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Northern Youth Leaders Dump Atiku, Rally Support For Tinubu

Advice opposition Presidential candidates to support Tinubu or become unpopular

Insist his emergence was divine

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

While describing the emergence of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as a divine project, the Northern Youth Leader's Forum (NYLF), an umbrella body of over 43 groups from Northern Nigeria, has dumped its preferred candidate at the 2023 presidential polls and

is rallying support for Jagaban.

NYLF made its position known in Abeokuta, Ogun State yesterday, at a press briefing during a visit to former President Olusegun Obasanjo, whom they are also lobbying to key into the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu project.

Reading the text of the briefing, Comrade Elliot

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ASUU To FG: Rise Up To Responsibilities, Secure Lives, Property

**Task Police to fish out killers of Prof Ajewole*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Academic Staff Union of Universities, (ASUU), University of Ibadan Branch on Monday, tasked the Federal Government to rise up to its fundamental responsibilities of securing lives and property of its citizens.

ASUU at a Special Congress meeting held in Honour of Prof. Opeyemi Isaac Ajewole, also asked the Nigeria Police Force to fish out the killers of Professor Opeyemi Isaac Ajewole.

Speaking through its Chairperson, Professor Ayoola Akinwale, the union called on the acting Inspector General of Police, Olukayode Egbetokun and the new Commissioner of Police in Oyo State, Adebola Hamzat to without delay, set up a high powered investigating team of officers and crack detectives to fish out the criminals from their hideout anywhere they may be, for the purpose of

bringing them to justice. According to ASUU, "we cannot continue in this ugly situation of insecurity, in which the maintenance of human biological existence is riddled with uncertainty", saying, "without security, there will be a situation of war, where everyone may rise against everyone. Such condition is inconsistent with any kind of civilization; and indeed humanity and development."

"It is unfortunate and mind-boggling that barely four weeks after the incident, security operatives have not yet apprehended the killers of Professor Ajewole. This speaks volume about the state of the nation. The implication of this incident and the inability of security operatives to track down the killers of Professor Ajewole or provide clues and insights into the murder is a challenge to the government and the entire security apparatus of Nigeria because their primary responsibility is

the security of lives and properties," it said.

ASUU added, "This, if not achieved, will consequently result in more unaccounted crimes, considering that the criminals will become emboldened in their criminality, because there is no deterrent. It will also lead to self-help by the citizens of the country, which, in turn, will lead to a drift into the state of nature, a condition of people before the emergence of any state or civil society, a situation in which human behaviours were generated and actuated by the primitive instinct of self-preservation".

"The ultimate result will be a condition in which, according to Thomas Hobbes, life is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short. It was an attempt to avoid such a condition of anarchy, that the chief cause of which is, the conflict of individual and egotistical judgments of rights, compelled humanity to follow the dictates of natural law, in

seeking peace, renounced some of their rights or freedom and entered into a social contract, thereby created an artificial person, the state or the sovereign".

ASUU stressed further, "we seize this opportunity to urge Adebola Hamzat, the new commissioner of police in Oyo State and indeed the newly decorated Acting Inspector General of Police in Nigeria, Olukayode Egbetokun to without delay, set up a high powered investigating team of officers and crack detectives to fish out the criminals from their hideout anywhere they may be, for the purpose of bringing them to justice."

"Our union hereby calls upon the good people of Nigeria to continue to demand accountability from the government in relation to the spate and series of death that have remained uninvestigated and/or unresolved nay, unaccounted for over the past decades".

Delta ALGON Clarifies N40bn Loan For Pension

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON), Delta State chapter, on Monday, clarified reports published in a section of the media as regards the N40 billion borrowed to pay accrued rights owed primary school and local government pensioners in the state.

The State ALGON Chairman, Hon. Victor Ebonka, who gave the clarification after a meeting of the Joint Account Allocation Committee (JAAC) in Asaba, said it was not the state government that was borrowing the funds.

Flanked by his colleagues, Ebonka said it was the statutory duty of local government areas to pay pensions to its retirees as well as Local Education Authority (primary school retirees).

He said the problem arose due to error in the enrollment of the workers into the contributory pension scheme.

According to Ebonka, "in this country constitutionally, we have three tiers of government; the federal, the state and the Local Governments. We all have separate responsibilities."

"It is our constitutional responsibility to pay the Local Government staff and primary school teachers salaries."

"And we are not unmindful of the lingering problems that we have with regards to the pension benefits of the local government staff and that of the primary school teachers."

"This problem was inherited from the two previous administrations and it has to do with an error in the enrollment into the contributory pension scheme."

"And for this short comings, we have found ourselves owing their accrued rights from 2016 to date. The past administration set a machinery in motion and has tried to ensure that the debt is liquidated by giving several grants totaling

about N5 billion and increased statutory contribution from N200 million a month to N500 million.

"Despite all these grants from the State Government, we have not been able to clear the outstanding arrears and this made the immediate past administration to set up a Committee comprising of myself the ALGON Chairman, the Head of Service and other stakeholders."

"The committee went to the bond market to get a facility but was not successful because the cost of funds was quite expensive. So we approached the commercial bank to get the facility and we can say that Zenith Bank has agreed to afford us N40 billion out of the N51 billion indebted to the pensioners".

He said the state government did not borrow N40 billion as reported in some quarters, adding that the only role played by the State Government was to give approval and forward same to the State Assembly for ratification.

"So it is exclusively the Local Government Councils that are borrowing this money. You know that by law, we need the approval of the State Government and the ratification of the State Assembly and that was sort for and it was granted by the Governor and approved by the State House of Assembly."

"So any moment from now, the pensioners will smile home. We also want to state that no penny from the N40 billion is going to the coffers of the Local Governments."

"We are going to cover about ninety percent of the accrued rights from this money, all of the monies will be paid directly to the pensioners," he said.

On environmental sanitation across the council areas, the ALGON boss appealed to residents to abide by relevant laws, adding that mobile courts would soon be set up to try offenders.

Acting Customs Boss Adeniyi, Good Choice - Media Group

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Association of Maritime Journalists of Nigeria (AMJON) has catalogued the exploits of the Acting Comptroller General of Customs Adewale Adeniyi, declaring his appointment as a clear case of selection of a round peg for round hole.

AMJON described DCG Adewale Adeniyi as thoroughbred professional that has the capacity and know-how to steer the ship of the Nigeria Customs Service under the new Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA) and E-Customs project successfully to the anchor.

The media group in a congratulatory letter addressed to Ag. Controller-General, Nigeria Customs Service, Adewale Adeniyi expressed the confidence that the Acting Customs Comptroller General will impact the agency positively and bring about the needed reform to transform it to a greater



Acting Customs CG Adeniyi

height. AMJON in the letter signed by its president, Paul Ogbuokiri, described DCG Adewale Adeniyi as thoroughbred professional that has the capacity and know-how to steer the ship of the Nigeria Customs Service under the new

Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA) and E-Customs project successfully to the anchor. The letter titled Congratulatory Message, reads in part: "We in AMJON have no iota of doubt in our minds about your ability to succeed in

this onerous leadership task trusted on by the President and Commander-in-Chief of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and we want to assure you of our cooperation and total support to you and hope that you will reciprocate same by carrying us along in all your programmes and policies".

"Recall that Ag. CGC Adeniyi's appointment was announced by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on June 19, 2023 and was recently decorated by the Vice President, Kashim Shettima."

"AMJON, which is noted to have maintained a robust relationship with the Nigeria Customs Service over the years believes that the emergence of A. CGC Adeniyi who was the longest serving Public Relations Officer of the Service, will change the narrative in Customs."

"The foremost maritime beat association reiterates her commitment to collaborate with the Service in

Ibadan Dry Port: Emergence Of Tinubu Positive For Oyo State - Gov Makinde

**Says project will come on stream earlier than expected*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Governor, Engr Seyi Makinde has said the emergence of President Bola Tinubu government is positive for the state on the issue of Ibadan Dry Port

Gov Makinde stated this while inspecting several ongoing projects, including the Ibadan Inland Dry Port, the College of Agriculture and Renewable Energy, Iseyin, a campus of the Ladoko Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso; the Engr. Lere Adigun Housing Estate, Basorun and the Ibadan Circular Road at the weekend

The governor pointed out that as a result of the change of government at the Federal level, the Ibadan Dry Port Project may likely come on stream earlier than expected.

Governor Makinde stressed that this is because the present leadership under President Bola Tinubu, understands "the benefits of developing the economic value chain."

"I think the change of government is even positive for Oyo State because we have a new administration at the federal level that understands what it is to develop the economic value chain", he said.

The governor added, "So, I think we will even cooperate more with the federal government and that project will come on stream quicker than we were expecting"

According to him, the dry port project will also benefit hugely because his administration will collaborate with the Federal Government more

than ever before, as the recent change of government at the federal level would not affect the project negatively.

He maintained that Oyo state has made good progress with regards to the projects, though there is still a lot of work to be done and that his administration had been creating wonderful opportunities through infrastructure building and other key developments, which have begun to attract investors.

"Well, I will say so far, so good, there is still a lot of work to be done but we are making a good progress. You have seen it as well.

We were on that campus [LAUTECH Campus, Iseyin] before the election and we have seen between then and now that a lot of progress has been made.

"And even here [Ibadan Circular Road], we have interest-investors coming around to say, look, what exactly are we projecting in terms of the opportunities in Oyo State".

The governor stated further "To the people, we have many opportunities around here especially for our young folks. They should not japa because if they are hardworking, they can contribute and get their rewards. So, I will say we are creating opportunities across the spectrum and people are paying attention to what we are doing."

He however, charged the youth to key into the opportunities by contributing and getting the rewards, rather than leaving the country for foreign lands in search of imaginary greener pastures.

Jamiyyatu Ansarudeen Trains 950 Members, IDPs, Women *Establishes 3 integrated schools in Borno

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Chairman, Borno State Council of Jamiyyatu Ansarudeen Attijaniyya Nigeria (JAMAAT), Syed Ahmad Abulfathi II who is also a retired Senior Lecturer with Borno State College of Legal and Islamic Studies (BOCOLIS) now Mohammed Goni College of Legal and Islamic Studies (MOGOLIS) has revealed that the leadership of the organisation has voluntarily mobilized and sponsored training of about 950 registered members of the organisation, including women and IDPs between 2020 and 2023 on various skills acquisition and entrepreneurship of three months training through the National Directorate of Employment (NDE).

He added that arrangements have also been concluded to train more members, including IDPs and women from selected LGAs of the state this year in order to continue to encourage them to be self-reliant and less dependant on others. The chairman who expressed this in an interview with newsmen

on Sunday in his office, said the measure will further accelerate their livelihood sustainability, support and economic growth of the members and society at large thereby boosting economic growth and development of the localities, state and country at large in terms of productivity and manufacturing even at small scale level.

He added that, "with this approach, the society will be more advanced, educated and other socioeconomic activities including agricultural productivity will invariably improve and largely be more free and independent progressively."

The chairman explained that despite the fact that the entire activities or operations of the organisation is voluntary service to humanity in the cause of God Almighty and His Messenger (SAW) as part of its empowerment programme, it trained 250 youth and women in 2020, who are registered members through the National Directorate of Employment (NDE).

He noted further that another set of 200 members were again selected and trained by the NDE same year before in 2021, the vocational



Syed Ahmad Abulfathi Usman

training scheme was extended to 500 members of the organization, where NDE trained the members and provided them with certificates and starter packs, kits, tools, etc after the three months training in November 2021.

According to him, the areas of training or specialization include poultry farming, livestock breeding, welding, aluminium fabricating, computer studies, mobile phones repairing, cosmetology (body creams, bathing and washing soaps, scents, air freshener, deodorants and hair creams making, tailoring and weaving, satellite installations, solar energy installations, soft

furnishings and pillows among others

He added that the organisation carries out public enlightenment and advocacy on peaceful co-existence, peace building, religious tolerance, reconciliation, importance of education or learning both western and eastern education and knowledge among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) at Zannari Madinatu Camp individuals, groups, associations, societies, etc in the society.

He noted that JAMAAT also established three Ansarudeen /Shababul Integrated Schools, one in Jajari and two in Zannari Madinatu.

CNPP Says Final EU Election Observation Mission Report Should Be Commended

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Conference Of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) has reacted to the final report of the European Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Nigeria on the 2023 general elections, saying that "the observations and recommendations should be commended as major international contributions to the deepening of democracy in Nigeria."

In a statement signed by its Deputy National Publicity Secretary, Comrade James Ezema, the CNPP noted that "those who are kicking against the report are doing so based on mere political considerations and conveniences."

The CNPP recalled that the EU EOM Chief Observer, Barry Andrews, a member of

the European Parliament, had rightly stated that: "In the lead up to the 2023 general elections Nigerian citizens demonstrated a clear commitment to the democratic process. That said, the election exposed enduring systemic weaknesses and therefore signal a need for further legal and operational reforms to enhance transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability."

The CNPP noted that "the EU election observation report was a sincere, unbiased, impartial and factual report that will deepen Nigerian democracy, especially when the recommendations are taken in good faith."

"In the first place, the international body was invited by the Federal Government to observe the the 2023 general elections.

"Government is a continuum and if the EU Election Observation Mission was not expected to provide useful report on the general elections, why did the APC government invite them?"

"Moreover, the EU has been contributing to the development of Nigeria's democratic process over the years through support and grants to both government agencies and civil society organisations in the country. "If they were not accused of bias while they were supporting our electoral system all these years, why should their report on the 2023 general elections be tagged as partial?"

"We expected the current administration to receive the report, study it, and find ways to address issues the EU EOM raised to prevent future occurrences.

"Every Nigerian who keenly participated in the 2023 general elections on February 25 and March 18, witnessed some of the challenges faced by the voters in their various levels, the electoral umpire and both female gender and persons living with disabilities.

"These manifested in logistic challenges, voter intimidation and gender suppression, among others.

"These were the same challenges observed by the EU EOM to Nigeria and should be seen as part of international efforts towards improving on the Nigerian electoral process to ensure further legal and operational reforms to enhance transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability just as the observers recommended", the statement concluded.

Gombe Governor Receives National Leadership Of ANAN

*Says Giant Strides In Gombe, A Result Of Sound Financial Management System, Positive Thinking

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has attributed the achievements so far recorded by his administration to sound financial management system that functions within the realm of an effective accounting environment.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs)

Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, Governor Inuwa Yahaya stated this when he granted audience to leadership of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria ANAN led by its President and Chairman of Council, Dr. James Neminebo at the Government House on Monday July 3.

The Governor noted that without a prudent and diligent application of financial and human resources, organisations and government institutions

alike may derail from the basic norms of effective management which can eventually lead to a system collapse.

"Back in 2017 the then Governor who equally was an accountant was your host and you saw what really transpired and what is happening now. This means there is improvement by the day, and that's what we stand for and I believe even if you come in the next 6 months you will find Gombe better than you have found it now".

He challenged the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria to rise up to the tumultuous global economic meltdown occasioned by the covid-19 Pandemic and the ongoing Russian/Ukrainian war, saying Accountants have a big role to play in stabilising the economy.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya said the Nigerian economic situation is aggravated by variables in urgent need of the professional inputs of Accountants to bring sanity and stability within the



financial system.

"The public sector is where ANAN plays prominent role than the other sectors and without the public sector even

the private sector and other sectors of the economy will not flourish well; so the task ahead of ANAN is more than any other organisation as far as the Nigerian economy is concerned and I believe we have the capacity, tenacity and the agility to go through whatever turmoil we find ourselves and emerge stronger".

Governor Inuwa Yahaya commended ANAN members, especially those within the service of the State for their dynamism towards managing the scarce resources within the State for general good of the people.

He observed that despite being second to the last of States with the least statutory allocation, Gombe has been able to effectively manage its resources to the applause of many national and international organisations, including its ranking as the best in Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria.

"So whatever you see here is as a result of prudence and positive thinking of the our team which happens to have a lot of Accountants that have been trained and groomed by the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria ANAN".

Governor Inuwa Yahaya who himself is a member of ANAN, described Gombe State as home to the Association in view of the fact that the late Magaji Muazu Uban Doman Gombe was instrumental to the passage of the ANAN Bill into law.

The Governor enjoined the visiting National officials of ANAN to take time off and visit some of his administration's interventions like the Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park which is aimed at putting the state on the path of sustainable economic development.

Earlier speaking, the President of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria ANAN, Dr. James Neminebo said the body is in the state for its annual Mandatory Continuous Professional Development (MCPD), a forum aimed at broadening the knowledge of its members.

The ANAN President noted that when Accountants are strategically positioned in government establishments, they cause a positive change that eventually cascades into the larger good of the society.

It was for this reason that James Neminebo paid glowing tribute to Governor Inuwa Yahaya for staying true to the Accounting profession which has reflected in the modest achievements so far recorded under his leadership.

"Each time I had the opportunity of coming to Gombe State something inside me makes me very happy because I know I am coming to a state where I will give a sample to other states in this country".

He commended Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya for always sponsoring members of the Association in the state for training and providing a plot of land for it to build its state headquarters.

"So whatever you see here is as a result of prudence and positive thinking of the our team which happens to have a lot of Accountants that have been trained and groomed by the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria ANAN".



Hajj 2023: Gov Yusuf Donates N65m To 6,166 Pilgrims

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kano State Governor Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf has donated the sum of N65 million to 6,166 Pilgrims from the State, who performed the 2023 Hajj in the Holy land of Saudi Arabia as 'Sallah gift'.

The Director General of Kano State Pilgrims Welfare Board Alhaji Laminu Rabi'u Danbappa disclosed this on Monday during the post Arafat meeting with officials at Makka.

A statement signed by the Chairman, Kano State Media Team for 2023 Hajj, Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, made available on Monday, said he explained that each pilgrim would be given SRA 50.

The Director General said that the gesture was in recognition of the pilgrims' good behavior in the Holy land.

He urged the pilgrims to spend the governor's gift and their Basic Travelling

Allowances (BTAs) judiciously, and avoid reckless spending that might hinder their return journey to the country after the exercise.

He further urged the pilgrims to keep up the good efforts of positively portraying the image of the state and the country in the Holy land.

He said " the Pilgrims will return in batches the same way they came to the holy land on the first come first serve basis.

Danbappa further explained that the board would begin the issuance of 32kg bag to Kano State pilgrims along with Sallah gifts donated by the Governor.

The Director General urged the pilgrims to exercise patience and pray fervently for Nigeria and Kano State in particular for peace and tranquility.

Danbappa also prayed to Allah to accept their Hajj and return them home safely.



Northern Youth Leaders Dump Atiku, Rally Support For Tinubu

Advice opposition Presidential candidates to support Tinubu or become unpopular ■ Insist his emergence was divine

Afiyo, National President, Northern Youth Leaders Forum (NYLF), the umbrella organization of Northern Youth Leaders, said Nigerians should support President Tinubu whom they described as the "Moses" for Nigeria.

"We want to let Nigerians know that President Tinubu is a child of necessity and his emergence as President is a working Process of Divine Project. God allows Tinubu to be President for a purpose towards fulfilling the divine destiny of Nigeria and Nigerians.

"Tinubu may not necessary be the Joshua that will take us to the Promised Land. But definitely he is the Moses that will mentor and set the pace for the Joshua to take us to the promised land and there we shall be," Comrade Afiyo said.

He explained that it's a privilege once again to address the press on their decision to contact all their Patrons and Elders especially former Presidents, Heads of State, Military Chiefs, Traditional and Religious Leaders to appeal for support and encouragement for President Tinubu's administration.

"We have keenly and neoterically observed and experienced the emergence of President Tinubu as a divine intervention by God to free and empower His

children and also lay a true foundation based on patriotism for the overall development of Nigeria.

"From the emergence of Asiwaju Tinubu during the primaries of the All Progressive Congress (APC), to campaigns and subsequent presidential election and to his pronouncements as the President elect and consequently sworn-in as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, you will agree with us that, it was the finger of God in action.

"This is a man that was opposed by the Presidency, Cabal, CBN, EFCC, NNPC, Nigeria's Godfathers, His party (APC), Christians, Muslims, leaders of his kinsmen and the International Community. Even INEC worked against him.

His opponents used his age, educational, financial and family backgrounds, his age and his health against him. He lost his state and the entire South east, South-south, north-west, north-east and north-central, but won the election and subsequently sworn in as President. This can only be the finger of God," NYLF said.

According to the text of the briefing titled, "IT'S TIME TO SUPPORT THE DIVINE PROJECT" NYLF said that they

observed with great joy, the President's actions and inactions both covertly and overtly within the first one month of his administration and genuinely concluded that the ways of the Lord are indeed supreme and unpredictable and He can use anyone or anything to achieve his will and purpose.

"Judging from his inaugural speech, appointment of Service Chiefs and other paramilitary heads and the unification of the exchange rate of the foreign currencies against the Naira, coupled with his pronouncements and body language, every reasonable citizen of This Country knows that at last, we shall laugh again.

"This is the reason why I am here to meet and to deliberate with the foremost Father and respected Leader, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (GCFR) to appeal to him to support President Bola Tinubu at least to liberate us from the grip of the senseless and wicked politicians, civil servants, Traditional and Religious Rulers parading themselves as our leaders.

"We consider and truly too, President Bola Tinubu as the King of Assyria that was sent by God to deliver His children from the Babylonian slavery.

Consequently, we sincerely and honestly call upon our elders, especially our Patrons to sheath their swords and support President Tinubu's government to succeed.

"To this end, we will like to state unequivocally that the entire Northern Youth Leaders Forum (NYLF) has unanimously decided to support this administration totally against our earlier standpoint and wait for the perfect will of God to be fulfilled," they declared.

NYLF therefore, appreciated and thanked President Tinubu for his appointments especially those of the National Security Adviser, Chief of Defense Staff, Inspector-General of Police and Comptroller-General of Customs.

They appealed to the President to consider it as a matter of urgency and emergency, to initiate the process of their confirmation to substantive positions.

In view of their conviction, they advised the opposition parties and their presidential candidates to continue and pursue their cases at the Tribunal with utmost decency but join hands with the Tinubu's administration if they want to be popular or succeed in their future political endeavours because

whether President Tinubu met all the requirements to be President or not, or he was illegally declared the winner and subsequently sworn-in illegitimately or not, God has spoken.

"When the supernatural declares it, all natural

protocols, requirements and qualifications become irrelevant and illegal, because they must have been suspended by the supernatural declaration and they can only be restored by the supernatural authority," they advised.



Ex President Obasanjo (left) with NYLF President, Comrade Afiyo

ABU Vice-Chancellor Calls For Establishment Of Scientific Council Of Nigeria

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

A bill for an act to establish Scientific Council of Nigeria should be developed and sponsored to regulate all scientific researches and applications in the country, the Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Prof. Kabiru Bala, has said.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Public Affairs Directorate, Office of the Vice-Chancellor Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, yesterday.

The Vice-Chancellor, who made the call when he declared open the 55th Annual Conference of Science Association of Nigeria (SAN) at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, also canvassed that SAN should have representation on the board of government agencies regulating the production, distribution and use of all science-based products in Nigeria.

Prof. Bala further suggested that the next SAN conference should witness more participants from industries, government agencies, private establishments and the

international community.

Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Prof. Ahmed Doko Ibrahim, the Vice-Chancellor stressed that the need to nurture and create an enabling environment where scientific researches thrived was important in any educational establishment.

Ahmadu Bello University, according to him, decided to be at the forefront in matters regarding scientific innovations despite challenges of funding and government bureaucracy.

"Just as few weeks ago, our students excelled as global champions in the recently organised Huawei ICT Global Competition held in China in May this year.

"These students were trained here in ABU, Zaria and not anywhere else. This shows the quantum of scientific knowledge inherent in our own people and what is needed is the will and resources to present them to the world", he said.

He said that this year's conference with the theme "The Role of Science and Technology in the Enhancement of Global Security and Socio-Economic Development" was christened to x-ray the past, present, and future as far as scientific research and applications were concerned.

The Vice-Chancellor lauded the efforts to Tetfund for making funds available for quality researches through its National Research Fund (NRF) and Institutions-Based Research (IBR) campaigns in addition to research finding opportunities offered by institutions such as the Raw Materials Research Development Council (RMRDC) and Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) among others.

Prof. Bala, however, noted that the crucial problem being faced in the Nigerian scientific community was the translation of these researches into practicable applications.

The National President, Science

Association of Nigeria (SAN), Prof. Hamza Abba, had earlier told the gathering that the conference theme was apt and timely as the importance of science and technology in enhancing global security and socio-economic development could not be over-emphasized.

He explained that the Association had, in its 65 years of existence, made considerable impact on the growth and development of Nigeria's scientific space in addition to playing a significant role in fashioning government policies for science and technology.

Prof. Abba also said that since its inaugural conference at the University College, Ibadan in 1958, SAN had been holding annual conferences across the country to avail Nigerian Scientific community the opportunity to interact, network, discuss and share ideas on issues of interest in the scientific climate.

Ijaw Group, CSOs Laud Tinubu Over Dissolution Of NDDC Board

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

A coalition of Niger Delta stakeholders have lauded President Bola Tinubu, for retaining key members of the Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

Led by the Movement for the Survival of Izon Ethnic Nationality, MOSIEND, in conjunction with a coalition of various Civil Society Organisations, CSOs, drawn across the nine Niger Delta states, at the weekend converged on Uyo, the Akwa Ibom state capital, and threw their weight behind President Bola Tinubu's decision to partially desolve the Board of the NDDC.

Stakeholders of the region representing various groups including the Niger Delta Coalition for Peace (NDCPP), Niger Delta Non Violent Youth Leaders Association, (NNVYLA), Rivers State Youth Leaders Assembly (RSYLA), and the Indigenous Youth Council of Ogoni People (IYCOP), who endorsed the communique at the end of the meeting at Watbridge Hotel, commended the President for retaining key officials of the agency.

They expressed confidence in the retained officials led by the Managing Director, MD, Mr. Samuel Ogbuku, and the two Executive Directors in - charge of Finance, and Projects, to deliver on the mandate of developing the region pending the reconstitution of the full Board.

President of MOSIEND, Kennedy Tonjo West, and Counsel to the group, Afoegba Peter Goodyear, who jointly addressed the communique, commended the NDDC leadership for high level consultations with leaders and various interest groups in the region with a view to ascertaining the core issues of infrastructural development, empowerment and jobs for the teeming unemployed youths of the region.

They warned against any smear campaign against the Ogbuku -led NDDC, aimed at rubbishing the

hard - reputation the genuine drive towards ensuring effective delivery of its mandate for the betterment of the people of the region.

Part of the communique reads: By a notice on June 19, 2023, President Bola Tinubu, announced the dissolution of all Federal parastatals, agencies, institutions and government-owned companies across the country. The dissolutions which took place according to tenure limits, charge or transition to a new government, is not done as a punitive measure.

"For the NDDC, it was a matter of mixed reactions, when the Commission was named amongst parastatals and agencies dissolved by the Federal Government. We are relieved, however, to know that the MD, the Executive Directors of Finance and Projects, were retained to manage the Commission pending the reconstitution of a new Board.

"As stakeholders in the Niger Delta region, we recognize the sacrifices and efforts expended by sons and daughters of the region before the last Board was constituted. At this time of our lives, the peace and progress of the region matters more than the infighting for positions and appointments. We say enough of the fight over the NDDC."

Warning that gone were the years when the agency was used as the cash cow for the satisfaction of political interests, the coalition appealed to President Tinubu, to recall those officials dropped from the current Board, when the agency is properly reconstituted, as the regional leaders and stakeholders have absolute confidence in them as partners in progress in the development of the region. Besides, the Niger Delta leaders called on the Federal Government to approve the agency's budget for the new Board as the officials had since taken inventory of core problem areas for intervention.

Defence industries Staff In Kaduna Protest Unpaid Emoluments

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Staff of Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), have appealed to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to intervene in the lingering crisis over several unpaid emoluments and short changing of members of staff by the management.

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

The spokesman of the protesting staff, Yusuf Suleiman explained that their protest is connected to their 2016 and 2019 promotion arrears, 2019 minimum wage arrears and most recently the 40% peculiar allowance increment.

He lamented that the

management of DICON is not telling the truth that the corporation is being short-changed by the ministry of finance, saying that it has become a normal practice in the corporation that promotion arrears are not paid promptly.

According to the spokesman, the staff are not allowed to voice their opinion on any matter no matter how bad or oppressive may be, stressing that once a staff member is perceived as being too opinionated and confrontational, that staff member is promptly dealt with by transferring him either to Bauchi where the company owns a non-functional facility or the explosive facility in Jebba in Niger State which is also non-functional.

He added, "We are being denied so many privileges accruing from minimum wage increment, promotion arrears and other entitlements that the staff ordinarily supposed to enjoy but to our dismayed, we are suffering for no just course

and nobody cares about our plights. We are calling on President Tinubu to please intervene in the situation and save for so many years neglect and oppression."

A management staff who spoke to New Nigerian, said that the patience of the staff is taken for granted, saying that today, they are suffering for their loyalty and no one cares because it has been like that for years without anybody coming to rescue them from their challenges in the organisation.

He added that in 2016, the promotion for a particular cadre of staff came and the exercise was smooth, the staff received their various promotion letters, saying that the arrears tied to that exercise did not go to staff as and when due, when eventually the arrears were paid, staff found out that 40% of their emoluments were not paid and no explanation was given for the affected staff were immediately hushed. Another promotion exercise, according to him

took place for the 2019 promotion and as expected, staff were promoted without the accompanying monetary benefits, pointing out that when the arrears were paid this time around, staff got the shock of their lives when they realized only 58% of what is due them was paid.

He stated that when the aggrieved members of staff complained about being short-changed, they were threatened and told they were even lucky to get something at all, saying that it was rumoured that another set of staff members who expected to receive promotion arrears will get one-third of their entitled arrears and will not be able to complain.

The staff said they have tried all they could by engaging the management and even going to their Ministry to ensure all anomalies were corrected but to no avail, assuring that they will continue with their struggles until their demands are met.



Staff of Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria in Kaduna protesting against unpaid emoluments

NiMet Warnings: Gombe Adopts Proactive, Mitigative Measures Against Severe Weather Events

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Gombe State Government has put proactive measures in place to mitigate the effects of floods and other impending environmental challenges the state is predicted to face as this year's rainy season reaches its peak.

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

This is in response to the 2023 reports of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) and the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NHTSA) which warned that some northern states, including parts of Gombe state may experience heavy rainfall together with thunderstorms and high winds in the coming months.

In the case of Gombe, NiMET and NHTSA reports identified local government areas such as Nafada, Yamaltu Deba, and Balanga as having higher risk of flooding.

In a swift reaction, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya immediately directed the state Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources to work with all relevant stakeholders and activate state emergency response and management resources towards ensuring the safety of lives and property of the people while mitigating the effects of the impending weather events and their life-threatening consequences. Acting on the Governor Inuwa's directive, the Ministry had constituted a task force to engage all relevant stakeholders such as the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Gombe State Environmental Sanitation and Protection Agency (GOSEPA), Ministries of Works, Health and Education, as well as non-governmental organisations for regular consultative meetings to come up with ways of mitigating the impact of the incidents in case they occur. The Ministry has also engaged in aggressive advocacy exercise and community sensitization



Gov Inuwa

campaign on the new weather alert in all the envisaged flood-prone areas within the state on how people will take self-precautionary and mitigating measures.

Government, through the Ministry of Environment has also embarked on desilting of drainages and water channels, and also desilting of at least a 2km radius in all the other ten local government headquarters in the state to prevent flash floods and allow for proper drainage of runoffs especially in densely populated areas.

The crisis response unit of the Ministry is put on alert for constant monitoring of weather patterns and other environmental changes for prompt and timely response to any environmental issue that may pose a threat to the safety of lives and properties.

It has also mapped out some shelter zones to serve as a haven to displaced persons during emergencies in all the local government areas, and provided these centres with needed amenities and services.

The Ministry of Environment, as directed by the Governor, is also collaborating with the Ministry of Education to ensure schools and the entire education system is not disrupted by flooding or any severe weather phenomenon.

Giving insight on its readiness to participate fully in the entire risk management process, the Gombe State Emergency Management Agency, SEMA confirmed that it has adequate stock to support the people that may find themselves in an emergency as a result of the weather events, advising members of the public to adhere to early warning signals of potential flooding while avoiding building on flood plains and waterways.

AWC, ADPRA To Begin Online Programmes at Nasarawa University

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

African Women Conference (AWC), African Disease Prevention and Research Development Institute (ADPRA) and Nasarawa State University plan to launch online teaching of courses. This is as the group has already developed curricula and outlined timelines for certificate and diploma courses ahead of commencement expected soon.

Some of the certificate programmes include introduction to gender studies, entrepreneurial leadership, transformational leadership, strategic planning, emotional intelligence, fish farming and culture, as well as online business network.

For the diploma programme, crisis management, leadership style, as well as leadership and innovation courses will be taught online.

Other courses are women and leadership challenges in Africa, leadership and team building, long essay, snail production, Computer literacy, fashion and designing.

Co-convener, Africa Women Conference, Dr. Jumai Ahmadu, who disclosed this in a chat with

some journalists over the weekend, said that the trio just arose from a meeting where various aspects of the online program such as course lecturers, fees structure, course structure, and the timeline for the program's launch had been finalised.

According to her, lecturers have already been assigned to all courses and the programme would make use of module and live classrooms for lectures, along with Zoom and Google Classroom platforms for teaching.

She also stated that final takeoff of the programme would be sufficiently made public through advertisements on social media, national dailies, and radio jingles.

Allaying fears that epileptic power supply would constitute learning challenges, Ahmadu said that the university has assured that it boasts "necessary resources and infrastructure to deliver the courses on time".

The boasts three standard studios equipped with solar inverters and



Co-convener, Africa Women Conference, Dr. Jumai Ahmadu

generators for conducting lectures, and computer-based tests would be used for assessments.

Katsina Governor Orders All MDAs To Adopt TSA

By, SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina state has ordered all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the state government to forthwith, adopt the Treasury Single Account (TSA) for all their transactions.

A statement by Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed, said Governor Umaru Radda gave the marching order in

a circular he signed, dated July 3, 2023, titled, "Treasury Single Account Direction Notice 2023".

He consequently, directed the state's Accountant General to prepare the frame work within which ministries, departments and agencies should conduct their bank /cash management under the TSA.

Governor Radda enjoined the state Commissioner for Finance, Accountant General and Auditor General to ensure compliance to the

direction.

The Circular said the directive by Governor Umaru Radda was an exercise of the power conferred on him by the provisions of Section 5(2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and all other powers enabling him on that behalf.

According to the circular, "This Notice may be cited as Treasury Single Account Direction Notice and shall be deemed to have come into force on the 3rd day of July 2023."

The Circular emphasized that, "Without prejudice to Section 120 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) all revenues and monies accruing and forming the Consolidated Revenue Fund including funds from Excess Crude Account, grants or donation for Katsina State shall be paid into a unified account to be referred to as Treasury Single Account out of which all expenditure incurred or approved to be incurred shall be defrayed or paid".

Arewa Youth Disagree With Yerima, Reject Negotiation With Terrorists

*Tell Tinubu to use brute force

By AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Arewa Youth Assembly, (AYA), has decried the call that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to negotiate with terrorists, the same way late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua handled the Niger-Delta crisis.

According to a statement issued by the Speaker of the group, Mohammed Salihu Danlami, "Our group strongly disagrees with Mr. Bakura's position and feels compelled to express our concerns."

The group slammed Sen.

Yerima Bakura, the former governor of Zamfara State following his recent call on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to negotiate with terrorists, saying that while they recognized the complexity of the security challenges facing the Northern region, they believed that negotiating with bandits is not a viable long-term solution.

"Banditry and other forms of criminality pose significant threat to the peace and stability of our country. Therefore, we urge the relevant authorities, including the

federal government, to prioritize the use of all necessary means to address this menace.

We wish to equally urge President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to use brute force to decimate terrorist elements and restore peace in the region

In light of the escalating security situation in our region, the Arewa Youth Assembly called on President Tinubu to take decisive action in dealing with the terrorists, believing that the use of brute force, within legal and ethical boundaries,

may be necessary to decimate these renegades and restore peace in the country.

The group noted that the complexities and challenges associated with using force, but firmly believed that the safety and security of their people must be the paramount consideration and implored President Tinubu to employ all available resources, including the armed forces, to eradicate the threat posed by terrorists in the region.

IGP Egbetokun Resuscitates Commendation Award For Excellence

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The acting Inspector-General of Police, IGP Olukayode Adeolu Egbetokun has ordered the resuscitation of the Awards and Commendation system for the Nigeria Police Force.

This is to enhance motivation and encouragement among Police Officers under his stead.

According to a statement made available to journalists on Sunday by the Force Public Relations Officer, CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, the renewed commendation system represents a significant advancement from the past, as it now covers all officers involved in every major case, moving away from solely focusing on arresting officers or commanders.

"The new system is in line with the provisions of Section 92 of the Police

Act 2020, and Order 68 of the Force Orders and Instructions, and will be a milestone in recognizing the collective efforts of all officers in upholding law and order in the nation.

"Traditionally, the Nigeria Police Force has a history of conferring commendations and rewards to specific officers who have displayed exemplary performances in critical operations.

"With the new system, commendations and awards will now be bestowed upon all officers who played a crucial role in resolving major cases, promoting a sense of camaraderie, unity, and teamwork within the force.

"This development emphasizes the importance of collaboration and shared responsibility in achieving the force's objectives.

"Furthermore, the introduction of this new

commendation and award system also marks a commitment to shelve unnecessary special promotions, which have hitherto been ridiculous in the NPF.

"The new Awards and Commendation system will provide a fair platform for officers to be recognized and rewarded for their exceptional dedication and performance without relying solely on special promotions.

"The IGP envisions a renewed sense of pride and dedication among police officers as they know their hard work and dedication will be acknowledged and celebrated appropriately.

"In furtherance of this policy, the IGP has set machineries in motion to annually organize the Nigeria Police Awards Night, where outstanding police personnel, in all sectors, and certain individuals, who have contributed to a successful

policing system in Nigeria would be honoured and celebrated. The 2023 Nigeria Police Awards Night will be unveiled and announced as and when due.

"Conclusively, the Inspector-General of Police recognizes the need to revamp the commendation and award system within the Nigeria Police Force.

"The new Awards and Commendation system will foster a culture of appreciation, teamwork, and professional growth.

"By acknowledging the contributions of all officers involved in major cases, we aim to create a more cohesive and motivated Police Force, committed to upholding the principles and tenets of the Police Act 2020, the Force Orders and Instructions, and serving the Nigerian people with excellence and renewed vigour", the Force image maker stated.

Basiru Optimistic Commended For Supporting Governor Dan Modi



Basiru Optimistic

By; JABIRU AHASSAN, Dutse

Frontline supporter of Governor Umar Namadi, Basiru Optimistic Kafin Hausa has been commended for his efforts towards actualising continuity in Jigawa State for the development of the state in every sector.

Speaking to our correspondent in Dutse the Jigawa State capital, some current affairs commentators described Bashir Optimistic as a patriotic citizen who wishes the state well.

Malam Musa Uba from Birniwa Local Government Area disclosed that Basiru Optimistic has done a lot in enlightening youth across Jigawa State about the impact of electing Governor Dan Modi which remains the best option to the state like what is being witnessed.

He added that, "Malam

Basiru Optimistic Kafin Hausa has done a lot by enlightening the people mostly youth to vote Malam Umar Namadi and APC in Jigawa State, and we hope that the governor would also carry him along in government.

Similarly, Malam Aliyu Musa Gujungu said that Basiru is a good person who sees enlightenment project contributed to the success of APC and Governor Umar Namadi who is a landmark achievement of the present administration.

In his remarks, Basiru Optimistic Kafin Hausa announced that he loves Governor Namadi because he is straight forward, dedication and an achiever therefore, he would continue to give insight of all the governor's achievements at all levels, and called on the good people of Jigawa State to support Dan Modi government.

You Are A Man Of Destiny, Underrated By Political Opponents, Olunloyo Tells Gov Adeleke

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Former Governor of old Oyo State, Dr. Victor Omololu Olunloyo on Sunday described the Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke as a man of destiny who was underrated by political opponents.

Dr. Olunloyo who said this while receiving Governor Adeleke at his residence in Ibadan, said repeatedly, "How did you do it? How did you achieve that feat?"

"You are a man the whole world underrated. They were in shock. Only a very few people believe you can pull it off. Tell me the secrets.

You cleared all the legislative seats, all House of Representatives, all senate seats and the assembly honorables", he said.

Dr. Olunloyo added, "You took the world by surprise. What a wonderful man you are", the elated former Governor and



Gov Ademola Adeleke with Dr Omololu Olunloyo in Ibadan on Sunday.

mathematician said.

The former governor lauded Gov Adeleke for his wonderful performance since his assumption of office in Osun state, saying, "your performance as a Governor elates me"

"Osun is a difficult state to govern but you have changed the narrative. You are doing many wonderful things and I can see Osun people are happy with you. Keep it up".

Dr. Olunloyo stressed,

"My prayer for you is that you will lead Osun to new greater heights. You will overcome all obstacles on your path of governance. You will continue to shine as a leader of your people. The good Lord will uphold and protect you",

"You are from a family of excellent people. Your father, Senator Adeleke, your brother, my own Serubawon, Senator and former Governor. Thank you for keeping the flag flying".

Speaking, Governor Adeleke said he was in Oyo state for a formal function and that he came to pay homage to the elder statesman.

"I came to pay homage to you, our political father and to seek your prayers. I appreciate your kind words over the little we have been able to achieve in Osun. We will not let you down, our father and other admirers far and near".



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Education Is Sure Way To Success For Rigasa Community - Traditional Ruler

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

The Mai Unguwa of Abuja Road Rigasa Kaduna, Alhaji Aliyu Nuhu has disclosed that there is a need for people to try and enroll children into schools because acquiring education is the only way for any community to succeed in all aspects of life.

Alhaji Aliyu stated this during a courtesy visit to Rigasa Action and Awareness Forum (RAAF) weekly congress and special Sallah Walima at Government Day Secondary School (GSS) Makarfi Road, Rigasa Kaduna. Mai Unguwa Aliyu, who also holds the title Sarkan Yakin Sabon Gari Rigasa, added that education is the major key to every aspect of the world and it is necessary to ensure that it's being provided in every community, especially among the youth of Rigasa district.

According to him, RAAF as a pressure group in the society, has been playing an important role in the education sector by creating awareness in the community and providing children with support or easy access to education to ensure the elimination of

illiteracy in the community.

He said, "association issue is a matter of patience and courage. Anyone who wishes to take the leadership will be faced with various challenges, but if he endures, he will definitely achieve what he wants because all leadership of various associations or fora are all about struggling and all because of the people. By God's grace, we will keep on doing our best and surely bring in what belongs to our community. The Mai Unguwa of Abuja Road, and Sarkin Yakin of Sabon Gari Rigasa, advised people of the area to ensure they enroll their children into schools for proper education and to even those who are not their children, because life cannot be possible without education being the salt of the world.

Earlier in his remarks at the event, RAAF President, Malam Aminu Halilu Umar, explained that the meeting was organized for the purpose of applauding the effort of the community members and to boost the confidence on them over their selfless hard work in the area for a successful development. He added that, Rigasa district

used to be known as an area that was struggling to survive, but now it has become an area that is blessed with potential citizens whose contributions make a lot of significance in the state and also making the community proud in the state. RAAF President therefore,

thanked all members of the community, who had the opportunity to attend the meeting, including former leaders of the association, who founded the forum, its members and the entire community of the district.



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Nigerian Army Day: Frontline Troops Distribute Exercise Books To Displaced Yobe Students

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As part of activities to commemorate the Nigerian Army Day, the officers and soldiers of the Sector 2, Joint Taskforce, Operation Hadin Kai in Damaturu have organised a public speaking engagement to displaced students of four secondary Schools in Damaturu the state capital. Declaring the event

opened, the Chief of Staff to Sector 2, Brigadier General Julius Ogbobe who represented the Commander, revealed the aim was to acquaint the students on the activities of the army as well strengthen the civil military relationship.

General Ogbobe expressed dismay over the number of out of school children, saying illiteracy is the major cause of the

involvement of some youths into the insurgent groups.

He called on parents to take responsibility for taking care of their wards so as to have a better future in Nigeria.

The Troops use the forum to distribute exercise books to the students of Government Secondary Schools, Goniri, Damaturu, Babbangida among other schools to

encourage school enrolments.

The Director Sciences in the Ministry of Basic and Secondary education as well as the Principals of the Secondary Schools thanked the army for the sensitization and the distribution of the books, saying it will go a long way in assisting the students especially those that are orphans.

Some students, having



Chief of staff, sector 2 Operation Joint Taskforce Operation Hadin Kai, Brig. Gen. Julius Ogbobe donating books to Displaced student

Let's Settle Differences In Interest Of Southern Nigeria, EzeNdigbo Tells Yorubas

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Ezendigbo of Oyo State and the President of Non-Indigenes Traditional Council of Oyo State, Dr. Alex Anozie on Monday, urged Igbo and Yorubas across the nation to settle their differences in the interest of Southern Nigeria.

Dr. Anozie in a statement frowned at the rate at which some elements of disunity are promoting hatred between Igbo and Yoruba peoples, saying, the development is unhealthy for peaceful and harmonious co-existence among different ethnic groups in Southern Nigeria.

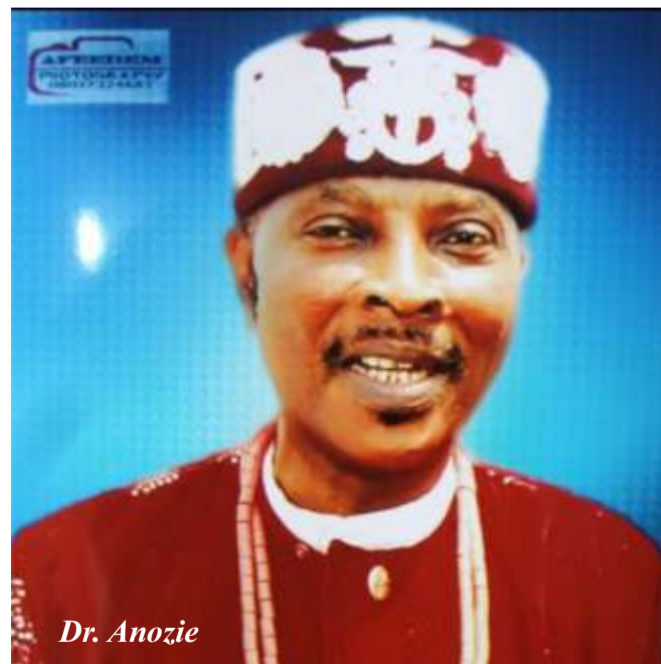
The Eze Ndigho tasked leaders of the two ethnic groups to swing into action by ensuring that "the political Satanic forces that are working to disunite the South do not

succeed", saying, "it is not true that Igbos hate Yorubas, or Yorubas hate Igbos.

"Yorubas are so important to the Igbos, just as Igbos are so important to Yorubas. Let us join hands to say no to those Satanic forces at work to destabilize the very long time cordial relationship existing between us in the South", he said.

Dr. Anozie added, "We should also be able to see to it that peace, love for one another should reign throughout the whole country. We should stop talking hatred into our lives, whatever misunderstanding we have, we should sit down and settle it amicably".

"Where we are not able to settle it that way, we should approach the courts to help us out, and whoever wins in the courts, we try to turn it to no victor, no vanquish,



Dr. Anozie

while obeying court Judgements. The judiciary must come to the rescue now by making sure that at all time, they rule on justice, equity, fairness and the fear of God". Dr Anozie stressed, "Leaders in all areas must now begin to caution their followers, supporters and subjects; informing them

of the serious danger ahead if we do not tread softly".

"It is not true that we cannot live in peace in Nigeria. Religious leaders who are preaching deceit, confusion and false prophecies should please stop, in the interest of our peace".

Aduku's Ethno-Political Division Agenda Dead On Arrival In Kogi - Fanwo

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Kogi State Information Commissioner, Mr. Kingsley Fanwo has accused the Chairman of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), Arch Gabriel Aduku of using the platform of the ACF to fan his ethno-political division agenda in Kogi State.

He said the Arewa Chief was "promoting tension, fear and division in a state that is largely peaceful."

Arch Aduku had earlier raised the alarm over what he called "politically motivated insecurity in Kogi State", saying the November 11 Governorship Poll might not hold in the state, if "authorities do not do something about it".

He said, "innocent people are being killed and their properties destroyed in the past few weeks".

Responding to Aduku on Plus Politics, a miffed Fanwo said that the pains of the supposed Elder statesman was understandable, accusing him of being an interested party who had failed to impose an unpopular candidate on the people of the state.

He said, "We can understand his pains. He led a faction of an ethnic-based group to endorse an unpopular candidate, but Kogites are standing their ground to sustain the unity of the State. What he tried to use the platform of the ACF to achieve is borne out of frustration and desperation".

"Is Arch Aduku saying he belongs to the same political interest group with a notorious murderer, kidnapper and gunrunner who was neutralised while

he was attempting to kill security agents? He needs to tell Nigerians what he knows about the building of arms around the now deceased person, who the security agencies have described as the leader of a notorious criminal gang.

"The security agents explained why he was neutralised but the Chairman of a highly respected organisation as the ACF is justifying criminality and raising false alarm.

"The Government of Alh. Yahaya Bello will not sit by and allow local war lords reverse our gains in the area of security."

Fanwo said the State had improved dramatically in the area of security, saying anyone who attempts to disturb the peace of the people of Kogi State would be dealt with decisively.

"Governor Yahaya Bello owes the people of Kogi State, regardless of political, ethnic and social leanings, a safe society where they can aspire to greatness. He will maintain that until his last day in office," he said.

The Information Commissioner said political candidates were campaigning freely in the state because it is their right to aspire to political offices.

He insisted that only those building "political militia" were crying wolf, having discovered that "Kogi is programmed to deal decisively and uncompromisingly with insecurity".

Fanwo said the state would provide a peaceful environment for a free, fair and credible poll on November 11 to the disappointment of ethno-political division agents.

"We can understand his pains. He led a faction of an ethnic-based group to endorse an unpopular candidate, but Kogites are standing their ground to sustain the unity of the State. What he tried to use the platform of the ACF to achieve is borne out of frustration and desperation".

Monday Market: Zulum Directs Establishment Of New Site, Demolition Of Illegal Structures

*Wants restoration of master plan design, access roads, sanitation, fire service

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babaghana Unara Zulum of Borno State has said that his government has set up a very important committee that will look into the possibility of establishing another market as the reconstructed famous Monday market master plan has existed for over 25 to 30 years.

"We have given go ahead to the committee to conduct a feasibility study that will allow the establishment of another market in my dual wettability to decongest the market this very important market for any future reference.

"We have gone through the market and we must take some hard decisions, all those structures that are on demand routes, has to go because those illegal structures normally hinder the movement within the

market cause outbreaks there will be no access spacious enough to allow people to move within the market," Zulum said.

"Under no circumstances, the Monday Market would exist without car parks, folder structures that are on car parks have to go and all those structures that are on drainages have to go, apart from this folder structures that will impede other important activities within the market have to go, but I've given them directives that under no circumstances the temporary structures have to be demolished.

"We have to look into the light and then see some of the structures that will be allowed. Whenever we have, we have to establish a new market if there is the need for us to do so. You know to shift some of those temporary structures, we shall do so at a later date. And by and large, this is a decision of others

that come on.

"And then my major interest is to see how we see everybody gets space to trade, but not all will be accommodated here. We will move others somewhere else or Tashan Kano abandoned stadium. I have already given directives to the committee to forward their recommendations.

"Yes. We have plans to re-establish the fire fighting service system in the market. We will strongly establish a very strong firefighting unit in this modern market and all those people that are operating in the night at the roundabout that leads to this market have to be stopped or moved out," Zulum said

Earlier, the Chairman of the Monday Market Reconstruction Committee, Alhaji Karami Duniya, who is also a retired Permanent Secretary with the State Civil Service while welcoming the governor and his entourage at the market site

before conducting him round all the sections of the famous Monday Market, said, "Alhamdulillah today we have the opportunity to receive His Excellency to inspect the work.

"Your support and encouragement were able to make us reach this stage which is almost at 95% to be fair as only painting, roads, culverts and drainages remain and BORMA has already come and taken measurements.

"The illegal and temporary structures that you are seeing are the dilapidated structures in the market that were constructed or erected as temporary structures which were not in the original master plan of the market.

"They are either built on utility ways or rights of way or on other facilities like restaurants, toilets, water reservoir, fire hydrants and car park, etc. The sub committee in the interim report recommended removal of

these temporary structures to give the market premises enough space.

"The temporary structure serves as a bridge to spread fire throughout the market. It is Your Excellency's discretion to direct appropriately whether to remove them or otherwise, hence we have the statistics of the shops.

"The roofing material is point 7.7 mm aluminium sheet, it is one of the high grade aluminium sheets. Then the cement we use is 3x which is the best grade in cement.

"We've got the best materials and the best engineers to do the work. So you can see the quality of work here. We have a building engineer by name, Engineer Ali Baba and I will ask Your Excellency's permission or Engr. Ali Baba, to take us around and give you a summary of what he has done here sir. Thank you very much," Zarami said.



Monday Market: Zulum Directs Establishment Of New Site, Demolition Of Illegal Structures



Ikedi Ohakim: Trailblazer, Politician Beyond Borders - Concerned Northern APC Youth Forum

**Says key role in Tinubu's administration for him, a plus*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The leadership of the Concerned Northern All Progressives Congress (APC) Youth Forum has described former Imo State Governor, Ikedi Ohakim as a nationalist that deserves a key role in the present administration. Speaking during a press briefing at the weekend in Kano State through its Chairman, Hon. Suleiman Liba, the group said they believe Dr. Ikedi Ohakim would play a key role in the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Hon. Suleiman described the former Governor of Imo State as the light bearer from the Eastern region of Nigeria, who understands the importance and what fortunes it will bring to get in the mix of national politics, rather than playing it sectionally or regionally.

"Ikedi Ohakim is the man with the midas touch, whose antecedents of

excellence still abounds in Imo State, even several years after he has left office.

"The popularity he enjoys in his home state of Imo is a repudiation of the earlier assertions of Imolites occasioned by falsehood spread against him by political foes whose reputations are buried in the dark dungeon of political history.

"Dr. Ikedi Ohakim has over the years, demonstrated zeal and dexterity at getting square pegs fixed in square holes, a near perfectionist, whose penchant for success is unmatched today amongst political gladiators, a characteristic which matches the person and ambition of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to return Nigeria back to the glorious old days and even more.

"An Ohakim ministerial position under this renewed hope administration might just be the catalyst needed to propel us to the desired goals of this



Ikedi Ohakim

administration.

"His campaigns across borders shows vigorous engagements with Nigerians across regions and demonstrate proper support towards ensuring that the Tinubu/Shettima ticket was successful.

"This also characterised his persona as a Nationalist and a quintessential leader of the

Igbo people in today's political terrain, an ardent political student of the Chief Obafemi Awolowo's political school of thoughts who will stop at nothing at ensuring that all is gotten right.

"His political experience and readiness transcends the 4th Republic," the group said.

1,000 FCT Residents Benefit From Free medical outreach

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

About 1,000 persons have benefitted from a two-day free medical outreach organised by the Silver Cross Hospital, Abuja.

Persons from neighbouring communities of Gwagwa, Jiwa, Kagini, Timba, Finitobo and Saburi were beneficiaries of the outreach that took place at Guidna Village, a community in the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

The beneficiaries received treatments for malaria, typhoid, hypertension, screening and vaccination for Hepatitis B and C, and HIV and AIDS screening as well as ultrasound scans, antenatal services, glucose checks, eye and dental checks, family planning services, and health talks, among others. The Chief Medical Director, Dr. Patrick Ezie, Silver Cross Hospital,

Abuja, explained that the outreach was part of activities to commemorate its first anniversary and to give back to its host community.

According to the Chief Medical Director, the medical intervention was also to complement the efforts of the government and to promote awareness of the importance of regular health checks.

He said, "What we are doing is to complement the efforts of the government, though the government has done its part with the primary health care centres, the functionality of these centres is abysmally low in the 20 to 30 per cent range."

He added that what they are doing was more of supporting government, and in the future, they are looking at doing more of a public-private partnership with the government to see how they can help, as they are all doing these for the Nigerian people.

Book Launch: Dattijo Unveils "Disruption: Rethinking Governance To Work For The Poor" In Germany

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Senatorial Candidate in Kaduna Central Senatorial District in the 2023 general elections on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and an Economic Expert, Muhammad Sani Abdullahi Dattijo has launched a 255 pages book he authored titled; "Disruption: Rethinking Governance to Work for the Poor," Sunday, in Berlin, Germany.

A statement signed by Ahmed Maiyaki, Media and Communication lead for the event and issued to the media, said the book foreword was written by United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and was published by Almar Publishers, led by Hadiza Isma el-Rufai, Wife of the former Governor of Kaduna State, Malam Nasir el-Rufai.

"The book tackles the pressing issue of creating a government that prioritizes the needs of the most vulnerable members of our

society, aiming to bring about meaningful change and social equality. It challenges conventional thinking about governance and presents innovative approaches to address the needs of the present."

The statement quoted the Author of the book, Muhammad Dattijo, commending President Bola

Ahmed Tinubu for the bold step in ending the subsidy regime, with an excerpt from the book that correctly addresses Nigeria's current subsidy removal, "The subsidy regimes have been rigged to benefit a small class of business persons working with a few corrupt public officials



Dattijo

against the interest of majority citizens. It can thus be argued that the biggest beneficiaries are not those in need of them."

Muhammad Dattijo, therefore advocated that the subsidies have to free up revenues for social protection, which is a politically risky proposition, especially

rise, we must ensure that the poor, the socially excluded, and the vulnerable benefit from the well-designed programs that cushion the effects of government decisions."

Speaking at the event, Nigeria's Ambassador to Germany, Yusuf Tuggar, commended the Author,

because of the wide chasm of distrust between citizens and government over the years.

He further argued that for the markets to work and productivity to

his time at the United Nations, and his decision to return to Nigeria to serve the administration of Mallam Nasir El-rufai's government, under which the Author served in various capacities diligently.

He urged more governments in Nigeria and worldwide to adopt some of the most innovative approaches to reforms recommended in the book, a detailed infusion of storytelling and real-time case studies on making small governments rethink governance to work for people with low incomes.

Dignitaries that attended the book launch, included Diplomats, several German CEOs, EU and German Government Officials, Civil Society Groups, and Academia. Another launch and book reading is scheduled to hold at a later date in July in Kaduna, Abuja, and Lagos.

The book is available online and offline on Amazon and other major bookstores.

Police Van Burnt In Ebonyi Community As Gunmen Enforce Sit-at-home

By; M K P U M A
ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Unknown gunmen have burnt a Police patrol vehicle at Ukwuagba Ngbo, Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State while enforcing sit-at-home order.

It was gathered that the gunmen were said to have stormed a police checkpoint in the area and ordered policemen on duty to vacate the area and immediately set the van ablaze.

Reacting on the incident, the Chairman of Ohaukwu Local Government Area Ikechukwu Onwe has condemned the action of unknown gunmen in the Ukwuagba Ngbo community and solicited the cooperation of stakeholders to checkmate activities of hoodlums in the area in order to ensure the safety of lives and properties.

During a security council meeting at the council's headquarters, Ezzangbo, he vowed to explore every available means to apprehend perpetrators of



The police van on fire

the burning of the police van.

Earlier, the state government has enjoined the residents to go about their normal businesses following reported cases of shootings in some parts of the state by unknown gunmen.

There were reported cases of shootings in some parts of the Abakaliki metropolis on Tuesday which caused panic among the residents. But the state government said the situation was under control.

A statement signed by Commissioner for Information and State Orientation, Jude Okpor said, "The Ebonyi State government has observed with dismay, apprehension in some parts of the state following activities of unknown gunmen.

"The government, therefore, wishes to advise the general public to go about their lawful businesses as security agents are on top of the situation."

All efforts made to contact the Police Public

Relations Officer, SP Onome Onovwakpoyeya proved abortive as she didn't respond to calls as at the time of filling this report.

It would be recalled that a faction of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) had declared a one-week sit-at-home across South East in order to drive home their demand while another faction of the group disassociate themselves from the sit-at-home order.

Mmesoma: UK-Based Private Investigator Demands Discreet Probe Of Jamb

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Victor Uwajeh, the Chief Investigator of UK-based firm, Global Private Investigators Limited, has called for a thorough inquiry into the controversy trailing the highest scorer in the 2023 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

Uwajeh, a renowned International Investigator, in a statement released yesterday in Abuja, urged the authorities in Nigeria to carry out an independent probe without involving the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB).

On Sunday, JAMB accused Ejikeme Mmesoma of "manipulating" her result in this year's examination. It consequently barred the Anambra native from sitting for the exam for the next three years, claiming

that she simply falsified a copy of a result slip of a candidate named "Asimiyu Mariam Omobolanle," who sat the UTME in 2021 and scored 138.

Reacting to the development, Uwajeh said there is more to the drama than meets the eye.

According to him, the way and manner JAMB has gone about the controversy leaves a lot to be desired.

Rather than carry out a comprehensive probe, Uwajeh lamented that the exam body has resorted to a media trial, thereby putting the young girl under serious trauma.

He said even if Mmesoma forged her results, the law affords her some protection as a child in the circumstance.

Uwajeh said: "It is rather unfortunate that JAMB being the Nigerian entrance examination Board for tertiary-level institutions, has been

reduced to an object of ridicule. How do you accuse a teenager of fraud without proof?

"In saner climes, things of this nature are well investigated before it gets to the public domain. But JAMB has instead resorted to media trial.

"Let's even assume that she is guilty of the act, which is unlikely; the law affords her some protection as a child in the circumstance. JAMB has not only exposed the poor girl and her family to severe embarrassment, but they have set a bad precedence for young people.

"JAMB has also defamed the poor girl, exposed her to public opprobrium, and most especially failed to discharge its duty to the girl child under the Child's Right Act. This is intimidation and oppression in every sense. Unacceptable!

"On this note, there is an urgent need to investigate

this alleged forgery case for the sake of posterity. We can't just ignore the alleged scandals in the exam body over the years. Now is the time to take a holistic look into their affairs.

"I, on behalf of other well-meaning Nigerians, demand a discrete probe of the 2023 UTME exams. The Nigeria Police Force, DSS, and other security agencies should do more to unravel where the glitch could have come from. The young Mmesoma may not have the capacity to forge the result. Either someone else manipulated the result for her, or there is a compromise from JAMB."

Uwajeh, therefore, pledged to deploy his expertise, resources, and modern technologies through the Global Private Investigators Limited to get to the bottom of this unpalatable incident if called upon

Frontline Afenifere Leaders Will Unite Pa Fasoranti, Pa Adebajo - Makinde

**Says it's time to begin the process of fostering unity in Yorubaland*

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

Amidst the prolonged crisis rocking the Pan Yoruba socio political organization, Afenifere, Governor Seyi Makinde has disclosed that all is set by some frontline leaders in Afenifere to resolve the differences between the two leaders of the group, Pa Reuben Fasoranti and Pa Ayo Adebajo.

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

Governor Makinde while expressing that he remained committed to the process of ensuring peace, unity and progress of Yorubaland noted that he and other leaders of thought in the Afenifere were assured that once the two leaders come together, Yorubaland and Nigeria would have the desired unity and that the process would be speedy.

"We are all aware of the issues between our two Afenifere leaders; Pa Ayo Adebajo and Pa Reuben Fasoranti. Basically, partisan and election issues have come and gone and we are now talking about the unity of Yoruba race. So, these frontline leaders thought it fit to come together to start the process of seeking for unity in Yorubaland", he said

Governor Makinde added, "And we know that once our two Babas come together, we will also have the deserved unity in Nigeria".

"If you put it in proper perspective, whenever

Yorubaland is united, Nigeria is united, and whenever we have issues and challenges in Yorubaland, it usually spirals into other parts of Nigeria".

The governor stressed further, "So, my being here is to demonstrate my support for the steps I have been taking and to also let them know that I am committed to seeking for peace in Yorubaland".

"I can tell you that it is not something that we will procrastinate on. We will get to work immediately and I am sure that we will get the desired result within the shortest possible time."

Expressing the confidence that all Yoruba people would come together and bury the differences occasioned by issues between the two leaders, once they see Pa Fasoranti and Pa Adebajo back together, said, "once you tie the knot at the appropriate places, every other thing will fall in place".

"Once our people see the two leaders come together and talk, they will be the ones to appeal to the people. At that time, you won't have to talk much because people would have seen that the leaders are now back together."

The meeting was attended by Afenifere leaders including: Abagun Kole Omololu, Afenifere's Organising Secretary; Mr. Jare Ajayi, Afenifere's National Publicity Secretary; Chief Eric Oluwole (Ondo); Mr. Dare Babarinsa (Ekiti); Chief Korede Duyile; Chief Leke Mabinuori; Rt. Hon. Bakkita Olufowobi Bello and Chief Diran Adesua.

Others were Afenifere Oyo leaders such as Dr. Gbola Adetunji (Chairman); Dr. Akin Onigbinde (SAN); Chief Babatunde Tijani and Chief Mrs. Bola Doherty, among others.

PAP Crisis: We'll Continue To Speak Truth, Ex-agitators Reply Ndiomu



"We complained of misappropriation, denial of benefits and other entitlements or cause for review where necessary and the interim Administrator of the PAP, General Ndiomu is quick to put the integrity and credibility of the Nigerian banks to question, when we all know that it is impossible to run two accounts with your BVN even if it's just an alphabet missing from any of the details linked to the BVN!

"How did a digital portal created for a program with about thirty thousand (30,000) beneficiaries with a minimal ratio of digital and ICT knowledge, aid the PAP's office under the current leadership to the discovery of the alarming figures allegedly discovered and steps that were taken to not just blocking but also bringing to book the banks, its officials and the beneficiaries criminated in the allegations?

"It is only clear that Ex-agitators ignorant or lacking access to the portal are by general Ndiomu's standard not worthy of the benefits

from the PAP even when the affected were captured since 2009, using such as an ace to exhibit calumny.

"The challenges before the leadership of the Ex-agitators forum is shocking! Having to manage those who have been denied training, empowerment and recently, monthly stipend, are always on our hills day and night and in most cases don't see reasons when we say the PAP has maintained deaf ears but the best way forward is through peaceful resolution and we will continue to toe that path.

"We have waited and waited but the disconnect between the Amnesty office, its coordinator and the ex-agitators' leadership is getting wider by each passing day and sadly, unwary Kings from the region, who are supposed to be catalyst for human capital and social development in the Niger Delta, have chosen the position of where the monkey prefers banana to money when presented with both not knowing the much needed bananas can be bought with the

money!

"Gullible and hungry kings from the region with beclouded civility made themselves praise singers and media arsenals of the PAP where concerns are glaring, clustering Gen. Ndiomu and using him as a platform to expose their timidity and advertise ignorance.

"No sane father will ignore his own child or prefer the place of his child as in the case of some of our Kings who have so attached themselves to the crumbs from the table of the current interim Administrator. It's indeed a shame but there's, not ours.

"Who knows, they may have been blindfolded with, as unwary as they are, to the idea that they will constitute the body of another impending scam aimed at the so-called N1.5b scheme recently published to create an impression of sensitive activities at the PAP's office.

"Such kings identified with irresponsibility, incompetence and gross neglect of social, political and economic development of people from their kingdoms and

the region large, like Ex-agitators in the case of the PAP can not and should not be trusted.

"The naked lies of the PAP under Gen. Ndiomu has further revealed his desperation to remain the interim Administrator and continue to sabotage the focus of the presidency instead of executing the blue print of the program that will impact the desired positivity while fostering a peaceful coexistence amongst genuine stakeholders, not some those adapted Kings who seek relevance amidst mediocrity and falsehood.

"What is right is right. Gen. Barry Ndiomu should not be ill-advised as we have see him to have derailed. Take President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's policies for example, even his enemies are now singing a different song because the direction is obvious and so are those in elective positions and appointments aligning with such policies for a desired future Nigeria and it's citizens so longed for. Why then should an office directly under the presidency be allowed to navigate backwards or opposite?"

Zazzau Emirate Suspends Marafan Yamman Zazzau Ubaidullah For Flogging "Homosexual"

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

Zazzau Emirate has suspended Marafan Yamman Zazzau, Alhaji Mustapha Adamu Ubaidullah from his title indefinitely with immediate effect.

This was disclosed in a statement issued by the Emirate's Information and Communications Officer, Abdullahi Aliyu Kwarbai yesterday.

The statement said, the suspension was as a result of taking laws into his hands by punishing one Yusuf Yahaya (SABO) of Unguwan Magajiya Zaria City.

The statement further warned that Zazzau Emirate will not condone anything that violates laws and order from any traditional title holder.

It further advised traditional title holders to always refer cases before them to the constituted authorities for proper action to be taken.

The emirate assured the general public that it will

not going to take any issue of injustice by traditional title holder against its subject lightly.

Speaking to newsmen on his suspension, Alhaji Mustapha Adamu Ubaidullah Marafan Yamman Zazzau said, he disciplined Yusuf Yahaya (SABO) with 60 lashes because he caught him having carnal knowledge with a small boy behind his residence.

Marafan Yamman Zazzau expressed dismay over the hasty decision taken against him by the Emirate council via his suspension.

The suspended title holder said, he was expecting the emirate to refer him to the constituted authority for violating the Laws.

While defending further his action, Ubaidullah said, the said Yusuf is his son and he has the right to discipline him when he does wrong.

He accused some members of the emirate council of fueling the matter.



Marafan Yaman Zazzau

Kaduna State: Where Will The Money Come From?

By: YUSUFISHAKU GOJE

Now that the gubernatorial election has been won and lost, subject to the outcome of ongoing litigation, I do not envy the Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani. The developmental challenges confronting the state are daunting and intimidating coupled with rising projected population growth rate of 3.18 per cent.

Addressing these challenges will require huge financial resources coupled with prudent management. Interestingly, the Kaduna Infrastructure Master-Plan, 2018-2050, projects expenditure for core infrastructure development interventions in transportation, education, health, water and sanitation, and agriculture is estimated to be N20 trillion covering the plan period.

The breakdown shows a total of N8.09 trillion (N245 billion annually) will be required to address the roads renovation, construction and expansion envisaged in the state. Similarly, with a target of constructing 5,000 housing units annually, an annual total investment of N1.16 trillion (N35 billion annually) will be required to bridge the housing deficit in the state.

To renovate, expand and equip the schools and provide other required diverse educational infrastructure, it is projected that estimated cumulative investment of N2.15 trillion or annual investment N65.1 billion is required to address the education infrastructure in the State.

Overall, total investment outlay of N5.23 trillion, translating into an annual investment N158.45 billion will be required to fix the health infrastructure. In addition, achieving the targets for the water and sanitation goals will require a projected total investment outlay of N3.29 trillion or annual investment of N99.70 billion. Lastly, agriculture infrastructure has projected total investment outlay of N93 billion for the proposed 6 silos and 23 Processing facilities.

The budget allocations and performance over the past five years has fallen short of the above projections. Currently, there are Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) that have continued to find it hard to meet revenue targets, with the Auditor General of the State stating that some of the revenue targets are bogus and exaggerated. Most of these key sectors have also suffered budget releases that have not been 100% cash-backed as well as in some cases poor quality of service delivery.

Despite the ongoing aggressive revenue and investment drive by the State government - unpredictable federal statutory allocation, corrosive impact of inflation on the value of the naira, global economic uncertainties, huge debt and burden of servicing, the conundrum of liabilities, distressed real sector unable to adequately pay taxes, insecurity, among



others are evident stumbling blocks that needs to be surmounted.

We look forward to seeing the fiscal reforms that the Governor will initiate to generate enough financial resources to meaningfully address the development

challenges and improve on the disturbing outcome indices in the state. This is more so because continuous borrowing will put us at risk of going beyond our sustainability threshold, especially now that the debt service to revenue ratio is

steadily on the rise.

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

Yusuf Ishaku Goje is an Active Citizen

TJ Abbas And Making Legislation A Serious Business

By: PHILIPAGBESE

The dawn of a dispensation signifies a new meaning to the way of life. Undoubtedly, Nigeria has experienced the best and worst of leaders. While some of these leaders were intentional in their actions, others were ignorant. Unfortunately, Nigerians have always borne the brunt of these actions, either positive or negative. This indeed brings to the fore the role of leadership in the survival of any nation. Some may argue that leaders are born and not made. Others believe that leadership is about intentions.

In my considered opinion, however, there is an intersection between divinity and intentions. Leaders with a purpose of making a meaningful impact and leaders with motives that serve self-aggrandizement. The intents aspect is deliberate and a result of certain inherent traits manifesting in human intellectual activities.

One such leader with genuine and innate intention is Rt. Hon Tajudeen Abbas, the Honorable Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives. His emergence came with a load of expectations. Some have alluded that Rt. Hon Abbas carries on with such seriousness in all his endeavors. Some of them included the quality of his contributions to legislative matters in times past.

There have been arguments concerning his suitability for leadership of the Green Chambers. Few critics claim he is a stooge of the Executive. But for me, I see a man on a mission to make legislation a serious business.

The parlance where preparation meets opportunity and success aptly describes Rt Hon Tajudeen Abbas. As a high-ranking member of the House and chair of several important committees, he was indeed prepared for the task ahead. Some might ask what he is bringing to the table.

No doubt, loads of ideas and deliberate intentions are crucial to translate the act of



Reps Speaker

legislature into serious business. As such, the 10th Assembly would experience purposeful leadership.

Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas is a consummate parliamentarian and an intellectual whose grasps of issues around governance are on another level. Of course, he boasts of an intimidating resume that spans decades of brilliance and a penchant for proffering solutions to societal issues. He is reputed as a problem solver. The Speaker is also seen as a critical thinker that matches words with actions. You could ascribe these attributes to his successful intellectual career.

His tenure as Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives would be robust and encompassing.

Nigerians would be impressed with the quality of the legislative business from the Green Chamber. A team player, his disposition to issues resonates with national interest. And he doesn't pretend about it and sometimes goes overboard. That is a plus because the business of governance must be taken seriously, considering the challenges confronting the country.

There are sacrifices to be made, and one of them is total devotion to putting issues in proper perspective. This is the trademark of Rt. Hon Tajudeen Abass. You can hate him for all he cares, but it doesn't take away the burden that is before all of us. We have toyed with governance for several years,

and now the country deserves leaders with intentions and purpose.

The emergence of Rt Hon Tajudeen Abass as Speaker is the best decision in the interest of the nation. His leadership of the Green Chamber would usher in a new way of life. It would redefine the art of legislation. It would also bring about tangible reforms in our laws toward addressing those issues that have held us down over the years.

The interesting part of the unfolding scenario is that members of the House of Representatives have seen the light and have also keyed into the vision of making legislation a serious business. Exciting times are ahead, and it behooves all to imbibe the

attribute of selflessness in the task ahead of us in putting the country on a sound footing.

The Tajudeen Abass era will be the game-changer. Legislation is a serious business, and the Parliament plays a very vital role in the development of any society. That is the philosophy of Rt. Hon Tajudeen Abass. I identify with his passion and commitment to providing purposeful leadership when it matters most.

This piece is a clarion call for all progressive-minded Nigerians to rally support for him to succeed. The necessity of now requires that all hands are on deck.

Rep Agbese is a member of the 10th Assembly writing from Abuja

A Good Obstetrician is Not the Brilliant, But One That Delivers Safely

By Owei Lakemfa

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu is being praised to the high heavens for the alleged giant strides and courageous decisions he had taken in the first four weeks of his government. The international community led by the World Bank have also been full of praises, claiming that the confidence of international investors is being restored.

"I need not tell President Tinubu to beware of those who praise him for engaging in a sprint in the first four weeks of his administration when he is actually in a four-year marathon race."

The triumphant song out there is that President Tinubu hit the ground running. I went back to see where he hit the ground and found some debris. Otherwise, the aircraft appears in perfect condition. So, the debris might just be a few loose panels or bolts.

Personally, I would suggest to the Ashiwaju that while continuing his run full steam, he should ask the Accident Investigation Department to examine the site and ascertain if there is really a problem. The most obvious to me is the astronomical hike in the cost of fuel prices which pushed PMS from N189 to N530 (and above) per litre with obvious indications that this will be the first increase in many to come.

Obviously, Tinubu is praised for being a tough and strong man who took an unpalatable decision even when his immediate team did not think it was a wise decision to take on the very day of his inauguration. But our President must calm down; he needs to be told from the onset that the President Nigerians need is not a strong, tough one, but one with empathy – which I used to know Tinubu for – and a team player which he promised he would be. In his inauguration speech, the President made a sacred vow to the people: "Our administration shall govern on your behalf but never rule over you. We shall consult and dialogue but never dictate." He needs to keep to this. President Tinubu made a tragic

mistake in listening to hawks, including local and international undertakers, and imposing the sharp fuel prices on Nigerians. This has led to what Fela would have called "Sorrow, Tears and Blood". Tinubu is human and fallible and as a good leader, he needs to listen to the cries of the people in the street and take immediate steps by reviewing the astronomical fuel prices. This will portray him not as a weak leader, but a strong passionate one who listens to the people he leads.

"Mr. Shonubi, Osibodu's Executive Director who thought the management should focus on its primary objective of reviving the bank rather than taking on the staff, has now been appointed by Tinubu as the Acting Governor of the Central Bank. The lesson in the Union Bank story is the need to listen to other persons rather than be carried away by accolades."

For the compelling reasons why he has to act immediately, I suggest he listens to the viral video of Majeed Dahiru on the subject, and for the scientific analysis, he could cause his aides to summarise for him, the presentations of Professor Izielen Agbon which are available on the net.

On my part, I will tell a true story that buttresses my conviction that a good obstetrician is not necessarily the brilliant, but one that delivers safely.

The Union Bank of Nigeria was one of the three biggest banks in the country. Along with the UBA and the First Bank, they were known as the Solid Three. The bank itself was established in 1917, three years after the country was amalgamated. It was fittingly called the Colonial Bank before it was renamed in 1925 as the Barclays Bank DCO (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas.) The bank was one of those supporting the Apartheid regime in South Africa and was therefore taken over in 1979 and renamed Union Bank.

In 2009, the Central Bank revealed that the bank's management had been undermining the bank, including giving collateral-free multi-billion-dollar loans to



"speculators". To rescue it, a new management under a financial expert and leading banker, Mrs Funke Osibodu, was appointed to rescue the bank.

"Eventually, on February 14, 2011, the staff and their labour allies sent Mrs Osibodu a valentine message by shutting down the bank. It was a gruelling struggle. The management did not recover from it, Mrs Osibodu had to leave the following year and the now tottering bank eventually collapsed and was taken over."

When in trying to reposition the bank, the new management touched the Legacy contributory pension fund of the staff, there was a protest and the management dismissed 13 leaders of the staff union. When the Association of Senior Staff of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions Employees protested against the sack, union branch leaders were punitively transferred across the country. The management banned the union, seized its offices and finances.

When labour protested, the management approached the National Industrial Court (NIC), which granted an injunction barring Labour from going on strike or obstructing the services of the bank in any way. The security services, including the police and the State Security Service, perhaps to enforce the NIC injunction, took over security on the bank premises. When the Nigeria Labour

Congress (NLC), approached the Federal Ministry of Labour to get the labour issues sorted out, the bank, apart from getting some labour leaders openly aligned to it, also got the Ministry's endorsement as the Labour Minister pointed out that a court order already existed and Labour itself was split.

As the triumphant management rose from the meeting with the Minister, I approached the Managing Director to beg her to avoid a collapse of the bank which can result if a labour strike occurs and customers, who were already weary of the viability of the bank, make a run on it. I suggested that she focused on reviving the bank and resuscitating it rather than risk being diverted and sucked into an avoidable, potentially bruising labour crises.

She listened to me, but her lawyers and officials were hailing her and asked her to ignore my appeals.

"President Tinubu's primary focus should be the security of the populace and the welfare of the long-suffering people of Nigeria many of whom despite being one of the biggest oil producers in the world live in abject poverty."

All the powers of government, including the security services, Labour Ministry and most labour leaders were on her side. In any case, she was the expert. However, her most senior official at our meetings, Mr. Folashodun Adebisi Shonubi,

the Executive Director, Information Technology and Development thought there should be some caution. We opened back channels trying to end the labour crises.

Eventually, on February 14, 2011, the staff and their labour allies sent Mrs Osibodu a valentine message by shutting down the bank. It was a gruelling struggle. The management did not recover from it, Mrs Osibodu had to leave the following year and the now tottering bank eventually collapsed and was taken over.

Mr. Shonubi, Osibodu's Executive Director who thought the management should focus on its primary objective of reviving the bank rather than taking on the staff, has now been appointed by Tinubu as the Acting Governor of the Central Bank. The lesson in the Union Bank story is the need to listen to other persons rather than be carried away by accolades.

President Tinubu's primary focus should be the security of the populace and the welfare of the long-suffering people of Nigeria many of whom despite being one of the biggest oil producers in the world live in abject poverty.

I need not tell President Tinubu to beware of those who praise him for engaging in a sprint in the first four weeks of his administration when he is actually in a four-year marathon race.

Undergo Multifaceted Strategy To Tackle Climate Change - FG Told

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Towards saving Nigerians from the problem of climate change, the federal government has been called upon to undertake a purposeful multifaceted approach to tackle the prevailing weather challenges.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Strategy in Akwa Ibom State, Akparawa James Edet made the call on Monday in Uyo, during the Study Tour of the Ministry by Sec 45, 2023 participants from the Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru.

Edet who was addressing the team on the theme - "Industrialization, Climate Change and Energy Security in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Prospects, bemoaned the afflictions of Nigerians from Climate Change and called on the Federal Government to consider strategic multifaceted approach to forestall the prevailing hardship.

The Permanent Secretary stressed the urgent need for vigorous measures to be put in place as almost all sectors are threatened by climate change, ranging from Environment to Agriculture, Economy and even human lives as a result of flooding, droughts, hot waves, damage of infrastructure, erratic rainfall, displacement of people, increased pests and diseases.

He listed some of the measures to be undertaken in high degrees to include: Policy regulatory framework on environmental protection; Renewable Energy Transition; De-forestation and Afforestation and effective Collaboration with International organisations working on Climate change to leverage on technical expertise and financing.

Others include: Sustainable Agriculture that promotes agroforestry, organic farming and irrigation techniques; Climate Resilience and Adaptation; Public Awareness and Education on Climate change; low carbon transport infrastructure as well as effective Waste management implementation including recycling and waste-to-energy solutions.

The Information Permanent Secretary noted that the Theme of the Study tour is germane as the prevailing issues- industrialization, Climate Change and Energy Security are interwoven and currently on the front burner of discourses in Akwa Ibom State and Nigeria at large.

"All three components must be effectively tackled as they

play major roles in the gross economic performance of Nigeria and Akwa Ibom State in particular, regarding wealth creation, employment opportunities, food security and livelihood", he stressed. "You will all agree that, without energy security, Industrialization-drive of any government will remain a mirage as energy is pivotal to the successful implementation of industrial concerns", Edet emphasized. On environmental protection, he said Akwa Ibom State Government has continued to fight flooding and work on erosion devastated areas in the State capital with remarkable success and called on the Federal Government to come to the aid of the state especially coastal communities prone to climatic challenges.

He expressed optimism that Governor Umo Eno administration would boost Energy Security with his entrepreneurial drive and infrastructural/Industrial expansion as enshrined in his A-R-I-S-E Agenda as these sectors will thrive more with stability of power.

Earlier, the Leader of the delegation, Prof Dung Pan Sha had said his team - the "Senior Executive Course SEC 45, 2023" Study group five of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, NIPSS, was in Akwa Ibom State for a study tour and research on the theme - Industrialization, Energy Security and Climate Change, noting that the three variables are holistic and interwoven.

Prof Dung Sha hinted that the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) is a foremost government tink tank, established in 1979 with the aim of carrying out research and training of Nigerians on several fields as well as advocating on some national issues.

The Team Lead who disclosed that, the participants have very positive impression about Akwa Ibom State had in his company the Directing Staff of the Study Group 5, Brig Gen W D Nasiru mni, a Research Fellow, Dariyem Kruslat and other participants drawn from Security Agencies, the Organized Private sector and some State governments across the country.

The event which witnessed the exchange of momentoes by both NIPSS and the Ministry of Information and Strategy was witnessed by Directors in the Ministry led by the Dean, Mrs. Blessing Urua.

Isaiah Benjamin Inches One Step Closer To SWAN Presidency As SWANECO Clears Top Contender

*He will consolidate on achievements of Sirawoo - Jacob Onjewu Dickson
*Baring any hitch, he is our National President Kaduna SWAN Chair

By: MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

The front runner for the Presidency of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Isaiah Benjamin is inching closer to victory as the SWAN electoral body, SWANECO has declared him eligible to contest the body's election coming up next week in Port Harcourt.

SWAN Electoral Committee headed by Chief Sunny Ugele had in the week, released the list of candidates that would participate in the election. Speaking on the development, the Kaduna SWAN Chairman, Shehu Abdullahi said that the coast is clear for Mr. Benjamin to become the national president of the body.

"I can assure that going by our level of interaction with delegates and stakeholders, Isaiah Benjamin is the next legitimate chairman of SWAN.

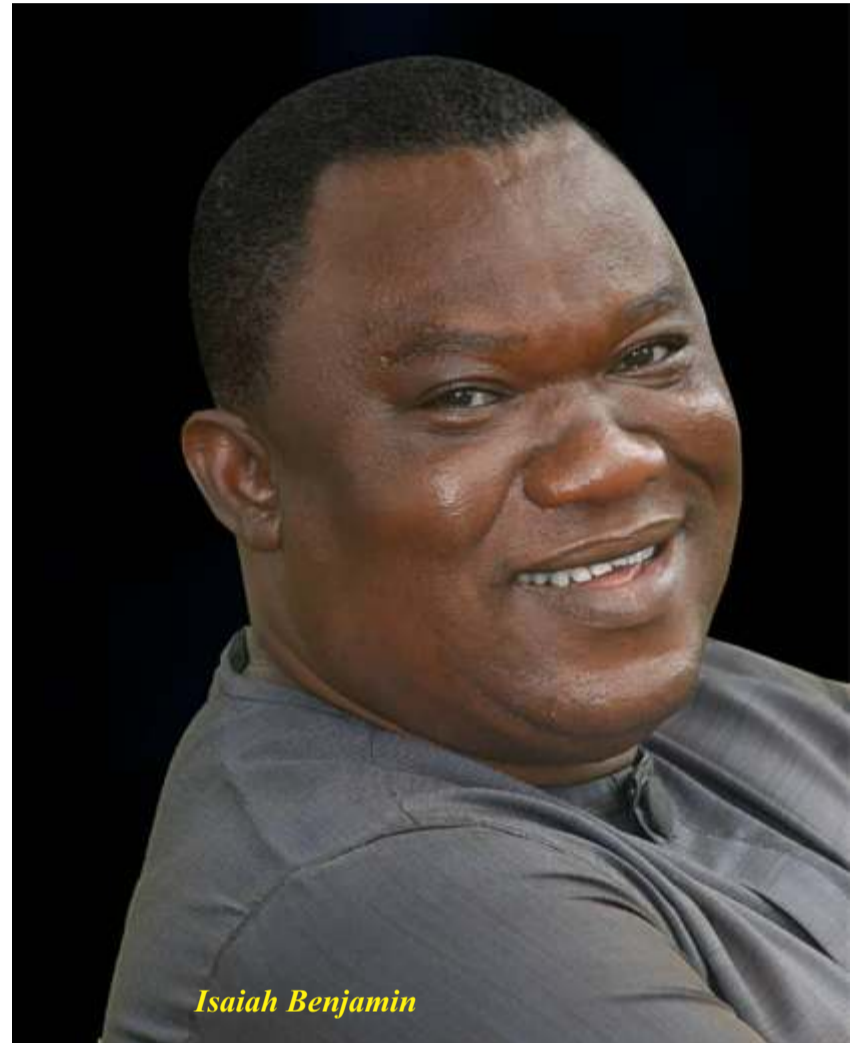
"We have done the necessary consultations and our manifesto has spoken out for us, we are on course for victory," he

said.

Similarly, the state secretary, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson said that the top contender for SWAN top job would take the body to the next level and a step higher in line with the vision of Sir Honour Sirawoo, the outgoing president.

"Isaiah Benjamin would reenact the Kaduna success story at the national level, this is for sure.

"He is going to the national to work for the upliftment of every member of the sporting body. During his tenure as the chairman of



Isaiah Benjamin

SWAN, Kaduna members were given palliatives, loans, educational and training opportunities were made in house for members. All these will come play when he is elected.

"He is going to consolidate on the golden era of and the laudable visions of the current National President, so let's support him," Dickson added.



NFF President, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau yesterday in his office received in audience, the Permanent Secretary, Nasarawa State Ministry of Youth and Sports, Barr. Isaac Danladi. Danladi was in company with four of the directors of the Ministry. Discussions centred on youth and grassroots football development programmes and the current situation of the Nasarawa State Football Association. Photo: AYO OJEDOKUN

Excellent Performances Recorded From Athletes At Zaria Grand Prix

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Zaria Grand Prix took place at Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Sports Complex over the weekend, with great performance from already established athletes and upcoming ones.

The event which had only 10 events, saw the athletes put in their best as they saw it as preparatory for the national trails in Benin on July 5, towards the World Athletics Championship in Budapest next month.

In the 100m men, Igube ThankGod came first (10.09), Ezeakor Chidera second (10.10) and Eze Collins was third (10.30).

In the 100m women, Hajara Haruna first (11.60), Margaret Bukola second (11.70) and Peace Lekwot third (12.40).

For the 400m men, Ogazi Samuel (46.20) placed first, Victory Achakpoekri (47.20) finished second and

Alphonsus Akwuaja (47.21) claimed bronze.

In the 1,500m women, Comfort James finished in (4min. 50.5) to place first.

Verity Umaru in (4min.52.8) finished second and Mercy Audu (5min.08.3) emerged third.

For 800m men, Salisu Habeeb blazed the trail in (1min.52sec.6) to emerge first.

Second position went to Surajo Habeeb (1min 54sec.5) and third spot went to Isaac Chukwuike (1min.55sec.7).

Comfort James in (55.3) outran others to place first in the 400m women.

Happy Rasheed in (56.4) finished second and Temitope Olusesan (56.6) placed third.

Long Jump women saw Ademola Temitope (5.46 metres) finish tops.

Versatile Peace Lekwot of Coach Felix Academic and Sports Foundation (5.27), settled for second and Peniel Daniel (4.93) emerged third.

In Discus women, Esther Osisike with (47.82) left no one in doubt of her superiority as she led the pack.

Amazing Grace Asipitan (37.36) emerged second and Patricia Uzuegbu (34.47) was third.

Shotput men saw Okafor Onyinyechi (14.14) emerge tops.

Afuku Nyerhowe (12.48) was runner-up and Henry Friday (11.83), second runner-up.

Ogazi Samuel, the 400 metres National champion, who was discovered in the first edition of the Zaria Prix, said he is grateful to the organizers of the prix for bringing it down to Zaria.

"I might have been doing something else if not for the opportunity I got here. I am calling on other well meaning individuals and companies to emulate the organizers of the Zaria Grand Prix around the federation," he added.

The meet Director, Mr. Sunday Adeleye a former international and Technical Director of the AFN, said as organizers, they are happy seeing young men and women from the Grand Prix growing into strong forces.

"Our joy is to return Nigeria to its pride of place and if possible, dominating athletics in the world," he said.

Godfrey Apkodu, a former NATO president, said he is happy to be associated with the Zaria Grand Prix.

"It has continued to get better with every passing edition. This particular one will motivate the athletes for the National Trails in Benin on the 5th of July. It actually came at the right time," he added. A big stakeholder in the Athletics family, Lekan Seotan applauded the athletes for their fighting spirit.

He also applauded the Zaria Grand Prix organisers for their consistency.



FIFA Women's World Cup 2023: President's Wife Challenges Falcons To Dazzle

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos
The wife of President and Commander-In-Chief of the Federal Republic, Distinguished Senator (Mrs) Oluremi Tinubu CON has charged the Senior Women National Team of Nigeria to pull efforts, talents and skills together and dominate at the 9th FIFA Women's World Cup finals starting in Australia and New Zealand in 18 days' time. Distinguished Senator Tinubu threw this challenge to the nine-time African champions at a Send-Forth dinner held for them at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja on Saturday, less than 24 hours before the team was due to depart Nigeria's shores for a 15-day training camp before the global spectacle. "You are the shining star and pride of Africa. I charge you to

go all out and do your very best to dominate other teams, and become the pride of the entire world," she said in a speech read on her behalf by Dr. Betta Edu, APC National Women Leader. "I am proud to note that our Super Falcons have remained in that mix of the very best globally in the world of football. They have featured in every single edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup finals since the competition started in 1991, and our country is also one of only seven countries worldwide to have done so. "While our Falcons made it to the quarter-finals at the 1999 finals in the United States of America, and reached the second round at the last championship in France, our expectations as a nation and as a people is for a much better performance at what

is certainly the biggest and best championship yet, in Australia and New Zealand starting from 20 July." The Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Alhaji Ismaila Abubakar advised the girls to work as a team in order to achieve greater results, while President of NFF, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau noted that the Super Falcons have won their last three matches and possess the winning mentality to be a strong force for any opposition in Australia and New Zealand. "Our belief in the Super Falcons and what they are capable of achieving informed the NFF's decision to spare no cost in adequately preparing the team for the finals, with tournaments and matches in Japan, Mexico and Turkey, and a 15-camping

already planned in Australia before the tournament begins." The Deputy Governor of Edo State, Comrade Philip Shaibu expressed confidence that the Falcons will go all the way to the Championship Final, and pledged to attend the quarter-final and semi-final matches if the girls get to the latter stages. NFF General Secretary, Dr. Mohammed Sanusi urged the Falcons to observe the integrity of the sport and prioritize good character on and off the field of play at the finals. Team captain Onome Ebi, on behalf of the players, said: "We are not just going to be part of the competition, but going to break records and surpass our previous outing which was Round of 16." The occasion was also attended by a representative of the

Accountant General of the Federation, NFF partners and sponsors, members of the diplomatic corps, business moguls, NFF management and staff, members of the Supporters Club and other football stakeholders. On Friday, the Australian High Commission in Nigeria had treated the Super Falcons to a celebration dinner hosted by the Ag. High Commissioner, Ms Leanne Johnston in Abuja, and which was also attended by the Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Sports and Youth Development, Alhaji Ismaila Abubakar, NFF General Secretary, Dr. Mohammed Sanusi, NFF Management team and football stakeholders and enthusiasts.



PAP Crisis: We'll Continue To Speak Truth, Ex-agitators Reply Ndiomu

*Say traditional rulers making themselves praise singers of PAP

By **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The Chairman of First Phase Ex-Agitor's Leadership Forum, Bayelsa State Chapter, Charles Kurobo, has said that despite recent threats by the Interim Administrator of the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP) Maj. Gen. Barry Ndiomu (rtd), aggrieved beneficiaries of the amnesty programme will continue to speak until issues relating to misappropriation bedeviling the programme are uncovered.

Mr. Korubo stated in Yenagoa while reacting to a statement in which the PAP Interim Administrator warned that those duly captured as PAP beneficiaries who are taking part in spreading false narratives against him and the amnesty office will be dealt with in accordance with the extant laws of the programme. Explaining further, Korubo said that the enquiry of ex-agitators into the anomalies of the amnesty programme is not intended witch-hunt any individual as the PAP Interim

Administrator makes it seem but to draw the attention of relevant authorities to how ex-agitators are denied access to vital information that will help them achieve economic integration and build their potentials to generate or gain employment.

He also alleged that if not for the support of monarchs from the Niger Delta region who are supposed to be catalyst for human capital and social development in the Niger Delta, Ndiomu wouldn't have chosen to issue threat to well meaning

beneficiaries of the programme who genuinely making contributions on how he can better improve and achieve the mandates of the programme.

He said "We will continue to air our concerns as we possibly can till attention is drawn to the precarious nature and style of the current administration of the PAP marred by defilement in the quest for social and economic integration in the phase of human capacity development." "Our enquiries are not ill-intended as the PAP makes it seems but the unexpected

defenses, created to deny us access to vital information with respect to economic integration and why we still lack the potentials to generate or gain employment and develop better use of our resources through the spread of technological knowledge as promised by the program when we gave up arms in 2009 has remained invincible and we will not stop asking or be forced to silence even if a serving or retired military general is involved."

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Lions Empowerment Centre Will Reorient Youth For National Devt - District Gov, Jegede

By **ADEBOYE ADO, Akure**

The Pioneer District Governor, Lions International, District 404A-4 Nigeria, Lion Dr. Kofoworola Jegede, PMJF, NLCF LCIP has outlined projects of service across the three states that make-up her mandate areas.

The Pioneer District Governor assured that her tenure will be action-packed in view of several activities lined up to make life worth living for the needy, especially the youths within the mandate areas of Ondo, Edo, and Delta states.

Topical on the projects is the building of a Youth Empowerment and Recreational Centre to be sited in Akure, the Ondo State capital to serve as a hub for the training and retraining of young persons across professional callings.

Addressing journalists at her maiden press briefing in Akure, Lion Dr. Kofoworola Jegede said the centre will scale-up the professional skills and competences of the youth along the path of sustainable development and global competitiveness.

According to her, "If you look at the average profile of a great number of our youth, their thinking is about money, 419 and Yahoo business, and the image of this country has been bastardized through them, and that is why we have to target and engage them in a positive way for a better society.

"We must arrest this disturbing trend and re-orientate them to channel their energy positively, and it is because of this we are

doing this. My project is to provide for them a functional facility, where they can have the freedom to come together to brainstorm for the benefit of our society.

"When we talk about skills and intelligence, we are there, so all hands must be on deck to assist these youths".

On the thematic areas of Lions Club, which include Vision, Diabetes, Feeding, Environment, and Paediatric Cancer, Lion Dr Kofoworola Jegede said that the club would mobilize actions and resources to carry out diabetes screening programmes in Ondo, Delta and Edo States.

"Also, we will go round to screen people for diabetes. Diabetes is on the increase due to what we are eating, so because of that, we want to go out to screen people and refer them to the hospitals in order to reduce the increase of this ailment."

While reiterating the inherent joy in serving the needy, Dr Kofoworola Jegede called on persons with heart of service to join the lions club to make the human



society better for all.

"In Lions Club there is no barrier to serving the less-privileged. Neither Religion, Politics nor Ethnicity is a barrier. We network for greater opportunities and actualisation of potentials", she said.

She equally called on the media to be a collaborative partner showcasing the various programmes of the Lions Club which is the only Non-Governmental

Organisation, NGO, that has a seat in the United Nations.

The Press Briefing which had in attendance, PCC Tokunbo Jegede; PDG Adekunle Adedipe; Cabinet Secretary, Lion Olu Akinsiku; Cabinet Treasurer, Lion Foluso Bodunde; District Chief of Protocol, Lion Bode Akinwumi; District GLT Coordinator, Lion Queensly Adedipe and representatives of clubs in Regions 1, 2 and 3.