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Tension In Ondo Community As Hoodlums Allegedly Beat Naval Officer To Death

Prime suspect arrested

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

There is nervous apprehension in Idoani community in the Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State, following the killing of a Naval officer allegedly by hoodlums in the area.

The incident, which happened yesterday, has disrupted the peace of the agrarian community, as Naval men were said to have invaded Idoani to ensure the arrest of killers of their colleague.

But a source familiar with the incident, anonymously said the Naval officer who was driving along the road in the community, reportedly splashed water on a passenger on a motorcycle, while trying to avoid potholes on the road.

The deceased was said to have parked and apologized to the motorcyclist who commands a sizeable number of thugs in the community, but the man identified as Ayo refused to listen to all the pleas from the naval officer. The Okada rider however,

called some hoodlums in the town who invaded the scene and hit the naval officer with an iron rod on his head, losing unconsciousness

The Naval officer was rushed to the hospital in the town, but gave up before getting to there and was confirmed dead by a doctor.

The Okada rider was apprehended and handed over to police in the town while one of the thugs who hit the deceased with the iron was said to have taken to his heel to avoid being arrested.

The state Police Command could not confirm the development as at the time of filing this report, but the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Funmi Odunlami, promised to find out the details of the incident in the Idoani community.

However, the Chairman of Ose Local Government Area, Hon Dennis Adekunle condemned the gruesome murder of the naval officer, calling for calm as perpetrators will be arrested and brought to book.



Nuhu Ribadu (left) officially assumes office as the National Security Adviser (NSA), receiving document from outgoing Major General Babagana Monguno in Abuja, Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

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Gov Nwifuru Tasks Pharmaceutical Society To Wage War Against Infiltration of Quacks, Drug Abuse

**To establish mega drugs distribution centre*

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Eid-el-Kabir: Borno Police Assures Adequate Security, Restricts Vehicular Movement

Kano Dep Gov Resumes As Commissioner For LGA, Chieftaincy Affairs

** Pledge to operate an open door policy*

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The Kano State Deputy Governor, Comrade Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo has resumed office as the new Commissioner of the Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

Shortly after an announcement by the governor, Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf at Kano State Government House on Monday, the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Alhaji Yusuf Datti Hussein, along with other directors of the ministry, received the new commissioner and ushered him into office.

In a statement issued to newsmen by his press secretary, Ibrahim Garba Shuaibu, the Deputy Governor tasked the senior management staff of the ministry to deploy all required abilities towards achieving the desired goals and programs of the present administration.

"We must unite and work together to reform and uplift the present state of our local governments. This is really necessary

because local governments have a direct touch with the common man in the state" he said. Gwarzo assured to operate an open and transparent governance by shifting the state of LGAs from a gloomy atmosphere to an eventful environment.

"I once served as chairman of a local government, so, i am well equipped with the knowledge of running affairs of LGAs" he disclosed.

The Deputy Governor however, expressed gratitude to governor Abba Kabir Yusuf for finding him worthy of the position and assured of deploying all his experiences towards elevating the status of local governments in Kano state.

In his remarks, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Alhaji Yusuf Datti Hussein pledged to toil with other staff members of the Ministry towards actualizing the vision of the newly posted Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy affairs.

Eld-el-Kabir: LASTMA Assures Free Flow Traffic, Deploys Personnel To Praying Ground, Others

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) over the weekend, assured Lagosians that traffic personnel will be fully on the ground to professionally and adequately manage traffic before, during and after the festive period.

In a press statement signed by the Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of LASTMA Mr Adebayo Taofiq quoted that Mr Oreagba gave the assurance during a strategic meeting held with the Comptrollers, Commanders and Zonal Heads at LASTMA Headquarters in Oshodi.

Mr. Oreagba noted that the 'Eld-el-kabir celebrations is usually characterised by a high volume of human and vehicular movements, hence extra effort would be required to ensure a free flow of vehicle movements across the Lagos metropolis. His words: "All motorists are urged to maintain speed limits as they embark on their journeys into, within and outside Lagos. Entry and exit

points into Lagos will be fully manned by our officers for adequate control and management of traffic. Major entry/exit roads in Lagos, like Lagos-Ibadan, Lagos-Abeokuta, Lagos-Badagry, Lekki-Epe Expressways and Lagos-Ikorodu-Sagamu Highway would be adequately covered by our personnel for smooth and seamless traffic flow. Major road intersections would not be left out in our strategic coverage to ensure free traffic flow".

The General Manager added that LASTMA officers' presence would be felt across all the major road intersections with regular and consistent patrols, especially notorious traffic flashpoints, imploring all road users to adhere strictly to the traffic laws, at all times, not only to avoid accidents but to also prevent avoidable arrest and prosecution.

"Everybody prays to experience a joyous season. However, to be alive to witness the season and even beyond the season, we must, therefore, be moderate in the celebration of the season. Do not drink and



LASTMA Boss Mr. Oreagba

drive, don't endanger yourself and other road users while on the road, as the law will not be spared in dealing with errant road users who want to infringe on other people's rights to use the roads safely", he asserted.

Oreagba also counselled that in order to achieve a traffic-free Lagos, all motorists must maintain lane discipline, obey traffic rules and regulations as stated in the traffic law of Lagos State, maintaining that all acts of indiscipline and unruly behaviour by vehicle

owners and road users would not be tolerated.

The General Manager however thanked the administration of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu for the provisions of modern Traffic Management Solutions (TMS) hand held cameras which has seriously brought significant improvement in traffic management and control across Lagos.

In case any comment, observation or traffic emergency call Lastma hotlines 08100565860, 08129928503 & 08129928597

Drug Abuse Attracts 15-yr Jail Term, Police Warns Students

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Secondary school students have been warned to avoid the use of hard drugs, as it attracts a 15-year jail term upon conviction by the court.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer SP Hundeyin gave the warning at a one-day sensitisation campaign on Drug Abuse for Secondary School Students in Lagos, in commemoration of the 2023 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, themed "People First: Stop Stigma and Discrimination, Strength Prevention", organized by the Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN).

"The legal consequences of drug abuse in Nigeria according to National Drug Law and Enforcement Agency Act provides punishment or a sentence of 15 years but not exceeding 25 years while trafficking drugs is punishable by life imprisonment.

"When a minor or teenager

commits a grievous offences, he or she will be considered a juvenile offender which are those who commit or are apprehended to have committed any act that would be a crime if they were not underage and they can be jailed in the juvenile prison", Hundeyin stated.

Speaking on the, "Effect of Drug Abuse on Security in Nigeria", Hundeyin pointed out that it has permeated the society, affecting individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and socio-economic statuses.

He added that It is a pervasive problem that has far-reaching consequences, extending beyond the individual to impact families, communities, and the security of the nation as a whole.

Represented by ASP Omoyayi Zaina Atinuke, the police spokesperson posited that prevalence of drug abuse in Nigeria is a cause for great concern.

Hundeyin hinted that studies and statistics revealed a disturbing trend, with a significant number of the

youth falling victim to the allure of illicit substances such as rophynol, cannabis, codeine, tramadol, popularly known by their street name Ice, colos, downer, molly, special K, Acid, coke, school boy, angel dust, upper speed. Speaking further, the police image maker asserted that drug abuse knows no boundaries, as it affects urban centres, rural areas, and even the most remote regions of the country.

The syndicates perpetrating the crime, he said operate across borders, exploiting the vulnerabilities in the systems and facilitating the inflow of illicit substances into the country.

Saying that the Police cannot afford to turn a blind eye to the growing menace, he asserted that the Nigeria Police is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our great nation.

Pointing out that the link between drug abuse and security cannot be underestimated, Hundeyin maintained that It directly contributes to increased

crime rates, posing a threat to the safety and well-being of the communities.

Further he said, " Drug-related offenses and criminal activities such as robbery, theft, and violence are often fuelled by the need to sustain drug habits or by the influence of substances impairing judgment and rational thinking thereby jeopardizing the safety of our communities.

"It also leads to the spread of gang activities, because the distribution of these drugs are associated with organised criminal gangs, these gangs create a climate of fear and intimidation within communities as they compete for control over drug markets leading to violent turf wars.

"Furthermore, drug trafficking, which thrives on the demand created by drug abuse, poses a direct threat to national security. Criminal networks involved in the trafficking of drugs not only perpetuate violence and corruption but also undermine the rule of law".



Comrade Aminu Abdussalam

Sallah: Kaduna CP Orders 24hrs Surveillance

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Commissioner of Police Kaduna State Command, CP M.Y. Garba has while greeting Muslim faithful in the state, and also assured them that adequate security measures have been put in place to ensure hitch free Sallah celebration.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Muhammad Jalige, made available yesterday, said Area Commanders, DPOd and Tactical Commanders were directed to ensure 24 hours patrol.

"In furtherance of the foregoing, the Commissioner of Police directed all the Area Commanders and their Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) as well as Tactical Commanders to mobilized all Operational and intelligence assets at their

disposal for protection of all major highways, places of worship, recreational and other facilities to ensure hitch free celebration.

"He has further ordered 24- hours high visibility patrol around all the nooks and crannies of the state to ensure members of the public celebrate Sallah in peace and confidence," it said.

The Commissioner of Police further thanked the residents of the state and also advised road users to be careful and vigilant while on the highways, obey all traffic rules and cooperate with law enforcement and safety agents on the road.

"Members of public are enjoined to report any suspicious movement and objects to the nearest Police/Security formation or call police emergency numbers on: 07039675856 or 08075391105," the statement informed.

Eid-el-Kabir: Borno Police Assures Adequate Security, Restricts Vehicular Movement

By ; SADIQ
ABUBAKAR,
Maiduguri

The Borno State Police Command has reiterated its assurance to the citizens or public of Borno, especially the Muslim faithful of its commitment towards ensuring a crime-free Sallah celebration.

A statement issued and signed by ASP Sani Kamilu Shatambaya, the Police Public Relations Officer, Borno State Command made available yesterday with reference number, Ref No :

AZ:5250/BRS/PRD/VOL 9/263 said in furtherance of the forthcoming Eid-el-Kabir Sallah celebrations slated for today, in pursuance of the above, the acting Commissioner of Police

who is equally the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations, Borno State Police Command, DCP Haruna A. Yahaya has made adequate security deployment of officers and men across the state for effective security coverage throughout the celebrations.

The statement added that this arrangement will cover all the praying grounds, malls and recreational centers where large numbers of people are expected to gather.

"To this end, high visibility patrols/stop and search, intelligence/information gathering will be intensified within this period and beyond. Furthermore, safer highway patrol teams have been deployed to

major highways in the state to ensure security of travellers and commuters. Sequel to the above, there will be restriction of vehicular movement between 7am and 12:00pm on 28/06/2023. The restriction, though regretted, will include the use of motor vehicles, tricycles and bicycles except those on essential duties.

Muslim faithful are advised to pray at Eid prayer grounds close to their homes, and to ensure they go early enough for security screening.

Parents, who go to prayer grounds with their children/wards, are equally advised to take proper care of them so as to avert incidences of missing children. In addition, youths who carry knives and other

dangerous weapons on their persons to prayer grounds or recreational centers, are by this release, warned to desist or stand a chance of being caught and facing the full wrath of the law.

While wishing the public especially Muslim faithful a happy Eid-el-Kabir celebration, the Ag Commissioner of Police, DCP Haruna A. Yahaya enjoined members of the public to be law abiding as well as security conscious at all times and to report any strange or suspicious person(s), movements or object(s) to the nearest police officer/station.

"You can contact the following phone numbers for any emergency pls.: 08068075581, 08023473293, 08130579204," the statement said.



CP M.Y. Garba



From left Osun State Speaker, Rt. Hon Adewale Egbedun, Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke Celebrant/ Sister of the Governor Chief Mrs. Dupe Adeleke Sanni and Majority Leader Osun State House of Assembly Hon Adewunmi Babajide at the Chief Mrs Dupe Adeleke Sanni's birthday held her residence at Ede, Osun

Eid-el-Kabir: Restore Confidence In Govt, ACF Urges

**Says Nigerians lost hope due to unfortunate incidents, neglect to rule of law*

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

As Muslims in Nigeria and the world over celebrate the Eid-el-Kabir festival today, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) while saluting them, has called for building of confidence in government. This was expressed in a

statement issued yesterday, signed by Chief Gabriel Y. Aduku (Amana Ogohi I, Atta Igala) Chairman NEC ACF.

"As Muslims across all walks of life celebrate the Eid-el Adha, ACF enjoins Nigerians to emulate the teachings and sacrifice therein, to pray for the Nation, pray for peace and

unity as well as pray for Allah's special intervention in the country's socioeconomic wellbeing.

"ACF also enjoins the executive arm of government and the legislature as well as the judiciary to commit to restoring public confidence that has been eroded over time.

"The average Nigerian has almost lost hope due to unfortunate incidents and apparent neglect to rule of law that was becoming a norm in the country.

"A strong call, urging all citizens to as a matter of utmost importance put heads together to make restoration of public confidence in government," the statement said.

Stop Dragging ACF Into Your Political Warfare Or Risk Removal, Leaders Tell Chairman, Aduku

By: ADEBOYEADO, Akure
 Longstanding members of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), have warned the new Chairman of the forum, Gabriel Aduku, to desist from dragging the ACF into his personal political warfare in Kogi State or risk being removed as chairman.

According to the members, representing the different Arewa states, the idea behind the formation of the ACF is, among others, to promote the development, unity, peace and prosperity of the Arewa North as an entity, while having a healthy relationship with other areas of the country.

In a statement yesterday, titled, "Stop Using ACF For Your Political Fights in Kogi State", jointly signed by Dr. Asha Manga, who was the Governorship Candidate for Action Alliance in the just concluded elections; and Alhaji Sadiq Bulama, member, Borno State/Secretary to the immediate past chairman of ACF, among others, the Arewa leaders said the ACF was never meant to be a divisive political tool in the hands of an individual or a few to use for their local political fights. "This press release is necessary to quickly inform the general public that the recent position taken by the new chairman of ACF, Architect Gabriel Aduku, on the politics of his home state of Kogi should not be considered as the position of the ACF as an organization but a personal expression of his political sentiments," they stressed.

The ACF stakeholders noted that though Aduku was barely two months in office, any leader of ACF, especially its chairman, was expected to be a father to all, irrespective of political affiliations, and not a champion of divisive politicking that could undermine the unity and peace of any part of Arewa.

"We are to unite the North, not divide it. Limit your Kogi politics within your Kogi East

Elders' Forum, don't bring ACF down into it," the ACF members cautioned the new chairman.

"It is a public knowledge that Architect Aduku who also doubles as Chairman of the Kogi East Elders' Forum has recently thrown his weight behind one of the governorship candidates in the November governorship election in Kogi State. Therefore, he cannot claim to be a disinterested party in the election. So, for him to now proceed to the ACF headquarters in Kaduna where he made scathing partisan political statements that are extremely divisive with regard to the November election could be mistaken as the collective position of the ACF which is not," they said.

Those who signed the statement include Alhaji Ahamed Musa Kumo, ACF member, Gombe state; Hassan Mohammed, Bauchi State; Alhaji Tanko Malami, Kebbi State; Alhaji Munir Mohammed, Katsina State; Alhaji Nasiru Zakaria-Gwarzo, Kano State; Alhaji Bello Wadata, Sokoto State; Malam Usman Kabiru, Taraba State; and Umar Modibo, ACF member, Adamawa State.

The statement reads in full:

"We are members of the Arewa Consultative Forum from different states of Northern Nigeria. Most of us have been members of the ACF since the year 2000 and even prior.

"We wish to restate that the idea behind the formation of the ACF is, among others, to promote the development, unity, peace and prosperity of the Arewa North as an entity, while having a healthy relationship with other areas of the country.

"Therefore, ACF was never meant to be a divisive political tool in the hands of an individual or a few to use for their local political fights. This Press Release is necessary to quickly inform the general public that the recent position taken by the new chairman of ACF, Architect



ACF Chairman, Aduku

Gabriel Aduku, on the politics of his home state of Kogi should not be considered as the position of the ACF as an organization but a personal expression of his political sentiments.

"It is a public knowledge that Architect Aduku who also doubles as Chairman of the Kogi East Elders' Forum has recently thrown his weight behind one of the governorship candidates in the November governorship election in Kogi State. Therefore, he cannot claim to be a disinterested party in the election. So, for him to now proceed to the ACF headquarters in Kaduna where he made scathing partisan political statements that are extremely divisive with regard to the November election could be mistaken as the collective position of the ACF which is not.

"Architect Aduku is barely two months in office. Any leader of ACF, especially its chairman, is expected to be a father to all, irrespective of political

affiliations, and not a champion of divisive politicking that can undermine the unity and peace of any part of Arewa. It is highly condemnable for a person of Architect Aduku's status to be fanning the embers of violence and instability by promoting such pessimistic political scenario in which he is suggesting that the November election might not hold.

"This could be taken to mean that he is engaging in a ridiculous fear-mongering that could instigate mass violence or cataclysmic bloodletting in the state.

"A real leader would never engage in promoting division but cohesion, especially a leader of our beloved ACF, which was founded on the honorable sociopolitical pedestal to promote peace, harmony and progress of every part of Arewa without exception.

"Mr. Aduku must stop this nefarious political adventurism

or, at least, desist from dragging the ACF into his private political warfare. There are many ACF members in Kogi State and all of them belong to various political persuasions. They cannot afford to see their overall chairman giving the erroneous impression to the public that the ACF had anointed his own candidate in the next election and, therefore, utilize the platform of ACF to engage in political blackmail against his perceived political enemies.

"He either stops this kind of conduct immediately or resign from office or be removed.

Any further unguarded statement like this from him will lead to massive protests against him and we'll ensure his immediate removal from office.

"We are to unite the North, not divide it. Limit your Kogi politics within your Kogi East Elders' Forum, don't bring ACF down into it."

Zamfara APC Mourns Former SSG, Prof Shinkafi

By: IMRANAABDULLAHI, Kaduna
 Zamfara State All Progressives Congress (APC) has said that it received with shock, the sudden death of its party stalwart, Professor Abdullahi Muhammed on Sunday in Abuja.

A statement signed by Yusuf Idris Gusau, APC Publicity Secretary Zamfara State

and made available to news men revealed that although his sudden death was devastating, it is with total submission to the will of Allah, who created life and death to all his creatures.

"The death of a promising Islamic scholar of international repute and academician per excellence such as Professor Shinkafi is a monumental loss to Zamfara State,

APC family, and Nigeria at large.

"The State Working Committee is extending its heartfelt condolences to his immediate family, relatives and associates and pray Almighty Allah to reward his soul will Jannatul Firdausi," it said.

It added that late Professor Abdullahi Shinkafi was a hardworking, honest and peace loving man who spent most of his

life time in worshipping Allah and teaching the Muslim ummah on the right path of Allah and the teachings of noble Prophet Muhammad Sallallaahu Alaihi Wassallam.

"May Allah forgive all his short comings and grant him the exalted," the statement prayed.

Zulum Commissions Monitoring, Evaluation, Special Projects Zonal Office In Bama

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Unara Zulum has commissioned Monitoring, Evaluation and Special Projects Zonal Office in Bama town on Monday, as part of efforts in facilitating the commencement of construction, rehabilitation and development process of new phase of governments post insurgency rebuilding process and transformation plan. The governor disclosed plans to erect one thousand tents in Nguro Soye to enable people of the area resettle in their community, while

stressing government's readiness to close down the remaining Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps in the state capital Maiduguri to enable people return to their ancestral homes and continue with their normal lives.

He noted that all the zonal offices of the Department of Monitoring, Evaluation and Special Projects are under the Governor's Office, located in Biu and Monguno for Borno South and Borno North respectively, while that of Bama is for Borno Central alongside the one in Maiduguri, are to serve as the head offices specifically for the purpose of speeding up the reconstruction of destroyed communities. Zulum also had a closed

door meeting with the leadership of the military formation in Bama Battalion Headquarters, Bama and later inspected the ongoing road construction work along Maiduguri -Bama road, where he commended the quality of work done and directed construction of shoulders on the highways.

While at the Shehu of Bama, HRH, Umar Ibn Kyari Umar Ibrahim El Kanemi's palace, Zulum said that the state government intends to commence rebuilding works on residential structures in Bama that were not rebuilt in the previous exercise and that after the ongoing project in Nguro Soye, the state government in collaboration with the

military will also resettle communities such as Maimti, Aulari Mankellumuri, Darajamal Kumshe and Tarmuwa.

He expressed gratitude to the Shehu of Bama for the hospitality and for living among his people in Bama, which he said, has encouraged other citizens to come back home.

Responding, the Shehu of Bama, HRH, Umar Ibn Kyari Umar Ibrahim El Kanemi thanked the governor for his concern and support to his subjects and communities development, while expressing his appreciation and profound gratitude for his concern to Bama Emirate and prayed Allah to guide and protect him in all his endeavours.

Jamiyyatul Ansaarudeen Appoints Tijani Bako As DG First Aid Group

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Jamiyyatu Ansaarudeen Attijaniyya (JAMAA) Nigeria has appointed its Director General who will coordinate, manage and conceptualise the establishment and operations of the First Aid Group of the Jamiyyatu Ansaarudeen Attijaniyya (JAMAA) in Nigeria.

A statement issued and signed by the National Secretary of the organisation, Sayyidi Muhammad Qasim Yahaya and made available to newsmen in Maiduguri, said the appointment took effect from August 21, 2022.

According to the statement, the organisation which is a duly registered organisation with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) Abuja has a constituted Board of Trustees (BOT) comprising of reputable and eminent personalities across strata of the society of high calibre and integrity.

The National Secretary added that the Director General's responsibilities as Head of the Directorate of First Aid and Health Services (DFAHS) of the Jamiyyatu Ansaarudeen Attijaniyya (JAMAA) is to ensure that the directorate is operational with in line with constitution and structures of the organization.

The statement noted also that other directorates shall be headed by a Director with supporting operational units or

departments as may be required while the Directorate's responsibilities or schedules will be subjected to review from time to time by the National Executive Council (NEC) or Board of Trustees (BOT) as the case may be, the Directorate of First Aid & Health Services.

It further charged the DG with the responsibility of conceptualizing and establishing a vibrant, operational of functional and modern framework of systematic, coordinated and effective First Aid, Civil Security outfit and Health Policies for the organization (JAMAA).

Others include to be responsible for the formulation of security policies for the organization; develop a vibrant and responsive health system for the organization, oversee the management and routine services of the first aid outfit all over the nation and establish formidable structures and protocols necessary for the smooth and efficient running of the first aid outfit towards ensuring that it meet up with the best global practices.

Similarly, the Director General' is responsible for the design of uniforms and regalia of the first aid outfit and to carry out any other assignment and /or duty that may be assigned to him from time to time by the NEC or BOT in the cause of discharging his duties and responsibilities as provided in the constitution.



Wailare Congratulates Ex Kano Chief Of Staff, 2 Prominent Dambatta/Makoda Sons Over Swearing In As Kano Commissioners

By; JABIRUA. HASSAN, Kano

The founder of Tamallan Foundation, Dr. Saleh Musa Wailare has issued a congratulatory message to the former chief of staff to the ex governor of Kano State, Dr. Ali Haruna Makoda for his appointment and swearing in as water resources commissioner by Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf.

Dr. Wailare who described the appointment as well deserved, assured that Dr. Ali Haruna would work selflessly to actualize the dream of governor Abba Kabir on changing the face of kano state in every sector with the contribution of the new and competent present sets of

commissioners.

He also announced that the appointment of Engineer Marwan Ahmed as works and infrastructure commissioner and that of Muhammad Diggol as commissioner for Transportation have proven that the present administration is making excellent efforts to ensure the progress of kano state and it's citizens.

Dr. Saleh Musa Wailare thanked governor Abba Kabir Yusuf and his government for appointing the best lieutenants that can be proud of at both levels and called on the good people of Kano State to support the Abba Kabir Yusuf's administration for the betterment of the state in a democratic dispensation.



Dr. Wailare, Dr. Ali Haruna and others

Police Busts Rail Line Vandalization Operation, Impounds Conveyance Truck, Recovers Exhibits

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

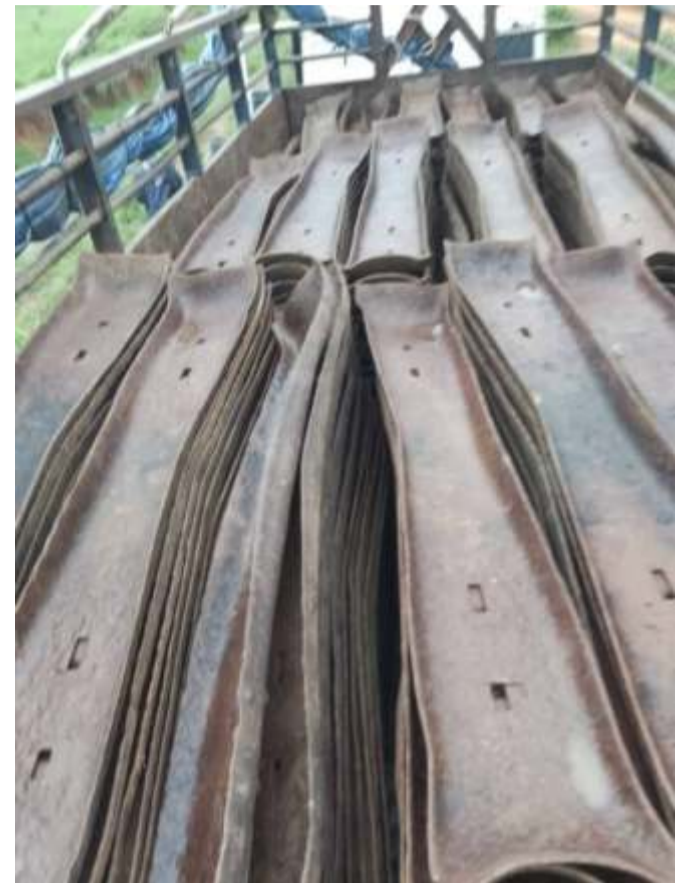
Following credible intelligence, personnel of the Kaduna State Police Command on the 22nd June, 2023 at about 2230 hours busted a gang of rail line vandals. An unspecified number of unknown persons came to Sanzwan in Zonkwa, Zango Kataf Local Government Area, in an articulated vehicle (DAF) with reg no DAL 172 YL and vandalized about 600 pieces of railway slippers. This was contained in a statement Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Mohammed Jalige, made available on Monday June 26, 2023. It explained that on receipt of the information, Police personnel were quickly mobilized to the scene of

the crime. And on sighting the Police officers, the suspects fled the scene and abandoned the vehicle meant to convey the vandalized items.

"No arrest was made however, the said vehicle was immediately impounded and the exhibits therein recovered. And on the 25th June, 2023 two additional trucks fully loaded with railway slippers were equally recovered.

"Efforts is intensified to arrest the fleeing suspects as investigation is in progress," it said.

The Commissioner of Police commended the gallant personnel for halting the vandals activities while charging the public to always make credible information available on time.



Our Mission Is To Serve Mankind With Highest Form of Professionalism - DUFUHS VC

**Pledges to achieve reversal of medical, education tourism, others*

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The Vice Chancellor of David Nweze Umahi Federal University of Health Sciences (DUFUHS), Uburu, Ebonyi State, Prof. Jesse Uneke has said that the mission of the school is to serve with the highest form of professionalism, ethics and excellence by training highly qualified health professionals who will work to improve health conditions, alleviate sickness, suffering and pains through the provision of high quality, efficient, cost effective and integrated health services.

Prof. Uneke who made this known while presenting his address during the Second Matriculation of the University at Uburu, also pledged to achieve reversal of medical and education tourism in Nigeria by training highly qualified health professionals who will work to improve health conditions.

He noted that the vision is to become a foremost international university reputable for learning, innovation, research, and collaboration where the highest form of quality manpower development for the health and other related sectors will be achieved.

He pointed out that on July 7, 2021, the university was issued with certificate of recognition and subsequent approval by the National University Commission (NUC), while on May 5, 2022, during the visit of former President Muhammadu

Buhari for the commissioning, the university was formally taken over by the Federal Government as announced by the president and renamed David Nweze Umahi Federal University of Health Sciences, Uburu, Ebonyi State.

"I heartily welcome you to this all important and epoch-making Matriculation. It will be recalled on 7th of July, 2021, the university was issued with a certificate of recognition and approval by the National University Commission.

"On the 21st of October 2021, the NUC approved a total of six faculties with 19 Departments to run 17 programmes including Medicine and Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing science, Medical Laboratory Science, Physiotherapy, Biomedical science, Radiography and Radiation science, Optometry, Microbiology/Paracitology, Public Health, Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Computer Science, Industrial Physics, Industrial Chemistry, Industrial Mathematics, and Biology and Biotechnology.

"On the 18th of December, 2021, the University was enlisted in Jamb admission portal and by the 24th of January, 2022 we commenced full academic activities with 54 students. Today, I have great honor to inform you that the University is currently having almost seven hundred students, this is within a space, less than two years.

"On 5th of May 2022, during the



visit of the former President Muhammadu Buhari for the Commissioning, the university was formally taken over by the Federal Government as announced by the president and renamed David Nweze Umahi Federal University of Health Sciences, Uburu, Ebonyi State. We are glad to inform you that the transition from the state University to Federal University has been completed.

"The University is now a full fledged Federal University enjoying all the privileges of a Federal University.

"Our vision is to become a foremost international university reputable for learning, innovation, research, and

collaboration where the highest form of quality manpower development for the health and other related sectors will be achieved.

"Our mission is to serve mankind with the highest form of professionalism, ethics and excellence by training highly qualified health professionals who will work to improve health conditions, alleviate sickness, suffering and pains through the provision of high quality, efficient, cost effective and integrated health services.

"Our motto is, "Excellence, Scholarship and Productivity". Our overall goal is not only to achieve the reversal of medical tourism, but also to achieve the

reversal of education tourism.

"For us to be able to achieve this, we have assembled in the university, some of the best academic staff, Nigeria has to offer. Apart from high level of professionalism exhibited by our staff, am happy to inform you that majority of our staff are highly qualified with Ph.Ds. We have digitized the university admission and academic processes, among others."

The event featured procession by the matriculating students, academic and Vice Chancellor's procession, Constitution of the Matriculation Assembly, Vice Chancellor's address, administration of Matriculation oath, formal admission by the Vice Chancellor, among others.

Our Party Is Well, Waxing stronger In Oyo State - APC

**Accuses Gov Makinde of ruling with insincerity, double standards on Ibadan High Chiefs elevation*

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) on Sunday, declared that the party is well and alive in Oyo State.

The party in a statement made available to journalists in Ibadan by its Publicity Secretary, Comrade Olawale Sadare, emphasized that "the broom party is waxing stronger now".

According to the party, it was unfortunate that it has discovered that some individuals are now in the habit of taking an advantage of the proliferation in the media industry to attract undue authority to themselves, adding, "an instance is a man who went on air to proclaim APC dead in Oyo state even without a reasonable justification for his reckless statement".

"For the avoidance of doubt, APC is well and alive in Oyo. Interestingly, the broom party is waxing stronger now. How on earth would a person who has never contested and won an election, held an executive

position or hold the membership card of a political party come on air and call himself a chieftain of such party?, it said

The party added, "APC is neither a social group or trade union which anyone can denigrate. We know our members who attend ward meetings regularly and do all what is expected of them at all times."

On the purported elevation of 11 Ibadan High Chiefs to beaded crown wearing Obas, APC accused Governor Seyi Makinde of alleged double standard and insincerity on the issue elevation of the Ibadan High Chiefs, saying, Gov Makinde together with others stood against the elevation of the Ibadan High Chiefs to beaded Crown wearing Obas five years ago only to now "defy decorum to implement the same blueprint five years after although with obnoxious insertions".

"As a political party made up of patriots and urbane people, we are of the opinion that no leader should seek absolute power over his

subjects including the custodians of the traditional institution. What late Senator Abiola Ajimobi did in 2018 was purely to advance the cause of Ibadan, the Oyo state capital but the table was turned against him by some selfish political players", it said.

The party added, "In a transparent manner, Ajimobi administration legally elevated all members of Olubadan-in-council and some Baale to Coronet-wearing Oba (junior to the Olubadan) but the unscrupulous elements claimed he acted wrong".

"Interestingly, the same Engr. Makinde (a PDP gubernatorial aspirant at that time) who led the rebellion against the process is not only trying to implement it now but has also taken the full advantage at his disposal to strip the Council of Obas and Chiefs of their statutory rights to ratify the eligibility of a validly nominated heir to be coronated as an Oba where a vacuum exists".

According to APC, "as it stands now, only the governor can determine who becomes a

new Oba in any part of the state and this implies that Eruwa, Igangan, Oyo, Ogbomosho, Iseyin and other ancient towns must literally worship Gov. Makinde to have new Obas".

"It is a height of double standard and insincerity for Engr. Makinde to nail Sen. Ajimobi on the cross over a developmental stride only to defy decorum to implement the same blueprint five years after although with obnoxious insertions. Another pointer to the governor's insincerity is the recent orchestrated truce purportedly brokered among gladiators in the transport sector in the state which we have discovered to be a grand ploy to enrich him (Makinde) and few of his cronies."

Oyo APC maintained that the time has come for Gov Makinde to purge himself of alleged penchant for double standard, craftiness and insincerity for him to leave an enduring legacy at the completion of his tenure of office.

BSPHCDA Bags National Award On Health Facilities Provision, Management

*Executive Director commends Gov Zulum's commitment to health sector

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The acting Executive Director of Borno State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (BPHDA), Dr Aliyu Shettima has commended Governor Babagana Umara Zulum for his untiring support and attention to the health sector which earned the state national awards and funds on health management and healthcare facilities provision. He also disclosed that Borno State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (BSPHCDA) has been awarded the best agency in Nigeria in terms of provision and management of primary healthcare facilities in the state being rated the first in the country last year 2022 while the Northern Governors Forum awarded the Borno State Primary Healthcare Development Agency also as the most prudent and transparent health agency in Nigeria.

The Executive Director who stated this in his office on Saturday, said, "We have put in place necessary measures to ensure that we prevent cholera outbreak in the state, as we are working with other line ministries to ensure that. "Last year, we had an outbreak of Chimera in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp in Bama but just yesterday we deployed a team to access the camp and see how we can work with other line ministries to look into the environment for the parent outbreak.

"The state government has won the National Leadership award of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency and Nigerians Governors Forum (NGF) where it attracted some funds to the state", Dr. Shettima said.

The Executive Director while briefing journalists in his office on the performance or activities of the agency, its challenges and prospects, added that primary health care service delivery across the present 121 PHC facilities both basic and local in about 121 wards out of the targeted 312 wards of the state has been accorded priority by Governor Babagana Zulum in the area of recruitment of over 1,000 health workers, rehabilitation and construction of health facilities, as well as

provision of drugs and immunization facilities among others.

He explained further the Borno State Government through the national health programme and in collaboration with the overseeing State Ministry of Health and Human Services and State Primary Healthcare Development Agency have been operating smoothly and effectively under one roof as a team to meet up with the mandate of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency which coordinates their activities in all the made 121 primary healthcare facilities across 121 wards with at least one health facility in each of the 121 wards of the state.

Dr. Shettima further said that Borno State Government has already completed its assessment for possible scaling up of additional 131 health facilities through either construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of the health facilities in the remaining wards across the state while pointing out that the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency has been very supportive in many ways as it provides funds for number of projects across the existing 121 health facilities with 76 midwives, 3 doctors apart from the 50 medical doctors that the state has under the PHCDA among other health workers.

He also said that the agency has put in place all the measures to prevent outbreak of cholera in the state with the deployment of a team of staff to suspected areas of prevalence of diseases like vomiting and passing watery stool especially during the raining season as a result of poor sanitation and blockage of drainages and soak aways in collaboration with the state Ministry of Health and Environmental Sanitation Board across the state.



Gov Nwifuru Tasks Pharmaceutical Society To Wage War Against Infiltration of Quacks, Drug Abuse

**To establish mega drugs distribution centre*

By; M K P U M A
ENYINNA, Abakaliki

E Ebonyi State Government is set to establish a mega Drug Distribution Center in the State to curb drug abuse and misuse.

Governor Francis Nwifuru announced this while addressing members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Ebonyi State Chapter who paid him a courtesy visit in his office yesterday.

The governor noted that the centre when completed will further enhance access and delivery of quality drugs to Ebonyi Citizens in record time.

"You requested for Drug Distribution Center as it is in Kano, Kaduna and Anambra, I am interested and I direct the Commissioner for Health to ensure that the construction starts before the end of next week." He declared.

He called on members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Ebonyi State Chapter to brace up in the fight against infiltration of quacks in



Ebonyi Governor

order to save Citizens from consequences of wrong usage of drugs.

"I must tell you that I am happy that you are here, happy because the visit is apt, we have a serious challenge, we enacted a Law in 2019, anti-quackery but that law has not been fully operational and it will be operational this time around," he added.

The governor also restated the preparedness of his administration to roll out

drug revolving scheme to ensure proactive dispensing of drugs to any part of the State.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Ebonyi State Chapter, Pharmacist Benard Anasi commended the Governor for his approval for the recruitment of 39 Pharmacists into the Health Sector and assured of their readiness to render technical support to the Government in

implementing it's agenda in the Sector.

"Your Excellency Sir, we are here to pledge our solidarity and support to your efforts of building bridges of friendship across professional bodies to improve the wellbeing of our people. We are very grateful to His Excellency for graciously approving the employment of 39 pharmacists and other health professionals to bring health closer to Ebonyians."

Sallah:

Hon Samaila Suleiman Greets Gov Uba Sani, Muslim Faithful

By; AMOS MATHEW,
Kaduna

F Former Kaduna North House of Representatives in the House of Representatives, Hon. Samaila Suleiman has felicitated Governor Uba Sani and Muslim Faithful on the occasion of Eid-el-adha.

In a statement, Hon. Suleiman prayed for peaceful, developed and economically prosperous Kaduna State under the administration of Governor Uba Sani.

The former federal legislator urged Muslims to utilize the occasion of Sallah to seek God's guidance and direction for the nation's new leadership to fulfill promises made and set the country on the path of economic revival and sustainable security of lives and property.

The politician in the Sallah message expressed optimism in the ability of Governor of Kaduna to move the state forward by consolidating on achievements of his predecessors through infrastructure development, accountability and transparency in governance.

He pointed out that Governor Sani had left

indelible praiseworthy footprints in all his previous engagements, a clear indication he noted that Kaduna State would be transformed and become the envy of others.

He enjoined people of Kaduna North, his primary constituency and the state in general to maintain the spirit and tempo of living in peace with one another, adding that no development could be achieved in a hostile environment.

He called on all the appointees given the opportunity to serve in the state to continue with the good work they have started in good spirit to support the present administration.

According to him, the current elected members in their party the APC both at the Federal and State level have started on a good note as they deserve to be given a pat on the back.

Hon. Suleiman went further to say that, "I am urging all our party elected representatives from our dear state to put the interest of the state first by bring dividend of democracy to the people of the state".

The new appointee on infrastructure development prayed for peaceful Sallah celebration in a serene atmosphere.

Senator Akpan Disburses N3.1m Scholarship To 84 Varsity Students

By; PATRICK TITUS,
Uyo

The immediate past National Assembly Member for Uyo Senatorial District of Akwa Ibom State, Senator Bassey Albert Akpan has released N3.1 million for 84 remaining of the 481 beneficiaries of his scholarship scheme for students in tertiary institutions.

The N3.1 million is for the payment of second-semester's tuition fees and stipend for the beneficiaries covering the 2021/2022 academic session.

Senator Akpan, through the Head of the Scholarship Management Team, Dr Unyime Okon said that the gesture was in keeping with his scholarship scheme for students, especially the indigent ones in the state. He disclosed that about 70



per cent of the benefiting students are from the Medicine and Surgery of the Faculty of Basic Medical Studies, Pharmacy, and Faculty of Engineering of the University of Uyo.

According to Dr Okon, students from the University of Calabar; Federal University of

Technology, Owerri; University of Nigeria, Nsukka; Akwa Ibom State University and Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic, Ikot Osurua, are also beneficiaries of scholarship largesse.

"It will interest you to know that 47 of the 84 current beneficiaries are expected to graduate by

the end of the current semester, with the remaining 37 students to complete their respective programme by the end of the 2022/2023 academic session," he stated.

The Senator Bassey Albert scholarship scheme was launched in January 2016 to assist indigent students to achieve their educational aspirations in the universities and other tertiary institutions in the country.

According to Dr Okon, a total of 41 beneficiaries have graduated with first-class honours and over 300 with second-class upper-division honours in different fields of endeavour.

He said that Senator Akpan has expended over N150 million on the programme since its inception in 2016.



Honourable Suleiman

Hardship Caused Me To Sell My Son For N400,000, Man Confesses

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Middle-aged man, Gabriel Okon Ekpri in Akwa Ibom State, has confessed to police in the state that he sold his nine years old son for N400,000 due to economic hardship.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Odiko Macdon in a release made available to New Nigerian yesterday, stated that, Ekpri, who hails from Ekit Itam in Itu Local Government Area of the

state also blamed his act on devil's enchantment.

According to SP Macdon, Ekpri was arrested by the quick Intervention Squad of the command following reliable information.

He said that the Commissioner of Police in the state, CP Olateyo Durosinmi has condemned it as a barbaric act, not acceptable in the society.

Meanwhile, CP Durosinmi has decorated two Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCP) serving in the

command, who were recently promoted from Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) to their new rank.

The two Deputy Commissioners are DCP Baba Lawan Audu, Area Commander, Eket Area Command and DCP Lawal ISA MANI of the Department of Operations.

The CP, while conveying the hearty congratulations of the Inspector General of Police, Acting IGP Olukayode Egbetokun to

the Officers, charged them to double their productivity capacity while playing their deputising roles.

Responding, the elated Senior Officers thanked the Police Service Commission, the Inspector General of Police for finding them worthy of being promoted. They also appreciated the CP for his hard work and fatherly disposition towards them and the officers and men of the command.



Delta CP Abass

Eid- Kabir: Delta CP Abass Warns Cultists, Mischief Makers Against Violence

**Orders massive deployment of personnel*

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

As Muslim faithful across the country celebrate the eid-el-kabir festival, the Delta State Police Commissioner Wale Abass warned suspected cultists and mischief makers to stay away from the state, as anyone found wanting will be dealt with decisively. Consequently, he has ordered massive deployment of personnel from Area Commands, Tactical formations, and divisions, including special constabularies across the state for the purpose of providing adequate security in all Muslim prayer grounds and strategic locations in the state.

Similarly, the Police Commissioner assured all Muslim faithful and other residents in the state of the provision of adequate security and free flow of traffic in view of the celebration slated for Wednesday 28th June to Thursday 29th June 2023. A release by the Delta State Police Public Spokesperson DSP Bright Edefe hinted that the

Command will be working in close synergy with other sister security agencies which includes the Military, DSS, NSCDC, Road safety among others, in other to ensure that the activities of all unfriendly forces such as kidnappers, armed robbers, cultists is nipped in the bud

It added that Abass also directed all Divisional Police Officers to intensify raids of criminal hideouts and black spots within their areas of responsibilities.

The CP implored the Deputy Commissioner of Police in-charge of operations, Area Commanders, Divisional Police Officers, and Tactical Operations Officers to employ means of ensuring thorough supervision of personnel deployed for the actualization of peace and tranquility during and after the celebration.

The Police Commissioner on behalf of officers and men of the Command also wished all Muslim faithfuls a hitch free and a happy Eid-el-Kabir celebration.



Akwa Ibom state CP Olateyo Durosinmi

Eid-el-Kabir: Gov Makinde calls for Prayers For Oyo State, Nigeria

**Felicitates Muslims*

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Governor, Engineer Seyi Makinde yesterday, called on Muslim faithful in and across Oyo state and the country at large to continue praying for his administration and Nigeria as a whole.

The governor stated this in his message made available to journalists in Ibadan by his Chief Press Secretary (CPS), Mr Sulaimon Olanrewaju to felicitate Muslim faithful on this year's Eid El Kabir celebration.

According to Engineer Makinde, the continued peace and prosperity of Oyo State and the success of his government are hinged on the prayers and support of the people.

The governor stressed that once the people of the state continue to support his administration, the government would be able to deliver on its commitment to move the state to greater heights through the action plans highlighted in his Roadmap for Sustainable Development, 2023 to 2027.

Specifically, Governor Makinde appreciated the Muslims for their support and prayers during the four years of Omituntun 1.0 and that they should continue to pray for his administration, the state and Nigeria. "I appreciate their prayers and support over the years and call for more prayers and support as we work round the clock to improve the lives

of our people and deliver sustainable development as promised during the electioneering", he said.

Engineer Makinde added, "I use this occasion to congratulate the Muslim Ummah in Oyo State and, indeed, all residents of the state on witnessing the 2023 Eid-el-Kabir".

"My prayer is that Allah (SWT) will accept the act of worship and sacrifices of our Muslim brothers and sisters. Barka De Sallah."

Congratulating all residents of the state on witnessing the 10th day of Dhul-Hijjah 1444 A.H., marking the 2023 Eid-el-Kabir, he prayed to Allah (SWT) to accept the worship and sacrifices of the Muslim Ummah across the country.

Tax Rights And Tax Obligations: Two Sides Of Same Coin

By: RACHEL JANTIKU

It is common knowledge that taxation plays a vital role in the economic development of every country whether developed, developing or under developed, and Nigeria is no exception.

Governments at all levels depends on the tax it collects to run the affairs of the State and it is the duty of every taxable citizen to contribute their quota to this effect. Without taxes, there can be no country.

According to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999: Section 24 (f) of 1999 Constitution (as amended) it states that "it shall be the duty of every citizen to declare his income honestly to appropriate and lawful agencies and pay his tax promptly". This is a legal requirement and it is fundamental to the successful operations of the country. Mind you, it is not an option or a recommendation but an obligation of every Nigerian citizen.

Some Nigerian Tax laws and Regulations which require compliance to tax payment include: Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment) Act (FIRSEA), Cap F36 LFN 2007; Personal Income Tax (PITA), Cap P8, LFN 2004 as amended; Petroleum Profit Tax Act (PPTA), Cap P13, LFN 2004 as amended; Companies Income Tax (CITA), Cap C21, LFN 2004 as amended; Value Added Tax Act (VATA), Cap V1, LFN 2004 as amended; Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Establishment, Etc) Act (TETFEA) 2011 as amended; Stamp Duties Act (SDA), Cap S8, LFN 2004 as amended; Capital Gains Tax Act (CGTA), Cap C1, LFN 2004 as amended; National Information Technology Development Agency Act and the provisions of the Finance Act 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2023. These laws have provided the legal framework containing various tax obligations of a taxpayer.

Every taxpayer has certain rights such as: right to non-discrimination, transparency and accountability, adequate notice and information, redress, compliance assistance amongst others. But with these rights come responsibilities and obligations that must be fulfilled in compliance with the country's tax laws. Some taxpayers fall



FIRS Chairman

short in fulfilling their tax obligations not necessarily because they want to but for lack or poor understanding of these obligations. This piece aims at shedding light on the key tax obligations of taxpayers in Nigeria.

The obligations of Nigerian taxpayers include, but are not limited to the following: registration for tax: Taxpayers are obligated to register with the appropriate tax authorities, depending on the type of tax they are liable for. This includes obtaining a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) from the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) for companies and the Joint Tax Board (JTB) for individuals.

Another obligation expected of taxpayers is record keeping. Taxpayers are required to maintain accurate and up-to-date records of their financial transactions, including income, expenses, assets, and liabilities. These records are essential for

filing tax returns, substantiating deductions, and complying with tax audits. Record keeping is not common practice among small businesses. Yet it is the foundation for fulfilling your tax obligations. If you do not keep your records, how would you know what taxes you are meant to pay?

It is also the obligation of a taxpayers to file tax returns within the prescribed timelines. Individuals are required to file their Personal Income Tax (PIT) returns annually, while companies must file their Corporate Income Tax (CIT) returns within six months after the end of their financial year. Other tax returns, such as VAT returns and WHT returns, may also be required depending on the taxpayer's activities.

All too often, taxpayers think that if they do not make profits, or do not have a turnover above N25 million, then they are not required to file. This is not true. Filing returns is to be made

whether or not you made profits or losses. As long as you are a taxpayer, you ought to file returns with the relevant tax authority.

Flowing from this obligation is the obligation to pay taxes—the most commonly spoke about obligation. Taxpayers have an obligation to pay the taxes they owe to the relevant tax authorities. This includes the timely remittance of Personal Income Tax, Companies Income Tax, Value Added Tax, Withholding Tax, and other applicable taxes.

They also owe it as an obligation to comply with tax deductions. Employers and businesses that make payments subject to withholding tax (WHT) must deduct the appropriate tax amount at source and remit it to the tax authorities. This includes deducting WHT from salaries, contracts, dividends, interest, and other relevant payments.

Furthermore, taxpayers are required to provide accurate

information and documentation as requested by tax authorities. This includes providing supporting documents for deductions, exemptions, and claims made on tax returns as well as cooperating with tax audits and investigations, providing requested information and records, and responding to inquiries in a timely and accurate manner.

To crown it all, taxpayers must comply with all relevant tax laws and regulations which includes staying updated on changes in tax laws and fulfilling their obligations accordingly.

By understanding and diligently leaving up to tax obligations, individuals and businesses actively participate in the development and progress of the country, ensuring a more prosperous, greater and equitable society for all.

Rachel Jantiku, is a researcher and writes from Abuja.

NAPTIP, NDLEA Enlighten Students On Menace, Correlation Between Drug Abuse, Human Trafficking

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have called on students to stay clear of drug abuse and trafficking, saying they are meant for exploitation.

The agencies posited that there exist a correlation between drug abuse and human trafficking, adding that they are crime for which offenders can be arrested and taken to jail.

Speaking at a symposium in Lagos, the Lagos Zonal Coordinator of NAPTIP Mrs Comfort Agboko hinted that investigation has revealed that human trafficking are also used to traffic of drugs.

At the event organized by the Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN) for Secondary School Students in commemoration of the 2023 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, themed "People First: Stop Stigma and Discrimination, Strength Prevention", organized by the Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN), held at Anwal-ul-Islam Model College, Agege, Agboko explained that victims of human trafficking are being used by traffickers to traffic drugs.

She hinted that illicit drugs are also been used for sex exploitation to give the girls the strength to be able to have sexual intercourse with about 10 to 30 men in a day without feeling the pain, while their recruiters get paid.

Informing that NAPTIP does not joke with enlightenment, education of drug abuse, trafficking and human trafficking, Agboko therefore urged the students to shun drug abuse, warning that it is dangerous to their health.

Her words, "We are because we don't joke with enlightenment, education of drugs abuse trafficking and human trafficking. Why we are here this morning is to let you know the relationship between drug abuse, drugs trafficking and human trafficking. We discovered that human trafficking are also used to traffic drugs. Human trafficking is system of trafficking person from one place to the other, with the use of deceit, cohesion, for the purpose of exploitation and this exploitation could be child labour, sexual exploitation.

"What we are telling you is that victims of human trafficking are being used by traffickers to traffic drugs, they also being used for sex

exploitation and it gives them the strength to be able to have sexual intercourse with about 10 to 30 men in a day without feeling the pain. Victims of human trafficking that are forced to take may eventually loose their lives. Therefore, children stay away from drugs abuse and substance use, it kills and lost your dreams to come to reality".

Agboko noted that students get engaged in taking of drugs due to peer pressure, superiority, desire to navigate, efforts to get revived from depression after failure, anxiety and anxious for success.

On the consequences, the NAPTIP top official asserted that drug addicted victims would be denied good food, good health, good life denial from success, amongst others, adding it will lead them to a miserable life and ends in death.

On how to counter involvement, Agboko advised the students to avoid bad friends, report any advances to their parents and prepare their minds on how to resist peer pressure.

Speaking on the menace of drug abuse, the NDLEA Lagos State Commander, who was represented by Fatimah Dauda, a Superintendent, stressed that drugs abuse takes one backwards, destroys and destroys the future.

According to her, it also caused AIDs and makes your family members run away from you because victim will be involved in all sorts of social vices.

"If you are into drugs use, your family members will run away from you because you be involved in all sorts of social vices. Drug will be controlling you, you will not be able to do things on your own and you will be controlled by the influence of drugs", Dauda emphasised.

Speaking further Dauda pointed out that there are several consequences of drugs, which she identified as physical, social and psychological.

"Those that have physical consequences are the drugs causing parmanent damage to our internal organ. it causes damage to our body systems, a damage that can not be repaired. examples: damage to the brain, kidney, Heart lungs and so on. That's why we are asked you not to take it. Illicit drug is a drug that can take you for away from your dreams because the person that suffering from lever or kidney problems can not be able to go to school again. it causes high blood pressure, vervous breakdown blocked blood supply".

Jamiyyatul Ansaarudeen Appoints Tijani Bako As DG First Aid Group

By ; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Jamiyyatu Ansaarudeen Attijaniyya (JAMAA) Nigeria has appointed its Director General who will coordinate, manage and conceptualise the establishment and operations of the First Aid Group of the Jamiyyatu Ansaarudeen Attijaniyya (JAMAA) in Nigeria.

A statement issued and signed by the National Secretary of the organisation, Sayyidi Muhammad Qasim Yahaya and made available to newsmen in Maiduguri, said the appointment took effect from August 21, 2022.

According to the statement, the organisation which is a duly registered organisation with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) Abuja has a constituted Board of Trustees (BOT) comprising of reputable and eminent personalities across strata of the society of high calibre and integrity.

The National Secretary

added that the Director General's responsibilities as Head of the Directorate of First Aid and Health Services (DFAHS) of the Jamiyyatu Ansaarudeen Attijaniyya (JAMAA) is to ensure that the directorate is operational with in line with constitution and structures of the organization.

The statement noted also that other directorates shall be headed by a Director with supporting operational units or departments as may be required while the Directorate's responsibilities or schedules will be subjected to review from time to time by the National Executive Council (NEC) or Board of Trustees (BOT) as the case may be, the Directorate of First Aid & Health Services.

It further charged the DG with the responsibility of conceptualizing and establishing a vibrant, operational of functional and modern framework of systematic, coordinated

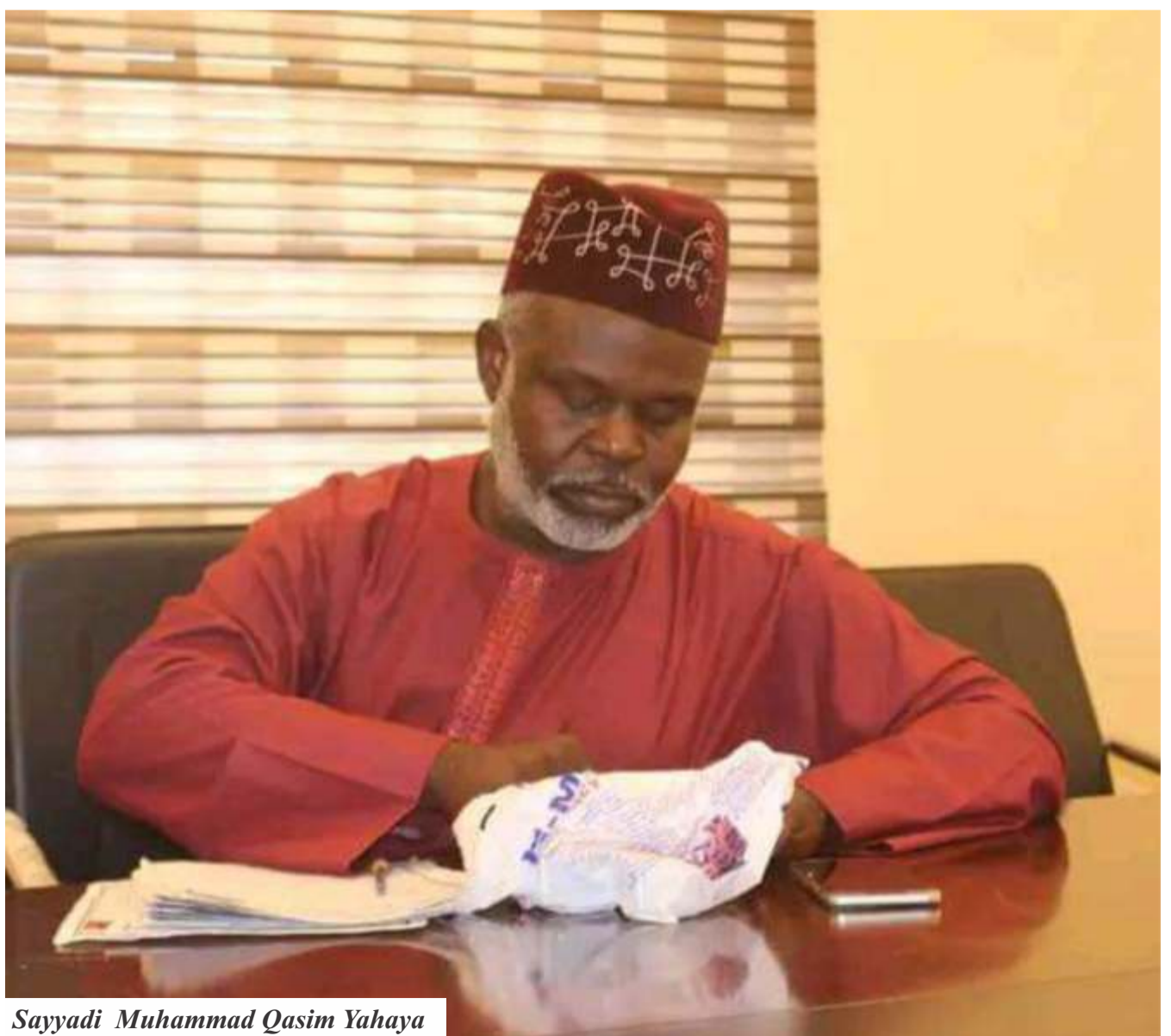


and effective First Aid, Civil Security outfit and Health Policies for the organization (JAMAA).

Others include to be responsible for the formulation of security policies for the organization; develop a vibrant and responsive health system for the organization, oversee the management and routine services of the first aid outfit all over the nation and establish formidable structures and protocols necessary for the smooth

and efficient running of the first aid outfit towards ensuring that it meet up with the best global practices.

Similarly, the Director General' is responsible for the design of uniforms and regalia of the first aid outfit and to carry out any other assignment and /or duty that may be assigned to him from time to time by the NEC or BOT in the cause of discharging his duties and responsibilities as provided in the constitution.



Sayyidi Muhammad Qasim Yahaya

Our Society Been Eaten Up By Drug Abuse - NGO

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A non governmental organisation (NGO), has lamented that Nigeria's society is at a dangerous slide of drug abuse, which requires urgent action.

Founder of Godly Prosperous Souls Outreach Centre, Sabon Tasha, Kaduna, Pastor Adenike Ojofowowe expressed this when speaking to newsmen as part of activities to mark this year's International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, on Monday June 26, 2023.

"The society is been eaten up by drug abuse. We go out, we don't just see adults, but minors and even pregnant women in the jungles.

"There are some societies when you go out it is filled with bars and where they smoke," she said

According to her, she feels the pain of mothers and family members when addiction is taking their loved one away.

"Drug addicts are being stigmatised in the society, not knowing that they need to be loved and channelled to proper paths to fulfil their destinies," she added.

According to her, in their quest at ending the drug abuse menace, they go to secondary schools and hold pre drugs campaign to catch them young and disabuse their minds from indulging in drugs.

"We show them the dangers of drug abuse. We let them know

they must not allow themselves to be hooked.

"It is better you catch them before they start the act.

"We also go to jungles, take their permission and talk to them before you know, you see some of them come for our meetings on Tuesdays.

"We do career talks and put them on the part of God. We go to keke bus stops and talk to them because most of them use drugs.

"We have people that have been reformed for up to six months and a year. We thank God for the success and pray for more grace," she explained.

Pastor Ojofowowe said that they decided to invite the press to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, to touch more lives.

"We have started this for over a decade, but we put this foundation here for two years at this centre.

"Plus or minus, we have affected hundreds of people but our contact with people runs into thousands," she revealed.

She commended Dr. Joseph Maigari, the Director General of KADBUSA, who she said been supportive.

"He usually comes and give talks to our reformers and encourages them.

"The DG KADBUSA said that they would put up more centres in Kaduna for us to refer those who need treatment," she added.

Speaking further, she said that they have some of their team members as psychiatric nurses,



Founder of Godly Prosperous Souls Outreach Centre, Sabon Tasha, Kaduna, Pastor Adenike Ojofowowe (right) fielding questions from newsmen.

"for those that need treatment, in our own little way we facilitate that."

She blamed ignorance, environment, genetics as some of the factors that lead to drug addiction and abuse.

Other factors leading to addiction are peer pressure and lack of jobs. What is happening in life is putting pressure on so many people. Even adults, who are under pressure try to cool off and before you know, they become addicts," she said.

She explained that some of the

dangers of drug addiction include broken homes, street children and a vice filled society.

"When you leave your children in the streets and they get hooked up, it poses more dangers to the society.

"Then the pregnant women, when they do drugs, it affects the child," she said.

The founder of the centre advised that in view of the dangers inherent in drug abuse, traffickers should be kept away from the public for a long time.

"When the traffickers are arrested, they should not be set free easily," she stressed.

We don't get findings till now, our own personal finances, and support from team members is how we are doing this. We have staff we pay, we print handbills and others.

On how they get funds to run the centre, she explained that it has not been easy, but appreciated the support of volunteers.

"As you reform your reformers and they don't have something to do, there is a chance of relapse. We are looking for people who can help such, we have one or two willing to do that, by engaging them into apprenticeship or job offers.

"We want to say thank you to our

doctors and nurses, they have been very helpful in lecturing our reformers.

"We are using this medium to solicit for support from the governor, corporate organisations and public spirited individuals," she said.

In his remarks, her husband, Pastor Mike Ojofowowe explained that as part of efforts to rid the society of drug addiction, they have held several rallies, with all of our reformers and loud speakers were used at flash points, sending out their messages.

"We have done outreaches in Sabo Bus stop, we have done in Gonin Gora, we have done in Maraban Rido," he added.

One of the reformers, Morris Wheymen said that the programme has impacted his life positively.

He said that he has in turn, started inviting his friends that are addicts to come and join so that they can lead a meaningful life, by giving up drugs.

Godly Prosperous Souls Outreach Centre has as part of its messages, saying, "No to drug addiction, no to broken homes/marriages, no to lives defectiveness, yes to prosperity of souls."



One of the reformers of the centre, Morris Wheymen, explaining benefits of quitting drug addiction

Kaduna Govt To Review Ongoing Projects, Constitutes Committee

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

The Governor of Kaduna State, His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani has approved the constitution of a committee to determine the status of all ongoing projects across the state, including those in the pipeline.

This is in line with the government's commitment to speedily complete all priority projects.

According to a statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor,

Muhammad Lawal Shehu on June 26, 2023, the committee has the following terms of reference:

1. Determine the status of all ongoing projects across the state.
2. Get the details of contractual agreements/obligations.
3. Find out the funding arrangements and commitments of parties.
4. Find out the completion period of the projects.
5. Come up with specific

recommendations on each project.

The committee has four weeks from the inaugural meeting to submit its report.

Members of the Committee are:

- a. Sabiu Sani, Special Adviser, Investment & Promotion - Chairman
- b. Dr. Abdullahi B. Ahmed, Special Adviser, Project Monitoring, Implementation and Result Delivery - Member
- c. Dr. Mustapha Musa, Special Adviser, Legal - Member

d. Fabian Okoye, Special Adviser, Research, Documentation & Strategy - Member

- e. Ibrahim T. Muhammad, Special Adviser, Economic Matters - Member
- f. Atiku Sankey, Special Adviser, Peace and Conflict Resolution - Member
- g. Larai Ishaku - Member
- h. Shuaibu Kabir Bello, Senior Special Assistant, ICT - Secretary



Some of the items recovered by EFCC from the arrested suspects

EFCC Arrests 49 Internet Fraud Suspects in Ekiti, Oyo

**Recovers 15 exotic cars, 16 laptops, 77 mobile phones, others*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) has arrested 49 suspected internet fraudsters in Ekiti and Oyo states over alleged cyber fraud activities

According to EFCC, the suspects were arrested by operatives of the commission at Ikere Road and Iworoko areas of Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti state and Ibadan in Oyo state following intelligence on their alleged activities.

EFCC in a statement made

available to journalists in Ibadan on Monday listed items recovered from the suspects to include fifteen (15) exotic cars, sixteen (16) laptops, seventy-seven (77) mobile phones and other incriminating documents, among others.

In the statement, the Commission identified the arrested suspects as Adeyemi Joshua Adeniran, Ajaye Redmond Damilare, Nwaji Mathew, Jegede Boluwaji Victor, Oyetunji Sunday Wole, Damilola Awopetu Ayomide, Ajayi Temitope Ayomide,

Babajide Adebisi Victor, Balogun Precious Akinwale, Obie Jacob Onatakaroma, Olonitola Olamilekan, Ajewole Ojo Kayode, Aina Toluwani Emmanuel, Adebayo Akinwumi Oluwadamilare, Omowaye Oluwatosin Olamilekan, Oyewale Francis Oyomilekan, Arowolo Ayomide Gift, Shotonwa Babatunde Omotoyosi, Ochochie Silas Ochola, Ojo Seyitan David, Onile Ayodeji Raphael and Abiodun Oluwatosin Opeyemi. Others included Adebayo Gbenga Musbau, Oyebade

Ayomide Olamide, Egunjobi Samuel Gbenga, Oladokun Toheeb Adekola, Adesola Benjamin Adebawale, Edamisan Olakunle, Adesola Isaac Babatunde, Oyewole Gideon David, Lawal Tosimile Moses, Adeleke Adekunle Samson, Oladiti Abiodun Akanji, Ajayi Charles Temitayo, Adeyemi Oluwasegun Adeboye, Ernest Solomon Temitope and Atoun Olalekan Timilehin.

It gave names of the rest suspects as Olorunyomi Sina Ayo, Babatunde Emmanuel Babalola, Yusuf Saka Olaoluwatobi, Falaye Babatunde Temitope, Ilesanmi Damilola Ayomide,

Badmus Yusuf Omobolaji, Komolafe Emmanuel Feranmi, Babajide Adebisi Victor, Adamolekun Olamiji and Oshatimi Samuel Omoniyi.

The Commission stressed further that the Oyo State Command of the Nigerian Police arrested and handed over two cybercrime suspects, Emiola Usman and Kamorudeen Quayum, to the Ibadan Zonal Command of the EFCC, for further investigation.

It stressed further that the suspects will be charged to court as soon as the investigations are concluded.

Projects Verification: Kaduna Dep Gov Tasks Committee On Delivery

By ; F U N M I
ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe yesterday, tasked the eight-member committee to verify projects in Kaduna State to do a thorough job.

Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe stated this when she inaugurated the committee constituted to determine the status of all ongoing projects and those in the pipeline across state.

In a brief ceremony held at her office, the Deputy Governor congratulated the members for their appointment.

She said that the Kaduna State Government has confidence on the members whom she said, were chosen based on their wealth of experience.

In a response, the chairman, on behalf of other committee members,

Sabiu Sani who is also the Special Adviser to the governor of Kaduna State on Investment Promotion, thanked the government of Kaduna State for finding them worthy to carry out such an important task.

Sani assured the government that they will take the responsibility with all sense of seriousness.

He said they are committed to give their possible best to deliver on the mandate given to the committee.

It would be recalled that Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani announced the constitution of the eight-member committee in a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Mohammed Lawal Shehu on Monday June 26, 2023.

The committee is expected to submit its reports in four weeks.



Lagos Parliamentarian Unfolds Agenda, Set To Pursue Creation Of Ports Area Commission, Gender Equality, Youth, Elders' Empowerment

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

ALagos Parliamentarian, Dr. Adesola Samuel Adedayo at the weekend, unfolded his agenda for his constituents, vowing to pursue the creation of the Ports Area Development Commission through the sponsorship of bills. Similarly, Adedayo promised to vigorously support all efforts to ensure gender equality, youth employment/ empowerment and social welfare programme for the elderly.

Adedayo, who is a member representing Apapa Federal Constituency at the Green Chamber of the National Assembly, made the disclosure in a chat with newsmen during a "Thank You Party" for members to his constituency. Speaking on his intention for the Port Area Development Commission, the law maker said time has come for members of the National Assembly from communities where exist Ports to come together and sponsor a Bill for the establishment of Commission to alleviate the sufferings of the masses in the communities.

The Federal parliamentarian, who sited the establishment of Commission in Oil Producing areas, North, East Development Commission, posited that the creation of same will enhance job creation and development. Adedayo, who made the assertion while fielding questions said, "The Port Area Development Commission was an initiative of my predecessor

and you know government is continuum, all the bills raised by my predecessor, even if they have not been passed, I will follow up on them so that they can benefit my constituents.

"Apapa has Ports and there are other communities that have Ports across the country. I think those communities should come together to make case and get something from the Federal Government like others communities that have such as the Niger Delta Development Commission, Oil Producing Area Development Commission, North, East Development Commission.

"I think there should also be a commission that takes care of all the areas that have Ports. Apart from that, I come from an area where there is slums, government has to set up a committee or programme to alleviate the suffering in these slums. They are all over the country. I believe the time has come for Legislators to come together to sponsor Bills across all the geo-political zones in this direction".

On his plan for the women, the medical doctor disclosed that the women folk gave 70 percent of the votes recorded in Apapa area during the Presidential and National Assembly Election, hence he is prepared to support all efforts at the Assembly to ensure gender equality, saying men are not better than women.

His words, "I have promised women in my constituency that whenever gender based issues bill are being raised at the

National Assembly, they can count on my support. I believe there is no reason we should discriminate against our women and that man is not Bette than a woman. The 70 percent of the votes that gave us victory at the 2023 Presidential and National Assembly Election came from the women. So I have assured them of my support".

On the elderly people, Adedayo pointed out that those above age seventy deserve to be earning monthly stipend from the Federal Government as part of its support for their welfare.

He said, "The elderly, I have told them that anybody that is above 70 years, government should be able to support them on a monthly basis, no matter how small, even if their children are taking care of them or not". Reacting to the Student Loan Bill inspite its stringent conditions, Adedayo admonished that it should be allowed to be experimented, assuring that amendment would be made by the National Assembly if the need arises.

"Talking about Student Loan Bill, I think we should allow the proponent of the Bill to implement first and see how it works. If there are areas we can modify it, the National Assembly will not hesitate to look at it. So let's give it a trial, it has worked in other countries, why can't it work here", the Lawmaker quipped.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Vice Chairman Lagos Central of the All Progressive



Dr. Adedayo Adesola while fielding questions at the programme

Congress, Chief Daramola pointed out that the 2023 election sprang a lot of surprises in which most incumbent Governors, outgoing Governors seeking election into the Senate, Senators and Legislators lost their reelection bid.

As a result, he said anyone that emerge victorious in the election has course to thank God and appreciate the electorates.

He therefore urged Dr. Adedayo not to allow the perk of office to distance him from the constituents.

Daramola hinted that Apapa Federal Constituency recorded the highest votes at 2023 Presidential and National Assembly election in Lagos Senatorial District, hence the constituent benefit from him.

Over 36m Suffering From Drug Use Disorder Worldwide - Dr Adeyanju

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Permanent Secretary, Oyo State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusoji Adeyanju has hinted that over 36 million people suffered from drug use disorder worldwide going by the UNODC report in the year 2021.

Dr. Adeyanju who dropped the hint on Monday at a press conference occasion organized to commemorate the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking said the 36million is from the around 275 million people using drugs worldwide.

He stressed that as a result of this,

Oyo State Government is committed to combating the rising rate of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking among youth and students in the state.

"According to reports by the UNODC, in the year 2021, around 275 million people used drugs worldwide, while over 36 million people suffered from drug use disorder, consequently, the number of people using drugs increased by 22%, owing in part to global population growth", he said.

Dr. Adeyanju added, "As a responsive

government, the Oyo State government has put in place a Drug Abuse Control committee. The committee is inter-ministerial and domiciled at the state ministry of Health, saddled with the responsibilities of waging war against drug abuse and misuse in the state"

"Consequences of drug abuse and misuse are serious and dangerous. Drug abuse could lead to social, legal, financial/economic, physical and mental health consequences which may differ depending on how far the addiction has progressed and the type of drug being used".

Dr. Adeyanju while emphasizing on the theme for the year, "People first: stop Stigma and Discrimination, Strengthen Prevention" pointed out that majority of drug cases were reported to be among students and youths respectively, "hence, the need to intensify awareness on the consequences of drug abuse among the youth, became necessary".

He maintained that Oyo State Government has commenced intervention programmes, to tackle the menace, towards improving the health and well-being of its citizens.

Speaking further, he said as part of the Intervention programmes, the committee would intensify the constituted drug free clubs in schools across the state, markets, motor parks, tertiary institutions among others, and that the intervention program will focus on providing educational and awareness campaigns by informing the general public about the dangers of drug abuse.

Reiterated that the program will assist in developing policies that will strengthen the regulation and control of the sales and distribution of drugs, Dr Adeyanju said, "the

Federal Government of Nigeria has also reacted to curb the excesses of drug productions, circulation, distribution and consumption by creating agencies such as NAFDAC and NDLEA with various mandates."

The Permanent Secretary, Hospital Management Board, Dr. Mufutao Ayoola while speaking, said the importance of creating a healthier community through collective efforts in addressing drug abuse urging all citizens to support the

intervention programme and stay away from drug abuse.

"It is gratifying to note that the issue of drug abuse has generated some interest both within and outside the country considering the consequences of the menace of Drug abuse and misuse in our society especially among the youths." he said.

Dr. Ayoola added, "I want to sincerely throw my weight behind this call because all hands must be on deck to fight this menace to a standstill. It is also of great concern that the elderly ones are not left out of drug abuse and misuse, reiterating that it was reported that a 71 years old man passed on in Ibadan after taking Colorado."

The Chairman, Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Pharm. Gbenga Oguntoye and the Director Pharmacist, Ministry of Health, Pharm. Lukeman Akinwande, stated that stigma discrimination surrounding drug abuse can prevent individuals from seeking the help they need, saying, "To this end, Pharmacists are essential resources for those struggling with drug abuse by providing non-judgmental support and connecting them with proper treatment options.

13% Derivation; DESOPADEC And Oil, Gas Host Communities

By: JEROME-MARIO CHIJOKE
UTOMI

A cursory look at the oil and gas host communities in Delta State reveals an area tensed up with a lot of issues, intrigues and hiccups. Their anger in the present moment, going by media reports, is precipitated by the alleged opaque manner the former governor of the state, Senator Dr Ifeanyi Okowa, managed the 13% oil derivation fund that accrued to the state.

Correspondingly, It will not be characterized as hasty to conclude that there is presently in Delta state no agency or commission that is troubled as the Delta State Oil Producing Area Development Commission (DESOPADEC), an agency created by the enabling Act in Delta state, to secure 50% of the 13% Oil Derivation Fund accruing to Delta State government and the received sum used for rehabilitation and development of oil-producing areas of the state as well as carry out other development projects as may be determined from time to time.

Supporting the above assertions is a recent statement by Edwin Clark, convener of the Pan-Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF), where he alleged that Ifeanyi Okowa, former governor of Delta, misappropriated the state's derivation fund amounting to N1.760 trillion. Pa Edwin's bombshell was followed in quick succession by protest staged in Abuja by representatives of the Delta state Oil and gas host communities, calling on Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), to investigate the immediate past Governor of Delta State, Ifeanyi Okowa, for allegedly misappropriating over N1tn oil derivation fund belonging to the state during his tenure.

While the coastal dwellers in their statement insisted that the former governor unlawfully diverted the aforementioned sum, the former Governor's men are at work, thwarting every attempt to rubbish the reputation of their former boss. For instance, the immediate-past Commissioner for Information in Delta State, Ehiedu Charles Aniagwu, recently told the world that all the money Okowa's administration got from Federation Account Allocation Committee, including derivation for the whole period in office amounted to N2.1trn and therefore described as wild goose chase HOSTCOM's narrative on N1trn.

But in all this, what this piece observed could be safely categorized into three parts; first, Senator Okowa's led government brought to the oil and gas host communities flashes of streets/internal roads.

Beyond this acknowledgement, there exists also in the state a deeply neglected coastal area which doubles as oil and gas host communities where poverty, disease and illiteracy walked their creeks, rivers and estuaries and as a resultant effect, forced many children out of school not because of their unwillingness to learn, but occasioned by non availability/provision of schools in the area by the government. These are verifiable facts!

A movement by boat from Egbema Kingdom in Warri North Local Government Council to Gbaramatu Kingdom in Warri South, from Ogulaha Kingdom in Burutu Local Government to Kabowe in Patani Local Government Area, down to Bomadi Local Government Local Councils, among others, reveals a

seemingly similar experience. They are all oil and gas bearing kingdoms and communities and play host to major crude oil platforms operated by the International Oil Companies (IOCs), but they have nothing to show for it.

Secondly, without going into critical analysis of claims by the immediate past Governor of Delta State, Senator Dr Ifeanyi Okowa, that DESOPADEC got what was due to it according to the law establishing it, this piece believes that such declaration on DESOPADEC receiving a total of N208 billion in the eight years of his administration, as its rightful statutory funds appears inaccurate and, therefore, cannot hold water when faced with embarrassing arguments.

DESOPADEC, as noted in the first paragraph, is to secure 50% of the 13% Oil Derivation Fund accruing to Delta State government. With this in mind; is the former Governor saying that it was only 416 Billion naira that accrued as 13% derivation to the state in the past 8years, which summed DESOPADEC's statutory 50% to N208 billion? Again, instead of giving a cumulative amount received from the Federation Account Allocation Committee, what stops the former Governor and his supporters from specifying the exact amount received as 13% derivation?

While answer(s) to the above questions raised is awaited, the third and most dramatic point is DESOPADEC-specific. The non satisfactory development of the area within this period under review in my view remains an emblematic sign that the affairs of the coastal areas of the state was handed over to a bunch of politicians masquerading as leaders but lack public leadership acumen and orientation. To use the words of a public affairs commentator, they were people that 'spend more time with wines than with books'.

Aside from turning the coastal part of the state to an endangered species via wicked human capital neglect and infrastructural abandonment, these 'leaders', in turn, neglected community relations and communication. And because of this non-participatory leadership style and engagement, each time communities ask for bread, the agency makes 'stones' available and when the communities ask for fish, DESOPADEC provides a 'snake'.

This piece will highlight two recent separate but related examples to support the above claims.

In October 2022, it was in the news that in the face of grave developmental challenges confronting the coastal dwellers in the state crying for attention, DESOPADEC leadership against all known logic opted for the donation of 50 grass-cutting machines to the people of Okerenkoko community in Gbaramatu Kingdom, Warri South-Local Government Area of Delta state. Presenting the machines, the DESOPADEC commissioner noted that the donation of grass-cutting machines to the community was statutorily captured in the commission's 2021 budget; adding that the project was principally influenced by him".

For those that are not conversant with the Okerenkoko community and may be tempted to believe that the donation was a right step taken in the right direction, they may see nothing wrong with the donation. But for someone that is familiar with the aforementioned community, the decision to donate these machines qualifies as a

misguided priority.

In fact, there is everything wrong with the development. For instance, there is evidence which points to the fact that the community was neither consulted nor carried along before the decision was made. The grass-cutting machine donation, in the opinion of this piece, failed the N E E D S assessment stipulations.

The words of the youth leader from the community support this assertion.

Reacting to the development, the youth leader who spoke on behalf of the community among other things, said, "We heard about the skill acquisition that is ongoing. We are appealing to the Commissioner to at least create some avenue for those skill acquisitions for our ladies, for the youth in this community so that they can go out there and learn skills to back themselves, put themselves in order." From the above comment, one thing stands out; the fact that if given the opportunity, these knowledge-hungry youths in the community, who will provide the future leadership needs of the country, would have opted for skill acquisition. Instead of grass-cutting machines, the youths in the community would have preferred access to good schools where they will learn and compete with their peers across the globe. They were not just asking for more, rather, they asked for something new, different and more beneficial to their future.

Similarly, in November 2022, barely one month after, It was again reported that DESOPADEC leadership, invited the Local Government Chairmen of Burutu, Bomadi, Patani and Warri South West Local Government Areas of the state, to a shop in Warri city, Delta state, where it handed over relief materials purchased for the victims of the flood that ravaged almost all the communities/villages in the afore mentioned local Government councils.

The items distributed to the affected local governments were bags of garri, bags of rice, and bags of onions, bags of beans, noodles, vegetable oil, palm oil, toiletries, and foams, among others.

While the donation to flood victims is understandable, commendable and appreciated, some questions immediately come to mind as to why DESOPADEC management decided to be compassionate by proxy? What prevented DESOPADEC management from visiting the real victims of the flood to personally empathize with them? Is DESOPADEC management unaware that in the applied sense of the word, the real empathy lies more in the visit and emotional consolation of the flood victims than the so-called relief material sent through proxy? What will it cost DESOPADEC to pay a visit to these



Delta Governor

villages/communities in creeks?

What is the distance from Warri to Patani, Burutu and Bomadi that DESOPADEC management cannot send delegation? How will DESOPADEC management ensure/ascertain that the relief materials got to the targeted beneficiaries without getting lost on transit or misdirected? If DESOPADEC management cannot visit the creeks in this period of crisis, what time will be more/most suitable to visit these people?

Even as this ugly leadership situation 'blossoms' in the coastal communities of Delta State, the truth remains that if we look hard enough at the moment, we shall as a people discover that the challenge confronting the region is not too difficult to grasp. Rather, the challenge flourishes because agencies such as DESOPADEC and their administrators have routinely become reputed for taking decisions that breed poverty.

For me, While it is important that DESOPADEC's new leadership commits to mind the above admonition, this piece holds the opinion that to sustainably solve the problem of the coastal dwellers in the state, a compelling point the state government must not fail to remember is the present call by stakeholders on DESOPADEC management to emulate the Chevron Nigeria Limited template in community engagement. A template that deals directly with the host community and an approach the communities claimed has worked perfectly in the area of infrastructural provision.

On his part, Governor Sheriff Oborevwo of Delta State should within this period execute for the oil and gas host communities legacy projects that will stand the test of time. In fact, it will not be out of place if a bridge is constructed to link and open these oil bearing communities.

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HALF PAGE	248,970.00	18,672.75	267,642.75	203,175.00	15,238.13	218,413.13
QUARTER PAGE	164,670.00	12,350.25	177,020.25	94,724.44	7,104.33	101,828.77
10" x 6 Col	364,320.00	27,324.00	391,644.00	245,005.20	18,375.39	263,380.59
10" x 5 Col	333,960.00	25,047.00	359,007.00	224,588.11	16,844.11	241,432.22
10" x 4 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
10" x 3 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
9" x 6 Col	327,888.00	24,591.60	352,479.60	220,504.68	16,537.85	237,042.53
9" x 5 Col	273,240.00	20,493.00	293,733.00	183,753.90	13,781.54	197,535.44
9" x 4 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
9" x 3 Col	163,944.00	12,295.80	176,239.80	110,252.34	8,268.93	118,521.27
8" x 6 Col	291,456.00	21,859.20	313,315.20	196,004.16	14,700.31	210,704.47
8" x 5 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
8" x 4 Col	194,304.00	14,572.80	208,876.80	130,669.44	9,800.21	140,469.65
8" x 3 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
7" x 6 Col	255,024.00	19,126.80	274,150.80	171,503.64	12,862.77	184,366.41
7" x 5 Col	212,520.00	15,939.00	228,459.00	142,919.70	10,718.98	153,638.68
7" x 4 Col	170,016.00	12,751.20	182,767.20	114,335.76	8,575.18	122,910.94
6" x 6 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
6" x 5 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
6" x 4 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
6" x 3 Col	109,296.00	8,197.20	117,493.20	73,501.56	5,512.62	79,014.18
6" x 2 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
5" x 5 Col	151,800.00	11,385.00	163,185.00	102,085.50	7,656.41	109,741.91
5" x 4 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
5" x 3 Col	91,080.00	6,831.00	97,911.00	61,251.30	4,593.85	65,845.15
5" x 2 Col	60,720.00	4,554.00	65,274.00	40,834.20	3,062.57	43,896.77
4" x 6 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
4" x 5 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
4" x 4 Col	97,152.00	7,286.40	104,438.40	65,334.72	4,900.10	70,234.82
4" x 3 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
4" x 2 Col	48,576.00	3,643.20	52,219.20	32,667.36	2,450.05	35,117.41
3" x 3 Col	54,648.00	4,098.60	58,746.60	36,750.78	2,756.31	39,507.09
3" x 2 Col	36,432.00	2,732.40	39,164.40	24,500.52	1,837.54	26,338.06
2" x 2 Col	24,288.00	1,821.60	26,109.60	16,333.68	1,225.03	17,558.71
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- Advertisers/Agencies are to provide their Camera ready artwork in electronic copies, in e.g. PDF, or JPEG format.
- Advertisers will be surcharged 20% of the applicable rate where artworks are not provided.
- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
- Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing at least 24 hours to desired alteration date.
- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
- The management of New Nigerian Newspapers Limited reserves the right to reject an advert or any publication in any of its titles where such materials are considered distasteful for public exposure or libelous.

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

The Dry Well Of Journalism Ethics: Reasons And Way Forward

By: Dr. GABRIEL NYITSE & JEMIMAH SHUNADOGO

Nigeria is a classic example of a developing country. Though blessed with natural resources, the economic state of the nation is unsteady with a constant hike in prices of goods and services.

In a staggering economy where information overload and sensationalism thrives, the profession of journalism is faced with a daunting task of upholding ethical conducts.

The obligation to accurately inform, engage, and empower the public in fairness and objectivity is at the core of journalism.

Popularly referred to as the fourth estate of the realm, a Journalist is next to a judge as it is a profession that upholds the pillar of democracy, ensuring social justice. The Nigerian media environment is constantly changing, from media owners to the practitioners, they are faced with challenges that mitigate against its principles and ethics.

What then are the journalistic ethics? The foundation of upholding the profession is knowing the right thing to do based on an individual's moral standing. It is therefore a deliberate and conscious effort to do that which is not controlled by law but what is universally acceptable to care for every aspect of the human behaviour.

The pursuit of truth is the underpinning of journalistic ethics enveloping the dedication to discovering and communicating the truth as it is. Journalists serve as the public's eyes and ears by conducting in-depth research, verifying information, and disseminating true and correct information. To provide a fair and objective account of events, they work hard to maintain objectivity and to keep their own prejudices apart from their reporting.

Another core concept of ethical journalism is to maintain independence from outside influences, whether they be political, commercial, or personal.

Journalists must withstand unwarranted pressure and influence that could jeopardize their ethics. In addition, they are responsible for their activities and are required to make any mistakes right away in a transparent manner. When Journalist stay away from influences, they are able to serve the interest of the public in all fairness by carrying out their

core duties through bridging gaps between the government and the citizens, exposing wrong doings and holding those in authority accountable.

However, there are ethical challenges that must be understood.

From the media laws to the regulatory bodies set up by the government, the profession is at every angle burdened with ways to navigate its way through without a stain of unethical conducts. However, the concern is tagged on the duration of time a journalist will keep on navigating.

The exorbitant amount needed to obtain a license is such that any media owner will want to do what it takes to break even and make profit in the industry.

This now brings up concerns about doing what is right. Will a media owner desire to tilt towards a certain influence (either of a political party or present government) in order to stay afloat in a country where power and the economy is unstable?

The truth remains that as much as it is a watch dog, it also needs to survive.

From the angle of a journalist, working in a media outfit where the wages are meager in view of the current hike in fuel price due to subsidy removal will only foster more collection of brown envelopes. Hence, there will be no fairness and objectivity in reportage.

It is sad that for any media organization to thrive, it must be influenced by either a political party or a government. Furthermore, in order for a journalist to survive in a harsh economy, the adverts they bring in are often times negotiated where they tend to hike the price for a higher percentage. This is also seen with advertising agencies.

According to a source, most advertising agencies do not negotiate the actual price they give to clients with media houses as most times, there is a cut down in their favour. Hence, little money is received by the media leaving them to struggle for ways to stay buoyant.

Another critical issue is the jettisoning of philosophy upheld by media houses in order to generate revenue. A media organization against the advert of herbal medicine that cures about 10 illnesses based on its philosophy is likely to air the advert because the manufacturer of the herbal medicine is ready to



pay for a good amount of airtime. I then ask, where and when do ethics come to play?

However, this in no way justifies the unethical conducts carried out by members of the profession and besides all of these, media organizations give in to sensationalism in the quest for bigger ratings and more money, disregarding accuracy and objectivity.

As journalists work to strike a balance between the demand for attention-grabbing tales and responsible reporting that prioritizes the truth and the public interest, the commercial constraints of the industry presents ethical issues.

While these ethical issues linger on, the National Union of Journalist as a body have failed to put aside politics in carrying out its administrative duties. In 2021, a large number of Journalists decided to form a new associated called Association of Nigerian Journalists (ANJ) due to grievances against the president - Chris Isiguzo, where members of the union felt anarchy had taken over and the president had become a sole administrator to which no one could speak up due

to fear of indefinite suspension. The union has also witnessed some watershed at state level as seen in Ogun State, where Comrade Victor Akinwale emerged the Chairman in 2022 after two years of crisis.

The bickering among members of the NUJ over leadership in the states, has allowed politicians to capitalize on these schisms to fractionalize the union so as to pull in some journalist to their side to aid them propagate their agenda.

The advantages taken by these politicians causes a huge rift between the journalist and the ethics of the profession. The end result is that some members of the union align with civil societies and politicians for personal gains and to find ways in settling scores which in the long run affects the integrity of the union.

So, what next? It is important for the Nigerian government to accept the practice of democracy in its totality in order to provide the right environment for Journalist to thrive - a free and fair society where equity is premium and the fourth estate of the realm is given high regard.

There is also a need to review the laws and regulations surrounding the operations of the press and the media in a manner that will promote the ethics of the profession.

Still, the economy is at a melting point which is why there is an urgent need to strategize on how to bring stability to the Nigerian economy.

Furthermore, the study of ethics should be heavily emphasized in journalism training programmes and schools in order to give aspiring journalists the skills and information they need to successfully navigate ethical dilemmas.

Also, the industry's dedication to journalistic integrity can be strengthened by encouraging a culture that boosts moral conduct and offering assistance to journalists who are faced with moral conundrums.

A free and informed society depends on journalistic ethics to survive. In order to shape public debate, promote transparency, and protect democracy, ethical journalism must be displayed at its peak to preserve truth, independence, and public interest.

Power Sector Privatisation: When Agreement Is Not An Agreement

By; Engr. Y S ADAMU
DAURA

There are two agreements signed by the Discos and Gencos based on their submissions to win the bids they submitted.

These agreements are: 1. Commercial
2. Technical

In these same agreements, there are provisions to retake these companies if they fail to deliver on the key performance indicators they set for themselves in order to win the bids.

The tenure for this is five years, after which an audit of the indicators or parameters will be done. This was not done to today.

Ministers of power in colorations with the civil servants blocked these from the president. The former vice president Osibanjo being the chairman NCP hid under some legal opinion to block review of the privatisation together with Fashola.

The problem we are having in this country is that we have people in power whose personal interest is above the country and its people. These people have formed a dangerous cartel that is killing this country.

This privatisation is not total. FGN has still 40 per cent stake and it appears our elected officials don't care about it.

The National Assembly too played a role in this. They called several public hearings on the power companies not for the sake of the country or the people but as an extortion exercise to get their cut from the power companies.

Above is the real and true situation we are in.

Nobody I repeat nobody in the government or National Assembly has interest of the country and its people. It is all greed and corruption.

From 1999 to date this country has lost all legacy infrastructures. The only one



standing is the power sector and this is also on its deathbed with the current attitude of our elected officials.

The consequences will be far reaching. We destroyed railways and we are borrowing money to rebuild it. If the power sector is allowed to go this way we will have no money to rebuild it because it is capital extensive and time consuming.

It is obvious to all of us whether professional

engineers or laymen that all is not well with the power companies and no matter what the government will do by dodging the issue will not work. It is foolish to continue pursuing something that will fail and fail badly.

Billions of dollars have been spent on the power sector since 1999 with no results. Clearly from this one can see a well entrenched cartel in the power sector that is even more deadly than the subsidy cartel.

For the information of Nigerians licences have issued to many companies to build power plants since 1999 and none of them is able to do it. This shows you that there is a big problem.

The recent electricity act won't change anything.

I want draw the attention of the government and in deed the president that all over the world and especially Europe they are reviewing the Energy

sector. France has never privatised its power sector. UK is working to nationalised the power sector and some many countries.

If the president is serious about making this country to work again he must tackle this power sector.

It is time we put this country first.

It's time we put our people first.

It's time to do once and for all actions that will save the power sector.

It's time to set aside any sentiment, connection etc to do the right thing

It's time to retake over these companies. We have good and competent manpower to save the power sector.

Let's us start all over again.

Engr. Y S Adamu Daura
wires from Kaduna

This privatisation is not total.
FGN has still 40 per cent
stake and it appears our
elected officials don't care

Bill and the Gates to Nigerians' Healthcare

By Owei Lakemfa

BILL Gates, the American with a trophy as one of the World's richest men, came visiting Nigeria last week. He publicly visited the Presidential Villa twice; first to meet President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the second, to meet Vice President Kashim Shettima Mustapha and our governors who came before him with begging bowls for health aid. Despite Nigeria being one country, each governor had a separate health agenda and request, all expecting the former husband of Melinda French to grant their wishes. Although the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has a \$50 billion endowment, out of which \$7 billion has been earmarked for polio eradication, how do the governors and the federal government expect Gates to grant their separate requests, more so as Nigeria is just one of 196 countries in the world? If we must beg Gates for health handouts, why can't it be consolidated, or should we also have lined up the 774 local government chairmen before him?

"In arguing that subsidising the healthcare of the citizenry should be a basic commitment of any government, he said the United States which is the father of capitalism takes healthcare so serious that the sector is the biggest employer while in Britain, the National Health Service (NHS) is a second religion. He said many never realise how poor they are until they are required to produce money for healthcare."

I reflected that it would have cost us a fortune to gather the governors and their entourage in Abuja given the fact that most would have flown down while those coming by road would have burnt fuel at N500 per litre. Such money, if spent on healthcare, would have helped.

A day before the meeting, Gates had indicted Nigerian political leaders for poor investment in the nation's health sector. He said government spends only \$10 (N6,900) per Nigerian on healthcare annually compared to \$31 in sub-Saharan Africa. He admonished that: "Leaders need to make a much bigger financial

commitment, focusing most on improving primary health systems. Making sure clinics are well-staffed and supplied, making sure children get the vaccines they need."

What Gates was saying is that the primary challenge is not in begging for assistance, but what is Nigeria doing with the healthcare system? Part of the answer was given a day before the June 22, 2023 Gates-Nigerian Governors meeting when some 400 health practitioners met under the umbrella of the Nigeria Union of Allied Health Professionals (NUAHP). The theme, 'Alarming Brain Drain in Nigeria's Health Sector: Need for Emergency Rescue', summarised the state of our healthcare.

Former Ondo State governor, Olusegun Rahman Mimiko, a medical doctor, had introduced a medical revolution 'Abiye' in the state; building and equipping emergency medical facilities within five weeks and striving for zero fatalities during childbirth. To achieve this, his administration had made a cost of taking care of a woman from conception to delivery and how to meet it.

In his analysis why governments are not making much of a headway in healthcare delivery, Mimiko said: "It is not the bricks and mortar that matter; it is the delivery. We spend so much on non-functional structures."

He posited that no nation develops until it takes the health of its citizens serious and that life expectancy reflects the development of every country.

Mimiko, a two-term governor and former federal minister for Housing and Urban Development, argued that health is a major investment and any government that is not making serious investment in health is not serious.

In arguing that subsidising the healthcare of the citizenry should be a basic commitment of any government, he said the United States which is the father of capitalism takes healthcare so serious that the sector is the biggest employer while in Britain, the National Health Service (NHS) is a second religion. He said many never



realise how poor they are until they are required to produce money for healthcare.

In making a case for the urgent equipment of health facilities and treatment of health practitioners as a special cadre, Mimiko warned that if the current rate of migration is not checked in the next five years, Nigerians may be at the mercy of traditional doctors.

On the professional harvesting of Nigerian health practitioners by foreign countries, Mimiko posited that there should be bilateral agreements such that if the United Kingdom (UK) wants 1,000 nurses from Nigeria, it should contribute to producing another 1,000 Nigerian nurses.

In agreeing with Mimiko, Comrade Festus Osifo, the President of the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC) said if health practitioners are not provided the conducive atmosphere, any bill brought to the National Assembly to stop them from migrating would be dead on arrival.

"Begging Gates or other donors will not fundamentally improve our health system; in any case, such funds can easily be frittered away. First, like Gates advocated, the system must be funded rather than have left over bones thrown at it. Secondly, we must return to the First Republic system of preventive medicine; the period we had active health inspectors fumigating gutters and checking the environment we lived. Back to those days when incinerators were provided

in various areas rather than now when in most parts, refuse is not cleared."

Dr Godswill Chikwendu Okara, the Registrar, West African College of Medical Laboratory Science, in his forensic analysis submitted that health professionals are leaving the country in droves due to mass unemployment, poor salaries and work conditions, mass poverty, religious, communal and political crises. He said between April 1, 2022 and this March, over 3,300 Nigerian nurses and midwives trained in the country were licenced to practise in the UK, while by March 31, 2023, 10,639 of them were practising in UK alone.

Dr Okara's solutions include a guaranteed peaceful environment, improved economy, access to competitive and fair-paying jobs, better cost of living, strategic talent management, proper funding of tertiary education and allocation of more resources to education generally.

NUAHP President, Dr Obinna Ogbona, said COVID-19 was the "most traumatic, challenging and calamitous period of monumental proportion (as it claimed the lives of some health workers and infected several others who were carrying out their duties to save lives in various hospital facilities and isolation centres in the country)". He regretted that the brain drain is depriving the country of the best talents to provide healthcare needs.

Former Minister of State for Environment and current Emir of Nasarawa, Ibrahim Usman Jibril, said most strikes, including in the health sector, are due to the poor implementation of Collective Agreements, adding that in the first place, some agreements entered into by the government are not realistic. The health practitioners, he said, must develop team spirit to be able to serve the people.

Begging Gates or other donors will not fundamentally improve our health system; in any case, such funds can easily be frittered away. First, like Gates advocated, the system must be funded rather than have left over bones thrown at it. Secondly, we must return to the First Republic system of preventive medicine; the period we had active health inspectors fumigating gutters and checking the environment we lived. Back to those days when incinerators were provided in various areas rather than now when in most parts, refuse is not cleared.

The country also has to return to the building and promotion of the primary healthcare system as was under Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti when he was Health Minister. Our leaders also need to discourage medical tourism by developing a health system that would be good enough to treat them as was the case in the First Republic. These are some of the gates to adequate healthcare in Nigeria.

Sallah: Frontline SWAN Secretary-General Candidate Greet Muslims

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As Muslims in Nigeria join others all over the world to celebrate Eid-el-Kabir, a chieftain of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Amb. Ikenna Okonkwo, has sent out felicitations especially to the sporting journalists in parts of the country.

Amb. Okonkwo, currently Editor Online, Blueprint Newspapers, who is also a top Secretary-General Candidate for the upcoming SWAN National election in a statement on Tuesday June 27, 2023 in Abuja, enjoined Muslim Ummah to remain dedicated and show more kind gestures, in line with what the season represents.

He equally urged Christians and others to be more

accommodating in ensuring peaceful co-existence at all times.

The statement further said, "Eid-el-Kabir is a season that calls for rededication to the cause of mankind, to appreciate the gift of life and to imbibe the virtues of tolerance, understanding and good neighbourliness.

"This season also calls for rededication to the cause of mankind, to appreciate the gift of life and to imbibe the virtues of tolerance, understanding and good neighbourliness.

"As media professionals, particularly in the sports industry at this time, we should focus more on the things that bind us and promote healthy exchanges in a bid to champion a professional body that works for all of us especially as we approach our National Election

to determine our new set of leaders.

"In the spirit of the season, we as members of Fourth Estate of the Realm need to reflect deeper, on the values that rekindle our resolve to uphold the tenets of our media practice at this time and always.

"Of course, reflecting on the essence of sacrifice and humility that Prophet Ibrahim in obedience to God for the promotion our common existence as Sports Journalists.

"On a personal note, I look forward to sharing things, mostly edible with our Muslims brothers in parts of the country on the Sallah days. For those who travelled for Hajj, I wish you all Safety and Blessings at the holy ground and Safe journey back home. Eid Mubarak!"



Ikenna Okonkwo

CRAN, Egbeyemi, Ogunsan Harp On Danger Of Drug Abuse

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN), Commander Rapid Response Squad (RRS), Lagos Police Command CSP Yinka Egbeyemi and Dr. Ayo Ogunsan have harped on the danger of drug abuse and its consequence on the youth and security of the country.

They therefore urged students to abstain from it, warning that the use of hard drugs would damage their health, destroy their future and shatter their aspirations.

The trio made the submission at a one day sensitisation campaign on Drug Abuse for Secondary School Students in Lagos, in commemoration of the 2023 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, themed "People First: Stop Stigma and Discrimination, Strength Prevention", organized by the Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN), held at Anwal-ul- Islam Model College, Agege.

In his good will message, the chairman of the occasion Dr. Ayo Ogunsan reminded the students that they are the future of the country, hence they should avoid the use of hard drug in order not to shatter their aspirations.

Ogunsan, who is a member of the Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) stressed that the future of Nigeria lies in the hands of the students and should shun what would hinder them from being great in life

His words, "As we do know that you are the leaders of tomorrow, avoid the use of hard drug substances, do not get addicted to those substances. The future of the country is in your hands shun what would debar you from becoming great".

Represented at the event by Mr. Afolabi Aina, the LSSTF chieftain applauded the organisers for the initiative in focusing on students for the symposium.

The Commander of the RRS CSP Egbeyemi who engaged the students in an interactive session, warned that there is no gain in taking hard drug, adding that it would only destroy their health and future.

Egbeyemi, an alma mater of the host school, born in Agege, used himself as a case study and urged the students to stay away with drug and cultism.

Speaking further he said consumption of hard drugs lead

to untimely death, destruction of future ambition, rustication from school, brain disorder amongst others.

He also listed factors that attracts one to get addicted or join cultism to include curiosity, lack of confidence, greed craving for power and ignorance.

"I want you to utilise this opportunity you have gotten to do away with drug and cultism. Don't just get close to it, don't go and use what will affect your brain.

"The brain is power of your body and your brain is future after God, It's where your thinking faculty is. Whatever you want to become in life apart from your destiny, lies on brain. Desist from anything you will take that will affect your brain", Egbeyemi counseled.

Earlier in his welcome address, the President of CRAN Lekan Olabulo lamented that despite the war, declared by the

government and its agencies on drug abuse, the rate of indulging in these illicit substances has continued to grow higher and higher every new day.

He expressed surprise that students in secondary schools and even primary schools have become the targets of unscrupulous drug peddlers, who take these drugs to their schools.

Olabulo added that names of prohibited substances like Colorado, codeine, indian hemp skunk, tramadol, rophynol, strong, loud and other dangerous drugs have found their way into our schools and portend great danger to the future of our nation.

According to him, another noticeable abuse of drugs among our youths now is the excessive use of overdose of cough syrup, especially those that contain codeine

The CRAN President identified

the consequences of drug abuse in the country to include increase in banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, murder and others forms of crime as well as unprecedented rise in broken homes and mental disorderliness.

Olabulo therefore submitted that, "There is a strong need for the government and the relevant agencies to dedicate more time, energy and resources to the advocacy and enlightenment on drug abuse and illicit trafficking. He implored that, "Religious institutions should also join in the fight against drug abuse. They should not just celebrate: Valentine Day, Fathers' Day, Mother's Day and other days of less importance".

Olabulo opined that deep teachings on drug abuse in our religious places will go a long way in the fight against the scourge.

In addition he posited that, "Schools and other institutions of learning also have a role to play in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. It is the responsibility of all of us to put our hands and energies together to fight drug abuse in our country".

The event had in attendance over 200 students drawn from Adam Yakub Memorial High School, Bakare Disu Oshodi Memorial College, Nojim Kaku Memorial High School, St. Joseph Secondary School, Saka Tinubu Memorial High School, Alpha Rehoboth College and Anwal-ul- Islam Model College.



From Right: RRS Commander CSP Yinka Egbeyemi, Mr. Afolabi Aina, rep of Dr. Ayo Ogunsan and Mrs. Cecilia Adeboye of ISSUP

Kaduna Govt Committed To All Round Sports Development - Dep Gov

By; FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna
The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe on Monday, reiterated that the state government is commitment to sports development, stating that for us, “we are transforming sports from leisure into business”.

Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, expressed this, when she received on a courtesy visit, Leke Samson James, a Kaduna-born International footballer and his team who came to Government House in Kaduna. She expressed the state government's commitment to supporting any development initiatives by individuals and organizations. She said, “Kaduna State Government is open for partnership and collaborations because we believe that we can not do it

alone”. She pointed that, “We are transforming sports from leisure into business”. Earlier, Leke Samson James, who is the founder of Leke James Grassroots Soccer Foundation based in Kaduna which organizes football tournaments to source for local talents and link them with opportunities internationally, informed the deputy governor that the fourth edition

of the foundation's football tournament is underway and stated his readiness to partner and collaborate with Kaduna State Government in sports development. In attendance, were the Principal Private Secretary to Governor Uba Sani, Professor Bello Ayuba, and the permanent secretaries of the Ministry of Sports Development, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Business Innovation and Technology.



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Eid-el-Kabir: Imbibe Spirit Of Sacrifice, Obedience, Gombe Governor Enjoins Muslims

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has felicitated with the Muslim Ummah in the state and across the world on the celebration of this year's Eid-el-Kabir, with a call on them to imbibe the spirit of sacrifice, obedience and tolerance.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, the governor, in his Sallah message to the people of Gombe State, stressed the need to continue to supplicate to the will of Allah in all situations.

He enjoined Muslims to sustain their prayers for the peace, security and prosperity of the state and the nation at large,



Gombe Governor

especially the new dispensation.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya, who doubles as the Chairman of Northern States Governors' Forum, urged the Muslim ummah to use the occasion to

extend hands of support and show love and good neighbourliness as exemplified by Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and upheld by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

He said, "As we celebrate

the Eid-el-Kabir festival, I want to admonish us to reflect on the message and lessons of the season which teaches total submission, obedience and selflessness. We must also imbibe the tenets of Islam which promote peace, tolerance, modesty, and love."

"I also enjoin us all to continue to make sacrifices for the growth and development of our dear state great country, especially at this critical time".

He appreciated the traditional institution, community and religious leaders, and the entire people of Gombe state for their support and understanding while reiterating his administration's resolve to continue to provide quality leadership and consolidate on the gains so far recorded for a better tomorrow.

Eid-kabir: NSCDC Deploys 40, 000 Personnel, Assures Hitch Free Celeb

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Commandant General (CG) of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Dr. Ahmed Abubakar Audi, has assured Nigerians of a hitch-free Eid-el kabir celebration. Consequently, he has directed the deployment of 40,000 personnel nationwide including those deployed for protection of Critical National Assets and Infrastructure and joint operations.

In a statement by C.C. Olusola Odumosu, Director Public Relations NSCDC, made available to New Nigerian Newspapers, the CG charged all heads of formation to leave no stone unturned in ensuring effective security coverage of the country.

He also urged them to increase their level of vigilance and be highly sensitive to their environment especially during this festive period to avoid unpleasant surprises from the enemies of the country.

"You must be on top of your game, be very vigilant and highly sensitive to your environment because we are not going to take chances", CG said. He charged various commands to be proactive, stating that, to achieve greater results, an intelligent-driven approach must be adopted to nip crime in the bud.

"Be proactive and make sure you engage intelligent driven strategies.

"This will help to get credible information about intended plans of criminal elements, so we can crush them before they strike", Dr Audi stated.

The corps helmsman directed nationwide deployment to every nooks and cranny of the country and to man strategic locations such as places of worship, recreation centers, markets, shopping malls, motor parks, and all the locations of critical infrastructures and national assets in different states.

He warned all Zonal Commanders to effectively coordinate the formations under them to prevent

any breach of peace.

"All Special Forces of the Corps must be fully engaged during the Sallah celebration to guarantee the safety of lives of our people.

"I will hold Zonal Commanders responsible and State Commandants accountable for any breach of peace in any state during the Eid-el kabir celebration and beyond", CG warned.

Audi congratulates President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Vice president and all Muslim faithful in the country on this year Sallah celebration.

He called on all Nigerians to use the festive period to pray for peace, unity and success of the new administration in achieving growth, development and renewed hope for the masses.

He charged all personnel to cooperate and synergise with other security agencies on the field to achieve results in the war against Nigeria's enemies.

Kaduna Govt Committed To All Round Sports Development - Dep Gov

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Police Kills Notorious Bandit In Katsina, Recovers GPMG, 58 Rounds Of Ammunition

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Police Command has announced the death of a suspected notorious terrorist and a recovery of one GPMG with fifty - eight rounds of 7.62 MM X 51 MM live ammunition in Dutsinma Local Government Area of the state.

The command's Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu disclosed this to newsmen at the Police headquarters in Katsina.

He said on June 26, 2023 at about 11:00 hours, the command received a report that terrorists—bandits in their numbers, armed with dangerous weapons such as GPMG and AK 47

rifles, shooting sporadically attacked Ruwan Dorawa village, Dutsinma local government area.

Unhesitatingly, he said, the Area Commander, along with DPO Dutsinma Division, led a team of Police operatives to the scene and engaged the terrorists in a fierce gun duel, as a result of which they were forced to abandon their heinous mission.

Assistant Superintendent Sadiq Aliyu explained that, while combing the scene the "body of one neutralized suspected terrorist bandit as well as one GPMG with fifty-eight (58) rounds of 7.62mm x 51mm live ammunition were recovered.

"Investigation is ongoing," he added.



The recovered GPMG