to the lack of effectiveness within the police force.

"MEND's accusation suggested that the police were responsible for the killing of Ken Niweigha without due legal process.

"The police, on the other hand, presented a different account of the events leading to Ken Niweigha's death.

"Police Commissioner, Mr. Onouha Udeka stated that

during the course of escorting Ken Niweigha to his hideout in Odi, a prearranged ambush took place, initiated by his gang.

"As a result, a shootout ensued between the gang and the police, in which Ken Niweigha lost his life.

"The police maintained that he was the only fatality in the exchange, and no officers were injured.

"The circumstances surrounding Ken Niweigha's death, coupled with the broader context of extrajudicial killings in Nigeria, raise serious concerns about the conduct of the police and the need for a thorough and impartial investigation.

"The situation surrounding Ken Niweigha's death has evoked deep concern and unrest within the Odi Community and beyond.

"As the Coordinator of Bayelsa State Volunteers in Odi, his role and relationship with the government further intensify the need for an independent investigation to establish the truth and hold accountable those responsible for his death."

Frank who is the Ambassador of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), urged the IGP to investigate the circumstances leading to the murder of "Daddy Ken" and expose the culprits to bring closure to the unfortunate incident and prevent such extrajudicial murders in future.

Princess Odulate To Churches: Build Future Leaders For Nigeria

**Receives Knight of John Wesley (KJW) awards*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Former Ogun State Head of Service, Princess Iyabode Odulate has tasked religious bodies particularly the church to mentor and build future leaders for the country

Princess Odulate gave the charge in Ibadan on Sunday, while speaking at The Wesley Methodist Church Elekuro, where she was honoured with the Knight of John Wesley (KJW) awards

She stressed that out there, "we have a lot of rot and people still believe in the clergy, thereby giving them the opportunity of shaping lives of so many people."

"My message to the church is that they should try to mentor, build leaders. Out there, we have a lot of rots and people still believe in the clergy, and for them they have the opportunity of shaping lives of so many people, it has not gotten to the stage that people don't listen to them", she said.

Princess Odulate added, "in that wise, I want the church to be proactive, don't look at them as youth, it is the youths of today that will become the elders of tomorrow but if we do not mode them into the right way that is why we will start having all sorts of elders, so I'm appealing to the church not to give up, they should continue to preach the gospel and

evangelize, going to the nooks and crannies and bring worthy ambassadors to the fold of God."

"If you go to so many churches it is the youth that are cutting the shots, so you cannot judge people based on what people are saying on the media, when you go out there, you will see some of them they do not have money, but they're very committed to the work of God, don't let us leave them to the dustbin."

"Let us continue to work on those that are good, bring them to our side m, they will affect those that are not too good for now. I happened to be a permanent secretary in the ministry of education for good eight years and I know how much of them that are even cultists that have brought back from their wayward style of life".

The former Ogun state Head of Service, stressed, "So, don't give them up, they will be fine by the time we allow them to speak up their minds, let them voice out, that is when you will be able to help them, if you don't know what is wrong with them ,you cannot give them the pill for the ailment". She maintained, "some of us push them away, we believe they are not good, and that is not the right thing to do, I believe in the youth of this country and I will forever continue to encourage them

whenever I found myself.

Speaking on the award, Princess Odulate said, "The award is a crowning glory, because I have had over 250 awards in my life, but this has to do with the church, and once you serve God, you're serving humanity, and the more you serve the more work you have to do, so I know my God will give me the strength to forge forward in the service of evangelism and humanity."

"My message to the younger ones is that they should start early, you cannot get to this place by saying you have money or anything, we started from the choir side of the church, from there we were been groomed by the elderly people of the church and I became presidents of so many societies not even in the Methodist church alone, I have fountain of Hope in Anglican and some other



Princess Odulate (middle) after receiving the award

churches, but is the same God that we all serve but recognition come at the God chosen time, and I'm happy that this one is coming after thirteen years of my retirement, so I will have enough time to devote to my God and my community and all and sundry."

The Methodist Bishop of Owerri, the Right Rev. Dennis Mark, in his sermon titled: "Reward for Good Work is More Work", urged the awardees to use themselves for

kingdom business and do more by providing good leadership anywhere they found themselves and use their position to the glory of God.

Among those that received the awards are the Oyo State First Lady, Engr. Mrs. Tanmunominin Olufunke Makinde, Engr. Dotun Sanusi the Chef Executive Officer of Ilaji Hotel and Resort among others.

Newly Established Jama'are Federal College Matriculates 350 Students

By: MOHAMMED KAWU, Bauchi

The Federal College of Education (FCE), Jama'are in Bauchi State at the weekend, matriculated three hundred and fifty students into the National Certificate in Education (NCE) for the 2022/2023 academic session.

The Provost of the newly established Federal College of Education, Jama'are in Bauchi State, Prof. Aisha Indo Mohammed urged the new students to exhibit discipline, loyalty, honesty and good character at all times.

Speaking at the maiden matriculation ceremony of the college's new students in Jama'are at the weekend, the provost said, "today the college is matriculating a total number of three hundred and fifty (350) students. You, the successful students have just taken oaths, signifying your commitment and loyalty to the college".

"This makes you bonafide students of the college. Therefore, I urge you to continue to uphold the tenets of the oaths you took throughout your stay in the college. It is my honor and privilege to welcome you all to the 2022/2023 N.C.E Maiden Matriculation Ceremony"

Prof. Indo said, "On behalf of the Management team and Academic Board, I heartily felicitate with the successful



Jama'are matriculation ceremony.

students who were admitted into various N.C.E programmes of the college

"Out of the many applications for admission, candidates who satisfied the requirements of the college were admitted as approved by the NCCE. I congratulate you for scaling through the rigorous screening process into this newly established college of education in Nigeria,"

Prof. Indo Mohammed assured that the college is highly determined to promote good conduct and discipline, stressing that the award of Nigeria certificate in Education (N.C.E) is not only based on academic performance but also on character.

According to her, the college has zero tolerance for anti-social behaviors, especially examination malpractice,

indecent dressing, drug abuse, unlawful associations and other vices.

While warning that the college would not tolerate any display of act of indiscipline, the provost said that students are expected to exhibit good moral conduct within and outside the institution to avoid embarrassment or sanctions.

She told the matriculating students, "The clinic is well equipped to cater for your health needs, guidance and counseling services will be made available in the college, Games and sport facilities are to be provided in due course, in the college for you to keep fit."

Mrs. Mohammed said that the college would take all necessary steps to ensure improved teaching and learning conditions through the provision of additional academic, recreational and other essential facilities for the students overall well-being.

The Provost outlined several achievements of the college since its inception in 2020 to 2021 that include construction of student hostels and micro-teaching Laboratory, construction of School of vocational-technical education, college perimeter fence extension to ensure adequate protection of life and properties, among others.

AATF African Union Commission Renew Agreement To Raise Agricultural Productivity

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

AATF and the African Union Commission (AUC) have on Monday July 24, 2023, signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to raise agricultural productivity in Africa through research, technology development, and uptake by farmers.

A statement made available by Mr. George Achia, Communications Officer, East and Southern Africa, AATF, on Monday, said the partnership agreement will facilitate deployment of agricultural technologies to address farm productivity constraints faced by smallholder farmers in Africa such as the impact of climate change and infestation of pests and diseases.

According to Her Excellency, Amb. Josefa Sacko, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, the agreement with AATF is a sign of commitment to drive collective action, coordinated efforts, enhanced collaboration, cooperation and synergies, that lead to the realization of the common goals and shared aspirations of Agenda 2063: the African we want.

H.E. Amb Sacko offered personal felicitations to AATF on the May launch of the 2023-2027 AATF Strategy, with the Strategy's focus on commercialisation and scaling towards improving farmer productivity and livelihoods,

promoting climate change resilience and sustainability to achieve food and nutrition security in Africa.

Dr. Canisius Kanangire, the Executive Director of AATF, noted that the partnership agreement with AUC will strengthen efforts towards raising agricultural productivity aimed at improving livelihoods of smallholder farmers on the continent.

"Given the remarkable results achieved under the previous collaboration agreement between our organisations, this renewal of our partnership with the AUC will accelerate technology transfer efforts towards getting innovations and products that make a difference to people's lives into farmers hands for a food and nutrition secure Africa," said Dr. Kanangire.

He pointed out that AATF's new Strategic Plan 2023-2027 builds on gains realised over the last two decades with a clear roadmap on scaling technological interventions for impact.

"Our roadmap towards delivery of agricultural technologies during the next five years will not only contribute to food and nutrition security in Africa but will also engender agricultural transformation and resilient food systems in line with the aspirations of the Africa Union (AU) Agenda 2063," he said.

He stated that AATF will continue convening strategic dialogues on agricultural technology in Africa, bringing various voices to weigh in on the

contribution of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) to agricultural development and how Africa can efficiently and effectively leverage it for economic growth and attainment of the Malabo Declaration, Africa's agriculture vision and the agenda 2063.

The Executive Director announced that AATF will host the 1st African Conference on Agricultural Technologies (ACAT), a platform that will advocate for the uptake of agricultural innovations and advance agricultural technology transfer in Africa, in October 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Founded in 2003 to address Africa's food security prospects through agricultural technology, AATF believes that the agricultural sector is a key foundational pillar as Africa consolidates its economic growth and carves out its new position as a major global economic powerhouse and the next growth market in the world.



Dr. Canisius Kanangire, the Executive Director of AATF, and Her Excellency Amb. Josefa Sacko, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission (AUC) during the signing of the MoU at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2023.

It was formed in response to the need for an effective mechanism that would facilitate and support negotiation for technology access and delivery and formation of appropriate partnerships to manage the development & deployment of innovative technologies for use by smallholder farmers in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA).

The African Union Commission (AUC) is the African Union's

Secretariat undertaking the day-to-day activities of the Union.

It is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The African Union is a continental body consisting of the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent.

It was officially launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU, 1963-1999).

PHCUOR: CS Group Tasks Uba Sani On Completion Of Health Infrastructures

By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

A Civil Society group, Partnership for Family Health at Scale, (PACFaH@Scale), on Monday, urged the Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani, to prioritize the completion of the State Primary Health Care Board office complex.

This they said is a key element that would help the state government to attain 100% implementation of the Primary Health Care Under One Roof (PHCUOR).

The group, led by Alhaji Mustapha Jumare, who made the call in Kaduna, at a press conference to highlight their agenda for the new administration, also tasked the

governor to urgently develop strategies for the sustainability of the three years Primary Health Care Memorandum of Understanding (PHC-MoU) the state signed with development partners which ends this year; 2023.

According to them, the government under Nasir el-Rufai, had fulfilled 8 out of the 9 pillars of the PHCUOR implementation to reach 98% and initiated the last pillar which is the upgrading and renovation of the board's office complex which the group says will be one of the best in the country when completed.

The pillars include, governance and ownership: the state has established a State Primary Healthcare Board (SPHCB) and Local Government Health

Authorities (LGHA) with management and advisory team.

Legislation: the state now has an operational SPHCB law with clear provisions on key requirements for the full implementation of PHCUOR.

Has developed a Minimum Service Package (MSP), document starting with the classification of all PHC facilities based on minimum services to be provided including essential medicines/consumables, essential equipment and the required manpower.

Others are, funding, human resources, budget implementation, office space, logistics and public buy-in.

PAS, as they are also called, is a Bill and Melinda Gates funded

project in Nigeria, a social accountability project, aiming to strengthen the capacity of Nigerian Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), anchored by the Development Research Project Centre (dRPC), and implemented by a coalition of health NGOS and professional associations.

Jumare, added that government should also prioritize the release of 250 million for procurement of family planning commodities for the state to reduce commodity stock out.

"Government should intensify supportive supervision to health facilities during RI sessions to ensure data validation and harmonization after services and also replace obsolete cold chain system.

"Government should capitalize the State Health Supply Agency and increase delivery fleet (vehicles) to ensure constant availability and effective distribution of health commodities to health facilities this will ensure efficient release of funds to optimize operation and payment of suppliers on time.

"While we commend the state for maintaining the 15% health budget allocation from the state annual budget with priority allocation to PHC as contained in the Abuja declaration, we call on the state government to resolve the challenges of poor cash backing of funding for health sector is perennial issue." He noted.

Uba Sani Makes Fresh 9 Appointments

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

In a bid to quicken the pace of governance in Kaduna State and deliver on his campaign promises, Governor of Kaduna State Senator Uba Sani, yesterday, approved nine fresh appointments.

Those appointed are, Mohammad Sada Jalal - Director General, Kaduna Geographic Information Service (KADGIS), and Jerry Adams - Acting Executive Chairman, Kaduna Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS). Adams will act as the Executive Chairman pending the appointment of a substantive Executive Chairman.

Also appointed are, Adamu Magaji - Director General, Kaduna State Facility Management Agency

(KADFAMA), Adamu Samaila - Special Adviser, Labour Matters, Amina Sani Bello - Senior

Special Assistant, Student Matters, Salisu Ibrahim Garba - Senior Special Assistant, Political Matters, Larai Sylvia Ishaku - Senior Special Assistant, Social Investment Programme, Clement Shekogaza Wasah - Senior Special Assistant, Community Engagement and Waziri Garba - Senior Special Assistant, Administration.

The appointments are based on the proven track records of the appointees, their commitment to the service of Kaduna State and the SUSTAIN Agenda of the current administration. They are also people of proven integrity.

While congratulating the appointees, Governor Sani tasked them to fashion detailed strategies and operational plans to guide the implementation of programmes and projects in their areas of responsibilities. He wished them God's guidance in the discharge of their assignments.

All the appointments are to commence with immediate effect.

Mohammad Jalal is a Chartered Project Manager, Associate Member of Chartered Institute of Project Management, Ghana, Chartered Facility Manager, Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Contract Project & Facility Management (CICPFM), Associate Member of the National Institute of Marketing of Nigeria (NIMN) and Associate Member of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA).

He holds a B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Architecture from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, a Postgraduate Diploma in Management from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, a Diploma in Facility Management from the CICPFM, a Post Graduate Diploma in Project Management from the American Academy of Project Management (AAPM). He is currently running a PhD Architecture Program from ABU Zaria.

Mohammad began his post NYSC career with an Architectural firm Environment Seven Limited, Kaduna in 1992 and later joined former Afribank and subsequently worked with Diamond Bank and the former Savannah Bank, Reliance Bank, Equitorial Trust Bank and Ecobank in various capacities. Mohammad has over 26 years of valuable banking work experience.

In Ecobank, Mohammad was first appointed as Zonal Head (North) in the SME Team and has subsequently held various positions within the Ecobank Group including Branch Manager, Country Head LEAN Transformation Project,

Project Manager, Head - Property & Realty Services, Head - Ecobank Business Services (EBS), Head - Commercial Banking for North-West, Zonal Head-Premier Banking, NW/NE and Area Manager, Kaduna. Mohammad was appointed as Commissioner (Economic Intelligence) at the Kaduna State Fiscal Responsibility Commission in 2019 and upgraded to Executive Chairman of the Commission in 2022, a position he currently holds.

Mohammad Jalal's skills and competences include but not limited to:

Information & Communication Technology (ICT), Land Administration, Property & Real Estate, Strategy Development & Implementation, Project Management, Facility Management, Leadership & Service Excellence, Banking and Finance, Architecture, and Change Management.

Jerry Adams is a seasoned Tax Administrator, Chartered Accountant, Business Development Expert, Marketer and Mobilizer, with over 23 years professional experience spanning different sectors.

He is currently the Executive Director, Corporate Services of Kaduna Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS). He served variously as Marketing Coordinator (North) of Jogmon Global Links Nigeria Ltd, Senior Operations Manager, Boushishi Groups International, Head of Sales (North), Micro - Touch Nigeria Ltd, Sales Manager, Nigerian Bottling Company PLC, and Business Development Manager, Nigerian Bottling Company Ltd. Jerry Adams hold a Masters Degree in Business Administration, a Postgraduate Diploma in Management, and a Bachelor of Science in Sociology.

Adamu Magaji is a respected Architect with extensive public service experience. He is currently the Chief Technical Officer, Kaduna State Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

He served variously as Project Clerk of Works, Kaduna Health System Funds Phase I (World Bank Project), Supervisor, Kaduna State African Development Bank Project, Member, Kaduna State Education Emergency Committee, Coordinator, Facilities Management of Government House (Sir Kashim Ibrahim House) and Government Lodges, and Project Architect, Construction of Mass Housing for Low Income Earners in Igabi, Zaria, Kaduna North and Jama'a LGAs. He holds a Higher National Diploma in Architecture from Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna, and certificates in Basic Computer Operation and AutoCAD & Revit Architecture from Legacy Computer Professional Institute.

Adamu Samaila is an environmental health management expert with vast experience in labour matters, negotiation and mediation. He holds a Masters Degree in Environmental Health Management from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho, Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Health from Houdegbe North American University, Benin Republic, and a Diploma in Public Administration from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Amina Sani Bello is an accomplished professional with a passion for literature, peacebuilding, diplomacy and governance. With a strong academic background, including a Master of Science in Security, Peace and Diplomacy from Loughborough University and ongoing pursuit of a Master

of Art in English Literature, Amina combines here intellectual prowess with practical experience.

She has excelled in roles such as Special Assistant on Economic Matters to the Governor of Kaduna State and Chairperson of the Ad-hoc Committee for the Yasmin El-Rufai Foundation/Kaduna State University Education Empowerment Initiative. Amina's commitment to excellence is further demonstrated through her

recognition as a winner of prestigious awards, including the Institute for Diplomacy and International Governance Dissertation Prize.

Salisu Ibrahim Garba is a marketing expert with extensive experience in the Petroleum Sector. He served as Assistant Representative with UNIPETROL (Now OANDO), Assistant Procurement Officer, NNPC Warri Refinery, Senior Special Assistant to Namadi Sambo on Distribution of Petroleum Products, and Director, ASAS Oil and Ani Gas Nig. Ltd. He holds a Diploma in Marketing from Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna.

Larai Sylvia Ishaku is a political strategist, grassroots mobilizer, librarian, information scientist and business woman. She is currently the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of three companies, namely Laj - Cute Mansion Ltd, Lai Collections, and Mebeyya Whong Nig. Ltd. Larai Sylvia Ishaku holds the Master of Information Management degree from Adamu Bello University, Zaria and a Bachelor of Library and Information Science, also from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Clement Shekogaza Wasah is a development management consultant, experienced community mobilizer, peace and conflict resolution expert and veteran journalist. Mr. Wasah has consulted on inclusive and participatory development, transparency and accountability in governance, communication and conflict sensitivity.

He was a Results Monitoring and Knowledge Management Consultant for Mobilizing for Development (M4D), a DfID funded program: 2012-2013 in Jigawa, Kaduna, and Kano states.

As Executive Director of Community Action for Popular Participation (CAPP) for 8 years, Clement coordinated projects on voice and accountability, civil society mobilizing, peace education and conflict resolution in the Northern states of Bauchi, Gombe, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, and Niger and Plateau. In 2007, Mr. Wasah managed the Debt Relief Gains project, and in this role provided support to Civil Society Organizations in the Monitoring



Gov Uba Sani

and Evaluation of Debt Relief Gains funded MDGs projects in the Federal Government Capital projects.

The MDGs projects were funded by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Millennium Development Goals (OSSAP-MDGS).

For three years, he managed the Increasing Citizen Participation in Public Finance Analysis in Kebbi State, supported by EU & Action Aid International. The project built the capacity of civil society organizations to demand for accountability in public finance management through needs assessment, budget tracking and monitoring. In 2009 he worked in Nigeria on a Comic Relief International funded program Transforming Education for Girls in Nigeria and Tanzania. The project worked with girls, parents, teachers, education administrators and community gatekeepers in 72 communities in Bauchi, Gombe, Kaduna, Katsina, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau states to build their capacity to tackle cultural and health obstacles (gender & HIV/Aids) that keep girls out of school. Before his work on donor and charity funded international development projects, Mr. Wasah worked as a journalist in both print and electronic media in Nigeria, providing him with excellent communication skills and experience in packaging complex governance issues for the wider public.

He has managed projects funded by the USAID, EU, UNDP and DfID.

Waziri Garba is an astute administrator and communications expert. He was formerly, the Deputy Registrar and Secretary, Council Secretariat of the University of Abuja, and one-time Managing Editor of the New Nigerian Newspapers with over 30 years' experience in handling different administrative responsibilities.

He holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) Degree from University of Abuja and a Bachelor of English Language Degree from University of Maiduguri. Waziri Garba is a Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Administration, and Associate, Nigerian Institute of Management.

Kaduna State: Subsidy Removal And The Conundrum Of Palliative Measures

By: YUSUFISHAKU GOJE

The Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani, in response to the subsidy removal of premium motor spirit (PMS) towards ameliorating the accompanying hardship, held a meeting on the 5th of June, 2023, with the leadership of the labor unions and set up an Ad-Hoc Committee on Palliatives. Since then not much has been heard up until the recent interview the Governor granted to Arise TV on the resolution of the National Economic Council (NEC) chaired by the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shattima.

Some of the resolutions as reeled out by some Governors were to allow State governments to enumerate a new beneficiary register for cash-transfer after questioning the integrity of the current social register, cash-award policy for public servants for six months, payment of outstanding liabilities (pension and gratuity), funding SMEs, food security among others.

However, the Governor in the interview emphatically differed from the opinion of some of his colleagues such as Governor of Anambra State, Professor Charles Soludu, who during the press briefing suggested that NEC questioned the integrity of the State Social Register and insinuated it will be jettisoned. Interestingly, the Governor's position on the need to update the register aligns with the pillar on Investing in Human Capital in his SUSTAIN blueprint, under the segment on Social Welfare, specifically, number four on Social Investment, where it clearly states, "Our Social

Investment Office will be resourced to expand provision of support for the poor and vulnerable. The State Social Register is providing a credible database for the objective disbursement of targeted interventions for the people who are most in need of it."

If the Governor had aligned with the position of his colleagues after the NEC meeting, that would have been a u-turn and jettisoning of a register described in his SUSTAIN blueprint as credible? It is instructive that the Governor campaigned on the mantra to continue and consolidate on the efforts of his predecessor, who had worked with the support of development partners like Save The Children International towards strengthening the Social Protection system in the State. The



State government under former Governor, Mallam Nasir El-rufai, invested public funds running into millions to scale the State Social Register coverage from nine pilot local government areas initiated by the then Federal government to the entire twenty three.

In fact, the former Governor, reportedly made a public statement, in 2021, during the Social Protection policy launch that Social Register MUST be used in programmes designed to assist the poor. Despite the current Governor's clarification in the interview, many stakeholders are still worried that upon his resumption of office, he did not immediately sign into law the Social Security bill initiated by his predecessor. More so, many are now disturbed that

there might be minimal value-for-money in the utilization of the N1.9 billion allocated for Transfer-Payment to Individuals under the Kaduna Social Investment Office (KADSIO) and total allocation of N15.4 billion for social protection in the approved 2023 State budget due to the absence of the proposed Social Security law.

The Governor is right that the current register made up of 1.05 million poor and vulnerable households (PVHs) made up of about 3.9 million individuals captured in the State Social Register under the State Operations Coordinating Unit (SOCU) needs to be speedily cleaned and updated. Similar concern raised by the Governor that 70% of the rural population in North-west is completely financially excluded

needs to be further looked at. Kaduna State has one of the worst cases of financial exclusion and poverty in Nigeria. The Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access survey of financial inclusion in the state shows that 62% of adults in the State do not use regulated financial services, with most of them being women, people in rural areas, farmers and micro entrepreneurs.

Likewise in terms of poverty, the Multidimensional Poverty Index Survey, 2022, by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), shows the State, though ranked in the middle of the ladder, is in terms of number (8.04 million) only second to Kano State (10.51 million) in Nigeria. Based on Senatorial District, zone one has about 3.8 million, zone two has 1.5 million and zone three has 2.6 million multidimensional poor. More worrisome is that the State is among four States in Nigeria that is home to one quarter of the 22.85 million poor children under five. As of 2020, according to the NBS, income poverty is about 43%, while the 2019 baseline poverty as captured in the State Development Plan (SDP, 2021-2025) is 84.9%. Definitely, a combination of COVID-19, subsidy removal, high inflation and persistent insecurity have increased the number of poor and vulnerable in the State.

In view of this disturbing reality and the Governor's clarification, it is hereby recommended that the Governor should concurrently consider the expansion of the Ad-hoc Committee on Palliatives to

include wider stakeholders especially civil society accountability mechanisms, mandate the development of a comprehensive implementation plan in alignment with the State Social Protection policy using a multi-sectoral and stakeholders approach, the accelerated cleaning and updating of the State Social Register, timely cash-backed budget releases, review and re-presentation of the Social Security bill to the State House of Assembly for speedy passage and assent into law, and strengthen the State's financial inclusion communities of practice to accelerate capturing of the unbanked in the state.

Lets engage, ask the right questions and hold the government accountable.

Yusuf Ishaku Goje is an Active Citizen

Muhammad Babagana Zulum's Wedding: A Message Of Profound Gratitude

By; GOVERNOR BABAGANA UMARAZULUM

Alhamdulillah!

I will like to extend a message of profound gratitude to everyone who contributed to the successful wedding fatiha we hosted on Saturday in Maiduguri.

I am and my entire family are deeply honoured and we shall remain eternally grateful to everyone who supported the event in whatever form.

I will like to convey my deepest gratitude to His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, who was represented by His Excellency, Vice President Kashim Shettima, GCON.

I am grateful to His Excellency, our former President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR who fatherly served as representative of the Zulum family during the wedding fatiha.

I am grateful to their Excellencies the Speaker House of Representatives, Rt Honourable Tajudeen Abbas and Deputy Senate President, Barau Jibrin.

I am grateful to acting national chairman of the APC, Senator Abubakar Kyari, other national and state executives of the APC and leaders of all political parties who supported the event.

I am grateful to my colleagues, their Excellencies the Governors of Abia- Alex Otti, Adamawa- Ahmadu Fintiri, Bauchi- Bala Mohammed, Ebonyi- Francis Nwifuru, Gombe- Mohammed Inuwa Yahaya, Imo- Hope Uzodimma, Jigawa- Malam Umar Namadi, Katsina- Dikko Radda, Kwara- Abdulrahman AbdulRazaq, Lagos- Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Nasarawa- Engr Abdullahi A. Sule, Niger- Mohammed Umar Bago, Ogun- Dapo Abiodun, Sokoto- Ahmad Aliyu, Yobe- Mai Mala Buni, and Zamfara- Dauda Lawal.

I am grateful to presidential and other delegations from neighboring countries.

I am grateful to our elder statesman- Ambassador Babagana Kingibe, GCON, National Security Adviser- Mal. Nuhu Ribadu, Group CEO of NNPC- Mele Kyari Kolo, former Governors their Excellencies Maina Ma'aji Lawan, Ali Modu Sheriff, Mohammed Badaru Abubakar, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, Atiku Abubakar Bagudu, Nasir El-Rufai, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, John Kayode Fayemi and Senator Aminu Waziri Tambuwal.

I am grateful to the former Senate President- Senator Ahmed Lawan, APC's governorship candidate in Adamawa State- Senator Aisha Binani, immediate past IGP, Usman Baba Alkali, numerous serving and former national and state assembly members, former ministers Professor Isa Ali Pantami, Babatunde Raji Fashola, Hadi Sirika and Mustapha Baba Shehuri.

I am grateful to businessmen and



philanthropists- Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Alhaji Muhammadu Indimi and the CEO of Sahad stores- Alhaji Ibrahim Mijinyawa amongst other dignitaries too numerous to mention.

I am grateful to our numerous royal fathers who were warmly hosted by His Eminence the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai Al-Amin Elkanemi, CFR.

I am grateful to many of our elders from within and outside Borno State, members of the state security council, the academic community, my colleagues from NIPSS, journalists, social Media promoters, and all professional groups, labour unions, clubs and associations within and outside Borno.

I am grateful to the entire good people of Borno State for their unquantifiable support.

I am grateful to anyone or group I may have inadvertently omitted.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

By Governor Babagana Umara Zulum
Alhamdulillah!

I will like to extend a message of profound gratitude to everyone who contributed to the successful wedding fatiha we hosted on Saturday in Maiduguri.

I am and my entire family are deeply honoured and we shall remain eternally grateful to everyone who supported the event in whatever form.

I will like to convey my deepest gratitude to His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, who was represented by His Excellency, Vice President Kashim

Shettima, GCON.

I am grateful to His Excellency, our former President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR who fatherly served as representative of the Zulum family during the wedding fatiha.

I am grateful to their Excellencies the Speaker House of Representatives, Rt Honourable Tajudeen Abbas and Deputy Senate President, Barau Jibrin.

I am grateful to acting national chairman of the APC, Senator Abubakar Kyari, other national and state executives of the APC and leaders of all political parties who supported the event.

I am grateful to my colleagues, their Excellencies the Governors of Abia- Alex Otti, Adamawa- Ahmadu Fintiri, Bauchi- Bala Mohammed, Ebonyi- Francis Nwifuru, Gombe- Mohammed Inuwa Yahaya, Imo- Hope Uzodimma, Jigawa- Malam Umar Namadi, Katsina- Dikko Radda, Kwara- Abdulrahman AbdulRazaq, Lagos- Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Nasarawa- Engr Abdullahi A. Sule, Niger- Mohammed Umar Bago, Ogun- Dapo Abiodun, Sokoto- Ahmad Aliyu, Yobe- Mai Mala Buni, and Zamfara- Dauda Lawal.

I am grateful to presidential and other delegations from neighboring countries.

I am grateful to our elder statesman- Ambassador Babagana Kingibe, GCON, National Security Adviser- Mal. Nuhu Ribadu, Group CEO of NNPC- Mele Kyari Kolo, former Governors their Excellencies Maina Ma'aji Lawan, Ali Modu Sheriff, Mohammed Badaru Abubakar, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, Atiku Abubakar Bagudu, Nasir El-Rufai,

Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, John Kayode Fayemi and Senator Aminu Waziri Tambuwal.

I am grateful to the former Senate President- Senator Ahmed Lawan, APC's governorship candidate in Adamawa State- Senator Aisha Binani, immediate past IGP, Usman Baba Alkali, numerous serving and former national and state assembly members, former ministers Professor Isa Ali Pantami, Babatunde Raji Fashola, Hadi Sirika and Mustapha Baba Shehuri.

I am grateful to businessmen and philanthropists- Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Alhaji Muhammadu Indimi and the CEO of Sahad stores- Alhaji Ibrahim Mijinyawa amongst other dignitaries too numerous to mention.

I am grateful to our numerous royal fathers who were warmly hosted by His Eminence the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai Al-Amin Elkanemi, CFR.

I am grateful to many of our elders from within and outside Borno State, members of the state security council, the academic community, my colleagues from NIPSS, journalists, social Media promoters, and all professional groups, labour unions, clubs and associations within and outside Borno.

I am grateful to the entire good people of Borno State for their unquantifiable support.

I am grateful to anyone or group I may have inadvertently omitted.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

CORPORATE OFFICE:
AHMADU BELLO WAY
KADUNA

Advert e-mail: joenibro@gmail.com || joe_ibro@yahoo.com
FOR ADVERT BOOKING AND PLACEMENT:
Kaduna: 08033118023, 08028784378
Lagos: 08033257282, 08117876009

ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

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

Hon Abdulkarrem Mai Kero: A Rep With Purpose

By; AUWAL AHMED IBRAHIM

After his victory at the polls and the announcement of result by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the Honourable member representing Kaduna South Federal Constituency, Hon. Abdulkarim Ahmed (Mai Kero) in his appreciation and victory message, said, "I urge you to join hands with me to move Kaduna South Federal Constituency to greater heights, as I pledged to do my very best to impact the lives of our constituents, this can only be achieved with your maximum support, advice and above all prayers, in order to achieve the desired positive change."

Mai Kero is a purposeful politician, whose zeal and passion are to bring a different style of politics in the political arena of Kaduna South and wants politics to be from the people and for the people.

His three representative agenda aimed for the people and the voters, like quest on education, will reduce the high rate of out-of-school children and youth in Kaduna South Local Government Area, while the employment programme will curtail the heat of poverty and redundancy among certificate holders in Kaduna State. Hence, empowerment will also augment in reducing the unemployment rate and insecurity in Kaduna South.

Hon. Abdulkarim Ahmed (Mai Kero) is a political mastermind, whose political spirit will continue to whirl the wind of Kaduna South political success since he joined politics.

Politics is a game of numbers, and only a man of the people can get the number of people needed to change the game. Truly, the political gladiators of Kaduna South made a history in the 2023 General Election for many reasons, and no one can deny the fact that Hon. Abdulkarim Ahmed (Mai Kero)



Mai Kero

had played vital role on the unmatched victory of PDP party in the state despite the crunch of anti-party members of the PDP.

As the man of the people, Hon. Abdulkarim Ahmed (Mai Kero) has broken the political jinx for defeating the incumbent member of the national party. And, that was not easy to achieve. But, truly, the people of PDP made it possible. Hon. Abdulkarim Ahmed (Mai Kero) is a visionary leader for people's development as he always wants to be with people and that's what fetched him the political glory he adorns.

Hon. Abdulkarim Ahmed (Mai

Kero) political generosity and achievements have won him the confidence of people around and afar. From his pocket, even before he joined politics, he helped many with money to pay schools fees, pay medical bills, assist sports clubs and provided projects for the benefit of Kaduna State people.

Mai Kero as he is known, is an able politician that championed the pillars of democracy for the people of Kaduna South for better representation if the people will render their support and pray for him.

With many accolades, honours and

wealth of experience, Hon. Abdulkarim Ahmed (Mai Kero) needs just prayers and patience to steer the affairs of Kaduna South Constituency because he has all the qualities and the talent to deliver, and fitting him in any reputable committee of the House of Representatives, will go a long way for the fulfillment of the people's mandate, we pray for him to succeed. Amen.

Auwal Ahmed Ibrahim is a political analyst and writes from Kaduna South, Kaduna state and can be reached on auwalgoronyo@gmail.com



Group Chairman of the Odu'a Investment Company Limited, Otunba Bimbo Ashiru with others at the press conference.

Odu'a Investment Foundation To Sustain Ideals Of Founding Fathers - Group Chairman

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Group Chairman of the Odu'a Investment Company Limited, Otunba Bimbo Ashiru on Monday, hinted that the conglomerate is set for the official launch and inauguration of the advisory council of Odu'a Investment Foundation

Otunba Ashiru who dropped this hint while addressing a press conference at Olumo Hall, Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja, disclosed that the motive behind the foundation is to sustain the ideals of the founding fathers of Odu'a Investment Company Limited.

The Group Chairman, Odu'a Investment stressed that Odu'a Investment Foundation was set up in furtherance of one of the objectives of the Odu'a Investment Company's five-year strategic plan to plough back to the people of the Southwest states of Oyo, Ondo, Ogun, Osun, Ekiti and Lagos. According to Otunba Ashiru, the vision, mission and objectives of the foundation "is to create an enabling environment where everyone can live a healthy, peaceful and productive life" while the mission statement is "to improve healthcare, expand educational opportunities and promote youth development and information technology in Southwest Nigeria

"Odu'a foundation is a non-profit making organisation established to sustain the ideals of the founding fathers of Odu'a Investment Company Limited. Odu'a Investment Foundation was set up in furtherance of one of the objectives of the Odu'a Investment Company's 5-years Strategic plan to plough back to the people of the Southwest states of Oyo, Ondo, Ogun, Osun, Ekiti and Lagos", he said. Otunba Ashiru added, "Odu'a Investment Company Limited, the investment hub of the Southwest Nigeria in September 2021 incorporated the Odu'a Investment Foundation (OIF) at the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) to serve as an independent social corporate arm of the Company to give back to the society and improve on the life and livelihood of citizenry within the confine of the owners states, thus complementing the efforts of the state Governments in impacting lives meaningfully to its people".

Speaking on some areas of priorities focus of the foundation, the Odu'a Investment Group Chairman gave the three-priority focus of the Foundation as "Youth Empowerment, Education and Healthcare", saying, "These three focus areas were carefully chosen benchmarking with

notable existing foundation".

"This covers ICT capacity building for youths; Creation of innovation hubs and incubation centres; Strategic job creation; Investing and supporting youths in the agriculture sector. It covers Institutional and infrastructural support; Literacy education; Girl child education; Adult literacy; Vocational technical skills training; Grants and scholarship for indigent students. Healthcare: Focuses on Reproductive health; Adolescent health projects; Control of communicable and non-communicable diseases; Institutional support and Capacity building."

Otunba Ashiru also listed other objectives of the foundation among others as "To make a sustainable impact in area of operations which include Youth Empowerment, Education and Healthcare. To promote, develop and empower the teeming Youths of Southwest Nigeria with a focus on education and health (physical, mental, and social). To deliver significant long-term Education and Youth Development benefits in our stakeholder communities".

He pointed out that the Foundation will serve as a conveyor of goodwill from OICL to the good people of South West extraction while

enhancing the quality of life and livelihood of the people, and that the foundation will also provide avenue for individuals, groups, philanthropies, corporate organisations, private and public institutions, multinationals, development partners and donor agencies to impact their support, contributions and partnership with the Foundation in attaining its set mandates."

Otunba Ashiru then called for partnership with other stakeholders to sustain the legacy of the company, saying, "the Odu'a Investment Foundation will open to partnerships with Governments, Donor Agencies, Implementing partners, private companies, multinationals, groups, and community-based organizations towards the attainment of its vision."

The Group Managing Director/CEO, Odu'a Investment Company Limited, Mr Adewale Raji listed names of the advisory council of the foundation as Ambassador. Dr. Olatokunbo Awolowo Dosumu (Chairperson); Chief Dr. (Mrs) Onikepo Akande; Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN; Dr. (Mrs) Victoria Adunola Samson; Dr. Olusegun Olugboyegun; Dr. Biodun Shobanjo, CON, Mr. Aderemi Makanjuola, OON.

End Arbitrary Detention Of Sarkin Hausawa, AYCF Urges DSS, FG

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Arewa Youths Consultative Forum, (AYCF) has joined calls for an end to the continuous detention of Alhaji Aminu Idris Yaro, the Sarkin Hausawa of Lagos, saying it is arbitrary and breach of his fundamental right to personal liberty.

AYCF in a statement by its President, Yerima Shettima, made available to our correspondent yesterday, said it is regrettable that in the 21st century, Nigeria's security agencies would still arrogate to themselves powers of arrest and arbitrary detention of individuals in case in which there is no likelihood or evidence that they committed a crime against legal statute.

"In the instant case of the arrest and detention of the Sarkin Hausawa of Lagos there has been no proper due process of law or order." Virtually the Sarkin Hausawa and other individuals who are arbitrarily arrested and detained by the DSS are given no explanation as to why they are being arrested, and they are not shown any arrest warrant," Shettima said in the statement.

Shettima noted that depending on the social context, Sarkin Hausawa and the vast majority of arbitrarily arrested individuals are held incommunicado by the DSS and their whereabouts concealed from their family, associates, the public population and open trial courts.

He said arbitrarily depriving an individual of their liberty is prohibited under international human rights law. "Article 9 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights decrees that "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile"

"This in essence means that regardless of circumstances, it is wrong for the DSS to deprive the Sarkin Hausawa of his liberty without proper due process of law and without having first committed an actual criminal offense

against a legal statute.

"As well, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights specifies the protection from arbitrary arrest and detention by the Article 9," he said. The implementation of the Covenants is monitored by the United Nations human rights treaty bodies.

AYCF said the incarceration of the Sarkin Hausawa by the DSS for an indefinite amount of time without a trial amounts to violating Nigerian and international laws, particularly human rights laws. "In recent times, we regret to say, the DSS has perfected the practice of indefinitely incarcerating individuals such as the Sarkin Hausawa who is held merely for being friends with suspended CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele who himself is being detained without due process.

"We wonder at what point being friends with people who are being investigated has become an offence. In that case almost all big personalities in Nigeria who are friends with Emefiele should be arrested and detained.

"We therefore, view the singling out of the Sarkin Hausawa for such irreverent treatment as a deliberate attempt to ridicule the revered traditional institution in the country which is unavoidable. "We remind President Bola Tinubu to the reality that he is as well a product of struggles for protection of human rights and should therefore not allow human rights breaches to be perpetrated in his administration.

"We demand the immediate unconditional release of the Sarkin Hausawa or in the alternative, the enforcement of his right to be produced before a court of law within 48 hours which has been breached already by the DSS.

"We finally expect the northern traditional institution to rise to the occasion and speak out in the protection of the sanctity of the traditional heritage which obviously is being scandalized using Sarkin Aminu as scapegoat," Shettima said.

I Have No Quarrel With Olubadan - High Chief Ladoja

*Says Oba Balogun is his brother, friend

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Otun Olubadan of Ibadanland, High Chief Rashidi Ladoja yesterday, declared that he has no misgivings whatsoever, with the Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lekan Balogun. This was contained in a statement made available to newsmen in Ibadan by the Personal Assistant (Media) to Oba Balogun, Mr Oladele Ogunsola.

According to the statement, High Chief Ladoja stressed further that on no account, would he fight with his brother

and friend, the Olubadan. Also, the statement said, Oba Balogun also told High Chief Ladoja that he too had nothing whatsoever against him and that he knew all along that there was nothing to warrant any form of quarrel between both of them.

The statement quoted High Chief Ladoja to have said that he had been out of town for some time, hence, his inability to have seen Oba Balogun, adding that he would be coming to meetings of the Olubadan Advisory Council from which he had been

absenting himself since sometime last year as he gave some useful advices on how to well position the Advisory Council.

Commenting on the controversy on the recent crowning of his colleague High Chiefs, following which he had instituted a court case, High Chief Ladoja said he has nothing against the development, except that it must not come from the state government and that he remains committed to his conviction.

The former governor recalled that he was part of the discussion when it

started at the meeting of Olubadan Advisory Council and maintained that he's committed to whatever it is that would protect the traditional institution.

It would be recalled that the elevation of the members of the Olubadan Advisory Council to Beaded crown wearing Obas held at Mapo Hall on the 7th of this month was initiated by the Olubadan, a development the state governor, Engr. Seyi Makinde attested to at the event.



Oba Lekan Balogun discussing with High Chief Rasidi Ladoja yesterday.

NCAT Followed Due Process In N1.3bn Zaria Hotel Purchase - Document

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria has said that it followed due process in the purchase of Zaria Hotel for the college as document revealed.

A report exclusively obtained by New Nigerian confirmed that the popular hotel situated along Samaru road in Zaria, Kaduna State was purchased at the cost of N1.313 billion from the Africa Continental Hotel, managers of the facility.

According to the report, the owners of the hotel accepted the offer via a letter dated June 7, 2023, which was signed by the Executive Vice Chairman of Africa Continental Hotel, Mr Aliyu A. S. Yar'adua, addressed to the Rector of NCAT, after diligent consideration of the transaction.

"We hereby, confirm the acceptance of the Federal Executive Council's approval for the purchase of our Hotel, in the sum of N1,313,000,000 (One Billion Three Hundred and Thirteen Million Naira Only), inclusive of all taxes, as conveyed by your letter.

"While looking forward to early conclusion of the transaction and please accept the assurances of warmest regards," the letter read in part.

The document also shows that the purchase of the hotel was concluded after

serious negotiations and procurement processes were diligently followed and perfected.

"Several memos in respect of the purchase, ranging from expression of interest to valuations by the Federal Ministry of Works and Messrs Habibu & Co independent valuers, were cited as evidences".

Similarly, due diligence/post qualification reports; approvals by the Federal Ministry of Aviation for the purchase of the hotel, dated March 7, 2023; and Ministerial Tenders Board of March 2023 were tendered to absolve NCAT from any shady deal.

Besides, "Certificates of No Objection" from the Bureau of Public Procurement were conveyed to the Aviation Ministry, followed with "Due Process Review Reports" for the purchase of the hotel confirmed that the transaction was wholly transparent.

In addition, the Ministry of Aviation conveyed the Federal Executive Council approval to the college for purchase of the hotel, vide FMA/PROC/HQ0.895/I/5 5, dated 2nd June, 2023, to absolve NCAT from any financial misdemeanor.

The report therefore, challenged any interested party to contradict the college and advised the public to disregard allegations of fraud/corruption in the purchase of the hotel.

Tinubu's Food Emergency: Zulum Visits Baga, Shares Food To 23,000 Households

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

About 23,000 households on Monday, received food palliatives at distributions that were directly supervised by Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum in Baga town of Kukawa Local Government Area.

"Distribution of palliatives is one of the agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. He (Tinubu) has declared an emergency on food security, and in line with this objective, Borno State Government is distributing food items to communities. We have provided food and non-

food items to over 20,000 men and women (today)" Zulum said. While working on permanent livelihoods through revival of commercial activities and farming, Governor Zulum frequently distributes food palliatives to beneficiaries who could not farm in substantial quantity to feed them year round due to over 10 years of the Boko Haram insurgency.

Zulum's latest intervention in Baga reached 13,000 households in Baga town itself, 3,500 at Cross Kauwa, a town near Baga and 6,500 in Doro Baga, another community, making 23,000 households in total.

Each of the 23,000 households received bags of rice, spaghetti and maize grain with women getting a wrapper each.

In Baga the 13,000 households were made of 4,000 males heads of households who received a bag of rice and a bag of maize grain each, and 9,000 females, each of who received a carton of spaghetti and one wrapper each.

In Doro Baga, 3,500 male heads of households received a bag of rice and maize grain each, and 3,000 females received carton of spaghetti and a wrapper.

In Cross Kauwa, another 1,500 male heads of household received a bag of rice and maize

grain and 2,000 females received carton of spaghetti and a wrapper.

Borno's palliative task force Chairman, Engr Bukar Talba, and Dr. Barkindo Muhammad Saidu, Director General of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) led officials to Baga on Sunday to begin the distribution before Zulum joined them on Monday morning and completed the exercises.

The distribution had other participants who included the member, Mamber house of representatives for Kukawa, Abadam, Guzamala and Mobbar federal constituency- Babagana

Malam Gana Kareto, Member representing Kukawa at the Borno State Assembly- Karta Maina Ma'aji Lawan, the Special Adviser on Monitoring and Evaluation, Engr. Baba Bukar Gujbawu, Executive Secretary of the Borno Geographic Information Services (BOGIS), Engr. Adam Bababe and the Executive Secretary, Borno State Primary Healthcare Agency, Professor Mohammed ArabAlhaji.

Zulum returned to Maiduguri on Monday night after the successful humanitarian trip.

Police Parades 78 Suspects For Culpable Homicide, Theft, Phones Snatching In Maiduguri

**Notorious female shop lifting gang nabbed*

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Borno State Police Command has paraded 78 suspects arrested for various crimes and homicide in Maiduguri city and its environs.

CP Yusuf Mohammed Lawal disclosed this on Monday at the Police Headquarters, while briefing newsmen on the successes and achievements made recorded from the rolled out work plan for policing excellence, which encompasses proactive crime prevention strategies and community engagement.

He added that the command towards the realization of this objective, has taken bold steps to checkmate youth involvement in violent crime, criminality and anti-social behavior towards reducing crime and improving quality of life issues as well as ease of doing business, particularly in Maiduguri city and its environs. He said, "In line with the above, joint raids were carried out at vulnerable points and hotspots including uncompleted buildings within the metropolis and neighborhoods around Yannoni, Abuja Sheraton, Njimtilo, Bayan Quarters, Galadima, Kasuwan shanu, Santiago, Bayan Texaco, Koren

Tanki, Tashan Bama, London Ciki, Tudun Wada, Tashan Kano, and Borno Express."

"Seventy eight (78) suspects were arrested including a wanted criminal involved in a suspected case of Culpable Homicide which was reported on 13th May, 2023 at Dala Bulumkutu area. Exhibits recovered in possession of the suspects at the various locations include dangerous weapons such as knives, cutlasses, machetes and axes, while others were found with illicit substances such as weeds suspected to be Indian hemp, bottles of "Suck and Die", "Rubber solutions", Tramadol and Exol tablets.

"To ensure transparent investigation and diligent prosecution, the Command has centralized the process of investigation and prosecution of the suspects at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID)," CP Lawal said.

The Commissioner further explained that on the 22/07/2023 at about 1600hrs a syndicate of young women who specialize in shop breaking and theft were arrested, namely; Fatima Mohammed 'F' aged 19yrs old, Fatima Ali 'f' aged 21yrs old, Khadija Musa 'f' aged

20yrs old and Maryam Garba 'f' aged 19yrs old all of Dala area Maiduguri.

According to him, they were arrested by police patrol team in possession of provisions and food stuffs suspected to have been stolen from two shops located at Ngomari Airport area Maiduguri; one carton of Maggi, one packet of spaghetti, one and half jerrican of groundnut oil and one mosquito net.

Others include two cartons of Go-fresh drinks, two boxes of safety matches, two measures of flour, spices, one packet of mosquito coil while one bag of semovita belonging to one Mohammed Adam and Adamu Umaru both of Ngomari airport Area Maiduguri.

He added that the young women went to the shops in flown gowns (hijab) pretending to purchase some items, while one of them was pricing the goods, others were busy shoplifting and concealing the stolen items underneath their gown which they loaded in a waiting tricycle, ridden by their male conspicator, Adamu Shettima 'm' 25yrs.

CP Lawal said the suspects were intercepted by Police patrol team. During preliminary investigation, all the suspects confessed to the crimes and all the exhibits were recovered, the tricycle used for the conveyance of the goods was impounded and the rider confessed being their accomplices while the suspects will be charged to court after investigation for prosecution.

He also said that on the 22/07/2023 at about 1700hrs based on distress call, Police surveillance/ patrol team intercepted a group of hoodlums as syndicates who specialised in handset snatching snatched Infinix Hot 8 phone valued about N160,000 from one Mohammed Umar 'm' around GSM Market Bulumkutu, Maiduguri and zoomed off in a Keke Napep tricycle with Body No. BUK 400.

The syndicate operated in and around the metropolis using KEKE NAPEP TRICYCLES to commit their criminal act when the Police surveillance patrol team gave a hot pursuit and arrested the following suspects identified as; one Mohammed A Mohammed, 'm' 20yrs, Adam Abubakar 'm' 20yrs, Umaru Zubairu 'm' 19yrs, Bukar Ali 'm' 21yrs, and Goni Suleiman 'm'



23yrs all of Ngomari Airport area, Maiduguri.

The stolen handset was recovered in their possession; the tricycle used in the perpetration of the crime was also recovered to ITE Police Division. Cases transferred to State CID for discreet investigation and diligent prosecution.

While on 23/07/2023 at about 1627hrs a group of hoodlums committed culpable homicide when they attacked F/No. 521281 PC Babagana Mala attached to Police crack unit and deployed to FOB at Malari village, Konduga LGA along Artillery area, Maiduguri.

The Police Constable who came home on permission, was stabbed with a sharp object on his back by his assailants. On receipt of distress, the Police patrol team responded and rescued the victim to Maiduguri specialist hospital for treatment where he was later certified dead.

CP Lawal said Police undercover operatives obtained a video clip of the incident from a good Samaritan which led to the arrest of the following suspects identified as one Usman Audu 'M' aged 20yrs old, Hauwa Usman 'f' aged 20yrs, Aisha Musa 'f' 19yrs, Abba Bala 'm' 20yrs and Sunday Garba 'm' 21yrs,.

Others include, David Paul 'm' 35yrs, Mohammed Abubakar 'm' 19yrs, Jude Eze 'm' 37yrs, Amaechi Abdulsalam Afochibe 'm' 37yrs and Nduibuse Nnaji 'm' 34yrs. The Case has been transferred to State CID for discreet investigation and diligent prosecution.

The Commissioner of Police however, advised parents to always show keen interest on the type of friends and peer group, their children/wards are associating with who may have negative influence on them while appealing to religious leaders, community elders and other relevant stakeholders to give the Police timely information on the activities of unpatriotic elements and suspected peddlers of drugs and other illicit substances who hibernate in their neighborhoods.

He also assured that the Command shall remain resolute and committed in checkmating acts of lawlessness and excesses of youths while calling on law abiding citizens who have any useful information on criminal elements in their environs that their identity will be fully protected.

The CP further urged the general public to avail themselves of the Nigeria police Rescue -me Apps which can be downloaded on Google Playstore and GSM No. 08130579204.



Kaduna To Introduce Uba Sani Champions League

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

Kaduna State is making some arrangements to introduce a football league that will be tagged the Uba Sani Champions League.

The SA to the Governor on Sports, Coach Said Idris Dibis disclosed this while fielding questions in a radio sports programme in Kaduna, which was monitored by our sports correspondent.

Idris also called on those having passion for sporting activities to come and assist the government.

"I am going to talk to my Honourable Commissioner on how to introduce a

football league, which will be called the Uba Sani Championship League within the state.

"Kaduna is one of the states, well-known for sports, especially football, which is why we are going to use the league to discover some hidden talents across the state," the Special Assistant said.

When talking about other sporting activities, Coach Dibis assured sports fans in the state, that the Uba Sani-led government will not focus on one activity in sports, but rather, give all the sporting events attention.

"When someone mentions

sports, people look on football only. We have about 48 sporting Associations in the state, and we are going to give them the needed attention. But we are also calling to those who have passion for sports to come out to support and sponsors their game of interest that will encourage the state government to achieve the desired goals.

"Apart from physical health, we are going to use sports to generate revenue for the state and empower our teaming youth," the first sports aide to the governor in the state assured.



Athletics Competition Under Way To Honour Late Eleyae - Gara Gombe

By; **ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe**

The Chairman, Gombe State Athletics Association (GAA) Hon. Ahmed Shu'iabu Gara Gombe has described the death of Dr. Awoture Eleyae (OON), as a huge loss to sports globally. In a statement signed by Gara himself, made available to newsmen, he promised to organize an athletics competition in memory of the late sports icon.

Hon. Gara who was former Chairman Gombe United Football Club, said the vacuum created by Eleyae's demise will take many years to fill.

He noted that late Eleyae has contributed to sports development during his life.

"Chief Eleyae did so much for sports in Nigeria, Africa and the world. He laid a sustainable foundation for sports in Nigeria and by extension in the continent as well.

"He inspired many men and women including sports

administrators which earned reputation from many of us. I will surely miss him," Gara said.

Dr. Eleyae's died last Friday morning in Benin City, Edo State.

A native of Uzere, Isoko-South Council of Delta State, he headed the SCSA from 1992 to 2004.

He was a member of many international professional bodies. While serving as a National Chief Track and Field Athletics coach, the late Eleyae captained the Nigerian Basketball team to the first All Africa Games in 1965.

He is the one who designed the Nigerian Institute of Sports (NIS), and later became the first Principal of the institute from 1975 to 1984, and rose to the substantive post of Deputy Director of Sports, National Sports Commission, and acted as Director General of National Sports Commission of Nigeria from February 1981 to May, 1982.

The late Dr. Eleyae attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus (August 1970, to May, 1974), and obtained a Master of Science degree in Physical, Health Education and Recreation in 1971.

He attended all the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games and all the All Africa Games until 1976.

Late Dr. Eleyae represented Nigeria in many sporting events at local and international levels.

He was the Nigeria's record holder in 880 yards race from 1956 to 1960, and was also a member of the 4x440 yards relay team that set a national record in 1950.

After retirement, he served as Chairman, Bendel State Sports Council; Chairman, National Sports Awards Committee and Chairman Sports Information Centre, among others.



Late Dr. Eleyae

Subsidy: More Resources To Go Into Public Welfare, Says Kwara Gov

*Urges support for FG's reforms, says future is bright

*Gov addresses APC stakeholders in Ilorin

By: **BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin**

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has said his administration will deploy more resources into making people cope with the removal of subsidy.

Speaking at a stakeholders' meeting on Monday evening, he said the policy was the lesser evil open to the Federal Government, saying other options such as printing new currency on a large scale to fund fuel subsidy would crumble the economy and subject the people to greater harm.

"At the moment, we will concentrate more on funding welfare programmes in order to keep the economy going and helping the people to cope with the temporary discomfort. This means we'll slow down on other things that do not specifically address this need," the Governor told a crowd of APC leaders, stakeholders, and community leaders, including Deputy Governor Kayode Alabi; Rt. Hon. Speaker Yakubu Danladi Salihu; principal officers and members of the House; APC Chairman Prince Sunday Fagbemi; Ambassador Nuhu Mohammed; Senator Ahmed Mohammed; Oloriwe Raheem Adedoyin; and Pa Oyin Zubair.

"We have rolled out several palliatives that cover different sectors, including medical workers, teachers, small and medium scale. Those who are not immediately covered will be taken on board very soon. We appeal for patience. We are working with the Federal Government to ease the temporary pains of the removal of fuel subsidy. Very soon, things will normalise, and we will be better for it," the Governor said.

"We will also reach out to the most vulnerable members of the society. President Bola Ahmed

Tinubu has advised all states to go ahead and look at ways of mitigating the effects of the subsidy removal until the labour and Federal government reach an agreement on the new minimum wage. That's why we rolled out new palliatives which include N10,000 transport allowance for workers. There will be food distribution, among several other interventions we announced yesterday.

"The federal government is also selling fertilisers and maize to state governments. The former CBN Governor Godwin Emefiele had bought a lot of fertilizers and maize which the federal government will now sell to the state governments and the states will pass it on to the public in ways to be determined.

"The challenges of mitigating the effects of fuel subsidy removal is an ongoing exercise which we will continue to look at. Not everybody will be captured from day one because of the cost of implementing the programmes. For example, nurses alone will receive about N60m a month under the new arrangement. If you look at it



L-R: Kwara State Deputy Governor Mr Kayode Alabi; Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; Speaker State House of Assembly (KWAHA) Rt Hon. Yakubu Salihu Danladi; and State APC Chairman Prince Sunday Fagbemi; during a meeting the Governor had with principal officers of the KWAHA, Kwara APC executives, party leaders, and members of the Governor's Advisory Council (GAC) at Government House, Ilorin, on Monday.

over a year, it is over N700m. So, when you look at the numbers, we are heading to a situation where all our statutory allocations and IGR are going into paying salaries. But for now, that is what we need to do to make sure people feed well and they are okay and then continue other businesses. It is important that we be our brothers' keepers. Our efforts will not be confined to civil servants' welfare alone. So, through KWASSIP, we will reach out to other segments of the society and also through food distribution like we did during COVID-19."

State APC Chairman Prince Sunday Fagbemi, who congratulated the Governor and the party on the last electoral victory, expressed confidence that Kwarans stand the chance to enjoy more dividends in the second term of the administration.

He charged members to remain united and continue to make concerted effort to see that the party grows at the grassroot level.

His words: "I want to start by congratulating the Governor on the re-election, his emergence as NGF Chairman and the

conferment on him the Commander of the Order of Niger (CON). I also congratulate those of us who worked assiduously and ensured victory in the last election.

"It is unity that is foremost required at this juncture. And I want to assure each and every one of us that the second term of the Governor will be better than the former, and I request that we cooperate with him, knowing fully well that he has some other assignments to perform at the national level. I believe that this era will bring more progress to Kwara State."