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From left PDP National Secretary, Senator Samuel Anyanwu; Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke; Bayelsa State Governor, Duoye Diri and Dino Melaye at the Kogi, Imo and Bayelsa Campaign Council inauguration in Abuja. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

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By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Government yesterday, disclosed that N7.3bn is being spent on the workforce in the state monthly while less than N100million is spent on political office-holders salaries for the same period. The state Commissioner of Information and Orientation, Prince Dotun Oyelade who stated this in a statement, implored protesting civil servants in

the state to be peaceful in the course of their agitation as a result of attack on some civil servants, including Mr. Dare Olaniyan, a staff of the Ministry of Information and Orientation on Tuesday.

Prince Oyelade in the statement, pointed out that the prudent management of the state resources and the welfare of the workforce are reasons why many see the ongoing protest as unfair and hasty. He stressed that the priority on workers'

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Ganduje

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Kebbi Gov Visits Families Of 9 Who died in Another Boat Mishap

By; UANGBAOJE ALEX, Kaduna

Few months after over 14 bodies were recovered from a boat mishap in the Koko/Besse Local Government Area of Kebbi, nine people have died in another mishap at Karya village in Maiyama Local Government Area of the state.

At a condolence visit to the families of the nine at Karya village yesterday, Kebbi State Governor, Comrade Nasir Idris urged them to accept what happened as destiny from Almighty Allah, according to statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Ahmed Idris.

The governor, who was represented by some advisers under the leadership of Alhaji Kabiru Sani (Giant), Adviser on Political Matters and Power, urged the family members, relations and loved ones to keep praying for the souls

of the deceased.

He said: "The loss is not only for the deceased families, but it is a loss for the entire state. We pray Almighty Allah will forgive all their shortcomings and admit them into Jannatul Firdaus."

The delegation offered special prayers for the souls of the deceased and other departed faithfuls and prayed to Almighty Allah to give the families the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

On the entourage were; Alhaji Kabiru Sani (Giant), Hon. Barmu Muhammad Kangiwa, Hon. Garba Manuga Birnin Tudu, Hon. Muhammad Abubakar Alwasa, Hon. Dan Aliyu Rifa, Hon. Aminu Musa Gumbi, Hon. Alhaji Kabiru Sani Sambawa, Hon. Alhaji Salah Sambawa U-U, party Chairman Maiyama Local Government among others.

"The loss is not only for the deceased families, but it is a loss for the entire state. We pray Almighty Allah will forgive all their shortcomings and admit them into Jannatul Firdaus."

1.6m Children Out Of School In Borno, Adamawa, Yobe - UNICEF

*Says. 72% of those in school can't read a simple text after primary 6

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Chief of Field Office, North East, Nigeria, Phuong T. Nguyen has said that, "we look at the vast and unique education needs of children affected by conflict with at least 1.6 million children are out of school in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States." The Chief of Field Office who stated this in her welcome address on Wednesday at Satus Hotel Banquet Hall Maiduguri, said UNICEF remains committed to leaving no child behind as they seek to accelerate education delivery in Nigeria.

Nguyen added that, "among those in school, 72% cannot read a simple text after grade 6. Without acquiring appropriate foundational and transferable skills, children fail to thrive in school and in life."

According to her, the seminar will convene practitioners and experts, government officials and civil society to discuss how best Nigeria can foster FLN with a particular focus on Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL), Kanuri, Arithmetic and Reading Intervention (KARI), Reading and Numeracy Activity (RANA) and the Accelerated Basic Education Programme (ABEP).

She added that the

government, UNICEF, donor agencies and other development partners are already committed to increase awareness on fundamental learning and excited to share innovative methods learned from the implementation of these programmes in Nigeria.

Nguyen noted that United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with the state governments of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe have convened a knowledge sharing seminar on scaling Fundamental Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) in North East Nigeria.

The seminar is aimed of promoting awareness of FLN models and lessons from the implementation of fundamental learning programmes in north East Nigeria with special consideration of the ongoing humanitarian development nexus in the region.

Nguyen maintained that the major objectives of the seminar include presentation of the current status of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy in North East Nigeria and results of the evaluation/assessment of TaRL, KARI and ABEP.

Others include, sharing of experiences on what works on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and discussing how to scale up evidence-based and informed interventions on Foundational Literacy and

Numeracy within the unique humanitarian and development contexts of the North East Nigeria.

Nguyen noted also that these TES commitments are critical for Nigeria and furthermore for the North-East when we look at the vast and unique education needs of children affected by conflict with at least 1.6 million children are out of school in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States,, pointing out that, among those in school, 72% cannot read a simple text after grade 6. Without acquiring appropriate foundational and transferable skills, children fail to thrive in school and in life.

The Chief of Field Office further said these numbers are disturbing, all hope is not lost. UNICEF has been supporting State Governments to implement effective evidence-based programmes to strengthen Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills such as Teaching at the Right Level (TARL) as well as Kanuri Reading and Arithmetic Intervention (KARI).

Nguyen noted also that these approaches have been effective to significantly improve student learning outcomes in North-East Nigeria. Through this seminar, we shall learn more about what is working and what is required to expand these approaches to communities and locations where the most

disadvantaged children in the North-East live.

She said addressing the learning crises in North-East, and in Nigeria as a whole, requires us to examine the evidence of what works, explore partnerships with the State, NGOs, development partners and communities. This seminar provides us with a platform to share evidence, experiences and to renew our commitment to improving learning outcomes of schoolgirls and boys.

The Chief Field Office explained further that the learning outcomes as demonstrated at the United Nations Secretary-General's Transforming Education Summit (TES) in September 2023, New York, indicating that Nigeria was committed to strengthening learning outcomes and accelerating skills development by implementing cash transfer programmes.

She said dedicating special statutory funds to Universal Basic Education and special programmes, prioritizing the scaling-up of play-based early childhood education, as well as foundational literacy and numeracy programmes where development partners, including the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), for their continued support to education delivery in northeast Nigeria.

Be Patient, Better Days Ahead, Katsina Gov Begs Citizens

*Swears-in 20 commissioners, 18 SAs

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has appealed to people of the state to exercise patient as better life is coming to them soon.

Governor Umaru Radda made the appeal, while swearing in 20 commissioners and 18 special advisers as members of the state executive council. adding that, people should remain patient with his administration as measures were being taken to better their living

standards soon.

Governor Dikko Radda said "we are coming up with palliatives to mitigate the effect of the removal of fuel subsidy, and also liberalisation of exchange rate of Dollar and Naira".

He assured commitment to deliver on the mandate given to his Government. saying that, "we will do everything possible to alleviate the suffering of the people, and I want you to give us all your cooperation."

Governor Radda also assured his government commitment to tackle insecurity and economic challenges bedeviling the

state, especially at the rural areas.

He warned the new commissioners that he would not hesitate to sack any of them who fails to perform or abscond from his duties.

Governor Dikko Radda reiterated that, the commissioners would be strictly assessed on performance indicators and anyone who failed to measure up knows the consequences.

"I want to assure you that anyone of you who fails to do the right thing or perform well, would be removed. We will also change you from your

place of work," he emphasized.

"We will not allow you to work permanently in one place, we will continue to change you from your place of work to other places for efficient and effective service delivery," Dikko Umaru Radda added.

The new commissioners sworn in by the Governor includes, Professor Ahmed Muhammad Bakori, Agriculture and Livestock Development, Professor Badamasi Lawal Charanchi, Local Government, and Chieftaincy Affairs, Honourable Ishaq Shehu

Dabai, Religious Affairs, Dr. Nasir Mu'azu Danmusa, Internal Security and Home Affairs, Alhaji Adnan Nahabu Commerce, Trade and Investment, Honourable Aliyu Lawal Zakari, Rural and Social Development and Honourable Bishir Tanimu Gambo, Ministry of Finance.

Others are, Honourable Hamza Suleiman Faskari, Water Resources, Honourable Musa Adamu Funtua Ministry of Environment, Engineer Dr. Sani Magaji Ingawa, Works, Housing and Transport, Alhaji Bello

Hussaini Kagara Budget and Economic Planning, Dr. Faisal Umar Kaita, Land and Physical Planning, and Alhaji Isa Muhammad Musa Special Duties.

The rest are, Hajiya Hadiza Yar'adua Tuggar Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Honourable Dr. Bashir Gambo Saulawa Ministry of Health, Barrister Fadila Muhammad Dikko Ministry of Justice and Alhaji Yusuf Rabi'u Jirdede, Ministry of Youth and Sport Development.

Niger Republic Coup: Arewa Consultative Forum Kicks Against Military Option

**Says wrong move will strain Niger-Nigeria relationship*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

While condemning the military coup in Niger Republic, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has however, warned against use of military in efforts to reinstate the democratically elected government.

ACF expressed this in a statement signed by its Secretary General, Murtala M. Aliyu (Mutawallen Gombe), made available to newsmen in Kaduna yesterday.

"A military intervention might yield temporary solution but the repercussions on Nigeria as a leader and the regional body would impact negatively on future relations and a herculean task to rebuild.

"The ACF supports the position to restore democratic rule in Niger but calls on the ECOWAS

Authority of Heads of State and Government under the able Chairmanship President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR to tow the path of dialogue and diplomacy and certainly not force, in resolving the current impasse in Niger in the interest of peaceful coexistence with our brotherly neighbour and stability of the ECOWAS region," the statement said.

ACF said that Nigeria and Niger share a long historical border of more than one thousand five hundred kilometers with families, communities sharing common facilities including farmlands, markets, cultural bonds and languages for many centuries predating the Trans Saharan Trade and colonial times.

"The two countries have enjoyed harmonious brotherly and mutually beneficial inter

communal relationships from time immemorial.

"The measures being contemplated should have taken into consideration the historical antecedents and mutual interests of the two countries and weighed the consequences of the use of force," it stressed.

AC joined the United Nations, African Union AU and ECOWAS to condemn in strong terms the 26th July 2023 military coup d'etat in the Republic of Niger led by Brigadier General Abdourahame Tchiani calling for the restoration of democratic governance in that country.

"In a Communiqué issued at the end of the 51st Extraordinary Summit of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government on the Political Situation in Niger held in Abuja on 30th July 2023 under the current Chairman President Bola

Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, the ECOWAS Leaders gave a one week ultimatum for the coupists to return power to the democratically elected President Muhammadou Bazoum or face a range of sanctions including, among others, economic, land and overflight blockade already imposed or military intervention. "The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) however views with concern the unfolding events in Nigeria's immediate neighbour, Republic of Niger and the potential impact on the region," it said.

While ACF, recognises the ECOWAS position to bring pressure to bear on the coupists, "but nevertheless the military option shouldn't be a prerequisite for Nigeria's and the Community's continuing efforts to enthrone democracy in the region in the 21st century.

"Certainly not an adventure to be led Nigeria. Democracy has taken root in Nigeria and her leadership role has inspired many countries in ECOWAS to embrace democratic governance structure. We shouldn't throw that away for some misadventure against our brothers and sisters on the other side prejudicial to our Non -interference in a country's internal affairs posture and attendant legal implications. ECOWAS is a shining example of a functional Regional Economic Cooperation (REC) on the Continent which should be sustained.

"We believe the peaceful relations with our border communities and stability of the entire region should be paramount," it submitted.

Shaaban May Get Second Kaduna Ministerial Slot

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

There are indications that President Bola Tinubu might give additional Ministerial slot to Kaduna State as part of political calculation to make further in- road in the North and to also compensate the North West zone in particular for voting massively for him in the 2023 General election..

This is according a credible source from Aso Rock Presidential Villa.

The source who didn't want his name mentioned, told reporters in Kaduna that a former Governorship candidate of the defunct Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), Honourable Sani Shaaban is being considered for the second Ministerial slot for Kaduna State.

Shaaban, a former member of the House of Representatives and a close ally of President Bola Tinubu, was the ACN Governorship Candidate Kaduna State in during 2011 Governorship election, won by the PDP candidate, Ibrahim Yakowa.

A chartered Accountant by profession, Shaaban is also an international businessman and a member of the Royal house in Zaria, Kaduna State.

Although the Aso Rock source

said the President is stuck between picking the second minister from either Kaduna or Kano State, but he disclosed that the odds favour Shaaban due to his close relationship with President Tinubu and also as a foundation member of the ACN, founded by Tinubu while he was Governor of Lagos State.

According to the source, with the appointment of Nasir El-Rufai, which did not go down well with some people, picking Shaaban as the second minister from Kaduna State, will not only bring about the desired stability in the North, but will also make galvanise more support base for his re-election in 2027.



It was also argued the choice of Shaaban from Kaduna State is based on the fact that the Deputy Senate President, Senator Barau Jibril and former Governor Abdullahi Ganduje

who has been reportedly appointed President Bola Tinubu as the next National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), are both from Kano State.

During the recent less lesser Hajj in mecca, Shaaban was said to have met with President Bola Tinubu Saudi Arabia in company of the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu.

House Of Justice Petitions Senate Against el-Rufai's Ministerial Nomination

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

House of Justice, a multi-door justice house in Kaduna-Nigeria, has protested the nomination of the immediate past governor of Kaduna State, Malam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai, as Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, stating as basis for the protest, his abysmal human rights violations and mass atrocities record especially during his eight-year tenure as governor of Kaduna State.

The Petition which was signed by Gloria Mabeiam Ballason Esq, the Chief Executive Officer and Advocacy Lead of the organization, cited among other reasons for objection, el-Rufai's admission of being an accessory to murder by paying killers, arbitrary demolition of property of citizens and political opponents, sacking teachers and withholding their salaries, imprisonment

and sacking of traditional rulers, journalists and activists as well as the persecution of the Southern Kaduna people.

The petition further noted that there was a pending verdict of Nigeria's parliament that declared el-Rufai as not fit and proper to occupy public office and that international reports such as the 2020 and 2023 British All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) and Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) reports, dishonourably indicted the former governor.

The petition which had attached evidence of the allegations against the embattled former governor, also noted that el-Rufai has no respect for the constitution, rule of law or the code of conduct for public officers and could only fit into a dictatorship and not a democracy.

The petition was signed as received by the office of the Senate President.

Poor Electricity: Kebbi Govt Appeals To Kaduna Electric To Increase Supply

By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Following the alleged poor power supply to Kebbi, the state government has appealed to Kaduna Electricity Company (KAEDCO), to increase supply of electricity to the state.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Political Matters and Power, Alhaji Kabiru Sami (Giant) made the appeal in Birnin Kebbi, on Wednesday, during a meeting with KAEDCO management, according to a statement signed by Ahmed Idris, Chief Press Secretary to the State Governor.

The SA, said the call became imperative in view of the low power supply being experienced by the residents of the state.

He attributed the poor payment of electricity bills by some section of the customers to inability of the company to ensure steady power supply to the state.

Sani, however, appealed to customers to endeavour to pay their bills as at and when due to enable the company "serve us better." He noted that the present administration under the leadership of Dr Nasir Idris would not afford to allow its people in darkness, hence the need for

passionate appeal to the company to rescue the state over the epileptic power supply.

He appealed for positive change from the company and assured that government would be ready to support them with necessary things if they desire to change for the betterment of the state.

In his response, Regional Manager, KAEDCO, Malam Gaddafi Ibrahim lamented that customers are owing the company huge amounts of money due to low payment of electricity bills.

He, however, admitted that the light performance in the state was very poor which according to him was responsible for people lacking or not responding in paying their electricity bills.

The manager identified some challenges facing the company to include only one functional 75MBA transformer which would not be enough to carry all the loads in Birnin Kebbi, hence the decision for load-shading.

He observed that for Kebbi to experience steady power supply, an additional of either 75MBA or 15MBA transformer was needed to enable the company serve the state better.

We Are Spending N7.3bn Monthly On Oyo Workforce - Govt

Says political office holders gulping less than N100million monthly, warns against violent protests by workers

welfare is best illustrated by the fact that less than N100Million is spent on political office-holders salaries monthly, while N7.3bn is spent on the workforce for the same period.

The Commissioner maintained that the State

Governor, in fulfilment of his promise since 2019, has prioritised all issues concerning civil servants, such that over 90% of political office-holders do not have the luxury of an official car in the last four years, while many senior civil servants enjoy such

facilities.

Prince Oyelade stressed further that owing two months (salary) deductions should not attract extreme reactions, when workers themselves know that other states, with larger funds are struggling to imitate Oyo

State.

The Commissioner assured the people of the state that the good relationship that exists between the NLC and the Government is resilient enough to douse this tension and allow peace to reign.



Ganduje (left) with Inuwa Yahaya.

Northern Governors' Forum Hails Ganduje's Emergence As APC National Chairman

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Chairman of Northern States Governors' Forum and Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has applauded the emergence of former Kano State Governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje as the new National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

A statement signed the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, said

he also hailed the election of former Senate spokesman, Sen. Ajibola Basiru, as National Secretary of the party.

The two party officials were elected at the 12th NEC meeting of the party held at the Congress Hall of Transcorp Hilton in Abuja.

Governor Inuwa, in a statement, said, Ganduje's election not only reflects his exceptional leadership abilities but also underscores the trust and confidence fellow party stakeholders and members have in him.

"Your distinguished

tenure as the Governor of Kano State demonstrated your commitment to the welfare of the people and the development of our great party and nation.

"As the newly elected National Chairman, you hold a critical position in steering our great party towards a united and prosperous future. Your experience and strategic vision will be vital in addressing the challenges ahead and harnessing the collective strength of the APC to bring about positive change for all Nigerians.

"I am confident that under

your able guidance, the party will chart a course of progress, inclusivity, and good governance that will resonate with citizens across the country in line with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's 'Renewed Hope' mantra". The Governor, particularly praised the leadership direction and guidance of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, which he said facilitated the smooth conduct of the caucus and NEC meetings that produced the new helmsmen of the APC.

SOKAPU, Kaduna Govt Mend Fences, Vow To Pursue Development Of State

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

After years of hostility to each other, the Southern Kaduna People's Union (SOKAPU) and the Kaduna State Government have finally embraced each other and promised to work together for the overall growth and development of the state.

The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe on Wednesday, when they visited Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, urged Southern Kaduna People's Union (SOKAPU) to see the need to harmonise and bring groups that have common interest, common focus together in unity.

Dr. Hadiza Balarabe alongside other senior government officials received the delegation of Southern Kaduna People's Union (SOKAPU) who came on a courtesy visit to Government House in Kaduna.

She expressed appreciation for the visit by SOKAPU leaders and said, the administration of Governor Uba Sani runs an open door policy and is ready to engage with SOKAPU in line with administration's commitment to nurture citizens engagement as outlined in the Sustain Manifesto. According to her, the congratulatory message is not only for her, it is for everyone that is seated in the council chamber, "I thank you for the visit," she said. She noted that, the message is coming at the time when the administration is settling into the business's of governance.

"I feel that your pledge of commitment and working together with this administration to make a difference is coming at the right time.

"I hope and I pray that we can only see greater and bigger things coming to Southern Kaduna.

"You are aware that this administrations is pushing on the Sustain Agenda, safety and security is the first point of the agenda.

"However, government cannot do everything alone, they're certain areas that we need your collaborations, you are the voice of Southern Kaduna and I want you to be seen as the voice that is propagating education, health, investment in infrastructure rather than anything else.

"You should be the voice for calling people to unity, I want you to open up, there's a narrative that has been for SOKAPU, how do we change the narrative?" She queried.

Dr Balarabe said, "some of our local government in Kaduna State are among the highest users, how do we talk to our youths and get them obtain a skills or at least go

back to school so that we can take their minds off drug abuse.

"We are trying to move sports from just being a leisure to something that is a business, there are so many footballers that started from Kaduna and they are know making it big time.

"We need to come together, If we have numbers of Southern Kaduna who have gone to school, what are we using them for, how are we propagating our area? We should have been better than where we are, that is what I believe.

"We need to get our people to believe in the entity called Southern Kaduna, and we want to contribute to make a difference in Southern Kaduna, we want to have rural infrastructure, we want to build Our rural economy, we want to build human capital, because if you don't have reasonable human capital you can't compute in this our globalised world," she said.

She urged them as members of Southern Kaduna to see the need to harmonise and bring groups that have common interests and common focus together so that they can speak with one voice at any point in time.

"I hope and pray that this kind of discussions will continue and that we will be open to one another, we will be truthful in our dealings and we will be committed to the promises that we will make to another.

"Our government is open, Governor Uba Sani runs an open door policy you are always welcome.

"Thank you very much for taking the opportunity to be here. I pray that as we continue the conversations that we can only be better for it and that we have a Southern Kaduna that is bigger better and stronger," she said.

In a remark, the President of the Caretaker Committee of the Southern Kaduna People's Union (SOKAPU), Professor Ishaya Kato Auta who led other executive and board members of the union to pay a congratulatory visit to the Deputy Governor, said their visit is to identify with Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe being of theirs and assure her of their readiness to support her to succeed.

"We will put our heads together to see that you do not fail, because your success is our collective success", he said.

Leaders of SOKAPU expressed readiness to engage the Kaduna State government.

"We want to partner with government and build bridges", Ephraim Goje, SOKAPU Board member also said.

They pledged their loyalty to the Deputy Governor, describing her as the political leader of Southern Kaduna.



1.6m Children Out Of School In Borno, Adamawa, Yobe - UNICEF

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By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

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Nguyen added that, "among those in school, 72% cannot read a simple text after grade 6. Without acquiring appropriate foundational and transferable skills, children fail to thrive in school and in life."

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Tafa Balogun, A Great Leader, Mentor - PSC Boss Arase

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC), Dr. Solomon Arase has described late former Inspector General of Police, Alhaji Tafa Balogun as a great leader and mentor, whose strength, courage and kindness, provided immense opportunities for all those who knew and worked with him while he was alive.

Dr. Arase revealed this while eulogising Alhaji Tafa Balogun on the first year remembrance anniversary of his death.

He also described him as a strong, dynamic and hardworking boss who invested hugely in the lives of many vulnerable and underprivileged Nigerian in the pursuit of justice.

According to the PSC chairman, Alhaji Balogun was one of the greatest

persons he'd been opportuned to serve under his leadership, adding that even after his demise, his good deeds still speak for him both in and out of the Police Force.

"I am grateful to have had him as a boss. He was an essential part of my career as a police officer and I remember him always with pride and honour".

In a statement by Ikechukwu Ani Head, Press and Public Relations of the Commission, Dr.

Arase further stressed that though the loss of Balogun can never be recovered, he prays he would find the reward of leading a kind life as he dwells happily with the Saints in heaven.

He also enjoined the family to be comforted in the faith that Alhaji Tafa Balogun is in a better place, and prayed for the continued repose of his soul.



Arase

NLC Protest: Governor Umo Eno Calms Workers, Sets Up Palliatives Committee

**Releases N1bn for teachers' gratuities*

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno has reiterated his campaign promise of being a labour friendly governor, saying his administration will engage the federal government positively to ensure that the demands of labour in the state are met.

Governor Eno stated this in Uyo on Wednesday, while addressing members of the organised labour unions, who joined their counterparts on a nationwide protests to press home the demands for better deal from federal government to cushion the harsh effects of petroleum subsidy removal.

The governor, who added that he understood the pains of workers in the state, informed them that the federal government has released palliatives to states to cushion the effects of the subsidy removal on workers.

He said that the consignment for Akwa Ibom would arrive the state within days, while the state government was also working to provide more palliatives in addition to what the federal government would give

To ensure the equitable disbursement of the palliatives within 10 days, Governor Eno said that a committee which will have members of Nigeria labour Congress making the committee would be setup.

Governor Eno who



NLC protest in Uyo

identified with the plight of workers, commended the peaceful disposition of workers' protest in the state and made more announcements to the delight of workers.

"Immediate release of One Billion Naira for settlement of gratuities of retired Primary School Teachers in the state.

"Release of Eight Hundred Million Naira to clear the backlog of Leave Grants for Workers.

"Directed that henceforth, Leave Grant to be incorporated into monthly salaries for prompt payment to workers."

Earlier the chairperson of Nigeria Labour Congress in the state, Comrade Sunny James, who along with Trade Union Congress chairperson, led workers on the the protest, reeled out the workers demands to Governor Umo Eno.

Among the items include, stepping down the federal government palliatives for Akwa Ibom state to get to people of the within days, arranging a meeting with members of the organised Labour Unions in the state to address the demands of workers

Establishment of a modular refinery and a petrol depot in the state, stressing that it was sad that Akwa Ibom as an oil bearing state in the country lacked such facilities to help bring down the price of petroleum products besides other benefits

James handed over documents containing workers' demands in the state to governor Umo Eno for action

He however commended the Governor Eno for coming out to address the workers inspite of his busy schedules

Recall the national President of NLC, Comrade Joe Ajaero in a release on Tuesday, called on workers nationwide to embark on a mass protest to ventilate the demands of workers before government.

Comrade Ajaero listed among the demands, the immediate implementation in good faith, the resolution with Congress that was jointly signed with government and Trade Union Congress.

Immediate reversal of all anti-poor policies of government including the recent hike in PMS, school fees and VAT and fixing the nation's local refineries I. Port Harcourt, Warri and Kaduna.

Also the release of eight months withheld salaries of University lecturers and workers

Kake Community Appeals To Gov Uba Sani To Intervene On Land Ownership

By; SANALIYU, Zaria

People with houses and lands at Unguwar Kake, under Kufena Ward in Zaria Local Government Area have appealed to Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State to intervene on the move to takeover their lands without any compensation by the local government council.

Speaking to Journalists on Wednesday when a team

from Zaria Local Government stormed the area and started measuring the area with the view to sacking them from what legitimately belongs to them.

Some household and land owners, Malam Musa and Malama Khadija who expressed dismay, said that they acquired the lands legally and possess all relevant documents, but all of a sudden, Zaria

Local Government came up and said it is their land.

"It is unfortunate that the people we elected are now paying us with this kind of dividend of democracy".

They said as law abiding citizens, they are not confronting nor violent, but want everything to be addressed lawfully.

Accordingly, the land and houses around the said land are over 500, which will be affected.

They thanked His Highness, the emir of Zazzau Dr Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli for fatherly intervention and urged him not to get tired of assisting them as a father.

"As usual his intervention on this matter is very important and highly appreciated by all those concern in this matter," they said.

Investment In Maritime Training, Catalyst To African Economic Growth - MOWCA Scribe

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Secretary General of Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA), Dr. Paul Adalikwu has emphasised the utmost need for African countries to invest in maritime capacity building, saying it is a catalyst to achieving economic growth.

Speaking in Accra at the 29th Board of Governors Meeting and convocation ceremony of the Regional Maritime University (RMU), Adalikwu said African countries can save foreign exchange by providing competency courses and globally acceptable certification within the continent.

He highlighted that maritime training that aligns with Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) which comes with certification for unlimited career prospects for African seafarers will improve the earnings of

African seafarers and close the gap of unemployment in the maritime industry.

The MOWCA SG said ICT based maritime training such as the Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) which was included as part of Manila amendment of the STCW have become imperative in MOWCA's goal of supporting member countries to produce modern seafarers

The SG said MOWCA is still in communications with notable bodies like African Development Bank (AfDB); African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Afreximbank where it has made a strong case for the role of maritime transport in the continental trade aspirations of these bodies.

He added that MOWCA has frontally presented the technical/skill inputs that its specialized institutions will bring to bear

Speaking specifically on the RMU which

celebrated 65 years of existence and forty years of regionalization, Dr. Adalikwu said "It is a non-contestable fact that we can save some foreign exchange if we grow this school to provide some certification and competency courses that we receive from outside the sub-region, just as we will be able to generate foreign earnings if we can also become maritime training hubs. It is possible and achievable if we try.

"I am particularly happy to see that RMU is listed and active on the MOWCA-IMO Joint Action Plan working group where we will continue to explore avenues of drawing assistance to the school.

"As I had informed, we are still in communications with the AfDB, AfCFTA and Afreximbank where we have made a strong case for the role of maritime transport in the continental trade aspirations of these bodies.

"Therein, MOWCA has frontally presented the

technical/skill inputs that our specialized institutions will bring to bear. I am glad to inform that our observations have been noted with assured promises to assist our schools to grow the needed capacities and competence for our maritime industries.

"It is a non-contestable fact that we can save some foreign exchange if we grow this school to provide some certification and competency courses that we receive from outside the sub-region, just as we will be able to generate foreign earnings if we can also become maritime training hubs. It is possible and achievable if we try" the MOWCA SG said.

He expressed joy that the RMU is listed and active on the MOWCA-IMO Joint Action Plan working group which will draw attention to the university for international support. The Accra based RMU is one of MOWCA's specialised organs.

Rivers NIS Comptroller James Sunday Bags Eminent Peace Ambassador Award

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Comptroller of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Rivers State Command, James Sunday has been conferred with a UN International Eminent Peace Ambassador Award by Global Diplomats and United Nations Volunteers. The award, which was bestowed on him by the Global Diplomats and UN Volunteers in recognition of his selfless, patriotic and Dedication to global peace and development.

According to the forum in a statement signed by Eminent Peace Ambassador Juliet Nwokocha, the International body has kept close monitoring of his activities and deemed it fit to recognise this hidden

talent and disposition as a National Asset.

According to the forum, Comptroller James Sunday has carved a niche in the Nigeria Immigration Service with track record from being a pioneer NIS Desk Officer for INTERPOL, to being Special Assistant to the Honourable Minister of Interior on Security, Head of Media and Publicity Nigeria Immigration Service, Headquarters, Abuja.

He was also the Comptroller Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, Comptroller Operations, Zon A, Lagos, Comptroller Bayelsa Command and presently Comptroller Rivers Command.

Father, Teenage Son In Police Net Over Kidnap Of Church Members During Vigil

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A middle aged man identified as Saliu and his teenage son are now in Police net in Osun State for allegedly kidnapping members of a church during a vigil.

According to the Osun State Police Command Public Relations Officer, SP Yemisi Opatola, the man and his 15-year-old son allegedly abducted the church worshippers at Osunjela area of the state. Parading the two suspects and 14 other arrested suspects in Osogbo on Tuesday, the PPRO stated that the suspected kidnappers were arrested after allegedly attacked a pentecostal church during a vigil.

SP Opatola stressed, "The hoodlums, whose numbers could not be ascertained, stormed the premises and shot sporadically to scare the worshippers away".

"The suspected kidnappers abducted some members

of the church and allegedly sexually assaulted female members of the church in the process", she said.

SP Opatola added "The police on receiving information moved to the scene and combed the bushes leading to the arrest of three suspects, including a father and son".

While tasking Church worshippers to avoid attending vigils in remote areas to prevent ugly occurrences, said all the suspects would be charged to court after the conclusion of investigations.

One of the victims, Esther Ayodeji while narrating his experience said the hoodlums invaded the church during their vigil at Messiah parish, saying, "the marauders came at midnight; their mission was not to steal but abduction. All our mobile phones and other personal effects were not stolen," she disclosed.



Dr. Adalikwu being conferred award in Ghana

CENTREP Calls On Tinubu To Probe NSITF Boss Over Alleged Fraudulent Payment Of N47m To Self As Gratuity

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Centre for the Vulnerable and the Underprivileged (CENTREP), a human rights organisation, has called on President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu to as a matter of urgency, set up a high powered panel of enquiry into what it described as monumental fraud going on at the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), stating that the current Managing Director of NSITF, Mrs. Maureen Allagoa allegedly approved and paid herself over N47 million as gratuity while still in office.

The organisation also extended the call to Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC), and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), urging the anti-graft agencies to urgently swing into action and investigate the alleged fraud in NSITF being perpetrated by its MD, Maureen Allagoa.

CENTREP stated this in a statement signed by its National Chairman, Oghenejabor Ikimi, Esq., and made available to journalists during a World Press Conference, on Monday July 31, 2023.

CENTREP noted that through a memo titled, "Re: Gratuity Computation for Mrs. Maureen Allagoa - (Aa/11272) for the period of service from September 2016 to February, 2023 as General Manager and Executive Director respectively,"

The group alleged that Mrs. Allagoa, approved and paid herself gratuity for the period she served as General Manager and Executive Director.

It further noted that the development has created tension amongst the management and staff of the agency.

Continuing, CENTREP said that the MD of NSITF, Mrs. Maureen Allagoa, through an internal memo with Reference Number: NSITF/AC/18&A/5/S.4/B117, dated July 3, 2023, from PM, Audit & Inspectorate, routed through AGM, Head, Audit & Inspectorate to the DGM, Head, Audit & Inspectorate, reportedly paid herself N47M gratuity.

The organisation noted that despite the good objective of setting up the NSITF, the agency has failed in meeting its core mandate of providing safe-shelter-net for employees, and had become a cesspool of unbridled corruption and fraudulent activities since the time of Dr. Michael Akabuogu, and the current MD, Mrs. Maureen Allagoa.

The statement reads in part:

"The Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) is an Institution established by the Nigerian Government to provide financial and insurance services to

is recommended for your...
03/07/2023 DGM Audit

CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR / CE
NIGERIA SOCIAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND
3 JUL 2023
RECEIVED
Head Office, Plot 446, Clark Road, Abuja

NIGERIA SOCIAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND
AUDIT AND INSPECTORATE DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL MEMO

Ref: NSITF/AC/I&A/5/S.4/B117 Date: 3rd July, 2023
To: DGM, Head, Audit & Inspectorate
Through: AGM, Head, Audit & Inspectorate
From: PM, Audit & Inspectorate
Subject: RE: GRATUITY COMPUTATION FOR MRS MAUREEN ALLAGOA- (Aa/11272) FOR PERIOD OF SERVICE FROM SEPTEMBER 2016 TO FEBRUARY 2023 AS GENERAL MANAGER ANDEXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESPECTIVELY.

The above subject refers.

The file has been reviewed and our findings are as follows

That item 1 and 2 in folio 118 and 119 are the gratuity computation by Administration/HR Department to the sum of N35,560,310.046.

We have reviewed and vetted to the sum of N47,916,336.93 (Forty Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Sixteen Thousand, Three Hundred and Thirty-Six Naira Ninety-Three Kobo) only as follows:

• Gratuity as GM	N11,916,336.93
• Gratuity as ED	N36,000,000.00
	N47,916,336.93

The reasons for the differential in the computation are as follows:

The annual basic salary in the gratuity computation as a General Manager step 8 was computed as N1,789,135.46 instead of the sum of N 2,132,558.79.

The annual basic salary for ED is N30,000,00.00 multiply by the % terminal salary which is 120% for two years that she spent as ED (30,000,000*120%=36,000,000).

Pls. See MD's approval and pay 47,916,336 only. 21/7/23

3/7/23

66 JUL 2023

employees in Nigeria.

"It is a proactive and employee-dedicated Government Institution, committed to the welfare of employees, in the event of work-related accidents, injuries, or other employee related contingencies.

"The NSITF was established in 1961 as the National Provident Fund (NPF) to provide a poverty alleviation measure as required by Convention No.102 of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

"The scheme is targeted at protecting private sector employees (whose employers were then mostly multinationals) from financial difficulties in the event of either old age, cessation of employment, invalidity, or death, since most employers then did not have such provisions in their employment policies."

The statement added, "In a way,

the provident fund scheme was a compulsory saving scheme.

"However, because of the defects of the NPF, the Federal Government of Nigeria established the NSITF to succeed the defunct NPF to reflect the objectives it seeks to accomplish. "The NSITF has evolved from a Provident Fund Scheme to a Social Insurance Scheme and currently the Employees' Compensation Scheme."

The statement continued, "Also, in 1993, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria established the NSITF to cater for the welfare of the employees, in the event of work-related accidents or injuries and to address its findings that some employers do not provide a well-structured working condition, health benefits or security for their employees.

"It is important to note that the

NSITF is the only Governmental Institution backed up by law to ensure that all employers of Labour adhere to the Employees' compensation scheme.

"Nevertheless, as noble as the objective of setting up the NSITF is, sadly, it has failed in recent times in meeting its core mandate of providing safe-shelter-net for employees.

The statement added, "We had thought that after the unceremonious sacking of the immediate past Managing Director, Dr. Michael Akabuogu, by former President Muhammadu Buhari, over NYSC certificate forgery and the expiration of the tenure of the former Minister of Labour and Productivity, Dr. Chris Ngige, who serially undermined the extant rules of the Agency and was running NSITF as his personal estate through his

stooges, one would have thought that the Fund will "heave" a sigh of relief."

"This was not to be as the media was awash last week as the current Managing Director of NSITF, Mrs. Maureen Allagoa, approved and paid herself over 47 million Naira as gratuity while still in office, against global best practices and extant rules of NSITF."

The statement continued, "The MD, Mrs. Maureen Allagoa, through an internal memo with a Reference Number: NSITF/AC/I&A/5/S.4/B117 dated 3rd July 2023, from PM, Audit & Inspectorate, routed through AGM, Head, Audit & Inspectorate to the DGM, Head, Audit & Inspectorate, reportedly paid herself 47 million Naira gratuity.

"In the memo titled; "RE: Gratuity Computation for Mrs. Maureen Allagoa- (Aa/11272) for the period of service from September 2016 to February 2023, as General Manager and Executive Director respectively;" she approved and paid herself gratuity for the period she served as General Manager and Executive Director, a development that has created tension amongst the management and staff of the agency.

"This gratuity payment to herself was made as over 500 staff who retired in the past 5 years are being owed their retirement benefits. The DGM Audit, should explain how she approved the payment when she denied other retired officers their entitlements.

"We have not forgotten that the current MD, Mrs. Maureen Allagoa was alleged by the sacked former NSITF MD, Dr. Michael Akabuogu of buying a house worth 180 million naira through contracts she used her companies to float, when she was ED Administration, and till date, the MD has not issued a statement to deny the allegation.

"We are inundated on how the current MD in connivance with the former Minister of Labour and Productivity, re-employed retired civil servants in NSITF against the Fund extant rules."

The statement continued, "It's also reported how the MD, Mrs. Maureen Allagoa against established rules of employment, engaged Mr. Akin as General Manager Procurement. Akin, a retired procurement officer was re-engaged to do her dirty deals of committing illegality at the agency. "We therefore call on Mr. President, Asiwaju Bola to as a matter of urgency, set up a high-powered panel of enquiry into the monumental fraud going on at NSITF in the interim, in a bid to rescuing FUND from the mindless grip of this current management Exco who are bent on defrauding and looting the fund."



COMMUNITY FOCUS

NAERLS Honours AGRA Country Director, Programme Officer



By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The National Agricultural Extension Research and Liason Services (NAERLS) has honoured AGRA Country Director, Dr. Kehinde Makinde, and the Programme Officer, Dr. Esther Ibrahim, with awards of excellence for their excellent performance and leadership in agricultural transformation in Kaduna State and Nigeria.

They were honoured for their outstanding performance, leadership, professionalism, and dedication to AGRA activities toward the agricultural transformation in Kaduna State and Nigeria.

Their dedication to AGRA activities has been instrumental in the project's success since its inception. They have been strategic in generating new ideas, possibilities, and perspectives, achieving organizational

goals through teamwork and partnerships.

Their leadership style, and proactive strategies as well as real-time feedback constructive corrections when needed inspired partners to align with the project's vision.

The awards were presented by NAERLS Principal Officers for their contributions, particularly in strengthening grassroots extension through the Community Based Advisor.



Fuel Subsidy Removal Protest Rocks Ibadan

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan
It was protest galore in Ibadan as labour leaders and members as well as others embarked on massive protest on Wednesday in line with directives of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Secretariat in Abuja

As early as 7.30am, leaders and members of the participating bodies stormed the University of Ibadan gate in preparedness for the protest which commenced at 7.50am with various solidarity songs rejecting the increase in price of petrol arising from the subsidy removal

The protesters were also condemning what they termed anti people policies of the President Bola Tinubu administration, which they said, are killing innocent Nigerians gradually

Armed with placards having various inscriptions such as "Tinubu, you are not fair to Nigerians masses", "Don't kill us with anti people policies of your Govt", "Just within 60 days, enough of these hardships", "Reverse the fuel Price increase", "Nigerians are suffering, stop the promises" among others.

The protesters while moving from one point to the other chanting anti government songs were urging Nigerians generally to join the labour movement in rejecting anti masses policies

embarked upon by the President Tinubu led administration.

At the Oyo state Government Secretariat Agodi, the protesters joined the protesting Oyo state civil servants with abusive songs condemning the Oyo state government as well as the Federal government over the plight of Nigerians.

From the Oyo state Government Secretariat, the protesters headed to Mokola area of Ibadan and addressed traders at the Mokola under the overhead bridge on the need for Nigerians to protest against the various hardships brought with the policies of the new administration in the country.

Following the protest, the Oyo state Police command on Wednesday made known measures put in place by the Command to ensure adequate protection of lives and properties in the state,

the state Commissioner of Police, CP Adebola Hamzat in a statement on his behalf by the Oyo state Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO), SP Adewale Osifeso hinted that the security measures are to forestall any form of breach of public peace during the planned nationwide strike by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC).

According to the statement, CP Hamzat also deployed personnel of the state command to man



NLC/TUC members during the protest on Fuel subsidy removal in Ibadan on Wednesday

critical infrastructure across the state and that the entire ten police Area Command in the state have received deployment of strategic operational intelligence assets for visible policing and public confidence building to ensure free movement.

"The Oyo State Police Command under the leadership of CP Adebola A. Hamzat has emplaced adequate security measures to ensure a peaceful procession in the State. So also strategic operational and intelligence assets were deployed across the (10) Ten

Area Commands in the State, evident through visibility policing and confidence building patrols.

"So also, the spotlight was beamed on Places of interests, critical infrastructures and landmarks."

Adamawa: To Balance Political Difference, Group Urges Tinubu To Appoint Christian Minister

BY: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A group under the auspices of democracy and Good Governance (DGG) has cried out the undue exclusion of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Christian politicians in Adamawa State.

The group issued a statement condemning the unfairness of the stakeholders who are bent on bringing a Muslim to be part of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's cabinet as a minister.

The statement which was jointly signed by Mr. Abraham Pwamadda as the Chairman and Aminu Idris as the secretary, said

it is glaring that the APC stakeholders have decided to exclude Christians in Tinubu's line of administration

In their statement, DGG revealed how Christians in APC were used to go on massive propaganda against the Muslim Muslim ticket and were called blackmailers, anti-Christ, and enemies of the church by their fellow Christians.

"But now that party is sitting at its sharing table they are not seeing the need to include a Christian among those that will support Tinubu to work for Nigeria," they said.

They used Taraba as a case study

of the party's decision to balance up appointments on religious grounds despite Emmanuel Bwacha, David Sabo Kante, and the rest of the party were not picked but went for a Muslim APC man, Sani Danladi (Contact) in the name balancing the political imbalance.

They urged President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to apply the same method in balancing the ministerial appointment with any Christian politician in APC, or else the party will be regarded as a political party with Islamic agenda.

DGG said it became a point of call and duty to all critical

stakeholders to make APC a party for all Nigeria irrespective of religion, ethnic group and region one belongs.

They opined that if a Christian is not appointed by Tinubu to fill in the Adamawa Ministerial slot, the party should forget about taking over the state from PDP.

"They used Christians in the party to suppress Alhaji Atiku Abubakar's votes even as a strong opponent of Tinubu in the state of his origin.

"But glaring plans to exclude Christians in the party is a call for a clarion call to the president to be wise and handle with care who becomes the next minister

from Adamawa State because the exclusion of Christians in the party may cause for national crisis that may not go well With all party members

"All we are saying is fair treatment, inclusion, and carrying everyone in the party along as the broom we are all bounded together as the unity and strength we are preaching all the time.

"The NSA is a Fulani Muslim from the Central zone, it is ideal to look elsewhere to include all segments of the party formation in the interest of unity, peace, and progress," the statement read.

Tinubu's Government Can't Fight Corruption, Criminality, Says Timi Frank

**Condemns 'bow, go' ministerial screening exercise by Senate*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, on Tuesday, said the President Bola Tinubu's administration lacks capacity to fight corruption and criminality in the country.

Frank who made this assertion in a statement in Abuja, also condemned in the strong terms the ongoing "charade" termed ministerial screening by the Godswill Akpabio-led 10th Senate.

He described the appointment of Mr Jim Obazee as a Special Investigator to probe the activities as another waste of time as it only signals the impending serial witch-hunt of opposition party members.

Frank said: "The recent appointment of Jim Obazee as a Special Investigator to probe the activities is another waste of time as it only beckons serial witch-hunting of opposition members. "It is clear that there is no credibility, zeal or reputation from the ruling party to fight corruption but rather an opportunity for looters and criminals to have a field day again.

"Mr President must be aware that since he is only holding the Commonwealth of the nation albeit temporarily, every decision concerning the Nigerian state must be done with utmost decorum and sincerity to the Nigerian People. The world

is watching diligently and history will hold us accountable for our actions and inaction.

"We would like to urge the Judiciary to expedite their verdict on the PEPT and save the country the embarrassment of foisting an illegitimacy as this will only bring about nothing but misery and pain to the nation at large. Their decision must be sacrosanct and decisive in this regard."

Frank, who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) Ambassador to East Africa and Middle East, also called for urgent halt to the ongoing ministerial screening exercise by the Senate.

Frank said: "The ongoing ministerial screening in the National Assembly has been nothing short of a national shame and disgrace orchestrated and supervised by a Senate President bent on reinforcing the old order of this sham of an exercise to the bewilderment of Nigerians.

"It is clear from the foregoing in the Red chamber as to the direction of the country under the APC led government.

"The ongoing screening of ministerial nominees is a joke taken too far and an insult to the sensibilities of reasonable Nigerians who are aghast as to the shambolic routine of 'take a bow and go' without any cross examination as to the pedigree and competence of these individuals nominated to serve the country.

"What is more amusing is the fact that this charade of an

exercise is being supervised by a Senate President who is currently being investigated for various corrupt practices, and therefore is of no obligation in ensuring that the right processes of due diligence is carried out on these individuals to the benefit of the country at large.

"Perhaps it will be safe to opine that even if a known kidnapper or criminal is sent to the NASS for clearance, he will most likely be cleared as the Senate President seems to be highly complacent and compromised in this regard.

"It is highly regrettable that nominees who have pending criminal cases and those who have appeared with questionable certificates and discrepancies in their resume are being told to bow and go without any probing questions as to their sincerity of purpose, notwithstanding the magnitude of the exercise.

"Therefore, I urge the Senate President to discontinue the screening on live television and stop the wastage of tax payers



Timi Frank

monies to continue with this show of shame on national television.

"Unfortunately this may only be possible because perhaps most of the legislators are aware they didn't come to the Senate legitimately and hence the constant acts of undermining the Nigerian people consistently whilst making a mockery and caricature of the citizens.

"This singular act by the Senate is a pointer to one of the very

reasons why several West African countries have recently suffered military take over to the admiration and cheer of the populace having taken the people for a fool for a long time.

"Therefore, Mr President, must invoke his veto power by appointing persons of merit, rather than sending them to the Senate which is of no use in the long run."

Exclusive Breastfeeding Still Best Option - Yobe Govt

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Yobe State Government has described exclusive breastfeeding as still the best option where newly born babies would be breastfed for a period of six months without taking ordinary water among other foods.

The Senior Special Assistant to Governor Mai Mala Buni on Health who was represented by the Executive Secretary of the State Primary Healthcare Management Board, Doctor Babagana Kundi Machina disclosed this at the commemoration of 2023 World Breastfeeding Day in Potiskum supported by Alive Thrives.

"The 2023 World Breastfeeding week which starts today with the official flag-off ceremony is a weeklong event that brings together government, partners and other private sector actors at the national and sub-national level to reaffirm the importance of breastfeeding for the growth and development of our babies"

"The theme of this year's World



Executive Secretary, Yobe State Primary Healthcare Management Board, Doctor Babagana Kundi Machina presenting gift one of mothers practicing exclusive breastfeeding

Breastfeeding week celebration is "Enable Breastfeeding-making a difference for working parents" This will give way to support mothers to sustain exclusive breastfeeding and also, encourage the breastfeeding supporters to support mothers in ensuring that children are exclusively breastfed" he said.

Representatives of Action Against Hunger, FHI 360, UNICEF among other partners thanked the Yobe state government for the cooperation received, saying the number of women practicing exclusive breastfeeding in the state had over the years increased significantly.

As part of the commemoration, 11 breastfeeding mothers who gave exclusive breast feeding to their children were given gifts by the Executive Secretary of the Primary Healthcare Management Board, the Vice Chairman of Potiskum Local Government Council, among other officials who attended the programme.

Kaduna Guber: Ashiru Closes Case, INEC, 2 Others To Commence Defence Tomorrow

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The gubernatorial candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) for the March 18, 2023 election in Kaduna State, Isa Ashiru, has closed his case today at the ongoing tribunal.

Isa Ashiru is challenging the victory of the incumbent Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani.

With the closure of Ashiru and his party's case on Thursday before Justice Victor Oviawe's led panel, the 1st (INEC), 2nd (Uba Sani) and 3rd (APC) respondents are expected to open their defence on Saturday.

According to the tribunal, the open and closure of defence of the respondents must be done within the stipulated time of 10 days,

as required by the law.

At the resumed hearing on Thursday (3rd August, 2023), Ashiru, through his lead counsel, Oluwole Iyamu (SAN) stood down his last subpoenaed witness who was an INEC official.

In his argument, Iyamu told the tribunal that the witness is not the right person to represent the Commission on the matter on ground, saying, "The petitioners shall be closing their case to allow defence to commence."

Justice Oviawe said that the petitioners, having closed their case, defence has been opened.

Upon the arguments of both counsels, the case has been adjourned to Saturday, 5th, August, 2023, for the commencement of defence by the respondents.

Information Commissioner Seeks Media Support in Marketing Governor Eno's ARISE Agenda

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Commissioner for Information in Akwa Ibom State, Comrade Ini Ememobong has appealed to journalists in the state to assist the ministry in marketing the ARISE Agenda of Governor Umo Eno as government moved to implementation.

At a meeting with correspondents in Uyo, the state capital on Monday, Comrade Ememobong said that ARISE Agenda, a thoroughly drafted agenda with action points and aspirations of Governor Umo Eno, has become a social contract between the government and the governed.

He tasked journalists to interrogate and fully understand the ARISE Agenda, Governor's economic blueprint in order to fully understand and key into the

implementation processes as it unfolds.

The Information boss stated that interrogating the contents of ARISE Agenda to know what it stands for by journalists has become necessary so that they can use it to hold the government to account.

He said that, the administration would therefore, look forward to the media support through agenda setting, feed forward and feedbacks devoid of malice and sentiment.

His words "People in representative capacity interrogated the document and now accept this document as the working document of this administration. Therefore the transitioning between being the private document, the political party agenda to an economic blueprint of government is why I am

here.

"And very simply, the government should be judged by this. This has become a social contract and if you read the agenda, you will discover that it is a thoroughly grafted agenda with points and with action points, aspirations clearly listed.

"So the marketing of this agenda is the duty of the Ministry of Information, but the interrogation of this agenda is the duty of the press and you are well positioned to Interrogate.

"You need to know what it stands for, what it represents, what it promises, so that you can use it to hold the government to account.

Ememobong who promised to avail himself for interrogation on issues across the agenda of the administration further explains:

"So the Arise Agenda stands for Agric

revolution, rural development, Infrastructure, security, economic and education. Then you see a lot of drop downs. There are 18 focal areas that are drawn from these five aspirations.

"Agric revolution, environmental management, rural development and youth empowerment, Infrastructure Maintenance and advancement, security management, quality educational and health sector management, economic, industrial and social advancement". He said

The Commissioner regretted that vandalism has continued to frustrate government effort to develop some rural communities, and tasked the media to consistently advocate for community ownership on projects located in across the state.

Subsidy Removal: Adamawa NLC, TUC Join Nationwide Protest, Applaud Fintiri's Palliative Measures

By; TINA PHINEAS, Yola

The Adamawa State chapter of the organised labour joined the nationwide protest embarked upon across the country to protest the fuel subsidy removal.

The Adamawa State NLC Chairman, Comrade Emmanuel Fashe who led the protest to the government House, Yola, commended Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri for providing palliative measures to ease current hardships.

He appreciated the governor for providing N10,000 monthly allowances to workers, and food stuffs to the citizens.

Fashe expressed worries over the current hardships workers are passing as a result of the hike in fuel and food prices as well as school fees.

Governor Fintiri represented by Chief of Staff, Dr. Edgar Amos Sunday, commended the NLC for the cordial relationship between it and the government.



Information Commissioner, Comrade Ini Ememobong (standing) during the meeting with Correspondents' Chapel

Nigeria Confronted With Challenges Of Corruption In High, Low Places, Olubadan Raises Alarm

**Tasks EFCC to collaborate on land, property fraud*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan
The Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lekan Balogun on Wednesday, alerted that Nigerians are still being confronted with challenges of corruption both in high and low places.

Oba Balogun raised the alarm in Ibadan, while receiving into his his Alarere residence, the Ibadan Zonal Commander of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Assistant Commander of the EFCC I (ACE I), Halimat Mustafa Rufa'u

He stressed that the agency deserved commendation for its various efforts at riding the country of corruption and the division of your task into various sections as just rolled

"No doubt, we are still being confronted with challenges of corruption both in high and low places, but, your activities as we monitor in the media give us hope and assurance of a better future when it comes to respect for integrity as a virtue", he said. Oba Balogun added, "One can only implore you to remain steadfast and focused on your core mandate and you can rest assured of my support for you as a critical stakeholder.

"I commend your agency for your various efforts at riding our

country of corruption and the division of your task into various sections as just rolled out by the Zonal Commander is an induction of your commitment to the mandate given you by the government".

Speaking further, Oba Balogun advocated collaboration between the EFCC and the committee put in place by him on land disputes and that the Land and Property Fraud Section of the EFCC would have a lot to gain from the said committee headed by the President of the Ibadan Mogajis, Mogaji Asimiyu Adepoju Ariori.

The Olubadan maintained that the creation of Land and Property Fraud section by the EFCC was a very thoughtful one which earned his applause.

The EFCC Zonal Commander while speaking solicited for the understanding and support of the Olubadan for her agency's various activities, the purpose of which she said brought her and her management team to the palace as the foremost traditional ruler presently in the state.

Halimat Mustafa Rufa'u stressed that "the fight against corruption is for the well-being of all and the fight must be a collective responsibility. Of particular concern is the cyber crime which mostly involves our youths.

"It is sad watching our youths



Olubadan of Ibadanland receiving EFCC Commander, Ibadan zone at his Alarare residence on Wednesday

concentrating their energy on crime, using internet to rob innocent victims, both from within and outside the country of their hard earned money. Aside the bad image this gives our country, the future if those young elements is being destroyed", she said.

The EFCC Zonal Commander added, "Equally, unregulated

mining portends great danger to our soil aside having negative impacts on our farming system. All these and others deserve all hands to be on deck to fight them to a standstill".

Halimat Mustafa Rufa'u was accompanied on the visit by ACE II Chinedu Eneanya, Head of Advance Fee Fraud Section, ACE II Olusegun Oloruntuyi,

Head of Extractive Industry Fraud Section, ACE II Oluwakemi Ogunbona, Head of Land and Property Fraud Section, ACE II David Nkpe, Head of Economic Governance Section, DSE Egbodofe Olumide, Head of Public Affairs Department and ASE II, Taiwo Ajaja, Head of Operations Admin.



L-R: Governor of Katsina State, Malam Dikko Umaru Radda with Registrar/CEO of the National Examination Council (NECO), Professor, Dantani Ibrahim Wushishi, during a meeting, on the important role the examination body plays in the education sector at the Government House in Katsina. Photo: Bashir Bello Dollars

Gombe Inuwa Yahaya Attends Funeral Prayer Of Iconic Traditional Leader, Yariman Gombe Abdulkadir

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, earlier today, joined thousands of sympathisers to perform the funeral prayer (Janazah) of the late Yariman Gombe and Senior District Head of Gombe, Alhaji Abdulkadir Abubakar Umar who passed on Wednesday after a brief illness. This was contained in a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available to our correspondent yesterday.

The funeral prayer, led by the Grand Khadi, Hon. Abdullahi Maikano Usman, held at the Palace of the Emir of Gombe with Government functionaries, national and state lawmakers, traditional rulers and multitude of mourners also in attendance. Governor Inuwa, who had to cancel some scheduled official engagements in Abuja to attend the funeral prayer in honour of the late Yariman Gombe, also received commiserations from royal fathers, community leaders, government officials, associates and other sympathisers. While conveying his

condolences to the Emir of Gombe, Alhaji Dr Abubakar Shehu Abubakar III, CFR and the entire Bubayero royal family members, the Governor noted that the late traditional leader lived a life of selfless service, and offered counsel and fatherly guidance for the peace, unity, growth and development of the state in particular and Nigeria in general. He said, "today, a giant tree has fallen in Gombe State. We have lost a rare gem, a humble and dedicated leader who was highly cherished by the entire people of the State". The Governor had, while

reacting to the demise of the traditional leader in a press statement, described the loss as a personal one in view of his age-long relationship with the deceased. He said, "this is a personal loss to me. Yarima was a father and worthy leader who was ever-supportive, and who spared nothing to ensure unity, peace and harmony among the people". The Governor also described the deceased as an iconic figure and man of great wisdom, who led with dignity and respect. He said, "the late Yarima was a highly respected leader, who was a symbol of inspiration to the

people, and who left behind a huge vacuum and indelible footprints. We will surely miss his fatherly guidance and counsel. "During this difficult time, it is important to remember the positive impact that he had on the community and the nation, and to honor his memory by upholding his legacy of leadership and selfless service". He prayed Almighty Allah to forgive the shortcomings of the deceased and reward his good deeds with Aljannat Firdaus.



Kaduna: Commissioner For Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs Charges LG Chairmen To Utilize Funds Judiciously

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Local Government Chairmen in Kaduna State have been urged to judiciously use funds allocated to them for the common good of the citizens of the state.

The Honourable Commissioner, Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos, gave the charge in Kaduna.

He said that the ministry will not hesitate to carryout monitoring activities to ensure that what is meant for the people at the grassroots is duly given to them. Mamman while charging the council chairmen, during the technical session of Kaduna State Local Government Joint Account Allocation Committee Meeting for the month of July, 2023 at the Conference Hall of the ministry, said the ministry

remains committed towards delivering the dividends of democracy to the people of Kaduna State in line with the vision of the state governor, Senator Uba Sani.

He added that the governor has pledged total commitment to carrying out a people-oriented democracy with a focus on peace and prosperity of the state and therefore, all hands must be on deck to achieve the goal without

any form of failure.

The commissioner said that the APC government in Kaduna State is indebted to traditional, community and religious leaders who are fostering an atmosphere of peace, while appreciating the efforts of APC leaders at all levels for their tireless efforts and commitment.

He said, "the ministry will be monitoring the activities as fund made for the people should be

used judiciously for those it is meant for.

"I also advise you to make sure that you delivered in your various LGAs and bring dividend of democracy to the people because that was the campaign promises made by governor Uba Sani and therefore we must work tirelessly to support the government so we can succeed together." He said.



N8,000 Palliative Insult To Nigerians, Revive Refineries, Labour Tells FG

By AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Nigerian Labour Congress, (NLC) in collaboration with the Trade Union Congress, (TUC) in Kaduna State, said that the N8,000 palliative announced by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is an insult to Nigerians. Speaking during the joint protest organized by the NLC and TUC in Kaduna on Wednesday, the NLC and TUC Chairmen, Kaduna State, Comrade Suleiman Ayuba and Abdulahi Alhassan Danfulani, said Nigerians are not interested in any palliatives, but measures

that would curb the effects of the removal of fuel subsidy, posed on its citizens.

According to Ayuba, "The Nigerian government is not specific on when to alleviate the plights of the citizens, instead it continue to give enumerate obvious challenges in the country without possible solution, priority should be given to the revival of refineries across the nation."

The union leaders, while rejecting the students loan proposed by the Federal Government, also condemned the hike in public school fees, stressing that free education is their right and called for the

reversal of school fees in all public schools to enable the children of the poor have access to education.

He disclosed that the protest is just a one-day national exercise to call the Federal Government to order so they can know that NLC and TUC is still very much around, while calling on members to stay at alert for further instructions from the national headquarters.

He noted that the Union is very much open to dialogue for upper review of 200,000 to cushion the effect of the economic hardship on their members, saying that it

is not yet time for the review of minimum wage so as to improve their standard of living.

They also appreciated the Kaduna State Government led by Senator Uba Sani, who was represented at the protest by his Special Adviser on Labour Matters, Adamu Samaila, saying that it is a departure from the state government of the past.

The peaceful protest started at the NLC Secretariat to the Ahmadu Bello Stadium Roundabout at about 7:30am.

Police Dismantles Lagos Notorious Criminal Hideout, Recovers Offensive Weapons, Military Accoutrements, Hard Drugs, Others

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Police operatives attached to Badia Division in Lagos have reportedly dismantled a notorious criminal hideout under the Iganmu bridge, recovering various offensive exhibits. Led by the DPO CSP Ayoola Olawole, the suspected criminals were said to have fled on sighting the cops, who were armed to the teeth and well prepared for the task.

A plastic toy pistol, two long axes, two knives, two sharp scissors, military accoutrements such as belts, lanyards and two reflective jackets.

Assorted hard drugs which include large quantities of Cannabis Sativa, white powderish substance suspected to be cocaine concealed in baking powder can with syringe, six vehicle loud speakers and large number of phone accessories suspected to have been stolen and two long vandalised iron bridge poles.

Our correspondent who witnessed the operation, report that it lasted about six hours, with all the makeshift structures leveled to the group.

It would be recalled that DPO Ayoola Olawole had carried out similar operation at "Monkey Village" along Ijora Railway Line last year, where notorious criminals such as money fraudsters code named "419", armed robbers, kidnappers, drug peddlers were flushed out.

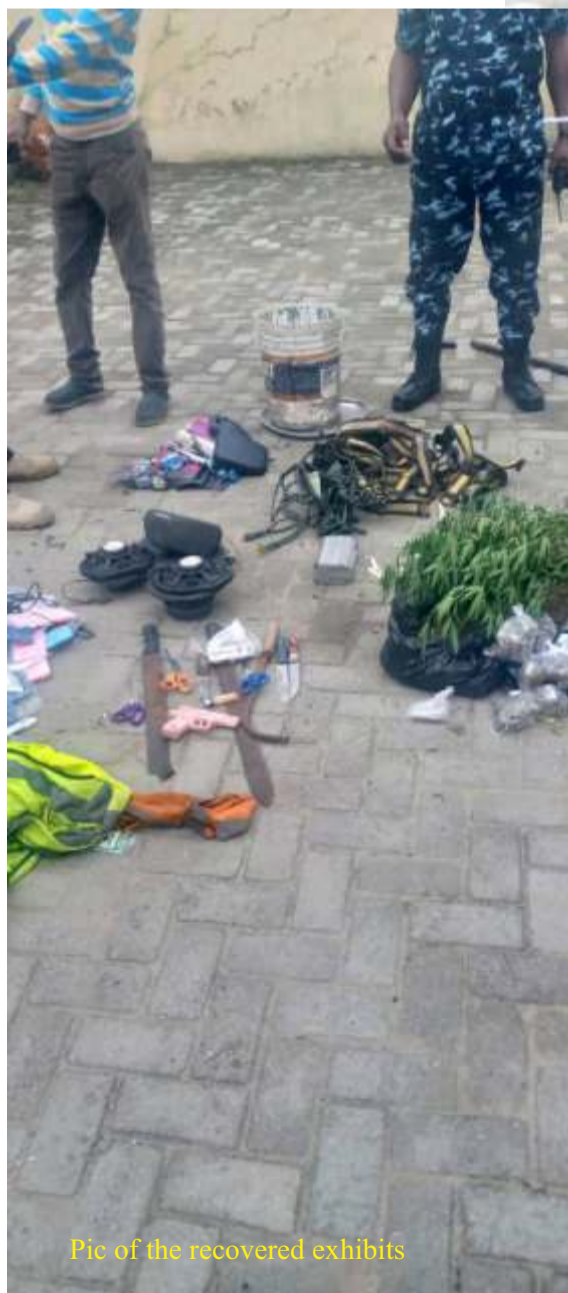
New Nigerian Newspapers also recalled that several robbery operations have occurred along the Iganmu bridge axis, the recent one being the attack on the Crime Editor of Vanguard Newspaper, Mr. Emma Nnadozie and one other, loosing sum amount of money to the hoodlums, while their cars were also vandalised.

The demolition exercise at Iganmu under bridge, as learnt, was as a result of a the recently launched " Operation Flush" by the Lagos State Commissioner of Police Idowu.

Owohunwa, had on July 27, 2023, summoned a meeting with all Area Commanders, Divisional Police Officers (DPOs), Tactical Commanders, and other

strategic officers, where he unequivocally warned them against dereliction of duty, vowing that any officer found culpable would be dealt with by laid down rules.

The launching of 'Operation Flush' became necessary following recent agitations by some residents of Lagos State concerning complaints of the resurgence of traffic robberies and other disturbances.



Pic of the recovered exhibits



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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

- All adverts are expected to be prepaid in cash or bank draft in favour of New Nigerian Newspaper's Limited.
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- Cancellation of previously booked advert will be accepted in writing within four working days notice, less than 24 hours to the date of publication will attract 50% surcharge.
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- 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

A Perspective On The Fight Against Corruption In Nigeria

By; INNOCENT EDEMHANRIA

Corruption is a major problem in Nigeria that is largely responsible for widespread poverty and is currently affecting every aspect of society and hindering the country's development.

Several published reports and other kinds of literature, both past and present, are available to substantiate this position.

In 2015, the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, chaired by the former South African President, Thabo Mbeki, submitted its report to the Africa Union Commission/UN Economic Commission for Africa.

The report showed that African countries lose between \$50 billion and \$60 billion annually through illicit financial flows. It puts Nigeria as the biggest culprit with cumulative illicit financial flows between 1970–2008 put at \$217.7 billion. The Global Financial Integrity Report, published in 2015 revealed that over \$7.8 trillion was siphoned from the world's developing and emerging economies between 2004 and 2013, and over \$17.8 billion of that amount, was from Nigeria.

To speak of recent data, the 2022 Corruption Perception Index report published by Transparency International, showed that Nigeria scored 24 points out of 100 and was ranked 150 out of 180 countries assessed. This indicates a high level of corruption in the country, just as it has been indicated in the previous reports.

The Nigerian Government under former President Muhammadu Buhari came up boldly to make concrete commitments to fight corruption among other promises.

The government also expressed a clear road map on how to trace, track and repatriate looted assets back to the country to finance development initiatives. In 2016 and 2017, two important anti-corruption events of global magnitude took place.

These were the London anti-corruption Summit hosted by the UK government in 2016 and the Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR) held in Washington, DC, and hosted by the UK and the US government with support from the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), in 2017.

At both events, the Nigerian government made concrete



President Tinubu

commitments to support its road map to fight corruption.

In 2022, the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANE EJ), while working with eight organizations as part of the implementation of the SCALE project assessed how Nigeria has implemented such commitments.

ANE EJ and the eight organizations working as an "anti-corruption cluster" recently organized a national dialogue in Abuja, Nigeria to present the report.

The dialogue became important to set the agenda for the new administration of President Bola Tinubu, who was sworn in on May 29, 2023.

The dialogue was also preparatory to Nigeria's participation in the 10th Session of UNCAC Conference of the State Parties (COSP10) scheduled to hold from 10th – 15th of December 2023, in Atlanta, USA. Expectedly, the high-profile dialogue was attended by leading anti-corruption CSOs including journalists from across the country, the UNCAC Coalition in Vienna - Austria, and development partners, including representatives from the US Embassy, UNODC, British High Commission, and Palladium.

From the report presented and the conversation that ensued, it was clear that there are several issues that the current administration should focus on, to sustain the gains recorded by the previous administration.

In terms of prosecution of corruption cases, delays have been observed in the disposal of such cases, as a result, many offenders have taken advantage of the space to escape justice.

There is now a need to do more in the areas of judicial reforms through case management of corruption and criminal cases, as special courts should be designated to handle these cases. Coordination among anti-corruption agencies is one important area that requires proper attention, as interagency rivalry has been witnessed in the past.

An Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) currently exists, with the Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-corruption Reforms (TUGAR) as the secretariat. The IATT comprising 22 core anti-corruption and accountability institutions whose mandates fall within the extensive scope of UNCAC, should be strengthened and made to function effectively, to foster collaboration and coordination of anti-corruption agencies and efforts.

ANE EJ and other stakeholders, sustained advocacy during the previous administration for the passage of anti-corruption bills. Some of such bills were passed and assented to by the president, which now needs to be properly implemented.

The Proceed of Crime (Recovery and Management) Act 2022, the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2022, The NFIU Act, which ensures the independence of NFIU, and

others were key. Amendment to Proceed of Crime (Recovery and Management) Act 2022 has been suggested by some stakeholders to create an independent asset recovery and management agency.

The whistle-blower and witness protection bills, and others, are still pending. The new administration should ensure that these bills are passed to support the fight against corruption.

Nigerians have spoken extensively in the past about proper funding of anti-corruption agencies and securing the independence of the leadership of such agencies.

This is important to sustaining the fight against corruption. Also, the new government through its agencies should do more to prevent corruption.

The ICPC should work with other agencies and competent CSOs to undertake corruption risk assessment across key MDAs, to identify vulnerabilities in such MDAs, and put in place integrity plans to address such vulnerabilities.

The accountability and transparency units across MDAs should be positioned to function effectively in collaboration with ICPC.

The full operationalization of the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) both at the federal level and across the 36 States is important to promote transparency in public procurement.

The Bureau of Public

Procurement (BPP) is driving this but not all federal MDAs are currently using the Nigeria Open Contracting Portal (NOCOPO) and the portal itself is experiencing hitches.

It also requires modification to ensure that procurement data are well categorized for ease of access and use by the public. Procurement departments in all federal MDAs should be strengthened and made to comply with the use of NOCOPO while defaulting MDAs should be melted with appropriate administrative sanction as provided for by the Procurement Act 2007.

The President should move quickly to inaugurate the National

Council on Public Procurement, a task successive governments failed to achieve since 2007.

The federal government should now fast-track the process of operationalization of the Beneficial Ownership Portal to conclude the reform done by the Corporate Affairs Commission and the national assembly through the repeal and re-enactment of the Companies and Allied Matters Act.

In terms of tax reform, the Common Reporting Standard Regulation and guidelines should be regularly reviewed to ensure that inadequacies are removed.

The Nigeria Extractive Transparency Initiative (NEITI) should sustain the publication of annual audit reports and remedial issues identified in the reports should be conclusively addressed.

The proper funding and effective implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) is important to avoid the mistakes of the past. Above all, it will be important for President Bola Tinubu to respond quickly to these issues and follow up with concrete actions, to assure Nigeria that this administration is indeed prepared to fight corruption.

Innocent Edemhanria, ANEEJ Programme Manager and a Certified Corruption Risk Assessor writes from Benin City

NLC & Trade Unions on a protesf at Alausa Secretariat, Ikeja, Lagos

photos: AKINOLA AEIYO



el-Rufa'i's Nomination: **A Man Of All Season**

By: AISHA USMAN

In pedigree as in political trajectory, in politics as in personal and family life, Malam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufa'i is truly a man of all season.

In retrospect, those who were opportune to know Malam Nasir el-Rufa'i are also well equipped and aware of his temerity, audacity and sagacity of delivery of the right power punch where ever they are

necessary in order to achieve the policy mandate of his document or manifesto.

Historically, best on analysis the likes of Malam Nasir el-Rufa'i because of their rareness are only seen or discovered once in political century.

As it were, in Northern Nigeria today, progressive politicians, strategic thinkers, youth associations and the fourth estate of the realm are filled with righteous

jubilations for the nomination of Malam Nasir el-Rufa'i as Minister.

Malam has come, he has seen and he has conquered, and by all indication he is going to leave his foot prints on the sand of time and his name will be mentioned in the books of history yet to be written.

Respectfully, the people of Nigeria knowing the words of Malam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufa'i salute the courage,

wisdom and foresight of President Bola Ahmad Tinubu for convincing Malam to come to serve in his government in order to rescue the masses from the existential socio- economic and political threats to our nation.

This piece was written and contributed by Aisha Usman



Lawal, Ogun YSFON Boss Lauds Olopade's Appointment As Chairman Ogun 2024 NSF LOC

By; AYO OJEDOKUN,
Lagos

The Chairman, Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON), Ogun State Chapter who is also the Chairman Ogun State Teqball Association and the President, Allstars Football Club, Abeokuta, Alhaji Lawal Adeoye Kasimawo Waheed has applauded the appointment of Chief Bukola Olopade, former Commissioner of Youth and Sports, Ogun State an Egba high chief, Osi Asoju Oba of Egbaland as the Chairman, Local Organising Committee (LOC) for 2024 Ogun National Sports Festival, scheduled to take place in Abeokuta, the state capital.

The high-profile sports stakeholder in the state emphasised that the appointment of Olopade has not only corroborated the position of sports stakeholders in the state, but also confirms the listening prowess of the current administration by appointing those who are relevant and conversant with the appointed position in order to harvest a reciprocating result from such appointees.

This was specifically emphasised earlier in the year on the appointment of sports commissioners, administrators and the sports advisers.

It was noted that most of the sports captains in the past, were just novice on the job, which is consequential to the downward trend of sports development in the state.

Allstars Football Club Abeokuta, the State champion of 2018 prestigious Ogun State Federations Cup, remains the first and only Allstars outfit to have won such highly rated cup in any of Nigeria's states. The President of the Club further expressed strong confidence in the appointment of Chief Olopade as the Chairman LOC for the 2024 Ogun State NSF.

He expressed satisfaction in the calibre of members that form the LOC team.

He posited in his confidence and believe that with Mr. Olopade's involvement as a leading factor in the organisation and preparation of the event, Ogun State would not only successfully host, but thrill the rest of the country in sports.

Historically, Olopade was the Ogun State Commissioner for Youth and Sports in the administration of Otunba Gbenga Daniel in 2006, when the state successfully hosted the most colourful National Sports Festival in Nigeria.

The 2006 NSF was rated by sports writers, participants, officials and sports stakeholders for its high quality and makeups.

"Chief Olopade is noted for success through adequate planning, careful execution, harness of expertise and intensive supervision."

"A lover of sports, sports administrator, astute politician and sports business magnate. There is high optimism that the next year's Ogun State NSF will surpass what we have been witnessing in the past events." Ogun YSFON boss concluded.



FIFA Women's World Cup 2023: Falcons Resume Training Ahead England Clash

By: **AYO OJEDPKUN Lagos**

Following their 0-0 draw with Republic of Ireland and qualification for the Round of 16, the Super Falcons were given two days off by the technical

crew, with training sessions to resume on Thursday at the Lions FC Stadium in Brisbane, ahead of the clash with England on Monday, 7 August. Players used the opportunity to stretch their legs and see a few places of

interest close to their hotel. Nigeria and England have clashed thrice previously at senior women international level, with the Falcons winning two of the three matches.



WHO, UNICEF, IRC Renovate, Equip, Hand Over Isolation Centre To Yobe Govt

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The World Health Organisation, UNICEF, and IRC has renovated, equipped and handed over an Isolation centre located at Specialist Hospital Potiskum to the Yobe State Government in its quest to curb and manage Diphtheria cases among other diseases.

Handing over the facility, the WHO Northeast Emergency Manager, Dr Beatrice Muraguri and the State Coordinator of the WHO, Dr Ningi Barau Nuhu revealed after assessing the facility, found out renovating it would reduce the challenge of overcrowding in the main

isolation centre.

"WHO, UNICEF and other partners are working with the Yobe state government to ensure we have a society that is healthy and deprived of disease. Any time there is an outbreak, we come together in a coordinated manner towards abetting the disease outbreak.

"So in an effort to ensure this is achieved, there are a lot of activities that are being carried out with funding support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Germany, including sensitization of the general public on prevention and early reporting of cases, case management to those

who are affected and ensuring they are brought to the facilities and treated.

"In view of this, we came to assess this facility that has the capacity to manage the disease and discovered this kind of support is required, we renovated the edifice to curtail the outbreak" they said.

Receiving the renovated facility on behalf of the State government, the Executive Secretary of the State Primary Healthcare Management Board, Dr Babagana Kundi Machina thanked the WHO and other partners for the foresight.

"You know we have the outbreak of Diphtheria in the state and we needed all sorts of support we could get to improve our

response effort and case management. One of the challenges we faced was paucity of space to accommodate patients, WHO came in, looked at the existing structure on ground for possible support.

"They came in, renovated and equipped the edifice, as you can see the good job they did, we are really grateful to them, it will accommodate more patients because our existing isolation centre is over stretched" he said.

The Yobe State Government recently confirmed; 26 patients had died following the outbreak of the Diphtheria disease in the state with Potiskum recording the highest cases.



WHO Northeast Emergency Manager, Doctor Beatrice Muraguri, State Coordinator of the WHO, Doctor Nuhu Barau Ningi and Doctor Babagana Kundi Machina, ES Primary Healthcare at the handing over of the edifice

FIFA Women's World Cup 2023: Falcons Resume Training Ahead England Clash

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APC Nat'l Chair: Choice Of Ganduje Based On Foresight - Dr Abdallah

By: TOM GARBA, Yola

The endorsement by the National Executive Council (NEC) of the All Progressives Congress of His Excellency, the immediate past Governor of Kano State, Dr Abdullahi Ganduje as the party's National Chairman has been described a foresight of the highest order that will consolidate successes of the party.

The description was made by a loyal member of the party who has pioneered the leadership of ACN/AC United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, Dr Yakub Abdalla said APC NEC applied the needed wisdom to take the party to the next level.

The APC staunch loyalist, Dr Abdallah Yakubu while congratulating the new APC national Chairman, he extolled him to be a Man with sterling qualities of leadership haven shown his passion for the party during the 2023 general elections while a two term Governor of Kano State.

The UK-based critical infrastructure management consultant praised the decision of NEC, APC critical stakeholders who has seen leadership qualities in Ganduje and sought the constitutional means of replacing the vacant seat created by Senator Abdullahi Adamu.

Abdallah in a statement issued to this medium, said that all will be laid to rest knowing the fact that all APC members are aware of the challenges they are currently facing in the party.

"The choice of H.E. Ganduje therefore, must have been based on wisdom and foresight. The party is greater and bigger than all of us. I therefore wish to offer my sincere congratulations to the new national chairman.

"To our most amiable President H.E. Bola

Ahmed Tinubu, we can only offer our deep admiration of you unique leadership style. You are seeking to lead an all inclusive government and party.

"I'm very proud of what you have been doing over the past few months. We totally agree with you that very soon Nigerians will see great days, and we are here to support you all the way.

"Thank you once again for being the best at what you do Mr. President. We are very proud of you." Abdalla said.

Abdalla who is an APC stalwart in Adamawa State, called on Nigerians to employ the resilient spirit we are known for and echoed what Mr. President has been telling Nigerians that;

"With patience we shall break the yokes of poverty and pain that has been like an albatross around our necks. We need to see the future clearly, and Mr President is showing us that.

"Congratulations again our newest National Chairman." He added



Dr. Abdallah