

# New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

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Safar 8, 1445 AH

300  
Masquerades  
Flood Iwaro-  
Oka For Ikori  
Festival

Story on Page 10

**Northern  
Nigeria:  
Riding On The  
Wings Of  
Development  
With Inuwa  
Yahaya** **PAGE 16**



Suspected  
Gunmen  
Kill Pastor  
In Kaduna  
Community

Story on Page 4

## Vocational Training Manual: NBTE Moves To Introduce, Adopt Document **Story on Page 8**

Story on Page 4

Northern Governors'  
Forum Chairman,  
Inuwa Yahaya Hails  
Sultan Sa'ad At 67

Story on Page 4

Tinubu's Lawyer Blames  
Clerk Of 156-year-old  
Chicago Varsity Over  
Error In Certificates

Story on Page 9

**NBAIS:**

Northern Forum  
Urges Support For  
Prof Imam Yahuza  
Suleiman



**Kaduna-Abuja Highway Would Be Completed  
Next Year, Works Minister Assures** **PAGE 7**

*\*Says achievement is to advantage of Nigerians*



# Be Good Ambassadors Of Command, Commandant Alfadarai Charges Personnel

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Officers and men of the Lagos State Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence (NSCDC) have been charged to be good ambassadors of the Command anywhere they find themselves.

The State Commandant, Usman Alfadarai gave the charge during an official presentation of four personnel who made the Command proud during the Staff Course 01/2023 due to their various outstanding performances throughout the period of the course held at the NSCDC Command and Staff College Lamingo, Jos.

A statement by ASCI Irinoye Olufemi Aboosedo on behalf of the Public Relations Officer listed the graduands as Superintendent of Corps Wasiu Lawal, Deputy Superintendents of Corps Oluwaseun Abolurin and Abdulsalam Oluwatoyin and Assistant Superintendent of Corps I Idowu Christiana Omotayo.

It would be recalled that the spokesperson of the Command,

Deputy Superintendent of Corps Oluwaseun Abolurin emerged as the overall best performing participant of the aforementioned course and won the overall best prize of the Commandant General, CG Ahmed Abubakar Audi, PhD, mni, OFR.

The Lagos State commandant, who was in high spirit while addressing the management and staff, today, Monday, 21st August, 2023, at the parade ground charged, all officers and men, to be good ambassadors of the command anywhere they find themselves and keep the flag of the Corps flying.

He further affirmed that the Corps started in Lagos in 1967, which is about 56years ago, making the Command to be well experienced and better positioned, to give its best at any given time or point when duty calls. He said that personnel of the command should as a matter of fact, uphold the legacy and standard set by the PRO at the college and strive not to let the Command down in future endeavors.



The graduands

In another development, the State Commandant Alfadarai unveiled the new operational vehicle dedicated, to the safe school project, which was aimed at complementing the efforts of the Commandant General, CG Ahmed Abubakar Audi, PhD,

mni, OFR, in ensuring emergency response against criminal elements, who have decided to cause distress and uncertainty in our schools, and other educational institutions in the state.

The Rapid Response Squad was

also set up and well trained to contend, with emerging security threats in our communities, streets, nooks and crannies, in a bid to bring security close to the people and ensure peace and tranquility in our esteemed state of excellence.



Bilkisu Ahmed Abdu CEO left with CBN branch controller Mohammed Aminu at the grand launching of Digital kiosk in Kaduna

## Financial Company Aims To Extend Digital Services to 1m Kaduna Rural traders

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Hajiya Bilkisu Ahmed, an entrepreneur and financial expert, leads a company that is dedicated to providing Inclusive Digital Financial services to one million rural market traders in Kaduna State.

This ambitious endeavor is aimed at assisting them in achieving the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) 95 per cent financial inclusion target by January 2024.

Ahmed, in her role as the CEO of Paynacle Digital Services, introduced this groundbreaking initiative during the

unveiling of a digital kiosk within the state. She underscored the fact that a staggering number of over two million individuals within the state lack access to essential financial services.

Furthermore, she hailed the state government's efforts in creating a conducive environment for entrepreneurs. As a part of their strategic plan, they have committed to investing 350 million Naira in order to establish 1,000 Point of Sale (PoS) terminals across the entire state.

"Our unwavering commitment is centered around providing Inclusive Digital Financial literacy and comprehensive services to one million Rural Market Traders within the state. This will pave the way for Kaduna to successfully realize the CBN's ambitious goal of achieving 95 percent financial inclusion by January 2024," Ahmed emphatically stated.

During the event, Muhammad Aminu, the distinguished controller of the Central Bank's Kaduna branch, underscored the apex bank's keen interest in matters related to financial inclusion, Fintech advancements, and empowerment. He notably mentioned that these pivotal factors are poised to determine the trajectory of the future banking landscape and financial institutions. Aminu also pointed out that the banking sector has undergone a remarkable metamorphosis over the past decade, aligning itself seamlessly with global trends.

In a resounding declaration, Aminu proclaimed, "The era of relying on traditional cheques or making in-person visits to banks for financial transactions has unequivocally passed. Today, customers have the convenience of conducting substantial million-Naira business transactions right from the comfort of their homes."

## Aare Olusese Commends Makinde For Fulfilling Promise To Traditionalists

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Aare Olusese of Ibadanland, Aare Olubunmi Omikemi Egbelade on Tuesday, commended Governor Seyi Makinde for fulfilling his promise to traditional religious worshippers in the state during his electioneering campaign.

Aare Egbelade in a statement in Ibadan, said Gov Makinde during

the campaign, promised to grant their request for special recognition of Isese Day celebration in the state. According to him, traditionalists in the state are grateful to the state government for breaking the record, among other South-west states to approve Isese Day.

Aare Egbelade however pledged their support for a peaceful Oyo State as traditionalists celebrate their

faith.

Also, the Special Assistant to Gov Seyi Makinde on Interfaith matters, Revd. Olufemi Ibikunle urged Isese worshippers to pray for sustainable peace in the state.

Rev Ibikunle said that prayers were crucial for the leadership of the state to conceive initiatives that would ensure long-lasting solutions to insecurity in the state.



# New Vision Of Nigeria Police Will Be Service Driven, Compliance With Rule Of Law - Ag IGP Egbetokun

*\*Olubadan hails his resolve on community policing*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The acting Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun on Sunday, said the new vision of Nigeria Police would be service driven, compliance with the rule of law, people friendly, adequate response to crime occurrence.

Ag IGP Egbetokun stated this in Ibadan during a courtesy visit to the Olubadan of Ibadan, Oba Lekan Balogun Oba Balogun at his Alarere residence in Ibadan.

According to Ag IGP Egbetokun, these will improve the community and as well take the Nigeria Police to the next level, saying, to drive this vision, the roles of traditional rulers cannot be overemphasized.

"To drive this vision, the roles of traditional rulers cannot be overemphasized and here I come to solicit for Your Majesty's understanding and support. Your Majesty, your roles are very critical to our new vision. Our officers will work closely with you, they will be coming to you from time to time for advice and information as the case may be", he said.

Ag IGP Egbetokun added, "I implore Your Majesty to leave your doors open to them and together, with your cooperation and support, we will achieve our set objectives and goals of securing and protecting our dear country, Nigeria"

He stressed that his visit to the Olubadan palace was to appreciate and thank the monarch for the support and

cooperation the Oyo State Command enjoys and pleaded for the continuation of the good gesture, noting that the new vision of the Nigeria Police of community policing even demands for more from the traditional institution as the closest authority to the people.

Ag IGP Egbetokun pointed out that Oyo State "is very strategic when the issue of security is concerned because of its location and antecedents and the topmost hierarchy of the Force always engages in thorough search for the officer to be assigned as the helmsman of the Command in the state.

"We are always conscious of who to post here as the CP and we don't just send anybody here, we look out for who can give effective policing to the state and we appreciate our father, the Olubadan and his Council for the maximum support you have been giving us"

Receiving Ag IGP Egbetokun, Oba Balogun lauded him for his resolve on community policing saying community policing remains the only sure way out of the security challenges facing Nigeria

Oba Balogun while speaking through the 'Baba Kekere', Sen. Kola Balogun, hailed the initiative of the new Nigeria Police Acting IGP to pursue the community policing strategy effectively through deployment of technology and motivation of the officers and men of the force by way of training and attention



to their welfare, saying, Ag. IG Egbetokun "is the most perfect fit for the job at this period in the history of the country"

"Our IG is Enitan, he is a manifestation of abundance grace and mercy in view of what he has passed through in the force. You actually paid your dues. You cheated death on occasions. On two different occasions, you were denied your well deserved promotion to the position of Commissioner of Police, but, through the grace of God, you eventually reached the pinnacle of your career. That same grace will sustain and grant

you huge success on this exalted seat".

Oba Balogun also maintained that the way and manner the new Police Commissioner in Oyo State, Compol Adebola Hamzat set about his job on assumption of duty in the state some weeks ago showed his commitment to the new vision of community policing of the country.

"We have seen in him a competent and somebody who is interested in community policing. He has met with virtually all the critical stakeholders to share with them the new vision and that's what's

expected of a newcomer that worths his salt.

"Oyo State is relatively peaceful, though, we have some pockets of security challenges, but, the CP has shown the capacity and capability to contain them since his arrival here for which we are very much grateful. The palace, I mean myself and my members of the Advisory Council, Mogajis and Baales will not relent in giving the Command all the necessary and needed cooperation and support to achieve the set-goal of securing the lives and property of our people".

## Sokoto Gov Appoints Sardaunan Dundaye MD Of State Media Corporation

By: IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Governor Ahmed Aliyu of Sokoto State has appointed Labaran Lumu Dundaye, Sardaunan Dundaye as the new Managing Director, Sokoto State Media Corporation.

The approval is contained in a statement signed by the Press Secretary to the Governor, Abubakar Bawa and made available to journalists in Sokoto.

Bawa said Dundaye's appointment is based on merit, devotion, professionalism and it is with immediate effect.

He wished the new managing director a very successful administration in handling the affairs of the premier media institution in the state.

The new managing director is a holder of the National Certificate in Education (NCE), B.A. English, Post Graduate Diploma in Public Administration and Master's Degree in International Affairs



Labaran Lumu Dundaye

and Diplomacy.

He also holds certificates in Journalism from FRCN Staff Training School, Lagos and NTA Television College, Jos, Plateau State.

Labaran Lumu Dundaye had also held a number of positions both at federal, state and local government levels.

The positions included: Acting Manager, News, NTA Sokoto Network Centre, Director Mobilization and Orientation, Ministry of Information Sokoto, and General Manager, Rima Television (RTV) Sokoto.

He was also the Deputy Managing Director (DMD), Sokoto State Media Corporation and NTA Sokoto Correspondent to Government House, Sokoto where he worked with four Governors.

Labaran Lumu Dundaye was also a one-time Judiciary Correspondent for NTA Sokoto during which he reported a number of political and other celebrated

cases.

Dundaye was also elected Chairman, Nigeria Union of Journalists, Sokoto State Council for six years.

Other appointees with the new managing Director as approved by the governor, include: Maryam Abdullahi, Deputy Managing Director, Balkisu Abubakar, Director Television Services, Bala Umar Garba, Director, Engineering and Buhari Awwalu Gada, Director, Mobilization.

Others are: Abdulrahman Muhammad, Director Commercials, Danmallam Bashir Balarabe, Director, Rima FM, as well as Ibrahim Muhammad, Director Radio Services.

The rest of the new appointees are: Yusuf Ibrahim, acting Director, Maintenance, Abubakar Ahmad Kofar Atiku, Director, Special Projects and Rabi Muhammad Gwadabawa, Director, Mobilization, Sokoto State Universal Education Board (SUBEB).



## Suspected Gunmen Kill Pastor In Kaduna Community

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Suspected gunmen on Wednesday, killed a Pastor with Tawaliu Baptist Church Kujama, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Rev. Jeremiah Mayau.

Confirming the killing of the clergyman to New Nigerian yesterday, Rev Joseph John Hayab, the state chairman of the

Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), said, "The barbaric incident happened on Wednesday afternoon while the Rev. Jeremiah Mayau was in his farm at Prison farms Kujama Chikun LGA of Kaduna State.

"It is very painful that gunmen move freely in broad day light to execute their evil act and get away with it in a civilised

society like ours where we have constituted authority that is expected to checkmate this criminal elements in the society. It also painful that when you raise an eye brow, you are seen as a deviant that is just looking for trouble while those in authority have otherwise refused to do the right thing to ensure harmonious coexistence among the citizens."

He called on security personnel to be more vigilant in the discharge of their professional duties and curtail the activities of criminal elements that are disrupting peaceful movement of citizens to earn their daily bread.

He prayed that the Almighty will comfort the immediate family, Church and the body of Christ in the irreparable loss.

## Northern Governors' Forum Chairman, Inuwa Yahaya Hails Sultan Sa'ad At 67

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Chairman of Northern Governors' Forum and Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has felicitated with His Eminence, Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, CFR, the Sultan of Sokoto and President-General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) on the occasion of his 67th birthday yesterday.

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

Governor Inuwa described Sultan Sa'ad as a beacon of peace and unity, whose role as the spiritual guide for Muslims across Nigeria has fostered unparalleled harmony within the Muslim Ummah and beyond,

transcending boundaries to touch the lives of many.

He noted that the Sultan's dedication to nurturing peace and harmony remains instrumental in guiding the nation and its leaders towards effective governance and prosperity,

"As the guardian of our heritage and traditions, His Eminence has tirelessly championed the course of unity and tolerance.

His efforts have nurtured cooperation, religious harmony, and peaceful coexistence, reinforcing the foundations of our society".

The Northern Governors' Forum Chairman urged



Eminence, Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III,

the NSCIA President General to continue to use his exalted throne and immense influence to promote peace, unity and positive development, not only within the Caliphate, but across the nation and

beyond.

He prayed Almighty Allah to grant His Eminence many more years of good health to continue his remarkable services to the ummah, the nation and humanity.

## Tinubu's Lawyer Blames Clerk Of 156-year-old Chicago Varsity Over Error In Certificates

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The legal process initiated by the PDP presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar asking the Chicago State University (CSU) for a discovery of President Bola Tinubu's academic records has got

a new twist, as lawyers to President Tinubu in their filings blamed the clerk of the 156 year-old school for the errors in his academic documents and certificate. It will be recalled that the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois had given Tinubu up until 23 August to make a formal filing on why his records should not be released to the petitioner, Atiku Abubakar.

In complying with the directive of the court however, Tinubu's lawyer, on Wednesday, said that an unidentified clerk of the university "unfortunately" made the errors as to the dates the school stated on his recently-issued certificate and when he actually graduated, thereby creating "the appearance of differences."

Tinubu's new claim was made before the judge hearing the case, Jeffery Gilbert of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago.

Atiku had subpoenaed the CSU to make a discovery of Tinubu's academic records, believing that such discoveries will shed more light on the controversies surrounding Tinubu's educational claims.

There have been crisis of authenticity about the documents that Tinubu submitted with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and a viral document that the CSU in the 1970s admitted a female student bearing Bola Tinubu who was born on March 29, 1954.

While President Tinubu claims that he was born on March 29, 1952, he had also, at different times,

listed 1954 as his birth year in the past.

The flame of controversy around President Tinubu's academic records began to burn when, in 1999 during his run for the Lagos State governorship position, he claimed to have attended schools in Nigeria, which included Government College Ibadan, but which he later rescinded.

He also recently expunged his primary and secondary education from his records after it was discovered that other schools he listed under oath in his 1999 INEC form CF001 did not exist anywhere in Nigeria. However, the documents being sought by Atiku seek to highlight which early education credentials Tinubu submitted to CSU before he was admitted into the university.

Atiku's contention is that Tinubu had presented contradictory claims in Nigeria and the CSU in responding to a previous subpoena.

Tinubu's response, which was signed by his lawyers, Oluwole Afolabi and Christopher Carmichael, quotes in part, "unfortunately, in responding to the illegal and invalid subpoena, CSU made several errors.

"CSU issued a new diploma for Bola A. Tinubu, but incorrectly wrote the date of graduation as June 27, 1979.

"The correct date was June 22, 1979, but that scrivener's error – along with a change in the CSU logo, the font on the diploma, and leadership at CSU who signed the diploma created the appearance of differences between an earlier issued diploma and the one issued in response to the 2022 subpoena."



## Sango Festival: Oyo Govt Seeks Recognition By UNESCO

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Government is committed to ensuring the enlisting the World Sango Festival amongst other festivals recognized by UNESCO.

The Commissioner for Culture and Tourism, Dr. Wasiu Olatubosun, who stated this in Ibadan tasked

the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) to recognise Sango festival held annually in Oyo town.

According to the Commissioner, this will complement the Oyo State Government's existing drive to promote its culture-tourism potential,

adding, while Oyo town showcases the annual Sango festival by its devotees, there are other cultural festivals that showcase the rich culture of Oyo State.

Dr Olatubosun said Oyo State government will ensure participation in the World Festival of Sango, coming up in South Africa later in the year as this will

give global credibility to the Sango Festival in Oyo Town.

Speaking, Bashorun of Oyo town and Head of Oyomesi, High Chief Akinade Yusuf Ayoola appreciated the Oyo State Government's efforts at making Sango Festival a World class celebration.



# Amachree A Patriotic Nigerian Technocrat, Intellectual Diplomat - Compt James

By ; RAYMOND  
TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Comptroller Rivers State Command of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) Sunday James, has described Dr. Soky Amachree as a bridge builder and an intellectual diplomat, promoting technology transfer and industrialization.

He pointed out that Amachree has been engaging in the promotion between Nigeria, Canada and other countries of the world in the last 30 years.

Adjudged by many as a gentleman, a competent administrator and an accomplished technocrat, a nationalist from Rivers State, the Comptroller recalled the technocrat has contributed to national discourse and development in the last 30 years with abundance of experience that span private and public sectors as well as the academia.

In a write up made available to Nigeria Newspaper, James disclosed that Amachree conceived the initiative of establishing collaboration between Canada and Nigeria for the development of the later with the Canadian High Commission in Abuja and the Government of Alberta, the Oil and Gas producing province in Canada since 1993.

It reads, "Unlike other nationalists, Dr. Soky Amachree can be described as bridge builder and an intellectual diplomat promoting Technology Transfer and Industrialization in the last thirty years between Nigeria, Canada and other countries of the world.

"He is adjudged by many as a gentleman, a competent administrator and an accomplished technocrat, a nationalist from Rivers State in the heart of the Niger Delta region and one that has contributed to national discourse and development in the last 30 years with with abundance of experience that span private and public sectors as well as the academia.

"To mention a few, He conceived the initiative of establishing Collaboration between Canada and Nigeria for the development of Nigeria with the Canadian High Commission in Abuja and the Government of Alberta, the Oil and Gas producing province in Canada since 1993.

"This was done in conjunction with a Canadian Partner, Mr. Earl Hickok, President of Advantage Energy Services Ltd of Calgary,



*Dr. Amachree being presented award by Gen. Yakubu Gowon, for Nigerian Head of State.*

Alberta, Canada. Mr. Earl Hickok and Dr. Soky Amachree have organized over 10 Nigerian delegations to Canada (TECHNOLOGY TOUR) in the past 20 years to establish collaboration in the area of capacity building in the Nigerian oil and gas industry and the development of Nigeria.

"Mr. Earl Hickok has the Vision, Connections and Capacity to help support Nigeria in this very important transformation. He has already given hundreds of thousands of dollars of consulting help to Nigeria over the past 20 years. He believes in Nigeria by virtue of his trusted business relationship with Dr. SOKY Amachree. He believes that Nigeria is a nation destined for greatness. He has put in so much for Nigeria to develop technologically especially in the area of oil and gas.

"One of the outcomes of the visit to Canada was the establishment of two Federal Oil and Gas Polytechnics in Rivers State (Bonny) and Bayelsa State (Ekowe), in collaboration with the leading Canadian Oil & Gas Polytechnic, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT).

"This collaboration between the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board and the University of Calgary Energy Unit of the Faculty of Business Administration (MBA Programs in Petroleum Policy and Standards),

"Collaboration between the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and the University of Calgary's Haskayne School of Business on Post Graduate Studies in

International Energy Program.

"These programs were to be undertaken in collaboration with Alberta Energy and Utilities Board for the establishment of Collaboration between the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Research & Development Division and the Alberta Research Council (ARC)/Petroleum Recovery Institute (PRI) for the purpose of setting up a World Class Petroleum Research Center in Port Harcourt which could partly be funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and a number of other international donors and the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

"The Establishment of Collaboration between the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and the University of Calgary and both the University of Port Harcourt and the Rivers State University in the areas of Staff Exchange, Student Exchange and Research Collaboration.

"The establishment of Collaboration between the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and four Polytechnics in Nigeria, namely, the Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas in Bonny, Rivers State, Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas, Ekowe, Bayelsa State, Lafia Polytechnic in Niger State and Gombe Polytechnic in Gombe State, in the areas of Staff Exchange, Student Exchange, Curriculum Development and Train-the-Trainer Programmes.

"Also In his numerous peace advocacy efforts in the Niger Delta region, Dr. Engr. Dr. S. M. O. Amachree, who is also the Managing Director and Chief Executive officer of the Sigma

Technical Agencies Ltd based in Port Harcourt, Rives State, in conjunction with Professor E. O. Okoro, Head, Department of Medicine, University Of Ilorin wrote to the Niger Delta and Regional Development Thematic Area under the Niger Delta Affairs Ministry on the need for critical approach at resolving conflicts in the Niger Delta region and sustain peace in the region.

"In the letter dated 17th July, 2009, Amchree and Okoro muted that as members of the Niger Delta and Regional Development Thematic Area of Nigeria Vision 2020 National Technical Working Group (NWTG), and Nigerians of the Ijaw extraction from Rivers and Delta States, the central issue to the Niger Delta conflict is economic.

According to him, "Fundamental to this conflict is the lack of spending capacity of indigenes/host communities from whose lands oil and gas are extracted. Specifically, the land/asset(s) are appropriated by strangers who tinker with the document allocating the plot to him/her and then turn around to sell the same title to multi-national companies and becomes an instant billionaire while owners of such land live in abject poverty"

"Even if previous generations have accepted this arrangement, it should now be clear to perceptive observers that subsequent generations are unlikely to put up with this. Therefore, critical to resolving the conflict permanently must involve a clear negotiation of the economic issues and then

adequately rewarding communities whose ancestral lands have been appropriated for the common good, but their traditional means of livelihood have been ruined and also suffer directly the adverse environmental consequences of petroleum production"

"As patriots, we have actively participated in generating initiatives/programmes which, in our thinking, contain ideas that are implementable, cost effective, relatively cheap, and can produce visible results that could rapidly and positively impact on the quality of life of the people of the area. This will in turn contribute in reducing the escalating resentment that the people of the area feel from the existing arrangement that excludes them from directly benefiting from resources in their ancestral lands.

"Unfortunately, towards the close of the 3 - month assignment, formatting structures were imposed on the workings of our Group that effectively reduced the scope of work of the Thematic area and excluded".

These and many other collaborations and suggestions led to the various intervention policies within the last few years that has supported the passage of the PIB law, the establishment of the Niger Delta Affairs Ministry, the Presidential Amnesty Programme and many others for the region.

In one of the numerous recognitions and accolades for the contribution of Dr. S. M. O. Amachree to national development, Former President Goodluck Jonathan, in a letter of commendation through the National Population Commission (NPC) and signed by its Secretary, Professor Sylvester Monye, commended him for his contributions during the p[reparations of the Nigeria Vision 20:2020 Economic Transformation Blueprint which was launched on June 14th, 2010. According to the commendation letter, "As a member of the National Technical Working Group (NTWG)/Special Interest Group (SIG), your input into the visioning process has in no small measure enriched the final outcome and would like to re-assure you of our unwavering commitment to the vision's implementation plans. It is my hope that the blue print will truly engender further public discourse."



## Commissioner Commends Governor Uba Sani Over Kaduna School Fees Slash

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

The Honourable Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos has commended Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani following the slash in school fees for tertiary institution students in the state.

It would be recalled that the Governor on Monday, announced the downward review of current fees in state-owned tertiary institutions as a way of giving out palliatives to both parents and students. Under the new fees regime, the fees have been reviewed to be Kaduna State University - Current Fee: N150,000 - Reduction (%): 30% - New Fee: N105,000, Nuhu Bama Ili Polytechnic, Current Fee: N100,000 - Reduction (%): 50% - New Fee: N50,000, College of Education, Gidan Waya -

Current Fee: N75,000 - Reduction (%): 50% - New Fee: N37,500, Shehu Idris College of Health Sciences & Technology, Makarfi HND Courses - Current Fee: N100,000 - Reduction (%): 30% - New Fee: N70,000, ND Courses - Current Fee: N75,000 - Reduction (%): 30% - New Fee: N52,000 and Kaduna State College of Nursing - Current Fee: N100,000 - Reduction (%): 30% - New Fee: N70,000.

Hon. Sadiq in a statement issued to newsmen in Kaduna on Tuesday, said the downward review of the fees without doubt, will help cushion the effect of subsidy removal by the Federal government that plunge the country into economic meltdown in recent times.

Sadiq while congratulating parents on the new development said most people are affected on the ground that food stuff and other means of livelihood has skyrocketed making life



Sadiq Mamman Lagos

very difficult for the common man.

He added that parents are passing through hard times and therefore the governor's intervention is apt so as to encourage the people in other for them not to abandoned their studies on the ground of exorbitant school fees.

The local government boss reiterated that the

governor has relieved the pain of both the young and adults in the state by this kind gesture, revealed that governor Uba Sani is passionately committed to the welfare of Kaduna citizens and therefore all hands must be on deck to support his administration so as to achieve the desired results for the collective good of Kaduna state.

## Oyo Govt Alerts Public Of Fake News On N10,000 Palliatives For Civil Servants, Students

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Oyo State Government on Friday, raised alarm of an online platform asking them to fill a purported application form to benefit from the state government's N10,000 support for them. Raising the alarm, the Chief of Staff to the Governor Seyi Makinde and Chairman of the 15-man Sustainable Action for Economic Recovery (SAfER), Otunba Segun Ogunwuyi described the online report as Fake News.

Honourable Ogunwuyi asked the people of the state especially civil servants and students to ignore an online platform asking them to fill a purported application form to benefit from the state government's N10,000 support for them. The Chief of Staff stressed that his committee was

already working hard on the Governor's relief packages in the wake of subsidy removal which necessitated approval by the Governor to deploy brand new luxury buses totaling about 46 to every nook and cranny of the State.

“The food palliative to 200,000 vulnerable households; 100,000 free healthcare insurance supports for our people; N500million for deserving farmers under food security; another N500million for SMEs amongst other palliatives are on course to mitigate the sufferings of the masses following subsidy removal”, he said.

The Chairman of SAfER therefore, warned the people of the State not to fall victim of the Fake News asking them to submit their personal information online to be eligible for the purported N10,000 cash support.

## Akwa Ibom Residents To Enjoy Equitable Access To Affordable Health Care Services

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The journey towards providing all residents of Akwa Ibom State with access to equitable, affordable, quality, and sustainable health care services through the Akwa Ibom State Social Health Insurance Scheme is on course. Dr Author Igbemi has said.

Dr Igbemi, who is the Executive Secretary of Akwa Ibom State Health Insurance Agency, disclosed this while briefing journalists on the activities of the Agency in the state in Uyo on Monday.

He said health insurance is a social security network that guarantees the provision of needed health services to persons on the payment of token

contributions at regular intervals.

According to Dr Igbemi, the agency is established with the mandate to manage and regulate the Health Insurance scheme for all residents of Akwa Ibom State, thereby increases life expectancy of the people of the state.

On the activities of the Agency, Dr Igbemi disclosed that accreditation of health facilities in the state to be used for the scheme would commence through a check list developed by the agency in line with its mandate to ensure success. He also added that the enrollment of the beneficiaries, would begin soon with the vulnerable group using the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF), while work on the ICT unit was

ongoing.

Under vulnerable group are pregnant women, children under five years, physically challenged and elderly from 85 years and above as well as those in IDP camps.

The agency boss, however, said that health insurance Scheme is not a free healthcare but through Basic Health Care Provision Fund Adoption where contributions are made on behalf of individuals by other persons.

He called for contribution from organized Private Sector (Manufacturer's Association, Entrepreneurs, etc) Group, Individual and Family.

He applauded the governor, Pastor Umo Eno and described him as

someone who is so passionate about the welfare of Akwa Ibomites and who, has demonstrated strategic leadership with the ARISE Agenda Dialogue that brought all Akwa Ibom people to the table, irrespective of politics, culture, religion and ethnicity.

It would be recalled, Akwa Ibom State Health Insurance Agency came into existence on 1/12/21 through the signing of the bill passed by the State House of Assembly into to law by immediate past governor Udom Emmanuel's administration but became functional with the appointment of a substantial Executive Secretary on the 1st of February, 2023.

## Nigeria Will Remain United As One Entity - Akpabio

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio has disclosed that on Nigeria will remain united as one entity.

Senator Akpabio said this on Friday, while speaking at the wedding Fatiha of Amir, the son of Deputy President of the Senate, Barau Jibrin held at the Isyaka Rabi'u Juma'at Mosque, Goron Dutse, Kano State.

The President of the Senate specifically stressed that the presence of the Presidential Candidate of the Labour Party, Mr Peter Obi, at the wedding Fatiha of Amir, the son of Deputy President of the Senate,

Barau Jibrin, is a sign of a united Nigeria.

He maintained that the presence of many high-profile personalities at the wedding ceremony attests to the fact that Senator Barau is a peaceful man of the people.

“You can see that even Labour Party Presidential Candidate, Peter Obi and his people are here; this tells you that Nigeria will remain united as one entity,” he said.

The wedding Fatiha, graced by Vice President Kashim Shettima, was between Amir and Bilkisu Aliyu Sani Madaki, the daughter of the Deputy Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Aliyu Sani Madaki.



# Kaduna-Abuja Highway Would Be Completed Next Year, Works Minister Assures

*\*Says achievement is to advantage of Nigerians*

By; FUNMI ADERINTO,  
Kaduna

The Minister of Works, Engr. David Nweze Umahi yesterday, commended the Kaduna State Government, led by Governor Uba Sani for achieving a lot with security and food security to Nigerians advantage, while assuring that the Kaduna-Abuja Highway rehabilitation would be completed in 2024.

The minister expressed this when the Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe received him in audience, on behalf of the governor, His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani, while on an inspection tour of federal roads in Kaduna State.

According to him, "we came to Kaduna by the directives of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for this important assignment.

"Mr president directed that I should personally come and inspect this road, Kaduna-Abuja Highway and give report directly to him.

He said, "we were there on Tuesday, on Wednesday we had a meeting with the South-West contractors, on Friday we are going to have meeting with all the contractors that are working in North West region.

He also said, "on Saturday, we will take North-Central, on Sunday we take another zone, by next Tuesday, we will be moving to South-West to start our physical inspections.

"While we are still coming to Kaduna to inspect others roads of ours, but I am on presidential directives because of how important the president takes the people of this region".

He pointed out that, "we have seen the beautiful work Julius Berger is doing, we are satisfied, we've also looked at the funding, it is not an issue.

"We commend the Kaduna State Government, we will be achieving a lot with security and food security, all these is to Nigerians advantage.

"However, we have discussed with Julius Berger, they have completed Kaduna-Zaria, section three has been completed by 70 per cent, section one which is Kaduna-Abuja is completed by 20 per cent. "We are very confident of the quality of concrete work of Julius Berger, over the years we will not call on government to repair the road again".

He said, "part of the problem of our road infrastructure is that when repairs are needed, nobody gives it attention, we are going to be talking to FERMA so that within

the limit of our funds, we will be able to deploy FERMA all over the country to give attention to where we need their attention.

"We assure you in the coming weeks, this road will be engaged, hence the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has directed that they don't want to go beyond 2024 or 2025.

"Most of our projects in this country suffer because of lack of funding and when the road is bad, they don't call the people on site, but they call on the President or the governor. We are going to work on that.

"I thank you for great work, this is presidential order but you need to also assist us," he added.

In a remark by the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, she said that good road infrastructure is the most important public asset and agent for social cohesion.

The Deputy Governor also said that roads open up areas and stimulate economic and social developments.

She appealed to the Federal Ministry of Works to ensure the speedy completion of the Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria road in view of its strategic importance, the Eastern bye-pass which construction begun in 2002 and the reconstruction of the Nnamdi Azikiwe Way.

"When these roads are completed, these will surely enhance security of motorists and shorter travel distances," she added.

The minister had earlier assured the Deputy Governor of expedited work on the Abuja-Kaduna road adding that the project will not go beyond 2024.





# Vocational Training Manual: NBTE Moves To Introduce, Adopt Document

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) has initiated and adopted plans to introduce workable documents for training centers across Nigeria.

This was the focus of a workshop sponsored by NBTE in Kaduna, with stakeholders across the academia, industries, business communities among others.

Executive Secretary of NBTE, Professor

Usman Bugaje, represented by his Special Assistant, Dr. Ibrahim Bello Bashir explained that the process of bringing out a working documents had been intubated, if adopted and agreed upon by important professionals in the field, the country would be saved the rigorous process of looking elsewhere for vocational training manual.

"We have gone through the first stage which was zero draft; creating a document from zero level which had already been done by a collection of professionals in the

field of education, Job and what have you.

"The second stage, called critique also involved assemblies heavyweights across the field who will criticize and consent to the work done in the first stage.

"The third stage which is what we are doing here today is to come out with a smooth and globally acceptable document that can be domesticated and used in vocation centres as a curriculum for training.

"We have a wide range of even representations here; there are persons

from KAPPA, Road Safety, academia among others.

"The documents will be perused topic by topic by the assembly of resource lessons to arrive at a consensus at the end of the day of a working curriculum on vocation manual.

"NBTE will ensure a clean job is done to make it easier for teeming number of our youth to be trained on various occupation across training centres," he added.

*Some participants at the NBTE workshop in Kaduna.*





# NBAIS: Northern Forum Urges Support For Prof Imam Yahuza Suleiman

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Concerned Northern Forum, a leading advocacy group for educational, infrastructural and socioeconomic advancement, has called on stakeholders and members of the public to support the leadership of the National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS) under the leadership of Professor Imam Yahuza Suleiman.

Comrade Abdulsalam Moh'd Kazeem, Spokesperson of the group in a statement, said, "We believe that Prof Imam's distinguished academic career

and expertise makes him well-equipped to address the challenges faced by the board and drive it towards greater success.

"Prof Imam Yahuza Suleiman is a highly respected academic renowned for his exceptional contributions to the field of Arabic and Islamic studies. His vast knowledge, experience, and leadership qualities leave no doubt that he is the right person to navigate the complexities of the NBAIS. With his dedication and commitment, we are confident that Prof Imam will lead the board towards achieving

its goals and ambitions."

Concerned Northern Forum, therefore, extended its special appeal to any aggrieved staff members and the general public to afford Prof Imam a little time to engage with the appropriate authorities regarding pending staff matters, saying that at this time he needs no distractions.

He noted that the change in leadership could bring about necessary adjustments, and believe that Prof Imam is committed to addressing any outstanding issues in a fair and equitable manner by working together and extending trust in

his leadership to help create an environment conducive for progress and meaningful transformation within the NBAIS.

The group condemned in totality the petition submitted against the board by some attention seekers, describing as a privilege and not a right at any rate.

It noted that it's high time those behind the distractive agenda approach the registrar and its entire management politely and not by any form of blackmail, saying that the current leadership of the Board has a trade mark of long outstanding history of

fairness to all Nigerians irrespective of their colour, region and background.

The group encouraged all stakeholders, including NBAIS staff, students, and other affiliate institutions, and the broader public, to offer their support and cooperation to Prof Imam Yahuza Suleiman lead management, by uniting behind his leadership, saying that collectively they would enhance the quality and effectiveness of Arabic and Islamic studies in the country.

# CRU Meant To Promote Accountability, Collaboration, Not Witchhunting - IGP

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Complaints Response Unit (CRU) of the Nigeria Police Force is meant to promote accountability and enhance police community collaboration and not to witch-hunt police personnel, the Acting Inspector General of Police Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun has said.

Egbetokun made the disclosure while addressing officers and men of the Lagos State Police Command on Wednesday, just as he launched Complaint Response Unit (CRU) of the Command.

The Police Boss, who also commissioned a state of the art hospital at the Mobile Police Force (MOPOL 22) headquarter, urged members of the public to cooperate with the police by giving information about the misconduct of police personnel. Stating that the police high command does not want the inadequacies of its personnel reported on the social media, Egbetokun explained that the CRU is a framework for promoting police-citizen accountability, and a centre for the receipt of complaints on police officers' inadequacies, coordinate immediate response, facilitate investigations and disciplinary processes where necessary, and render feedback to citizens.

His words "The unit would promote accountability and



IGP Kayode Egbetokun

enhance police-community collaboration. We always appeal to the public to cooperate with us and give us information, but we also have to show transparency to be able to get that.

"The new policing vision is about emplacing professionally competent service driven, and people-driven police that would support the agenda of the government in its efforts towards

economic recovery and growth, as well as social and political development of our country.

"We don't want actions of police officers reported on social media. You must show honesty and demonstrate to the public that you are men of integrity.

"Officers manning this unit were carefully selected, they are those with impeccable integrity; and would be trained continually, including overseas training. We will improve

the unit and make it functional," he stated.

Egbetokun also approved the allocation and release of five patrol vehicles and two trucks

from those parked at the Police College field to Lagos State Police Command, one of which will be dedicated to the operations of the SCRU and others deployed to enhance the operational capacity of the Command in dealing with current and evolving crimes.

On his part, Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Idowu Owohunwa, said the initiative was not meant to witch-hunt police officers as they would also be duly protected, and their rights fully asserted if their dignity is also violated or false and malicious information passed against them by misguided members of the public in the line of official duty. According to him, the establishment of the centre is a fulfillment of statutory provisions that is intended to enhance police accountability and engender professional police service delivery, rather than witch-hunt or unduly malign dutiful officers.

On his part, constitutional lawyer, Femi Falana, said police officers have no cause to fear, as he would also defend them pro bono if they are reported for frivolous reasons.

Also, former president of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Olumide Apata, promised to replicate the same feat in Edo and Delta States, while Founder, Women Arise for Change Initiative, Dr. Josephine Okei-Odumakin, promised to support the initiative





# COMMUNITY FOCUS

## 300 Masquerades Flood Iwaro-Oka For Ikori Festival

**By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure**  
 Embellished with cultural exhibition, Iwaro-Oka Community in the Akoko Southwest Local Government Area of Ondo State, yesterday, celebrated its annual festival christened Ikori. All clad in different cultural attires, cheerful residents moved round the streets of Iwaro with over 300 masquerades to celebrate the eye-catching event which attracted many prominent sons and daughters of community. Locals revealed that the festival was birthed by primordial fathers who they said, sourced their powers from Ikori which was

situated in the hilly part of the milieu. Addressing residents at his palace, the Olusun of Owalusin, Stephen Oloruntele Ogunoye, said Ikori is the most significant festival in the whole Southwest states. He said the festival symbolises ecstasy and blessing for residents, explaining that Ikori is an event which unites virtually inhabitants of Iwaro-Oka. The community head, however sought the cooperation of his subjects, stressing that the community has progressed leaps and bounds with the aid of those who used their means to support the growth of Iwaro.

In an interview with newsmen, the oldest man in the community traditionally referred to as “Opon”, Alh. Tafa Jayeola, expressed confidence that the festival cannot go into extinction sequel to it's huge significant. The centenarian maintained that “culture holds immense significance as it shapes various aspects of life.” “This festival has close affinity with spirituality, thus playing vital roles in connecting individuals to ancestors” “Iwaro-Oka will progress and produce good fruit”, Jayeola prayed. On his part, the Olokija of Otalokija of Iwaro-Oka, Chief

Bolorunduro Dele, applauded the revelers for conducting themselves with propriety. “Today's event is remarkable in the sense that all and sundry come together to celebrate Ikori festival.” “If you see the conglomerate of Owalusin, it is one of the most populated community in Oka, the relevance is to mark the role played by our ancestors in the 18th and 19th century” Bolorunduro who was the erstwhile Chairman of the Iwaro-Oka, added that “In Owalusin we have five clans, so each of the clans is fully represented, a reason why we have over 300 masquerades and above

celebrating the festival today.” Similarly, one of the joyful residents, Ale Esther, hailed the relentless efforts of the bigwigs in the community who threw their weight behind the festival. However, a stakeholder, Igbede Adeolu, called on other sons and daughters of the community to use their clout and affluence to offer help to the downtrodden. “Ikori has come and gone, but we must understand that we must help one another that especially the less privileged. I implore the blessed sons and daughters to remember this community”, he said.





# Adamawa: NGO trains CSOs Lawyers, Hunters, Others On Civil Space, Human Rights

By: TOM GARBA, Yola

**C**entre for Peace, Education and Community Development, Jalingo with support from Spaces For Change Lagos, organised a one-day stakeholders town hall meeting on Civil Space and Human Rights in Adamawa.

One of the resource persons during the one day seminar, Dr Joseph Gimba said civil space has enormous challenges as not everyone can be able to fully participate for variety of reasons the and world over, it is not free and some group of people are being discriminated and prevented from exercising their rights.

Mr. Emmanuel Ussa Kwache, another facilitator harped on bringing the image of society to be



built in peace as a panacea to development.

Court Magistrates and lawyers in Adamawa, traditional leaders, vigilantes, hunters association and

CSOs were participants, who gathered at Dantsoho Hotel to be educated on civil space.

The non governmental organization trained the stakeholders to have

broad knowledge on human rights as the one of the constitutional means to have a sound and civic environment.

# Election Not War, Stakeholders Tell Politicians At NUJ Public Lecture

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos  
Media professionals have called on the political class in Nigeria to shun violence, embrace peace, and exhibit the spirit of sportsmanship whenever they lose at the polls.

**T**his position was upheld at the just concluded Public Lecture of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) under the theme "Post Election Nigeria: Paths To National Restoration & Peace", which held at the Combo Hall of LTV on Wednesday in Lagos.

In his welcome remarks, the Chairman of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Lagos State Council, Mr. Adeleye Ajayi said: "The 2023 General Elections have brought different issues in its aftermath as a number of court cases are still being pursued against the election outcome.

"Nigeria has a long history of violence during elections which sadly manifested again in 2023.

"Closely related to violence was the suppression of voters, which is also known as deliberate disenfranchisement of eligible

voters.

"The increased use of technology in Nigerian elections has reduced the kind of rigging that was traditional; such as ballot box snatching and stuffing, multiple voting, over voting and alteration of results."

Ajayi further revealed that insufficient voter education and logistical challenges were some of the grey areas of the 2023 General Elections.

"At the Post-Election Review of the 2023 General Elections with Media Stakeholders recently in Lagos, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, said " there were many positive things that came out of the 2023 elections in spite of many challenges," he said.

The NUJ Chairman affirmed that efforts should be made to address the lapses of the 2023 elections for better outcome in subsequent elections in order to chart a path for restoration and peace in the country.

On his part, the Chairman of the Occasion and Managing

Director/Editor-in-Chief, Guardian Newspapers, Mr. Martins Oloja urged Nigerians to be hopeful of a better country.

"National Orientation is key for us to believe in ourselves and Nigeria. Although, the journey to total restoration may be far but we need to have faith in our country and profession," he advised.

Oloja said journalism remains the best profession in the world because the media is capable of calling the three arms of government (Executive, Legislature and Judiciary) to order whenever the need arises. Oloja revealed that the major responsibility of the media is to build content for restoration, peace and not to be blown away with politricks.

The guest Speaker, Prof. Sunday Alawode, Dean, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, Lagos State University (LASU), tasked Journalists to be patriotic in discharging their duties as an ill motivated story can tear the country apart.

"Elections should not be seen as

war in Nigeria. Losers should be able to imbibe the spirit of sportsmanship because they can win some other time.

"As journalist we should build a Nigeria of our own dreams that we can bequeath to our children. "Government should be about meeting the needs of Nigerians and not for furthering personal gains," he added.

The University Don who acknowledged that Rome was not built in a day, said it will require the collective responsibility of the citizenry to restore Nigeria to a peaceful and progressive nation.

The Scholar urged government to speedily tackle corruption, poverty and insecurity in order to confront some of the challenges bedeviling Nigeria.

"Nigeria needs strong institutions to move forward just as we also need to hold people accountable to the Government," Alawode explained.

He urged media owners to secure Insurance cover for journalists, as many lives have been lost on the job, leaving the family of the

deceased hopeless.

General Manager, Lagos Traffic Radio, Mr. Tayo Akanle, reiterated the need for peaceful coexistence among Nigerians. "Without peace, unity and tolerance, it will be hard for us to progress as a nation," Akanle echoed.

A Panel of Discussants comprising the President, Guild of Online Publishers, Ms Maureen Chigbo; Former Deputy Editor-in-Chief, News Agency of Nigeria, Mr. Peter Dada, and Director Public Affairs, Lagos State Government, Mr. Shina Odunuga took time to respond to questions from some attendees at the event.

Other dignitaries at the event were General Manager, Radio Lagos/Eko FM, Mr. Jide Lawal; General Manager, LTV, Olori Adesola Kosoko; some leaders of the Union such as Otunba Gbenga Onayiga; and former National Trustee of NUJ Sylvester Okereke, amongst others.



# Northern Nigeria: Riding On The Wings Of Development With Inuwa Yahaya

By: BOLA SALIU

“Good governance is the art of putting wise thought into prudent action in a way that advances the well-being of those governed”.

- Diane Kalen-Sukra.

Above submission aptly captures the colour and character of the current leadership of States in Northern geopolitical zone of Africa's most populous country, Nigeria.

Northern Nigeria is about to begin a journey unprecedented. But predictably a journey of joy and jubilant expectations. Not because of certainty of facts, since no man is certain of the future except the maker of man, the Almighty God. But certainty of expectations because of the man that is leading this journey. He is a man who has not only demonstrated that he breeds brilliant ideas, but has also exhibited consistently his capacity for successful public policy implementation. That man is no other person than Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, the Governor of Gombe State and incumbent Chairman of The Northern Governors' Forum.

Inuwa's antecedents in policy formulation and clinical implementation of same into action which has been very beneficial to his State citizenry is about to impact progressively on the leadership of the Northern Nigerian States.

Someone once said that we must eradicate ignorance and illiteracy from our nations and continent to the nearest minimum for us to have a good development. Inuwa Yahaya's successful education sector reforms in Gombe State is a compass for a rapid transformation of the education system and structure in Northern Nigeria judging by the successes he posted in Gombe State. In his first term as a Governor, more than 300,000 (three hundred thousand) out of school children returned joyfully to school with a model learning environment compared to the best schools in the developed not only that, from a comatose education sector and exam success ratio of below 27%, Inuwa's radical overhaul, including declaration of a state of emergency in the sector, brought back the glory of education in the state. By the end of his third year in office, exam success ratio has increased to 78%.

This model will be fascinating to other Northern states if the Governors are ready for same. While not relegating the importance of Quranic education to the background, Inuwa has integrated the two together in a way that both the children and parents are happy with the policy.

Although, there are still many Almajiri children on the streets of Northern Nigeria, Inuwa Yahaya is one of the strongest voices on the plan to integrate these children who roam the streets into foster homes where they can be given a fresh orientation for a better lifestyle. The Northern Nigeria is sure to have a huge reduction of the Almajiri population during the era of Inuwa Yahaya.

In agriculture, the mainstay of Northern Nigeria, the farmer- herder clashes is another area the region stands to benefit a



Governor Inuwa Yahaya

lot with the incumbent Chairman. Agriculture has been a top agenda on the mind of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and same with Governor Inuwa Yahaya. I recall during Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Presidential Campaign trip to Gombe how he eulogized Inuwa Yahaya's Agricultural Revolution in Gombe State with a promise to imbibe and replicate same on a national level.

A tech-driven agricultural hub is evolving already in the Jewel in the Savannah as Gombe is fondly called.

Gombe State also prides itself in having the largest grazing reserves in Nigeria with vast hectares of land for herders and other pastoralists. The grazing reserve template can be duplicated in other Northern Nigerian States and serve as a panacea to the archaic nomadic style of cattle grazing. If Inuwa's template is adopted, transregional migration of herdsmen which often causes infringements and resultant clashes with farmers will be drastically reduced.

Let's look at infrastructure and economic development template in Gombe State and how that will rub off on sister states in the North. Gombe under Governor Inuwa Yahaya came up with the first development plan since the creation of the State. It is a 10 Year Development Agenda tagged DEVAGOM. It has a blueprint for sectoral development of the state with timelines and means of funding, clearly defined.

With a development blueprint such as this, and shared experiences, a wide spectrum of cross sectional development is imminent in Northern Nigeria.

Look at the 1000 hectare Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park in

Dadinkowa, Gombe State. This is a theme park for rapid industrialization of the state. It is a business enterprise hub that will fire up development of all sectors taking advantage of the huge economy of scale that comes with such development model. Imagine all the states in the geopolitical zone firing up their development turbines at full speed. Employment galore for citizens will be the concomitant end. A vibrant industrial economy that will catalyse sporadic expansion of the individual state's economic growth is in sight.

The dynamic road network expansion witnessed during Inuwa Yahaya's first four years in office is highly instructive for other Governors in the subregion.

Gombe enjoyed a road network program tagged Network 11-100. Via this agenda, Inuwa is constructing 100km roads in all the eleven local government areas that make up Gombe State. What does this portend for economic growth? First, the rural communities are linked up with good roads thereby making ease of movement a pleasant experience for both traders and travellers especially rural farmers who will like to sell produce to the urban dwellers. The smooth roads also mean a reduction in travel time and increased production turnover.

The transportation sector in the subregion is also open to emulation of the Gombe template. Gombe Line, state owned transport company has been vigorously rejigged by Inuwa with regular additional fleet. Inuwa Yahaya has also attracted a few more airlines to the State and also brought in the Federal Government to bear on the state. The State Airport has been put under the Federal Airport Authority to take

advantage of more funding.

Now, if infrastructure is available and there are no serious investors, it will be a negation of efforts and denied success. Gombe State a most favourable investment environment at the moment.

Apart from its safe environment and less security threats, Gombe State has won back to back, the prized Best State in The Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria back in 2021 and 2022. This favourable investment climate has attracted investors from China, USA, United Kingdom and the Middle East into Gombe State. This hand of good business can be extended to all Inuwa co-governors in Northern Nigeria.

Owing to the hardwork and versatility of Governor Inuwa Yahaya, Gombe State has started preparation for the exploitation of oil in the Kolmani Oil Field, making the State one of the oil rich states in Nigeria. With oil being explored in the North East Nigeria, the gate of oil-wealth prosperity is already

in sight for all adjoining States.

Health Policies initiated and deployed in Gombe State by Inuwa is such that in each ward there's a functional primary health care centre. What's more? GOHealth, a comprehensive health insurance program initiated by Inuwa in Gombe has brought many people into healthcare solutions hub from both the formal and informal sectors of the state, including retirees because of its affordability. With a token of registration and contribution, each contributor has access to the basics and also specialist healthcare services. This template can add value to sister States in the North.

On the national politics of Nigeria, the current Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum has been a high flyer. He is well respected as a prudent and trustworthy administrator.

Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya is one of the few Governors who has an almost unfettered access to Nigeria's Presidential Villa, getting swift audience with Mr. President and almost instantaneous response to all his prayers to the Presidency.

He is capable. He is serious minded. He is visionary. He is frugal. He is humane and above all, he is passionate about good governance.

With these garb of political savvyness, economic acumen and a dynamic touch to administration, under the leadership of Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, the altitude of governance and attendant benefits in the Northern Nigeria is on an autopilot to excellent reports.

*Saliu is a public affairs analyst and commentator.*



# Now That Malam Uba Sani Has Fulfilled One Of His Campaign Promises



**By; YUSUFUSMAN GARBA**

Students' and parents of Kaduna State expressed their appreciation to Malam Uba Sani for his consideration to reduce tuition fees in state-owned institutions in the state.

This would certainly alleviate the financial difficulties on students and their families.

Education is the most powerful weapon to

develop a nation therefore it should be affordable and accessible to all citizens from different socio-economic background.

This demonstrates his promise of prioritizing equal opportunities for all students, ensuring that they can get higher education without the difficulty.

It would also not only benefit the students, but also contribute to the overall

development of the state.

A well-educated society is crucial for the progress of the state. By making education less expensive, he is investing in the future of the state.

We appreciate his understanding of the challenges faced by students.

This review in tuition fees indicates his commitment to improving the educational sector in the state while making sure that

each student has a chance to realize his potentials.

Thank you so much indeed Mallam Uba Sani, for your efforts in making education more affordable and accessible in Kaduna State. Your decision would have indelible impact on the lives of countless students and their families in the State.

**Yusuf Usman Garba sent in this piece from Kachia**



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

### TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

### TECHNICAL DATA

#### 6 COLUMNS

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

### POLITICAL RATE

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

### LOOSE INSERTS

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

### CLASSIFIEDS

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

### SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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



# Kay Laro: The Diplomat As Humanist

By Owei Lakemfa

I WAS to attend the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conference for two weeks in 2011 and was late in making accommodation arrangements in Geneva. I turned to Ambassador Ayo Olukanni, then Nigerian Deputy Ambassador in Vienna, Austria, if he had somebody that can check out the hotels and make a booking. Olukanni had been like my elder brother who watched over me when I was a teenage undergraduate in Ife. He responded that will be Kay. "Kay will do it." A few days later, he called that Kay had done the booking. I asked him what is Kay's other name? Laro.

It became some pattern on Saturdays; we would meet at the park, take a walk and discuss current affairs. He read my Friday columns on international affairs and we would discuss these. He would give fresh perspectives. A major issue we discussed was when Nigeria had no ambassadors in virtually all countries, including a substantive Permanent Representative in the United Nations after Ambassador Joy Ugwu left. Then finally in July 2020, new ambassadors were named and Kay was on the list. I was quite elated, not just because I knew he was quite competent, dedicated and meticulous, but I also felt justice was being done to a very fine diplomat who was not appointed an ambassador while in service, but was found fit to be one in retirement!

Then, a few days before my journey, I called to say I had not received the details of the booking so I could go straight to the hotel when I arrived. Olukanni said he would get back. He did shortly afterwards, providing the diplomat's phone number and said: "Kay says he would receive you at the Geneva Airport." I protested that I did not want a high-ranking Nigerian diplomat going to wait for me at the airport, all I wanted were details of the booking. Olukanni replied that I should send my flight details, adding: "Once Kay says he would be at the airport, you can be sure he would be there."

I arrived Geneva airport and Kay picked me out. As we drove into town, I noticed we were going a bit farther and told him I wanted to be nearer the ILO headquarters. He assured me I would have no problems getting to the ILO offices.

It turned out that Kay had not booked an hotel. Rather, he took me to his home in Geneva and said a friend of Ambassador Olukanni cannot come to Geneva and stay in an hotel when he has accommodation. He had at least three bedrooms. He had supper ready and I soon found out that his full names were Kayode Laro and he was from Ilorin where we shared a number of friends, especially the legions that had attended Ife.

The next morning, after ensuring I took breakfast, he drove me to the ILO headquarters before going to his office at the Nigeria Embassy where he was putting his human rights, disarmament, environmental and development passions to the service of our country. I resisted his coming to pick me home.

For the slightly over two weeks, I stayed for the ILO Conference, this became our pattern. When I bought food items from the mall, he protested. I had to persuade him that I would feel like a parasite. Already, he was saving me \$110 daily on accommodation, I was paying no transport to the ILO and was being overfed. I added jokingly that I did not mind being overfed, especially when he had a mini-gym in one of the rooms complete with a thread-mill where I could burn some of the fat. Kay treated me like a king in Geneva just by being introduced by Ambassador Olukanni with whom he had served in Nairobi, Kenya.

Nigeria was on the United Nations Security Council and needed experienced people to support the Mission. Kay was moved there specifically to serve on the Council. He had attended Nigeria's top military training institution, the National Defence College Course 17 from 2008-9, and so had the necessary skills and diplomatic tact needed



to enable Nigeria navigate in the most sensitive and contentious Council in the world. Despite his demonstrable competence, skills and high intellect serving with distinction in places like Zimbabwe and being Consul General in Atlanta, Kay, mainly due to quota issues, was never appointed ambassador until his retirement in December 2018.

One day while playing table tennis at Jabi Park in Abuja, a familiar figure walked past. It was the quiet, shy and good-natured Kay! I joined him on his walk and we had long conversations. He had retired and lived in Kado Estate, some five-minute drive from the park. He requested we went to his house.

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quite competent, dedicated and meticulous, but I also felt justice was being done to a very fine diplomat who was not appointed an ambassador while in service, but was found fit to be one in retirement!

Then months later, we met at the park. I expressed surprise. I had thought he had left without forwarding his new address. He smiled wearily and said no posting had been made. Finally, on May 15, 2021, that is ten months after his appointment, he assumed duties as Nigeria's Ambassador to France with concurrent accreditation to Monaco. I congratulated him and promised to visit him in Paris.

Then out of the blues, I received the shocking news that my dear friend, compassionate diplomat and humanist, Ambassador Kayode Laro, 64, had left humanity from Paris on Friday August 11, 2023. Five days later, his earthly remains were flown to the Ilorin Airport and interned at 9.50am in his family house at Okesuna, Ilorin. Whenever I read about his work in France, I remembered my promise to visit. Then this year, President Bola Tinubu was elected and he visited France. Kay as ambassador received him. He also organised the Nigerian community to meet the new President. I was proud of Kay.

Then, the July 26, 2023 coup took place in Niger Republic and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) immediately imposed sanctions and gave the junta a seven-day ultimatum to reverse the coup or face possible military action. It became common knowledge that France wants military intervention in Niger Republic and I wondered what advice the thoughtful Kay as Ambassador to France would be giving the Nigerian Government with President Tinubu as ECOWAS Chairman.

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Death has robbed Nigeria of a great soul at a time we seek direction and need our best brains at work.



# Understanding Difficulties of Take Off

By Jibrin Ibrahim

The anger is seen in the decision of the Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON) to remove “All Eyes on the judiciary” billboards sponsored by a group known as the Diasporas for Good Governance. The hashtag is an excellent description of the state of mind of ALL Nigerians wondering, fearing, hopeful, frightened of the expected verdict of the judiciary on election cases currently in the tribunals. The main focus is on the presidential election tribunal which will soon deliver its verdict on the petitions challenging the victory of President Bola Tinubu in the general election. Is someone afraid?

On Wednesday, the names of the 45-member cabinet, which is expected to rise further, was released. Serious questions had been posed since the names were released by the Senate some time ago. The bulk of the team is composed of run-of-the-mill politicians, about 80% of whom are under investigation for massive acts of corruption. Most of them have failed miserably in the previous governance function and about eleven of them are former governors with nothing to show for their stewardships. In essence, most of them lack both competence and integrity. President Tinubu ran his campaign on the promise that he is ready to roll out his governance agenda from day one. In other words, he was seeking to distance himself from the previous Buhari-led administration that pursued a clueless and destructive set of policy measures that brought the country to its knees.

The Tinubu campaign was justified by the successes he achieved in Lagos through the appointment of competent and talented technocrats that were able to make Lagos the pacesetter of governors that delivered significant results. His solemn promise was that he would replicate that at the national level.

There is no evidence that the direction he is headed would produce positive results. Many are wondering today whether perceptions of the Lagos positive narrative are more a success of good public relations rather than the real success story.

The Minister of State for Defence, Bello Matawalle was disastrous in the security governance of Zamfara State, that was why he lost the elections to Dauda Lawal and now he has responsibility for defence at the national level. There are a few competent practitioners such as Muhammed Pate of Health and Yusuf Tugger of Foreign Affairs, but there are simply enough of them to make a significant impact.

His signature programmes – removal of fuel subsidy and free float of the naira – collapsed spectacularly. President Tinubu has commended himself in announcing the end of fuel subsidy on inaugural day.

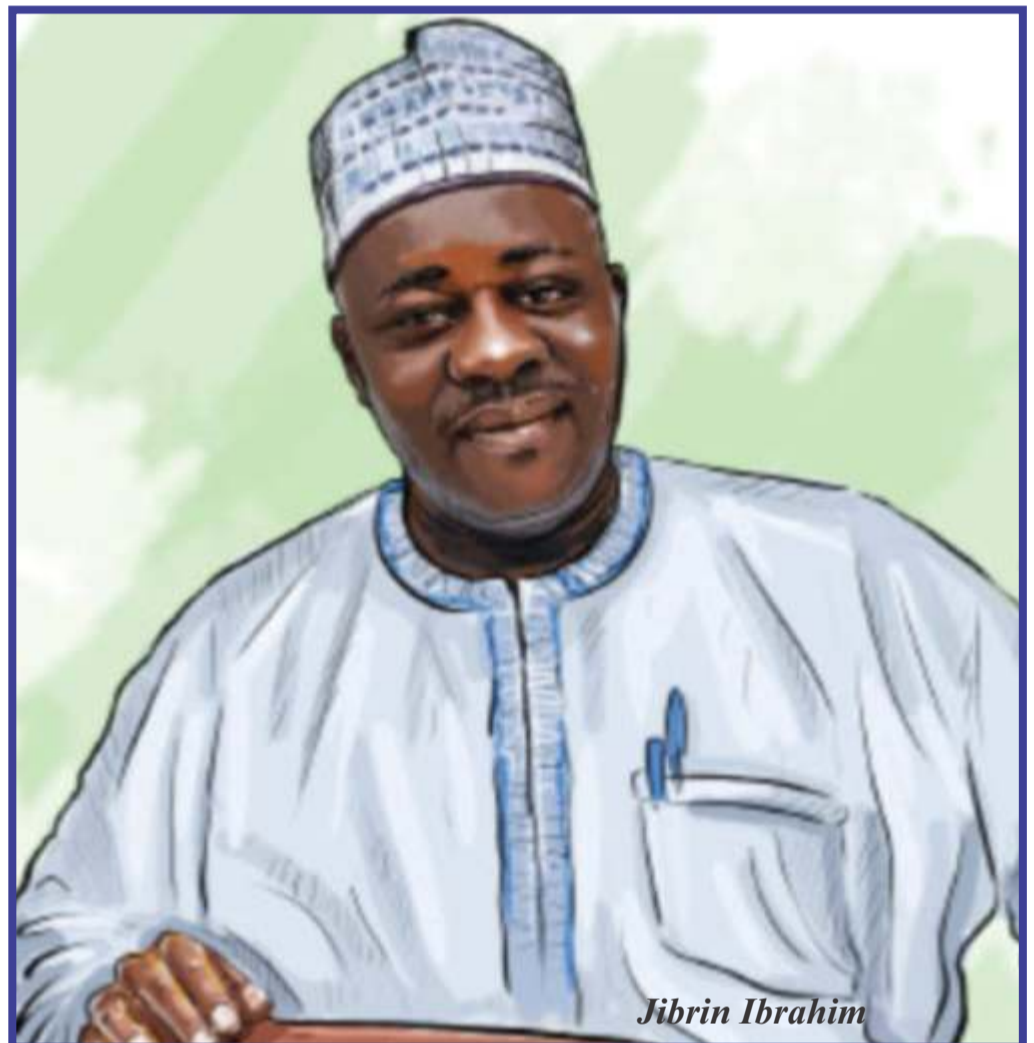
He thought it presented him to Nigerians as a man of resolve and action.

The problem was that he had only thought of one part of the equation, the radical action, which many Nigerians thought was inevitable but had not considered the impact of the cost of living crisis and high inflation which dramatically increased the poverty rate in the country. His team had not developed adequate palliatives to cushion the impact of the removal of subsidy and as they scrambled to make proposals, it became clear that they had not developed a comprehensive policy package that would adequately address the negative impact of fuel subsidy.

The free floating of the naira was just as disastrous. The value of the naira, contrary to predictions the Tinubu team made, continued to decline rapidly and almost reached the fatidic level of one dollar to one thousand naira. In a panic move, they resurrected the Buhari/Emefiele policy package of using dollars we don't have to support the naira. The question then becomes why was this bloated and largely incompetent cabinet appointed? The answer, very clearly lies in the first paragraph. All eyes on the judiciary. Should the outcome not favour the ruling party, they have a real need of the political striking force to address whatever the outcome is.

The decline of the value of the naira also meant that the price of the fuel was going up and in a clear panic move, they have had to reintroduce fuel subsidy. The reason was that food riots have been emerging in the country as hungry and angry Nigerians lost confidence in the government. The irony has been that had Tinubu had a solid economic team, these developments could have been anticipated and prepared for. We are yet to see the talented technocratic team we have been promised.

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them lack both competence and integrity. The Minister of State for Defence, Bello Matawalle was disastrous in the security governance of Zamfara State, that was why he lost the elections to Dauda Lawal and now he has responsibility for defence at the national level. There are a few competent practitioners such as Muhammed Pate of Health and Yusuf Tugger of Foreign Affairs, but there are simply enough of them to make a significant impact.

The question then becomes why was this bloated and largely incompetent cabinet appointed? The answer, very clearly lies in the first paragraph. All eyes on the judiciary. Should the outcome not favour the ruling party, they have a real need of the political striking force to address whatever the outcome is. In order words, the country will remain in political campaign mode and governance has been pushed to the side-lines. This explains the very poor quality of policy packages, the very poor sequencing of the release that does to consider what the people can take and the serial policy reversals. We had hoped for a governance team that was ready but we are not there yet.

*Ibrahim is a professor of Political Science and development consultant/expert, and Senior Fellow of the Centre for Democracy and Development. He is also the Chair of the Editorial Board of Abuja-based online newspaper, PREMIUM TIMES.*



# Enugu Govt Appoint Ezeaku Rangers GM

By ; **A Y O OJEDOKUN, Lagos**

**E**nugu State Governor, Dr. Peter Mbah, has approved the appointment of Barrister Amobi Paulinus Ezeaku, as the CEO/G.M of the 'Flying Antelopes', Rangers International FC of Enugu.

The appointment was contained in a statement dated Wednesday, August 23, 2023, by the Secretary to Enugu State Government, Professor Chidiebere Onyia, who had twelve

other appointees into various boards and parastatals in the state. The statement said that the appointments take immediate effect.

Barrister Ezeaku who just returned back to the country after successfully completing studies and earning UEFA and FIFA Masters certificates in club management was the club's team manager when they won the NPFL and Aiteo cups in 2016 and 2018 after over three decades of waiting.



## 2021 Sunday Igboho House Invasion: Widows, Children Head To Court, Demand N254bn Damages From FG, DSS

*\*Seek release of their kinsmen corpses*

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

**W**idows and under aged children of the two people allegedly killed during the invasion of the Ibadan residence of Yoruba nation agitator, Sunday Adeyemo Igboho are demanding N254billion special aggravated and/or exemplary damages from the Federal Government and the DSS.

The widows and under aged children of two late persons, Mr Olalekan Adisa and Alfa Abdulfatahi have filed a suit before an Oyo State High Court against the Attorney General of the Federation, State Security Service and the State Director, State Security Service, Oyo State Command for the release of the corpse of their father.

According to the widows and the children, the corpses of the duo of Mr. Olalekan Adisa and Alfa Abdulfatahi were allegedly loaded at the back of the DSS hilux van and that on getting to Ado Ekiti, the hilux detoured into the town while buses of DSS

carrying 13 "war criminals," including a lady, waited on the Abuja road. When the hilux van came back, the corpses of Mr Adisa and Alfa Abdulfatahi were no longer there."

In the suit No. M/36/2023, filed by their Counsel, Chief Yomi Alliyu (SAN), the widows and their under aged children, stressed that the application is brought pursuant to Sections 33.34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44 and 46 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999(as amended and Articles 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 (1), 14, 17, 18, 19, 20 & 25 of the African charter on Human Peoples rights.

The widows and their children in the suit, are praying for an order of the court, " compelling the respondents and severally to pay the applicants the sum of N-4,753,800,000:00 (four billion, seven hundred and fifty three million, eight hundred thousand Naira) as special damages for the upkeep of the applicant,

deceased's mother and those of her three children as hitherto performed by the deceased.

They are also seeking an order of the court awarding the sum of -N-250,000,000,000:00 (two hundred and fifty billion Naira) being exemplary and/or aggravated damages for breaching the Applicants' husband and/or father. MR. SAHEED OLALEKAN ADISA (DECEASED)'s fundamental right by killing him in the course of illegal and/or unlawful invasion of Chief Sunday Adeyemo a.k.a Igboho Oosa's residence situate, lying and being at Igboho Villa, 1, Dalag Street, Off Soka Bus Stop Soka Area, Off Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Ibadan, between 1.00 am. and 3.00 am, of July, 2021.

" An order of this Honourable Court directing the Respondents to return all the items legally belonging to the Applicants' husband and/or father seized from the said house of Chief

Sunday Adeyemo a.k.a IgbohoOosa, at Igboho Villa, 1, Dalag Street, Off Soka Bus Stop, Soka Area, Off Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Ibadan, by the Respondents to wit

\* 1-phone 12 pro max mobile phone or N=850,000:00 its price; Techno Spark phone or =N=90,000:00 its price;(Nokia phone or =N=180,000:00 its price; (4.) Gold chain and ring worth -N-1.5 million; and 5 Nos. international passport booklets belonging to the deceased and the Applicants or =N-150,000:00 cost of replacing them.

The applicants are also seeking an order of the Court " directing the Respondents to tender public apology in two (2) national dailies, to wit The Nigerian Tribune and Puncin newspapers, for breaching the fundamental human rights of the Applicant's deceased husband", and for such other and/or further equitable and /or legal reliefs as the Court

may deem necessary in the circumstance of this application" They stressed in the suit that at the hearing of this application the said Applicant or his Counsel on his behalf will use the Affidavits sworn to by the Applicant, MR. BASIR ARIYO and MR. OMIYALE and all the Exhibits therein referred to. 103106/035787/033742

New Nigerian recalls that on July 1, 2021, operatives of the Department of State Service invaded the house of Chief Sunday Adeyemo a.k.a Igboho Oosa at Soka, Sanyo Area, Ibadan during which properties worth over N500m were destroyed while Mr Olalekan Adisa that went with two police escorts to the place from Osogbo and the blind Chief Imam of the Estate, Alfa Yekinni Olatubosun Abdulkfatahi, observing tahjud and or night vigil between 1.00 a.m and 3.00a.m met their untimely death.



# Nigeria's U-21 Beach Volleyball Teams Depart For Morocco

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Nigeria's U-21 male and female beach volleyball players, on Wednesday August 23, 2023, departed the Ahmadu Bello Stadium (ABS), Kaduna for the Africa Beach Volleyball championship, billed for Casablanca, the capital city of Morocco.

Speaking with sports writers at ABS on Wednesday, the National head coach for the teams, John Iworima explained that they have been in camp for three weeks.

"We had series of preparations, we just rounded up our three weeks camping here in Kaduna and we would be leaving for Abuja to Morocco today.

"We believe that we will get a good placement on the podium in both male and female categories.

"Having gone through the camping exercise and seeing their efforts, these are the best players we have in this category in Nigeria".

According to Coach Iworima, four players will be leaving for Morocco.

"The championship is starting this weekend in Casablanca Morocco to end on August 31, 2023". He added.

He commended the President of Nigeria Volleyball Federation, Engr. Musa Nimrod for his sponsorship and assistance.

Also speaking, the President, Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF), Engr Musa Nimrod explained that the players are well prepared for the tournament.

"The players are well prepared for the beach tournament, especially the female team, who were in Tunisia for the Africa Beach Games, they also went to Cotonou for Olympics qualifier.

"I believe that Nigeria will also be going for World Beach Volleyball Championship in Mexico by September. I believe that these players will perform very well, I have strong confidence, they have to go and showcase their ability and capability". He said.

One of the players from female category, Esther Mbah Onyinye said, she is confident they will excel because they worked hard while training.

Onyinye who was in high spirits, promised that they will make the country proud.





# African Volleyball C'Ship: Nigeria Subdues Morocco

*\*Face Algeria in 5th position match*

By: JACOB ONJEWU  
DICKSON

Nigeria defeated Morocco 3-0 (26-24, 25-21, 27-25) in the 5th to 8th classification match at the ongoing 2023 African Senior Women's Nations Volleyball Championship in Yaounde, Cameroon on Wednesday.

Nigeria changed their starting team with Aliyat Usman, Kelechi Ndukauba, Happy Wushilang and Blessing Unkwe making the starting six against Morocco.

The youthful side produced a wonderful performance coming from a deficit of five points to win by 26 to 24 points.

Coach Samuel Ajayi maintained the same players in the second set as the combination of Ijeoma Ukpabi and Happy Wushilang dismantled the Moroccans. Nigeria led comfortably with the support of the crowd winning by 25 to 21 points.

In the third set, Morocco led by 24 to 22 points before the combination of Aliyat Usman and Kelechi Ndukauba won two sets for Nigeria to equal 24 to 24 points. Ijeoma Ukpabi won Nigeria's 25 points after which the referee made a controversial call following Happy Wushilang's spike.

Nigeria tied 25 to 25 points and Aliyat Usman made a fantastic drop to make the score line 26 to 25 points. The game ended in favour of Nigeria with the Algeria position four sending the



ball outside the court following her untimed spike.

An elated Samuel Ajayi said, "I am very happy with the victory against Morocco because I had them in mind based on what happened at the last edition of the African Championship in Rwanda where we were unlucky to win the bronze medal.

"Playing Morocco today, I told

my players to take their pound of flesh by winning irrespective of playing in the classification match and the players lived up to expectations."

Ajayi revealed that the players were not under pressure throughout the game against Morocco.

He said, "In the first set, I was not under pressure because they

were leading us with four points and we recovered and got to 20 points. I called for a time out highlighting where we needed to concentrate on and the players yielded to the instructions from the touch line; you say all my demonstrations on the court which led to the players paying attention to every word."

"I believe the players have realised their mistakes,

especially the Algeria match (last group stage match) that cost us the pairing with Kenya in the quarterfinals; they were lucky in the group stage.

"We are going to reaffirm our dominance in the 5th position match and take the match seriously. By the special grace of God, Nigeria will have the day", he added.





## Nigeria's U-21 Beach Volleyball Teams Depart For Morocco

Story on Page 18

# Zaria Mosque Collapse: National Ear Care Centre MD Condoles Victims' Families, Zazzau Emirate

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The management of the National Ear Care Centre, Kaduna yesterday, extended condolences to the Zazzau Emirate Council, following the collapse of the 150-year-old Zaria Central Mosque, which claimed no fewer than 12 lives and seven other Muslim faithful injured.

It would be recalled that a section of the 150-year-old mosque collapsed around 4pm on Friday, while worshippers were praying.

Since the incident on August 11, 2023, many had thronged to commiserate with the Zazzau Emirate Council as well as families of victims of the collapsed mosque in the ancient city of Zaria.

Among the early callers, were the state governor, Senator Uba Sani where he donated over N8m to families of the deceased, as well as those that sustained injuries during the incident.

The Chief Medical Director of the National Ear Care Centre, Dr Mustapha Abubakar Yaro, leading other management team, paid a condolence visit to the Emir of Zazzau, Ambassador Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, on Thursday in the ancient city of

Zaria, Kaduna State.

Also in the team that accompanied the CMD, were, the Head of Clinical Services, Dr Shaheed B. Nasir, Director Administration of the Center, Malam Aliyu Rani, the Public Relations officer, Malam Ahmed Tahir, Personal Assistant to the Medical Director, Muhktar S. Nuhu, and Special Assistant to the Medical Director, Malama Maryam Ibrahim.

The CMD expressed grief over the collapse mosque, describing the incident as tragic.

Yaro also prayed for the families that lost their loved ones, as well as prayed for speedy recovery of those who sustained injuries during the unfortunate incident.

According to him, "It is with



deep sorrow that we learnt about the collapse of a part of the mosque, resulting in the loss of precious lives and leaving several others injured.

"In the same vein, the management tendered its condolences to His Highness, over the passing away of Alhaji Tukur Yero and Sarkin Shanun Zazzau, Alhaji Salisu Muhammadu. May Allah SWT,

grant them Jannatul Firdausi. Amen.

"May He grant strength and patience to the families of the deceased, and may He grant complete healing to those who are recovering from their injuries."

In his remarks, the Emir of Zazzau, who is also the Chairman of the Kaduna State Traditional Council, thanked the

Chief Medical Director and his team for the visit and standing by the people of the Emirate, the state and the Muslim Ummah (community) during the trying periods.

Bamalli also commended the National Ear Care Centre for its outstanding work and quest to save lives.

# Governance Blueprint: Katsina Governor Inaugurates 20-man Committee

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has inaugurated a 20-man Committee to design a Governance blueprint that will assiduously accelerate the development of the state under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Governor, Alhaji Faruq Lawal Jobe.

A statement by the Chief Press

Secretary to the Governor, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed mentioned the other members of the Committee to include:- Secretary to the State Government, Barrister Abdullahi Garba Faskari; Commissioners of Budget and Economic Planning; Finance; Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Youths and Sports; Basic and Secondary Education, as well as that of

Higher, Vocational and Technical Education.

Others are:- representatives of Katsina and Daura Emirate Councils, the State Council of Ulama, Civil Society Organization, organized labour and the State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) among others.

Outlining the terms of reference of the Committee, Governor Dikko Radda said the committee

has the mandate of reviewing the draft Development Plan of Katsina, after studying the development plans of neighbouring Jigawa, Kaduna and Kano States, with a view to adopting some best practices that will add value to, and strengthen the effectiveness of the State Development Plan.

Governor Dikko Radda said the Committee would also collect, study and incorporate

community-based requests that align with the strategic vision of the Katsina Development program, while incorporating result-oriented goals from the harmonized report of the State development blueprint.

Governor Radda who congratulated members of the Committee, hoped they would report back to the State Government within the stipulated period of time.