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Fake India Bound Couple Nabbed At Lagos Airport, Excrete 3,322Kg, 100Grams Of Cocaine

By ; RAYMOND
TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The long arm of the law has caught up with an Indian bound couple, just as they excreted a total of 184 wraps of cocaine weighing 3,322 kilograms and 100grams.

Identified as Ilonzeh Kingsley Onyebuchi and Ilonzeh Roseline Nonyelum, the fake couple

were apprehended by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport.

The Director Media and Advocacy of the Agency Femi Babafemi in a release yesterday, stated that the fake couple pretended to be going for medical treatment in India.

He disclosed that the

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Troops Rescue Kidnapped Victims, Recover Items In Sokoto, Katsina

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Troops of Operation Hadarin Daji have neutralised more bandits, rescued kidnapped victims, recovered items, and destroyed bandits' hideouts in some states in the North-West, the Nigerian Army said on Friday.

According to a post on its verified Twitter handle, it explained that on August 3, 2023, armed bandits attempted to infiltrate and attack Isa Local Government Area of Sokoto State, while the vigilant troops deployed in Forward Operating Base, Isa, responded swiftly and repelled the attack with superior firepower.

It further explained that the swift attack forced the bandits to flee with gunshot wounds as traces of blood stains were seen on their routes during the pursuit.

According to the Twitter post, "Similarly, troops of Team 8 of Sector 3, Operation Hadarin Daji, deployed in Sabon Birni in Sokoto State conducted clearance operations, discovered and destroyed bandits' hideouts at Kusabunni Forest, Tafkin Gawo, Alumdawa, Ungwar Mailele and Malamawa villages in Sokoto State.

"However, bandits fled and abandoned their hideouts before the arrival of the troops."

It added that items

recovered from the bandits hideouts are three motorcycles, three AK-47 magazines, and ammunition, stressing that others include variety of pairs of both military and foreign camouflage uniforms, including police uniform, and a radio.

The Army noted further that troops of Sector 2 in Katsina State mobilised an offensive operation along the withdrawal routes of the abductors at Kore town in Batagarawa LGA of Katsina State while responding to a distress call on bandits kidnapping activities and animal rustling.

It said that on sighting the troops, bandits fled and abandoned the kidnapped victims and the rustled

animals.

It noted that four persons who were captured from their farmlands by armed bandits along Ungwan Madugu of Dandume Local Government Area, were rescued by troops of Operation Hadarin Daji in Katsina State.

It added that the victims were abandoned by their captors and fled when the troops in conjunction with vigilantes mobilised to the scene and successfully rescued the victims, saying that the victims have been handed over to their families while the recovered cattle were handed over to the rightful owners.



CDS Musa

Niger Coup: Tinubu Seeking State Of Emergency, Suspension Of Presidential Election Tribunal, Frank Warns

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, on Saturday, raised the alarm over alleged plot by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to go to war over coup in Niger to enable him declare a state of emergency in Nigeria and suspend the ongoing Presidential Election tribunal.

Frank who gave this warning in a statement in Abuja, accused the President of capitalising

on his position as ECOWAS chairman to legitimize his stolen election mandate in Nigeria.

He insisted that Tinubu's warmongering over Niger is selfishly motivated as he seeks to through it gain political capital by legitimizing his administration and securing the recognition of international bodies that hitherto have not recognized him as duly elected president.

He warned the President not to lead Nigeria into war with Niger as the consequence of such an action would result in long term economic, political and social devastation of the country.

He said: "It is clear to discerning minds



Timi Frank

that Tinubu wants to find an alibi to declare war in Niger and under that declare a state of emergency in Nigeria which will invariably lead to suspension of the ongoing sitting of the Presidential Election tribunal.

"He is not out to restore democracy in Niger Republic. He is out to legitimize and gain recognition for his government from western allies. Let Nigeriens solve their problems, Nigeria has enough challenges of its own," he declared.

Frank who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), Ambassador to East Africa and Middle East, also accused ECOWAS Heads of States and Governments of not working to deepen democracy in the subregion by ensuring good governance.

He said they often remain silent when Presidents illegally steal the people's mandate through electoral fraud and manipulate constitutional provisions to elongate their tenure in office.

"It is a shame that ECOWAS' Presidents always jerks back to life when a fellow president has been dethroned like the present scenario in Niger Republic," he said.

He added: "I condemn the coup in Niger and I will support all altruistic efforts to restore democratic governance in that country. But I reject moves by Tinubu to use the Niger coup as a ruse to overturn the ongoing court process meant to determine the actual winner of the February 25th, 2023 Presidential election.

"I call on well meaning Nigerians to dissuade Tinubu from leading the country into an unnecessary war which among others will inflict heavy casualty on our armed forces and breed more widows in addition to what Boko Haram, bandits and other criminal elements have done already," he said.

He insisted that former President Muhammadu Buhari, a retired army general, never went to war when there was coup in Guinea, Burkina Faso and Mali during his tenure "because he knew the implications. Why is Tinubu hellbent on going to war if not for self preservation in office as President?"

KADIFF Founder Visits Commissioner Ahead 6th Kaduna International Film Festival



By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

The founder of Kaduna International Film Festival (KADIFF), Audu Kashim Israel has paid a courtesy visit to Honourable Rabi Salisu the new Commissioner for Human Services and Social Development in Kaduna State, Nigeria to congratulate her on her appointment and intimate her of the upcoming 6th Kaduna International Film

Festival scheduled to hold from August 22 to 26, 2023.

According to a statement signed by the Personal Assistant to the founder KADIFF, Ambrose Fadoyin,

Audu was received by Mrs. Lauretta Markus, Director Culture, Ministry of Human Services and Social Development, alongside the Hon. Commissioner.

The Hon. Commissioner Haj. Rabi Salisu while

receiving the founder of KADIFF, assured him of the state government's support and presence during the film festival, including maximum security for local and international visitors.

She also assured him that His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani, the governor of Kaduna State would be at the ceremony to declare the film festival open.

The 6th Kaduna International Film Festival t-shirt was unveiled and

presented to the Honourable Commissioner, Hajiya Rabi Salisu by the Executive Director Kaduna International Film Festival Audu Israel Kashim

Audu was joined by Johnson Erakpotobor, festival programmes team, Stella Abiodun, Programmes team, Terry Nyam, head of programmes and protocol and Chelsea Mohammed, welfare team.

Fake India Bound Couple Nabbed At Lagos Airport, Excrete 3,322Kg, 100Grams Of Cocaine

suspects were intercepted at the Screening Point 1, Terminal 1 of the international wing of the Lagos airport on Tuesday 1st August 2023 while attempting to board an Ethiopian airline flight to India.

“Though their travel documents show consistency in their names and depict them as a couple, an NDLEA officer however decided to subject them to body scan. The scan confirmed they both ingested drugs as a result of which they were later placed on excretion observation at the Agency's facility,” he added.

“While their travel documents identify the man as Ilonzeh Kingsley Onyebuchi and the lady to be Ilonzeh Roseline Nonyelum, preliminary investigation revealed that the intending passengers were not a couple but obtained the travel documents in the same surname to beat security checks at the airport. The lady later gave her real name as Ngogbike Nkechi.

“During her interview, she confessed that she was recruited in her church in Aba, Abia state where she lives. The suspect, Ilonzeh Roseline Nonyelum (aka Ngogbike Nkechi) stated further that she is a divorcee, and that Kingsley with whom she was travelling is not her husband but connected only for the purpose of the

illicit drug business trip.

“She revealed that her arranged husband, Kingsley brought the pellets of cocaine to her in her room to ingest in the hotel where they were both lodged in separate rooms the previous day Monday 31st July,” the NDLEA's spokesman stated.

According to Babafemi, after their arrest, a thorough search conducted on her led to the discovery of a big size wrap of cocaine that weighed 100 grams she inserted into her private part.

“She confessed that she was promised Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) upon successful delivery of the drug in India.

“In his own statement, Kingsley who was into clothing business in Onitsha, Anambra state, claimed he was promised Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) after a successful delivery of the drug in India. A further search of the Agency's crime data base revealed that Kingsley also obtained his travel documents with fake identity for the trip.

“Indeed, it was established that he was arrested by NDLEA operatives at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja on 19th March 2022 for ingesting 100 wraps of cocaine weighing 2.243kgs upon his arrival from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on

board an Ethiopian airline flight. His travel documents then contained his real name: Uwaezuoke Ikenna Christian,” he said.

Babafemi explained further that after Kingsley's arrest at the Abuja airport on 19th March 2022 along with another suspect, Iro Elvis Uche who also ingested 65 wraps of cocaine with a gross weight of 1.376kgs, Uwaezuoke was subsequently arraigned before Justice Zainab Abubakar of the Federal High Court Abuja with charge number: FHC/ABJ/CR/438/2022. He was eventually granted bail by the court pending the conclusion of his trial.

The NDLEA's image maker said Kingsley was still on the court bail when he was arrested at the Lagos airport for a similar offence on Tuesday 1st August.

“While Ilonzeh Kingsley Onyebuchi (aka Uwaezuoke Ikenna Christian) excreted a total of 82 wraps of cocaine with a gross weight of 1.822kgs in five excretions, Ilonzeh Roseline Nonyelum (aka Ngogbike Nkechi) ingested 101 wraps in four excretions with a big size wrap of the substance recovered from her private part, all weighing 1.50kgs,” he disclosed.



Adejoke Oyekan

Purplebloom Publishers Organises Writers' Workshop In Ibadan

By; AYO OJEDOKUN Lagos

In a bid to unleash inner wordsmith and offer the aspiring writers valuable tools to polish their writing skills to perfection, Purplebloom Publishers has perfected plans to organize a two-day writers workshop with the theme: Inspiration Unleashed: 'Unveiling the Path to Authorship'.

The event that will ignite the creativity and empower the participants to conquer the world of writing according to Adejoke Oyekan, the founder of Purplebloom, has been scheduled for Friday 25th and Saturday 26th August 2023 at IACD Library, American Corner besides Booksellers, Jericho, Ibadan.

Oyekan, while addressing newsmen in Ibadan ahead of the event urged all aspiring writers to come and learn how to write a compelling and bestselling story from esteemed facilitators, as their renowned experts will unravel the secrets behind captivating plots, unforgettable characters, and the craft of impeccable prose.

Among the resource personnel lined up to handle various topics during the seminar are Tade Ipadeola, a Poet, Essayist and Lawyer, Ronke Giwa-Onafuwa, an

Author and OAP, Ayo Oyeku, also an Author and founder, Eleventh House, Oluchi Anyakudo, of Gem Mind Books and Chima Ogoke, MJC Echeruo/ANA-IMO Prize winner for poetry.

The expected participants, either student or working class according to Purplebloom boss, will stand to gain an automatic invitation to the Authors' Conference, Certificate of Participation, One month mentorship, Publishing deal and network with industry stakeholders.

“One of the real reasons most people write is because they can not only speak out and express themselves to the world but they may also influence others with their ideas. There are so many great things a person can do with the power of words. Whether it is to persuade, inform, narrate, or inspire, good writing is something that can be appreciated by all and is a very powerful tool.” said Oyekan.

She added that “student are expected to pay 3,000 Naira as participation fee while early bird will be 50 percent reduction opportunity of 1,500 Naira, as participants in the working class category pays: 7,000 Naira with early bird paying the sum of 5,000.

CDS Appointment: Northern Minority Muslims Commend President Tinubu

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

A faith-based group under the aegis of Northern Minority Muslims (NMM), has thrown its weight behind President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for deeming it timely and auspicious to appoint General Christopher Gwabin Musa as the Chief of Defense Staff of Nigeria.

A communique signed by its national coordinator, Mallam Dahiru Musa Wamba, and made available to journalists at a press conference in Abuja, noted that their reaction was necessitated by a recent viral video where a so called Islamic cleric can be seen making provocatively malicious statements about the appointment of Gen. C. G. Musa as the new Chief of Defense Staff.

The statement emphasized that military assignments should be purely on the basis of professionalism and not political expediency, nor religious consideration.

"The security situation in the country has become worrisome, thereby deepening our fault lines, with existential threat by separatist groups, insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, political assassinations and corruption across the country, and the need to begin to address these challenges require an urgent departure from the era of placing political patronage above meritocracy", the statement noted.

They emphasized that, "as Muslims from the minority tribes in Nigeria, we find it not only scandalous, but unfortunately malicious and unsettling when a so called Muslim cleric views appointments from the prism of self adulation rather than the much needed professionalism". The group condemned the



CDS Musa

Islamic cleric for referring to Zangon Kataf as a minority tribe that is unworthy of producing a soldier that can be trusted with the headship of the country's security architecture, noting that it's unfair to take a swipe on a tribe that has suffered many years of unprovoked killings, land grabbing, occupation by enemies and destruction of property.

They described Gen. Christopher Gwabin Musa as a "thorough-bred professional who's exploits as a combatant both within and outside Nigeria comes in full measure, as such, casting aspersions with a view to malign and cast a slur on his integrity will only embolden him to remain professional".

"We've followed his military trajectory, and we're fully aware that his immense contribution in tackling activities of bandits and insurgents, has brought relative peace in the northwest, northeast, and other regions of the country, and now is the auspicious time for him to consolidate as a square peg that perfectly fits the square hole", they reiterated.

The statement urged security agencies to, without delay, arrest and investigate the cleric for his inciting comments that was made viral across social media platforms, "so that these kind of provocative and inciting comments that have the capacity to cast a slur on the hard earned integrity of patriotic Nigerians will be nipped in the bud".

Afenifere Lashes Factional Ohaneze Scribe Over Comment On PEPT Case, Nigerian Military Coup

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Pan-Yoruba socio-political organization, Afenifere yesterday, warned Nigerians against engaging unnecessary in incitement by preempting the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal (PEPT), handling the cases arising from the February 25, 2023 presidential election.

Afenifere in a statement by the organisation's National Publicity Secretary, Comrade Jare Ajayi specifically cautioned factional Secretary-General of Ohaneze, Mr. Okechukwu Isiguzoro on the cases.

According to Afenifere, it will be wrong for anyone to be hiding under the guise of freedom of expression to engage in incitement bordering on both treason and contempt of the court.

Afenifere asserted that

apart from constituting an intimidation of the judiciary, this statement credited to Mr Isiguzoro is inciting, saying, "everyone knows that the only means of changing government known to law is through the ballot box".

"This is not just a constitutional provision in Nigeria, it is also the norm in all countries that hold the right of the people to determine who govern them as sacrosanct".

"Isiguzoro, in his statement, asserted that, "the interpretation of the constitutional requirement for a presidential candidate to win 25 % of 2/3 of the states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, is a crucial issue that the judiciary must address" and then lunged into what could be interpreted as a threat, saying, "We emphasize the consequences of an erroneous judgment in light of recent events such

as the Nigerian military coup," it said.

Afenifere added, "This statement is too weighty not to be challenged because of its far-reaching implications. In the first place, the issue of FCT status on which there was already a judicial pronouncement is also one of the issues before the Tribunal presently. Secondly, even if a party in a political case considered the judgement of a tribunal or court as 'erroneous', the option is not to call for military takeover as the law clearly provides room for proceeding to the appellate court."

"Thus, Isiguzoro's position, among other things, contravenes Section 133 of the Criminal Code Act in Nigeria. The Code in subsection (4) says that a person is in contempt of the court if "while a judicial proceeding is pending, makes use of any

speech or writing, misrepresenting such proceeding, or capable of prejudicing any person in favour of or against any party to such proceeding, or calculated to lower the authority of any person before whom such proceeding is being had or taken"

Afenifere stressed further that what "Isiguzoro did fell under what is considered 'ex facie curiae' i.e., contempt committed outside the court since his statement was not made inside the court where the case is being heard".

Emphasizing how serious the issue of contempt, Afenifere quoted Justice Mohammed as saying that, "It is justice itself that is flouted by contempt of the court, not the individual court or judge who is attempting to administer it" (1999) LPELR-2645(SC)."

Insecurity: Kebbi Gov Pledges Support To Nigerian Hunters Operatives

*Backs NHFSS Bill

By; BASHIR BELLO, Abuja.

Governor Nasiru Idris of Kebbi State has pledged to see that operatives of Nigerian Hunters and Forest Security Service (NHFSS) are fully funded and equipped with arms and tools in order for it to checkmate the activities of criminals using forests to perpetuate crime.

The governor who was represented by the Special Adviser on Political Affairs and Power, Alhaji Kabiru Sani Giant spoke to journalists at the ongoing four days departmental training of NHFSS, in Kebbi State yesterday.

According to the governor, operatives of Nigerian Hunters and Forest Security Services, have

also helped in curbing criminal activities in Kebbi State, thereby making the state very safe. He vowed to speak with President Bola Ahmad Tinubu in order to see that the bill seeking to give legal backing to the group is assented to.

"The governor has also promised to speak with Mr President so that he signs into law the bill that would establish NHFSS.

"His Excellency has further promised to provide everything ranging from logistics to equipment that you need for the smooth operation of your group, Giant concluded," he said.

The Director, Security Services in Kebbi, Abdulrahman Usman said that the security challenges facing the state have

abated considerably since Governor Nasiru, assumed the mantle of leadership.

According to the director, the governor took certain actions that boosted the morals of security and military personnel in the state.

He added that apart from purchasing the needed security equipment for security agencies, the governor also paid the backlog of salaries and allowances the state government owed security personnel in the state.

He further added that Governor Nasiru gave the directive to recruit over 400 personnel of Nigerian Hunters and Forest Security Service (NHFSS), who were trained on how to use modern weapons in order to assist the Police and

Army in combating bandits who terrorised the state.

He noted that with sustained efforts of the governor, insecurity would soon be a thing of the past.

Speaking to journalists afterwards, Commander, Nigerian Hunters and Forest Security Service (NHFSS), Kebbi Command, Musa Hussaini Rambo lauded the governor for his efforts in ensuring that NHFSS personnel got the needed support.

Rambo while thanking the governor, said that NHFSS still needs communication gadgets, vehicles and monthly allowances for its personnel.

Zulum Joins Tinubu At Groundbreaking Of 1,350 Megawatts Power Plant In Gwagwalada

*Tinubu commends Zulum's performance in Borno

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Friday, laid foundation stone for the establishment of 1,350 megawatts Gwagwalada Independent Power Plant (GIPP) Project sited in Gwagwalada Area Council of the FCT.

The project is being carried out through a partnership between the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited, China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) and General Electric (GE).

The event had in attendance Governor of Borno State, Babagana Umara Zulum who was there in honour of Mele Kyari, group chief executive officer of NNPC, Ltd. Mele Kyari hails from Borno State.

Also at the event, were Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, who represented the Speaker, Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State who represented his Governor, the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria and stakeholders from ministries of power, and petroleum and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). There were also traditional rulers of Gwagwalada and Zuba amongst other stakeholders.

President Tinubu in his remarks which has already been copiously reported by the presidency's media team, also took time to praise Governor Zulum.

Tinubu said he was happy that the Borno Governor attended the groundbreaking as his presence meant representation of a tier of Government.

The President also commended Zulum's performance since becoming Governor of Borno State.

Before the president's speech, Permanent Secretary of the FCT, Mr Olusade Adesola gave a welcoming address.

Group CEO of NNPC Ltd, Mele Kyari gave overview of the Gwagwalada Independent Power Project including scope and overall objectives.

Permanent secretary, ministry of petroleum, Ambassador Gabriel Aduda delivered the vote of thanks.

The Gwagwalada Independent Power Project, "was necessitated by the need for delivering gas towards additional power generation capacity in Nigeria. Gas supply to the Plant shall be through the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) Gas Pipeline which is currently at its advanced stages of construction.

"The GIPP's fuel requirements will be satisfied under a long-term Gas Sales, Purchase and

Aggregation Agreement with Shell Petroleum Development Company Joint Venture (SPDCJV).

"The GIPP project consists up of three power train blocks of 450MW each. Each block will include two General Electric (GE) GT132 gas turbine generators, two heat recovery steam generators (HRSG), one steam turbine electric generator, one direct air-cooling condenser, balance of plant equipment and a black start diesel generator.

"On completion, the GIPP Project will generate an average of 10.3 million Megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity per year for sale to the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET). The sales of the generated power will be through Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the NBET to distribution companies (Discos) under long-term agreements, and direct sale to major off-takers.

"China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) will construct the project under a turnkey Engineering, Procurement and Construction ("EPC") contract. The GIPP Project will be operated by an experienced company with proven track record under an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) contract. GE will be engaged for the Long-Term Service Agreement (LTSA) that will include ongoing guarantees of availability, heat rate, and output.

"Projected gross revenues within the first ten years is expected to be around USD 700-800 million per year."



Varsity Don Stresses Need To Address Waste Mismanagement In Nigeria

By; RALPH OKHIRIA, Benin City

Professor Muniratu Maliki of the Edo State University, Uzairue, has urged all tiers of government and relevant stakeholders to engage in effective sensitisation for positive result on waste management in the country. Prof. Maliki, a Professor of Environmental and Analytical Chemistry, made the call in a paper titled: "Economic and Environmental Sustainability Through Dump-Mining" at the 10th inaugural Lecture of the university.

The university Don who is a lecturer in the Faculty of Science, Department of Chemistry, said the sensitisation would go a long way to address environmental problems as well as improve waste management in the country. She said, "there is an increasing global campaign to urgently address the issue of waste mismanagement.

"The concept of waste as a useless material is rapidly changing to that of a valuable resource.

"If waste are properly managed, it will maximise their benefit while minimising environmental impacts."

Prof. Maliki who is also the Dean, Students Affairs, further stressed that waste management is a major problem that has affected significant number of people in the country, adding that the way and manner we generate waste determines the way we should tackle it.

She said dump-mining is extraction of useful resources from waste, adding that the process also cover the treatment, management and utilisation of waste for resourceful and profitable purposes.

However, she advised all tiers of government to commercialise waste management and ensure that experts were strongly engaged in the business.

According to her, "We all have roles to play, part of it



Professor Muniratu Maliki

is to educate people around us, let them know the importance of ways and manners we dispose our waste.

"We can harness the transformative potential of these studies and contribute to more sustainable, proporous future that addresses environmental challenges, promotes economic growth, and enhances societal well being," she added.

Prof. Maliki further called for an increase in recycling efforts by Nigerians to reduce the impact of harmful chemicals and the emission of greenhouse gases to help tackle climate change.

"Recycling is the best way to preserve impact on our natural system.

"Nigerians needed to be enlightened on the need for proper waste management and the benefits of recycling.

"We should educate people on three ways of disposing their waste; let them know that waste can be reduced, reused, and recycled.

Earlier in his address, the Vice Chancellor of the university, Engr. Prof. Emmanuel Aluyor, said the lecture series has been a testament to the commitment to excellence and innovation in academia. The VC expressed his gratitude to the dedicated and hardworking staff of the university who he said have been instrumental in shaping the university into a world-class university.

Adefisoye Opens Multi-Billion Naira VATA City Centre In Akure

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

It was pomp and pageantry in Akure, Ondo State capital on Thursday August 3, 2023 as Idanre born politician and philanthropist, Hon. Tajudeen Adefisoye opened the biggest hospitality hub in the Sunshine State.

The grand opening of VATA City Centre was also celebrated with the 39th birthday of Adefisoye, who is better known as Small Alhaji. The state of the art facility, which houses a 5- star Stoney Grey hotel and a 5-Star restaurant, was commissioned by the House of Representatives Committee Chairman on Works, Hon. Akin Alabi.

The apex hospitality hub also houses a state of the art night club and game arcade. The VATA City Centre also has an Old Wine Lounge that is lavishly completed with a Pool Bar and VIP seats for VVIP guests. The facility is equally completed with a world class conference hall that is purposely built for conferences, meetings, trainings, seminars and all other corporate events.

The Stoney Grey hotel within the VATA City Centre is modelled as a boutique hotel which offers guests ultra-personal service. The facility also customizes toiletries and amenities of guests and equally help the guest to acclimatize and

stay true to the local culture of its location.

Also, the Stoney Grey hotel is equally a small-inventory, design-driven facility that places special focus on authenticity and personalization.

In a bid to regularly meet and even surpass expectations of guests, Adefisoye has thus far hired 130 staff that include the very best in the Nigerian hospitality business to provide cutting edge services. He has also cautiously hired the best chefs around the country to meet the culinary needs of guests to the hospitality hub.

Assorted music that cut across different generations were supplied at the grand opening of VATA City Centre by the legendary Sir. Shina Peters and rave of the moment juju artistes, Demola Suzi, Dapsing and Destiny Music.

While the cutting of ribbon to commission the hospitality facility was done by Hon. Akin Alabi; he was however accompanied during the commissioning by Hon. Adegeye Olawande and Alhaji Saliu. Special prayer was thereafter offered by the Chief Imam of Akure Kingdom, Alhaji Yayi Akorede.

Speaking after the commissioning, Adefisoye said the same facility could have been



sited either in Lagos or Abuja, but for his burning love for Ondo State. The City Centre CEO added that he was aware that the investment would create jobs for the people of Ondo State and also promote commercial activities in the state capital.

"I thank Almighty Allah for making this dream a reality today. I have chosen not to site this investment in Lagos or Abuja because of my love for Ondo State. As you can see, about 130 staff have been employed here and we still plan to employ more. These jobs would have been taken up by people from another state if this hospitality hub was not sited in Ondo State. I am confident that this facility will promote commercial activities in Akure, the capital of our dear Sunshine State".

Meanwhile, a special birthday cake was

presented to Hon. Adefisoye by the staff of VATA City Centre. Also, members of Small Alhaji Mandate Group from Idanre and Ifedore Local Government Areas were fully on ground as they felicitated the celebrant with songs and dances.

Dignitaries that graced the two-in-one event include the Speaker of Ondo State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Olamide Oladiji, who was accompanied by members of state House of Assembly; Hon. Akin Alabi, Hon. Rasaan Obe, who is Ondo State Commissioner for Mines and Energy and Dr. Tola Awosika. Other were Hon. George Olawande Adegeye, member representing Amuwo Odofin federal constituency of Lagos State; Mr. Wale Jana and Mr. Tunde Wear It All, the CEO of Wear It All Luxury.

Charity Support: Zulum Grants N80m To Guwori Islamic Academy

By; SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Banagana Umara Zulum, has approved the release of N80m grant for use by Guwori Islamic Academy, a charity institution that provides education to children mostly from low income families.

Zulum announced the approval yesterday, at the graduation ceremony of the school which is located around customs office in Jere Local Government Area

The governor explained that the N80 million will be released in four tranches of 20 million every year to support provision of educational facilities, improve teachers' welfare and enhance learning for students.

"I am highly impressed with what I have seen here today (Sunday). The performance of the students is quite encouraging, as a government we are ready to support our children to receive good education (both Islamic and western). I am therefore announcing the

grant of N80m to this school", Zulum said.

He added, "Each year we will release N20m to complement the payment of the teachers' salaries and other expenses. The first N20m cheque will be issued to the school management tomorrow (Monday) in sha Allah."

Guwori Islamic Academy, which is a subsidiary of the Guwori Foundation was established by the Group Chief Executive Officer of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation Limited, (NNPCL), Mele Kolo Kyari, to provide free integrated Islamic and Western education.

Zulum also approved a total of N4.1m for 23 graduating students with each of the 12 pupils who have memorised the complete Holy Qur'an receiving N250,000 each and 11 pupils who have completed their primary education but could not memorise the complete Holy Qur'an to receive N100,000 each.

The governor charged parents to inculcate the teachings of Islam in their

children.

He also seized the opportunity to assure citizens of his administration's commitment to providing meaningful development in the state and in combating all forms of criminalities for the people to go about their activities peacefully.

Earlier in his address, the GCEO of NNPCL, Mallam Mele Kolo Kyari, expressed his appreciation for the good standard of teaching and learning in the school.

Qur'anic recitations and drama presentations by the students and lectures by several Islamic scholars were conducted during the ceremony.

The governor was accompanied to the event by the Member representing Marte, Monguno and Nganzai at the Federal House of Representatives, Engr. Bukar Talba, Head of Service, Barrister Mallam Fannami, Commissioners designate and other government officials.

Fuel Subsidy Removal Forced Me Into Robbery - Car Hirer Driver

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A university graduate turned car hirer driver arrested in Lagos over alleged armed robbery by the police, has confessed to the crime, blaming the removal of the fuel subsidy for his action.

Adeniran Jeremiah, a 29-year old graduate of accounting from a University in Republic of Benin, told journalists in a chat that he was forced into robbing his passengers due to the dip in profit from the business as a result of the fuel subsidy removal.

The suspect was paraded along with other suspected criminals at the Lagos State Police Command Headquarters, Ikeja, on Friday.

According to Jeremiah, on his graduation from a university in Republic of Benin, he could not easily secure a job and in order to take care of his needs, he opted to engage in car drop business by enlisting with BOLT in Lagos.

Jeremiah said as a Bolt driver, he was making good money from several bookings daily, until fuel subsidy was removed.

Due to the increase in pump price of fuel, he said, his daily earnings nose-dived and he could barely meet with his financial obligations.

He subsequently disengaged from Bolt and enlisted with RIDA; another car drop service company not necessarily with intent to do genuine business, but as a means of robbing unsuspecting passengers, who move particularly at night time.

Speaking fluently in English language, the suspect said he had brought two of his friends to form the robbery gang which had

a strategic style of carrying out their nefarious operations.

According to him, on Friday 28th July, 2023 someone had ordered him to pick her along Governor's Road, Ikotun area of Lagos from a particular point.

As Jeremiah had arranged with his two colleagues in crime on where to lay ambush, he picked the passenger and on getting to the spot, he informed the passenger that his vehicle had a flat tyre and he needed to change it.

As he pulled up, his two colleagues emerged from their hideout to threaten both himself and the passenger with guns.

They quickly surrendered as the two men ordered him to join the woman at the back seat without the woman knowing that he was part of the robbery team.

As one of them took over the steering from Jeremiah, they drove off but no sooner had they gone far than Jeremiah introduced himself to the passenger as a member of the robbery team.

They threatened her and ordered her to surrender every valuable on her.

According to him, the sum of N60,000 was stolen, phone and other valuable items were taken away from her before she was dropped elsewhere.

He confessed that, the incident was his first robbery attempt. After the 28th July, he planned another two operations with two colleagues and they succeeded in robbing the victims good sums of money at night, adding that they normally operated only at nights during weekdays when some people go to clubs and other social activities.

Jeremiah similarly confessed of

how his three-man gang robbed another passenger who had ordered for a ride to African Shrine, Alausa Ikeja. As usual, his colleagues had positioned elsewhere to carry out the operation.

However, Jeremiah ran out of luck few days ago, when a woman his gang had robbed saw him at a shopping complex at Ikotun and quickly raised alarm on recognising his facial looks as he did not wear mask during the robbery incident.

The alarm attracted many people around, who almost lynched him before some of them intervened and insisted on taking him to the police.

The accounting graduate confessed that from the four persons robbed so far, he got a total of N700,000 as his own share.

While blaming the fuel subsidy removal as the primary cause of his involvement in robbery, he pleaded with Nigerian youth to be patient in their quest to become rich.

He regretted his action and the embarrassment he has brought to his family particularly his wife and child.

Jeremiah advised passengers who make use of car drop services like UBER, BOLT and RIDA to be mindful of who they engage as the poor economic situation in the country has led many people into some devilish activities.

The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, who was represented by the Command's Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin used the opportunity to announce that since he launched his OPERATIONS FLUSH a fortnight ago, the



Back view of the car hirer driver

police in various divisions in Lagos have stepped up efforts which have resulted in the arrest of over 30 suspects paraded at the event.

Among the suspects were those who engaged in armed robbery, cultism, car snatching and many other heinous crimes.

Failure To Upload 2020/2021 Sessional Results: AAU Suspends July Staff Salaries

By: RALPH OKHIRIA, Benin City

The Management of Ambrose Alli University (AAU), Ekpoma, Edo State, has directed that the salaries of all staff and all financial requests from Deans of Faculty and Heads of Departments be suspended with immediate effect.

According to a statement signed by the university's acting Registrar, Ambrose E. Odiase, the management's decision is informed by "the non-compliance by some Deans of Faculty and Heads of Departments to submit result files as well as the slow pace of uploading of 2020/2021 sessional results to the university's portal (Kofa).

"The implication of this failure or slow

pace, as it were, is that the current 2022/2023 academic session cannot be activated on the Kofa.

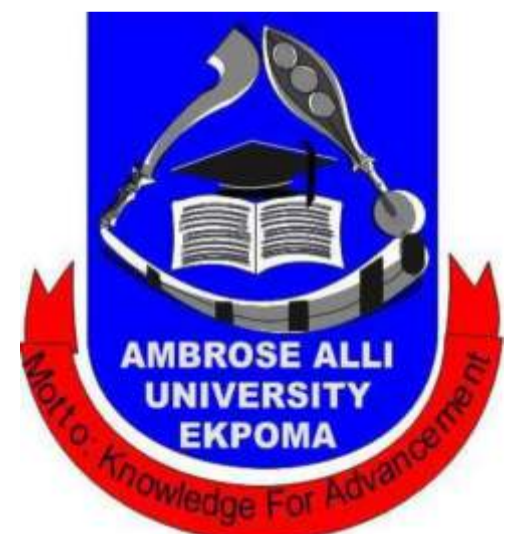
When contacted for further explanation on the subject matter, the institution's Head, Corporate Communication and Protocol, Otunba Mike Aladenika, said: "The management is disturbed with the backlog of results yet to be uploaded which we know is affecting the general progressional movements of our students. It is no longer acceptable, hence the need to be more firm in our bid to positively get things done the way it should be."

On the issue of processing transcripts in the university, Otunba Aladenika said: "The Management is aware of the scandalous nature of processing

transcript applications in AAU, and as such it has directed that the ICT Directorate digitises all students' academic records that are not captured on the Kofa.

"It may also interest you to know that a cartel of transcript racketeering has been smashed in the University with suspects currently before a disciplinary committee with a view to determining the level and depth of their operations within the institution.

"I can confidently tell you that it is no longer business as usual for recalcitrant elements in and outside the system, as we are more determined, than before, to wipe them out and return the University to the path of glory."



Otunba Aladenika further said that all these actions have the blessing of the Special Intervention Team of the institution.

Breastfeeding: We Are Equipped To Deliver Healthy Babies In Kaduna - TBAs

By; UANGBAOJE ALEX, Kaduna

As part of activities to commemorate the 2023 World Breastfeeding Week (WBW), Civil Society Scaling-up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN), Kaduna State Chapter in partnership with the Kaduna State Primary Health Care Board (KDSPHCB) yesterday, held a sensitization meeting with Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) in Rido Ward of Chikun Local Government Area in the state.

The sensitization was centered around early initiation, exclusive breastfeeding and complimentary feeding. WBW, is celebrated globally from 1st to 7th of August annually to address issues relating to poor early initiation of breastfeeding (within 1 hour of birth), exclusive breastfeeding of infants for a period of 6 months, and introduction of appropriate complementary feeding from 6 months and above, as well as continued breastfeeding up to 2 years or beyond.

After listening to messages from various speakers, the TBAs said they are now more equipped and ready to help women in their communities deliver healthy babies.

According to Tabitha Adamu, who spoke on behalf of the TBAs, even though they have had years of experiences in delivery pregnant women, they don't usually give much attention to early initiation of breastfeeding by ensuring the first milk from the mothers are not

wasted.

She said the sensitization also opened their eyes to the fact that even though women in the communities can deliver outside the medical facilities, it important that they encourage them to go for their Ante Natal Care(ANC), so as to make the delivery effortless for the TBAs.

"This meeting is so timely and I can guarantee you that no woman will deliver under our care that will not breastfeed their babies immediately.

"Henceforth, we will also make sure that even after giving birth, we follow up on them for regular counseling and encouragement on exclusive breastfeeding and complimentary feeding." Tabitha added.

Earlier while addressing the women, CS-SUNN team lead to the community, Elizabeth David, noted that the sensitization was so important for the TBAs to be knowledgeable about early initiation, exclusive breastfeeding and complimentary feeding because apart from the fact that they take their deliveries, the women also go back to them for advice. "If they don't have the knowledge, they will give them wrong information and at the end of the day we will have a wrong result." She said.

She told the women that exclusive breastfeeding benefits both the mother her child, the family, community and the society at large and that as those saddled with the responsibility of helping women deliver, knowledge of what they do is key.

Let's Strive For Better Future By Fostering Culture Of Good Governance - Ex NCC Chairman Prof Akande

*Felivers NUJ Zone B lecture



Dignitaries at the NUJ Zone B lecture

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

As the All Progressives Congress (APC) and immediate past Chairman of Nigeria Communications Commission, (NCC) Professor Adeolu Akande on Wednesday, tasked Nigerians to strive for a better future by fostering culture of good governance.

Delivering the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Zone B lecture, titled, "Enhancing Good Governance in a Beleaguered Economy." held at the Osun State Council of the union in Osogbo, Professor Akande said there is the need for a robust monitoring and evaluation framework as a panacea for the enhancement of good governance.

The former NCC Chairman who was represented by Dr Idowu Johnson of the Political Science, University of Ibadan stated that the efficient utilization of resources, transparent decision-making processes, and accountability are essential factors in fostering economic recovery and sustainable growth.

Professor Akande said, "Central to this endeavour is the adoption of effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices, which can guide policymakers in assessing the impact of their strategies, identifying gaps, and making necessary adjustments to steer the economy in the right direction.

The Professor of Political Science pointed out that "At its core, good governance ensures that decision-making processes are fair, just, and reflect the interests of all citizens", and that "in the context of a beleaguered economy, good governance becomes even more critical to restore public trust and confidence"

"One of the most crucial elements in a nation's development is strong governance. No matter how big or little, how many resources it has, or where it is located, a country may prosper with excellent government. A nation with an abundance of natural resources cannot prosper without effective government", he said.

Professor Akande added, "For instance, Nigeria ought to be among the most prosperous and successful nations in the

world if size and resources were the deciding factors but it is not. Again, if we look at Singapore, it is clear that since it started its road towards self-government in 1959 and independence in 1965, strong governance has assisted Singapore in overcoming many of its inherent obstacles.

"Singapore was a developing nation with a meagre per capita income. Many people believed that Singapore would not be able to survive on its own. In terms of GDP per capita (PPP), Singapore is the third most developed nation in the world today. Singapore is the only nation in Asia to have a AAA sovereign credit rating from all of the major rating agencies, earning it the reputation as a tax haven. We saw it in Rwanda as it adopted more advanced institutions to rebuild from a devastating conflict."

The NUJ Vice President, Zone B, Comrade Aderonke Afebiyeye Samo while speaking stressed that the nation "is undergoing a serious economic dilemma occasioned by the total removal of subsidy on petroleum products, not forgetting that we are just coming out of the CBN

infamous naira policy".

Comrade Samo declared, "while everybody willingly or unwillingly agreed with the removal, the government at all levels owes it a duty to ameliorate the hardship daily encountered by Nigerians as an aftermath of the subsidy removal and other belt tightening measures", saying, "It is also imperative for Nigerians to show understanding and bear the brunt for a while knowing fully well that tough times do not last but tough people do".

"It is the responsibility of NUJ to educate and enlighten the citizenry to the policies and programmes of government while also drawing attention of government to the plight of the people with a view to ameliorate the hardship", she said.

The NUJ Vice President Zone B added, "good governance at all levels is fundamental to economic growth, political stability and security. It encourages responsiveness to the yearnings and aspirations of the people in a very trying period as we are experiencing in the country today"



Nigeria-Benin Republic Investment Summit To Hold Soon In Cotonou - Hon Peller

**Meets Benin Trade and Commerce Minister*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Ayedero of Yorubaland, Hon Shina Peller yesterday, hinted that the first edition of the Nigeria-Benin Investment Summit will hold soon in Cotonou, Republic of Benin.

Hon Peller who dropped this hint in a statement he shared on his verified social media platforms as well as with the media, said the Investment summit is expected to hold after final consultations with relevant stakeholders in the two countries.

The former House of Representatives member said while he was in Cotonou, he met briefly with the country's Minister for Trade and Commerce, Madame Shadiya Alimatou Assouman, to discuss the Benin-Nigeria Investment Summit.

He emphasized that the summit will provide a unique opportunity for researchers, policymakers and development practitioners from Nigeria, Benin Republic and other parts of Africa, to debate development and the policies required to eradicate poverty in the context of the Post 2015 Africa Development Agenda.

Honourable Peller added that the summit will explore a well-orchestrated desired policy, institutional and investments frameworks for creating a conducive environment for traders and businessmen/women in the two countries to transact with ease.

The former lawmakers statement reads, "Yesterday, I had the privilege of witnessing the 63rd Independence Anniversary of Republic of Bénin, where our president, His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, was a Special Guest of Honour. It was a memorable event and the presence of President Tinubu, Nigerian State



Hon Shina Peller in Cotonou

governors from Oyo, Lagos, Ogun, Kwara, Kebbi and Niger as well as Nigerian businessmen, including myself, is a testament to a strong bilateral relationship between Nigeria and Benin Republic.

* Also during my visitation to Republic of Benin, I had the privilege of meeting briefly with the country's Minister for Trade and Commerce, Madame Shadiya Alimatou Assouman, where we spoke about the proposed Nigeria-Benin Investment Summit which will come up soon in Cotonou after final consultations with relevant stakeholders.

* The Summit will provide a unique opportunity for researchers, policymakers

and development practitioners from Nigeria, Benin republic and other parts of Africa, to debate development and the policies required to eradicate poverty in the context of the Post 2015 Africa Developmental Agenda in particular with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

* Also, it will serve as a platform to establish the means to realize Africa's ambitious agenda on inclusive growth within social groups, most especially, as it concerns the youth, women and children.

*The Summit will explore a well-orchestrated desired policy, institutional and investments frameworks

for reducing poverty and creating a conducive environment for traders and businessmen/women in the two countries to transact with ease.

"Having been appointed by the organizers of the summit as one of the organizing committee members, I'm saddled with the responsibility of coordinating and bringing in businessmen and women from Nigeria to attend the event.

"I am very confident that the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu will not hesitate to give necessary support to every initiative targeted at strengthening trade and commerce between Nigerian businessmen/women and foreign traders and

You Don't Have Right To Shut Down Oyo Govt Secretariat, Makinde Warns Labour Leaders

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde yesterday, cautioned protesting labour leaders in the state to stop restricting civil servants in Oyo State from accessing the State Government secretariat to carry out their duties as usual.

The governor in a statewide broadcast also hinted that, "any increase in salaries or pensions may not be possible at this time, but that his administration remains "open to parleying with labour to ensure that the rights of the workers of Oyo State are protected"

Gov Makinde emphasized that while the leadership of the unions may choose to continue with their protest, they do not have the right to restrict the workers in Oyo State from accessing the secretariat to carry out their duties as usual. With the Oyo State economy

" In the last week, the Oyo State leadership of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) have made it impossible for Oyo State Civil Servants to resume work at the State Secretariat. As a government, we believe individuals and groups have a fundamental right to protest. However, we also believe in the axiom, "Your right ends where the right of others begins", he said.

Gov Makinde added, " Therefore, while the leadership of the unions may choose to continue with their protest, they do not have the right to restrict the workers in Oyo State from accessing the secretariat to carry out their duties as usual. With the Oyo State economy being fragile, any acts that disrupt the economic wheels of the State is economic sabotage.

" I have therefore, directed the state security apparatus to ensure that the workers of Oyo State regain access to the secretariat, starting this Monday, August 7, 2023. I am also by this, directing all workers of Oyo State to resume their duty posts on Monday, August 7, 2023".

The governor stressed, " As a government, we remain open to parleying with labour to ensure that the rights of the workers of Oyo State are protected. We encourage the union leaders to return to the negotiating table to discuss any increases in salary or possible harmonisation of pension payments".

Gov Makinde maintained further, " Let me also state that the Oyo State Government remains one of the most favourably committed to workers' welfare in the entire federation", adding, " since May 2019, we have paid all civil servants' salaries and pensions on or before the 25th of every month without fail. And since January 2020, we have paid the minimum wage and consequential adjustments to all cadre of civil servants every month without fail".

" Presently, the civil servants' wage bill stands at N7.2 billion monthly. We have continued to pay this despite having a state revenue of just below N10 billion monthly. It is, therefore, clear to understand why any increase in salaries or pensions may not be possible at this time.

" However, as part of the SAfER package, the Oyo State Government has resolved to increase the number of buses made available for civil servants to commute to and from work from 9 to 12. This will ensure that more routes are covered and lessen the transportation burden of our dear workers".

On the two-month cooperatives deductions being owed Oyo State workers, the governor said, "it will be paid along with their August 2023 salaries on the GSM Date. Going forward, the workers who choose to continue making cooperative contributions will work directly with their cooperatives as the Oyo State Government will no longer be making any deductions at source for these cooperatives.

"We will pay the health insurance premium for all pensioners under the Oyo State Health Insurance Agency (OYSHIA) scheme. Any pensioner who has already made payment will be refunded. We remain committed to caring for our dear pensioners who served our state in their youth by ensuring that they continue to receive their pensions promptly along with other workers on the GSM Date.

"We will resume the monthly payment of gratuities to our pensioners to continue to clear the backlog of gratuity payments inherited by our administration. We are sure that with the implementation of the SAfER package in the coming weeks, the Oyo State economy will continue to be strengthened, and the pains being experienced by our people will be lightened".



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Sarkin Yaki Garkuwa Foundation Refurbishes Boreholes In Yobe Communities

By: **IBRAHIMADAMU, Kaduna**

A Yobe State based Foundation, Sarkin Yaki Garkuwa Foundation under the able leadership of Engr Hassan Mohammed Sarkin Yakin Garkuwan Keffi, who is also the President TY Buratai Football Academy has sponsored total repairs of 30 hand pumps and motorized solar powered boreholes at Yusufari Local Government Area of the state. In an exclusive chat with Sarkin Yakin Garkuwa Foundation team on

Saturday evening, Bukar Mustapha Wulkas representing the founder and the president of the foundation; Amb Engr Hassan Mohammed said the idea is to make the abandoned boreholes to become serviceable and bring succour to people in the communities the boreholes are located. He said, "the idea is to consolidate on a lot to be done by the NGO in areas of social and humanitarian services in critical sectors of health and education through the Sarkin Yaki Medical Outreach and Education Support

Fund.

"It is part of our scale of preference to see the top on it is water provision, the Mai Mala Buni led administration has done excellently well in rural water supply and as an NGO, we are obliged to complement the various efforts hence this commitment. "Our target is to bring back to service, boreholes in the interim, taking priority of areas based on need. "Eventually, we will conduct a review to see how far the project goal of complementing efforts of the

government in providing people with water for domestic use has yielded efforts. "As you all know in our foundation, we have plans. Therefore, we will look back and see what is needed to be done," Engr Hassan added. In an interview with benefitting communities, the response was emotional as they showered prayers on the founder of the foundation, while praying for Allah to bless him with a greater resources to expand the gesture.



Gov Makinde To Oba Balogun: Your First Year Historic, Eventful

**Hails Olubadan*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde on Friday, described the first year of the Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Mohood Olalekan Balogun on the throne as historic, eventful and filled with many positive developments in Ibadanland and Oyo State. The governor while saluting the Olubadan on the first anniversary of his coronation, lauded the monarch for being a visionary and patriotic leader, said the Olubadan has been working with the government to uplift Ibadanland in particular and Oyo State as a whole. According to Governor Makinde, Oba Balogun has brought his wealth of experience to bear on elevating the throne and attracting positive developments to Ibadanland. "On behalf of the government and good people of Oyo State, I felicitate our father, the

Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Dr. Mohood Olalekan Balogun, Alli Okunmade II, as he celebrates the first anniversary of his coronation", he said.

Governor Makinde added, "In Oba Balogun, Ibadanland has found a classy, patriotic and visionary royal father, who has not only made history in a short time but has also contributed immensely to the many positive developments being witnessed in the state capital".

"Kabiyesi, as you celebrate your first anniversary on the throne of your forebears, it is my prayer that God will grant you more years in good health and with more wisdom to lead your people.

"Under your reign, may Ibadanland continue to grow and develop and may its people continue to experience prosperity in every ramification.

"Congratulations, Kabiyesi."

Olubadan Lekan Balogun, A Blessing To Ibadanland - Sen Alli

**Congratulates him on first coronation anniversary*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Senator representing Oyo South Senatorial District Senator Sharafadeen Alli on Friday, congratulated the Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Olalekan Balogun on the occasion of his first anniversary on the throne. Senator Alli in his congratulatory message of Oba Balogun signed by his Media Aide, Mr Akeem Abass described the Olubadan of Ibadanland as a blessing to the ancient town.

The Senator who is also the Maye Balogun of Ibadanland, stressed that Oba Balogun's ascension to the throne in 2022 has further confirmed Allah's favour and blessings on him.

Appreciated Oba Balogun's contributions to the development of Ibadanland, Oyo State and Nigeria at all times,

Senator Alli lauded the monarch's contributions to the various interactions and discourse of national interest, saying, "Kabiyesi has brought his wealth of experience laced with humility as well as compassion to bear on Ibadanland and its environs".

"I am happy to be alive today to congratulate you as you mark one year on the stool of your forefathers. May Almighty Allah keep and protect the throne to the best of your wishes, grant you long life and more successful service to our fatherland", he said.

Senator Alli added, "Kabiyesi, I join millions of Ibadan descendants home and abroad, friends, associates and other well wishers to wish you happy first anniversary on the throne of your forefathers as the Olubadan of Ibadanland,"

Ahead September Edo LG Polls, EDSIEC To Meet Stakeholders

By: RALPH OKHIRIA, Benin City

As part of preparations for the Local Government Elections scheduled to hold on Saturday, September 2, 2023, the Edo State Independent Electoral Commission (EDSIEC) will meet with relevant stakeholders in the state on August 24, 2023.

In a statement, the Administrative Secretary, EDSIEC, Sunday A. Osayande, said the meeting with the stakeholders will hold at the commission's conference hall in Benin City.

He noted, "This is to inform the general public

that the Edo State Independent Electoral Commission is organizing a stakeholders' meeting scheduled as follows: Date: 24th August 2023; Venue: Conference Hall of the Commission, Plot 116 Oko-Ogba Road, Benin City."

According to him, the first session of the meeting which will hold from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm will be attended by Chairmen/Secretaries of Political Parties, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Security Agencies.

Osayande said the Second Session which will hold from 2.00pm to 5.00pm will have other stakeholders including



Leaders of Market Organizations (NGOs), Women/Professional Youth Associations and Associations, Non-Governmental Leaders of Religious Organization.

Protesting Oyo Workers Observe Juma'at Prayer At State Govt Secretariat Gate



Protesting Oyo workers observing Jum'at prayer at the frontage of Government Secretariat in Ibadan

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Protesting civil servants in Oyo State on Friday, observed the Juma'at prayer at the frontage of the state government secretariat Agodi in Ibadan as their protest entered the fifth day.

The civil servants under the auspices of the Nigeria

Labour Congress Oyo State chapter assembled at the entrance of the Secretariat early in the day blocking the entrance with their cars and motorcycles. At about 9am, some of the labour leaders at the Secretariat addressed the protesting civil servants with a vow that they will not stop the protest until Governor Seyi Makinde

personally address them on their demands.

Speaking with journalists at the Secretariat gate, the state Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress, (NLC), Comrade Kayode Martin asked Governor Seyi Makinde to address the demands of the protesting civil servants.

Comrade Martins stressed that if the demand are not

been addressed the union will not call off the industrial action going on in the state and that by the end of the day, the union we call for the Congress and decide on the next line of action if their need are not been addressed at the of today.

Stop Parading Yourself As Our Party Chairman, Ogun NNPP Cautions Ex- Chairman

**Says he remains expelled*



Comrade Oginni

By; **BAYO AKAMO,**
Ibadan

The New Nigeria People's Party, (NNPP) Ogun State Chapter on Friday, cautioned a former Chairman of the party in the state, Mr Oginni Olaposi Sunday to stop parading himself as the Ogun state Chairman and Chairman of the State Chairmen of the party.

Ogun NNPP in a statement by its Public Relations Officer, Mr Omokehinde Olowu said the former Chairman remained expelled from the party and that the party was shock to see a recent letter being allegedly displayed on the social media purportedly written by its former Chairman, Mr Oginni Olaposi Sunday, presenting himself as Chairman of New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Ogun State Chapter and Chairman of all State Chairmen of NNPP.

The party while stressing to the public and media houses that Comrade Oginni has been expelled by the national leadership of the party noted that his expulsion was given the required public awareness.

"Oginni was expelled by the leadership of the party. He felt dissatisfied with his expulsion and challenged the decision of the Party in court and lost woefully. We want to reiterate categorically that Oginni

Olaposi Sunday has ceased to be a member of NNPP, and by extension that of Ogun State Chapter", it said. Ogun NNPP added, "He cannot in any way stand, speak or do anything in his former capacity as the Ogun State Chairman or speaks on behalf of the Party in Ogun State. The General Public as well as the Security agencies should please take note".

The party in the statement wonder how an expelled Chairman who challenged his expulsion in court and lost still claim to be a member of NNPP not to talk of being Chairman of the Ogun State Chapter?, saying, this is a contempt of court, which the law will take its course in due time.

It also stressed that the party's Presidential candidate in the 2023 general elections, Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso remains one of the major pillar of the party and that NNPP members and leaders will resist by all means any attempt by miscreants and political jobbers to malign his personality.

"We want to state categorically that Our National Leader, His Excellency Distinguished Senator, Dr Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso remains the pillar of the party in Nigeria and we will resist by all means any attempt by miscreants and political jobbers to malign his personality".

Ganduje Will Reform APC - Kailani

By; **IMRANA ABDULLAHI,** Kaduna

The new leader of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, has been described as someone who will be determined to reform the APC so that Nigeria can continue to develop.

This was expressed by the Confederation of all NGOs, that fought to see President Bola Tinubu win the election under the APC, Engineer Kailani Muhammad.

Engineer Kailani Muhammad disclosed this when he was meeting with the media in Abuja after the election of the party chairman.

Dr. Kailani Muhammed went on to explain that, "this Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, we spoke to him and he assured us that he will participate in the reformation of the party.

He said, "The new chairman of the party, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, will follow all members of the party and other people from house to house, local government areas and states to attract the people and apologize to anyone who thinks he has been wronged. Better together".

Kailani Muhammad also thanked and congratulated

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the kind efforts he is making to ensure the progress of the country.

"There are plans that the president has put forward at the moment, such as the emergency plan for the emergency arrangements in agriculture to supply the country with food.

Kailani

"That is why there is a title under this government of Bola Ahmed Tinubu to further improve the country as a whole which is called the improvement of the economy, education, health, agriculture and providing scholarships under the provision of interest-free education loans. with the aims of getting knowledge that will benefit the country in the future as well as other applications for the development of everyone as appropriate and in custody in this government," he said.

Kailani stressed that in order to improve the welfare of the people of



the country, "it is believed that the government's food warehouses will be opened soon so that the price of rice, millet, millet and other food items will be reduced so that the poor in the country will be able to feed better. Therefore, we are appealing to all the people to be more patient for the correction of the pains, but after the correction, the peace will come to the whole country, so we are asking the people to be more patient, everything that is being done is for the development of the country. and its entire community.

"Regarding the removal of

the subsidy, it is appropriate for the people to know that in the past, only a few people were taking the money, but now the reform has come and in the near future everyone will be happy with the reform, remove the subsidy so that things will be better, that is why we want Nigerians to support the party and give full cooperation to the government so that it can get the right to implement the projects it has set in the future for the reforms and reconstructions of the national affairs," Dr. Kailani added.

Northern Group Calls On President Tinubu To Reconsider Including Maryam Shetty In His Cabinet

By; **AMOS TAUNA,** Kaduna

Members of the Concerned Northern Forum (CNF) have expressed shock by the decision of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to withdraw the nomination of Maryam Shetty.

The group appealed to President Tinubu to reconsider the nomination of Maryam Shetty as a member of the Renewed Hope Executive Council.

Mohammed Danlami, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, in a statement said, "The appointment of Maryam Shetty was well celebrated by millions of Nigerian youth, especially those from Northern Nigeria. Her education, experience, and commitment to party made so many people



Maryam Shetty

excited when she was announced by the Senate on Wednesday, August 2, 2023. No ministerial nominee was celebrated

like Maryam."

Sadly, the group noted that they were heartbroken by the announcement of the withdrawal of one of their

own, their great-sister, saying that they hold her in high esteem.

The statement explained that the decision to change her name is best known to the President, stressing that the replacement has brought so much pains to them and appealed to the President to have a rethink.

The statement said, "While we applaud your nomination of so many capable youth in your cabinet, we have been short-changed by this very important replacement."

The group called on their Northern elders to please join the call and reconsider nominating Maryam Shetty while also appealing to President Tinubu to have a rethink.

IGP Egbetokun Restructures, Strengthens Monitoring Unit, X-Squad To Curb Corruption

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The acting Inspector General of Police, IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun has restructured and strengthened the IGP Monitoring Unit and the X-Squad within the Police Force to ensure greater efficiency, sanity, and accountability.

The significant restructuring is sequel to the receipt of series of complaints and outcry from members of the public against high-handedness, extortion and inappropriate behaviours by Police personnel.

In a statement by the Force Public Relations Officer ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi on Friday, the IGP recognized the importance of upholding the highest standards of conduct and professionalism among police officers and men and aims to address any excesses or improper behaviour displayed by the police.

In the same vein, the Ag. IGP has directed the Commissioners of Police in charge of State Commands to immediately establish Complaints Response Unit in their respective commands in line with the provisions of Section 131 (1) of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020, to compliment the efforts of the restructured IGP Monitoring Unit and X-Squad for better



IGP Egbetokun

service delivery.

As part of the restructuring process, both units IGPMU and X-Squad, will undergo comprehensive reforms, including the integration of advanced technologies and training to equip their personnel with the necessary tools to carry out their statutory duties effectively. The Units will be

tasked with the crucial responsibility of overseeing and investigating complaints against police officers, ensuring that any misconduct or abuse of power is thoroughly addressed and such reported to the IGP for immediate sanctions, with a view to checkmate inappropriate behaviour among police personnel, most especially

indiscriminate extortion of innocent Nigerians along our highways.

The IGP emphasizes that the restructured IGP Monitoring Unit and X-Squad will function independently and impartially, with a commitment to transparency and justice. Additionally, the units will work closely with other internal

complaint units and external oversight bodies to foster an environment of accountability and to maintain public trust in the police force. Meanwhile, complaints and relevant information on police actions can be sent via the official email or phone number of the Unit - igpmufhq@npf-c4i.com / 08036242591 or via the Police Complaints Response Unit (CRU) - 08057000001, 08057000002 or 08057000003 (SMS/WhatsApp only).

The Inspector General of Police therefore calls upon all police officers to be aware of the wind of change cum paradigm shift, and fully cooperate with the IGP Monitoring Unit, X-Squad and other complaint sections to achieve their mandates without undue interference and hindrance from any quarters; and reaffirms the commitment of the Force to upholding the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and respect for human rights in the discharge of police duties.

Similarly, the IGP has ordered the posting of CP Bartholomew N. Onyeka to Benue State Police Command and CP Julius Alawari Okoro to head the Plateau State Police Command as part of strategic efforts on improving security deployments and leadership in the areas.

Unlawful Arrest Of 10 Kebbi Indigenes: Gov Idris Sends Delegation To Benin Republic

By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Kebbi State Governor, Comrade Nasir Idris has sent a powerful delegation to Benin Republic to facilitate the release of 10 youth from the state arrested allegedly as suspected Boko Haram member.

The 10; Yusha'u Mohammed 38, Surajo Likita 25, Suleiman Usman 25, Ibrahim Umar 29, Nazifi Tahiru 18, Babangida Aliu 30, Usama Kabiru 25, Babawo Mohammed 35, Hamisu Dan Ashibi 25 and Ibrahim Rilwanu 25 all from Dandi Local Government Area of Kebbi State.

Disturbed by what he described

as "wrongful, unlawful and unjustifiable arrest and detention" the governor in statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Ahmed Idris, said he sent a delegation, headed by the Special Adviser on Special Duties, Shafiu Abubakar who met with the Ambassador of Nigeria to Benin Republic.

He charged the delegation to explore all avenues within the ambit of the law to rescue the affected persons alongside their capital and other property.

According to the statement, leader of the delegation presented a letter to the ambassador seeking his input towards the release of the innocent Nigerians.

The letter reads in parts: "I am compelled to humbly bring to the notice of Your Excellency a troubling and worrisome situation involving ten (10) innocent indigenes of Dandi Local Government Area, Kebbi State-Nigeria.

"Ten of them are languishing in detention somewhere in Benin Republic."

He said the chairman of Dandi Local Government of Kebbi State reported that on Thursday, 1st of June 2023, 10 of their people returning home from Benin Republic were arrested at Kaini Tunga village of Benin Republic by the country's security personnel.

Abubakar lamented that the

security personnel erroneously and maliciously named them "Boko Haram sect members", adding that their monies, phones and other items were forcefully taken away.

He said it was confirmed that they were all taken to an unknown detention facility in Cotonou - Benin Republic and all efforts to locate them proved futile.

The Special Adviser confirmed that the Chairman and community leaders insisted that the accused individuals were law abiding citizens who were into genuine businesses to meet the needs of their families assuring that the said the allegations by those security men was just a

"figment of their imaginations."

He noted that given the emotional trauma members of their families and the community at large were going through, saying: "I pray His Excellency explores the appropriate legal channels to ensure that they are discovered and given the opportunity to prove their innocence.

"It will be highly appreciated if Your Excellency could use your esteemed office to find out whereabouts of these innocent people and ensure that justice is done to them."

Those in attendance were, the Hon. chairman Kamba Local Government and former Ambassador Dolekena.

Ganduje A Democrat, APC Would Become An Exemplary Party -Dawakin Tofa Council Boss

By ; J A B I R U A HASSAN, Kano

The executive Chairman of Dawakin Tofa Local Government Council, Honourable Ado Tambai Kwa has said that electing and inaugurating Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje as the All Progressives Congress

(APC) national chairman is based on merit.

Ado Tambai made the remark in a chat with our correspondent shortly after the inauguration ceremony, adding that Ganduje is one of the popular politicians in Nigeria, whose contributions to democracy is fully

recognised.

He lamented that the new party chairman is a real democrat and his actions are focused on national development since he opted into active politics.

He assured the party members across the country that APC is now in the hands of a saviour.

" I congratulate our

mentor, Dr. Abdullah Umar Ganduje and the members of the National working Committee of our great party for being at the helm of affairs of the All Progressive Congress and I am certain that the party would record excellent landmark achievements as the ruling party". He concluded.



Ado Tambai Kwa With APC Chairman, Ganduje

NEDC: Arewa Youths Sue For Transparency, Accountability In BOT Appointments By Presidency

**Petitions against violation of NEDC Act 2017*

By ; S A D I Q A B U B A K A R , Maiduguri

Arewa Youth under the aegis of Northern Youths Rights (NYR) have said that they have filed a petition against the presidency accusing it of violating the North East Development Commission (NEDC) Act 2017.

A statement issued and jointly signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the group respectively, Mr. Haruna Abdullahi Maikano and Raphael Terkua, stated that they have petitioned not only the offices of the President and Vice President, but also the Senate President and all the 109 senators of the Federal Republic of

Nigeria.

Others include the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SFG), Office of the Chief of Staff (COS) to the President, all the six State Governors of the Northeast region, and Office of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.

The statement said the petition called for transparency and accountability prayers while emphasizing the need for transparency and accountability in the selection process of NEDC board members, asserting that, any deviation from the established guidelines undermines the

commission's purpose and hampers efforts to address the pressing developmental needs of the North-East region.

It would be recalled that the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) was established in 2017 with the primary objective of addressing the humanitarian and developmental challenges faced by the North-East region of Nigeria, which has been significantly affected by insurgency and other forms of insecurity. The Act governing the establishment of the NEDC outlines specific guidelines and procedures for the constitution of its governing board.

However, according to the Northern Youths Right's petition, President Tinubu

in his letter to the Senate on the 19th July, 2023, failed to adhere to the provisions of the NEDC Establishment Act 2017 in the reconstitution and/or appointment of members to the commission's governing board for the year 2023.

The petitioners alleged that the Section of the Act of the NEDC the President relied on the appointment of new members of the board does not even exist in the Act establishing the commission thus, raising concerns about transparency, fairness, and regional representation in the board.

Part of the letter read thus, "With great concern and disappointment we humbly note that Section

Continued on Page 15

Governor Nwifuru Assures Of Paying Severance Allowance To Ex Lawmakers

By ; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Ebonyi State Government led by Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru is ready to offset severance allowance owed to ex lawmakers and has approved the release of outstanding severance allowances to former members of the State House of Assembly, amounting to about N16m for the payment.

The governor gave the approval on Thursday, when the Forum of Former State Legislators paid him a courtesy call in his office, Centenary City, Abakaliki. He noted that the legislature has enormous powers, but has failed to utilize the powers to favour itself in terms of life after office more especially, as it concerns their welfare.

The governor regretted that while governors, judges, permanent secretaries, among others, leave office with enormous entitlements, legislators leave with little or nothing to take care of themselves and families.

He urged legislators in general to rise to the challenges of quality and effective law making without antagonising other arms of government nor compromising their rights and responsibilities.

While expressing happiness that the forum has remained united in spite of some divergent views, the Governor noted that differing interests and affiliations are usual occurrences in human relationships but stressed that forgoing differences and uniting for a good

purpose exemplifies a sign of maturity.

Governor Nwifuru further harped on the need for new legislators to undergo adequate training to fully understand their job roles and responsibilities, as well as the principles and practice of legislation.

While responding to the forum's request for office space, the governor approved the release of the old government multipurpose hall for them, and a sum of N50m for its renovation.

He appreciated the group for their solidarity adding: "seeing my former colleagues around me gives me joy and makes me feel at home. I am happy that you are united."

Leader of the group and former Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Augustine Nwankwegu, in his address, said they were in the Governor's office to pay him homage as well as congratulate him on his landslide electoral victory and Inauguration as the 4th Executive Governor of the State.

He attributed Nwifuru's success to hard work and earned trust of the people being the first to transit from speaker to state governor since the creation of the State.

While assuring of their readiness to work with the Governor in anywhere needed to advance the course of the state, the group expressed confidence in the Governor's published charter of needs as capable of engineering the much desired economic and social uplifting needed in the state.



Gov Nwifuru

NEDC: Arewa Youths Sue For Transparency, Accountability In BOT Appointments By Presidency

5, Sub Section (B)" before the coming of mentioned by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in this said communication, and also read by you, does not exist in the NEDC Establishment Act 2017. It is appalling that this mighty glitch would occur in the highest echelon of the leadership of our land. "The reappointment of General Paul Tarfa (rtd) to the position of the Chairman of the board of the Commission is inconsistent with Section 5 and Second Schedule of the Act establishing the NEDC. "Therefore, this "reappointment stands wasted and of no effect whatsoever".

The petitioners solicited for the following prayers:

1. That the distinguished Senate do declare that the letter of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu herein mentioned, contained vague information and as well misrepresentation of facts of the law and regulation of the NEDC Establishment Act 2017.

2. That the distinguished Senate do declare that any action already taken from the contents of the letter are inconsistent with relevant laws.

3. That the distinguished senate cease any action, or any further action, regarding the contents of Mr. President letter in mention.

4. That, in order not to create and administrative vacuum and also in other to avoid letter legal battles and issues connected with the governing and management of the NEDC, the distinguished Senate to declare that the NEDC remains at its status quo,

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's letter which has been shown here to have no effect, whatsoever.

The statement also said the allegations raised by Arewa Youths are of significant concern, given the critical role of the North-East Development Commission in the region's recovery and development. A thorough investigation into the alleged violations of the NEDC Establishment Act 2017 is essential to ensure fairness and the realization of the commission's objectives.

It claimed that the situation calls for the utmost transparency and adherence to the rule of law in all appointments to key positions. Any irregularities in the appointment process must be rectified to preserve public trust and confidence in the commission's ability to effectively serve the needs of the North-East region.

The statement suggested that, as the matter unfolds, Nigerians, particularly stakeholders in the North-East region, will be keenly watching for a timely and just resolution to ensure the commission can fulfill its mandate and contribute to the region's progress.

However, it will be recalled that former President, Muhammadu Buhari had appointed an acting governing board for the commission at the wee hours of his administration but the appointments were dissolved shortly after Mr. Tinubu took over as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Notorious Akwa Ibom Serial Killer Overpowered By Police



Notorious Wisdom Sunday Akpan after encounter with the police.

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

For residents of Ikot Ambang and its environs in Ibiono Ibom and Uyo local government areas of Akwa Ibom State, the activities of a blood thirsty Wisdom Sunday Akpan have caused them months of nightmare.

But the saying by our forebears that nine days are for the thief, while one day is for owner of the farm, cannot be broken but remains potent. This, is what has befallen the once notorious Wisdom as he has been lavishly overpowered and sent home to be with his kind somewhere unknown by strength of the Police in broad daylight.

According to statement on Thursday, signed by the State Command's Police Public Relations Officer, SP Odiko Macdon, Wisdom was neutralised by operatives of the command's Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) Team, while he was out for operation. The statement described

Wisdom as "One of the most deadly armed robbers in the Akwa Ibom State Police Command wanted list, responsible for the murder of about thirteen (13) persons, and shooting of about twenty-two (22) others, and who has dispossessed innocent Akwa Ibomites, mostly residents of Ikot Ambang, Ikot Efun, Ikot Inuan, Itak, Ikot Osukpong, Okobo Ibiono, etc in Ibiono LGA and parts of Uyo LGA"

"The said Wisdom, who shot at Police Operatives while attempting to arrest him, is a remnant of a dreaded armed robbery gang, led by the late Malachi Uwem Friday." The statement added.

Narrating further, SP Macdon said, "On 22nd July, he murdered one Nsikan Vincent Udo of Ikot Inua village at Ikot Efun junction and made away with his new Q-link motorcycle. On the 8th of July, he shot and injured one Jesse Johnson and two others in a POS Shop at Ikot Ambang junction, while on the 5th of the same month, he shot and

maimed one Augustina Dominic at her Supermarket.

"Many POS operators, filling stations, supermarket owners, market men and women have been dispossessed of millions of Naira by Wisdom, who succeeded in spreading a lot of fear before meeting his Waterloo."

Exhibits recovered from him include, a locally reconstructed pump action with the look of an AK-47, cartridges, a Q-link motorcycle, assorted charms, a mask.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, CP Olatoye Durosini has however, warned criminal elements in the state to leave the state immediately or get ready to dance the new song.

While commending the relentless efforts of Officers and Men of the Command, especially SWAT and F-Division, Ikot Ambang for a job well done, the CP also commended residents of the state who have trusted the Police with useful

information and called for more collaboration to keep the state safer.

Meanwhile, the success story by the police has been greeted by commendations from the people of the state as read from the PPRO and Media Friends WhatsApp page.

Though for some obvious reasons, their names are withheld but some comments read, "Great job by the officers and men of the Akwa Ibom State Police Command for bringing him down. He was notorious!"

"Kudos to the police for a job well-done..the infant terrible was a big nightmare for the residents of Ibiono Ibom. I saw some of his victims at the F division one Saturday morning early July. Let' him join his senior colleague Malachi in hell."

"Kudos to the Nigeria Police, Akwa Ibom State Command; Congratulations, we are impressed. More should follow."

"The Act governing the establishment of the NEDC outlines specific guidelines and procedures for the constitution of its governing board."

Education, Major Tool In Disaster Risk Reduction To Society - NEMA

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

The Zonal Coordinator, North West, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Abbani Imam Garki has stressed the need and importance of education in the society as a disaster risk reduction measure as it keeps children busy and off the streets, since educating a child helps prevent social vices and these vices lead to disasters in the society.

He made the remarks during a one-day Intervention programme on "Child Education In Northern Nigeria" organized by Save The Child Initiative in collaboration with International Resource Foundation Academy (IRFA), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Nigerian Red Cross (NRC), Sir Ahmadu Bello Foundation, ULK Foundation and Clarion Voice for the Youths.

He also said that education improves the quality of living as the children are taught hygiene, environmental issues like flood and erosion, which makes them understand early warning signals, saying the agency is ready to partner schools in the establishment of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) clubs.

The programme which was organized to address the issues of child education in Northern Nigeria, particularly for the orphans and less privileged, was also aimed at exploring the possibilities of partnership between NGOs, Private and public organizations in channelling and creating opportunities for the Orphans and less privilege in Northern Nigeria.

The Zonal Coordinator in his presentation, further appreciated all the partners for coming together and identifying the menace of school drop outs in Northern Nigeria and its negative impact in the society.

On his part, the founder "Save The Child Initiative", Awwal Muhammad Musa, welcomed all partners to the event and encouraged public and private sponsorship of the cause.

The programme also showcased the graduation ceremony of the students of IRFA International School and was witnessed by royal father's of Gbagyi and Zazzau Emirate, top state government officials, parents of the graduating students and philanthropist / sponsors of the orphans.



Reclaim Grazing Reserves, Retrace Peace: Well Done Gov Inuwa Yahaya!

By: ADAMU MUHAMMAD HAMID, PhD

Conflicts do not just happen; they are caused! Then the causative agency may be because of either commission or omission. Crises in the form of killings and destruction of property are a major expression of insecurity in Nigeria.

Those taking the toll on the country are ethnic, religious or farmer-herder clashes. Others are insurgency, armed banditry and regional secessionism.

The major antidote to all these is when committed personalities are opportune to ascend to political power at the executive level. These types of personalities, in the first place, most of the time, are pushed to contest elections with the philosophy and purpose in mind the primary function of government or governance is public security and safety, and the welfare of citizens as provided by Chapter 2 Section 14 of the Nigerian Constitution.

Since independence, the country has suffered colossally from inaction and the *laissez-faire* attitude of persons who contest and win elections ill-prepared for governance and without any agenda apart from self-actualization and enriching self, family and friends. There are however few exceptions.

In this exception, let me begin with the example of former Plateau State Gov. Simon Lalong. Before he assumed office in 2015, the Plateau was a ring of fire. Ethno-religious crises between Muslims and Christians or more clearly between Berom or Tarok and Fulani, ravaged the state and halted its peace and progress for a very long time, at least under his predecessors, the two governors before him.

In fact, some of the public policies of his immediate predecessor reeked of siding with one side of the belligerent ethnic groups. Under those individuals, the government was almost visibly supporting a faction in the crisis.

However, soon after assuming power as governor of Plateau State, it was clear Lalong was prepared and had an agenda. Months before he came, the Plateau was at the behest of interethnic killings, civil strife and suspicion. With his coming, everything suddenly changed and bloodshed disappeared for the number of years he was in charge. And quite startling, the killings resurfaced just soon as he left office. Gov. Lalong will forever be remembered for the stint of peace on the Plateau. He came with the agenda of humanity to which he was committed and sincere.

Late President Yar'Adua was also of the same brand and pedigree. He came up with the agenda of addressing the problems triggered by the agitations of the



Gov Inuwa Yahaya

people of the Niger Delta on their deprivation and continued degradation of their environment by oil exploration. Before him, the agitations of the people of the Niger Delta were the major insecurity challenge in Nigeria, which was so protracted and intransigent. President Yar'Adua rolled out projects and programs to address the plight of the Niger Delta people, and since then, the country has been enjoying peace in the region.

Now let's address the subject of this piece. Gov. Inuwa Yahaya has recently dared the farmer-herder clash monster by initiating the reclamation of encroached cattle routes and grazing, game, and forest reserves in Gombe State.

In conceiving the idea, the governor cited the age-long farmer-herder crisis which has slowed the socio-economic development of the Gombe people, and by extension the entire northern Nigeria. The broader concept hinged on achieving ecological balance and addressing some of the consequences of climate change.

To achieve a comprehensive reclamation of grazing and forest reserves, the governor inaugurated a 27-man committee of technocrats. By the way, he approached the subject in the terms given to the committee, he was meticulous and wanted a thorough job.

Among other things, the committee was to determine the number of locations of gazetted game, grazing and forest reserves

in Gombe State, trace cattle routes that were trespassed, causing perennial and ceaseless clashes between nomadic herdsman and farmers, and ascertain how many the gazetted game/grazing/forest reserves were officially reversed from the gazette.

The committee was also to ascertain whether the gazetted game/grazing/forest reserves have been encroached upon and the size of the encroachment. And by who? This exercise was also to determine cattle routes encroached. The committee will recommend the time within which encroachers shall vacate the occupied gazetted game/grazing/forest reserves or cattle routes, and recommend new routes.

The farmer-herder conflict has long historical dimensions in Nigeria. It was initially associated with the North Central region of Nigeria but has now traversed the whole country. For a long time now, the conflicts lead to the undifferentiating killing of citizens and the destruction of property. The country appeared to be locked in a perennial macabre belligerence between sedentary farmers and pastoralists, the nomadic herders.

Albeit mostly the conflict is an agrarian resource, its inaccurate specification or definition has turned it into one engrained in cultural, political or even one toned in ethno-religious outlooks. The narratives have abetted bellicose encroachment and reprisal antagonism between the

pastoralists and farmers, causing mutual resentment and reverse-violent attacks.

Data show that in the twelve months ending September 2021 when the trouble peaked, farmer-herder skirmishes occurred 71 times, accounting for 406 deaths, 49 injuries, and 15 kidnapped persons in the country. Except for one, all the deaths were of civilians. As I was saying, the North Central region of the country has been the hotbed of the crises (in terms of incidents), while the Northwest happened to be the most ferocious in terms of victims per incident. The Northcentral logged 58% of the incidents and accounted for 61% of the victims.

In the same vein, the Southwest zone logged the second-highest number of

incidents (accounting for 25%), and only 12% of the deaths. The quantities still hold even when linking all the dead, injured and kidnapped victims to the entire number of incidents. The Southeast recorded 6 per cent of the total incidents but accounted for 9 per cent of the deaths. The South-south accounted for 6% of incidents, but only 3% of the victims.

Albeit figures for the Northeast region are among the lower, in Gombe State incidents are heard of here and there. Therefore, Gov. Inuwa Yahaya's measure is decisive and timely.

This initiative is for the moment to enhance environmental sustainability and promote biodiversity. The policy initiative requires continuous public enlightenment, mobilization and support, so in the near future, farmer-herder clashes will be put behind Nigerians. Moreover, by virtue of his present position as the chair of the Northern Governors' Forum, the strategy should be promoted as a major agenda in the region. In addition, worthy of emulation for other governors in the North is the governor's recent effort to raise funds for climate-friendly investments in his state.

Adamu Muhammad Hamid, PhD is a lecturer at Pen Resource University, Gombe State. He could be reached via adamu.hamid@pru.edu.ng

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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

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6 COLUMNS

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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

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S/NO	SIZE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
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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

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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

Mr President, Before We Fire The First Bullet

By: HASSAN GIMBA

Nigeria is mobilising countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to fight the coup plotters of the Niger Republic to restore democracy. The regional body, led by Nigeria's president, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has expressed its resolve to use all necessary measures to restore constitutional order in the country, including the use of force, if they do not meet its demands in a week.

Backed to the hilt by America and France, ECOWAS leaders' demand to Niger's junta leaders is simple: release and reinstate President Mohamed Bazoum within a week. That deadline expired yesterday.

But if the leaders of ECOWAS thought it was going to be a tea party, they were jolted when military rulers of Mali and Burkina Faso, two other West African countries brought under the military jackboot recently, jumped into the fray on the Niger coupists' side. Algeria and Libya, maybe more as events unfold, are siding with the khaki boys as well.

They warned ECOWAS leaders against any interventions that would "jeopardise the spirit of Pan-Africanism," and swore that an attack on Niger would force them to also adopt "self-defence measures" in support of the "brotherly" armed forces and the people of Niger. Couched in diplomatese, they simply meant they would join the fight on the side of Niger. And they have asked Russia for help.

As the clouds of war gather, President Tinubu should know that the Nigerian military, a capable fighting force that had distinguished itself in international peacekeeping, is currently a bit stretched. And this is mainly because the soldiers have been dragged into a lot of operations that basically should have been police work. They are in the North East combing the forests for the remnants of Boko Haram; they are in the South East hunting down separatists in the form of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the armed wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB); they are in the North Central and North West engaging bandits and kidnappers who are Boko Haram in a different toga.

Mr President needs to be aware that the Nigerian military, a proud and courageous fighting force, despite not being as well equipped or well trained as ours, has been Nigeria's ally right from the days of the civil war up to now in the fight against Boko Haram and their soul mates in crime - the bandits and kidnappers.

Perhaps Mr President was not told that Nigerians living around our borders with Niger prefer to call the Nigerian Army when attacked by marauders rather than the Nigerien Army. They say the Nigeriens are always prompt and take the war to the renegades' dens. Also, Mr President should know that

wars, local or international, do not happen in isolation. Almost always, a strong power with a sinister motive lurks behind like a masquerade and sends a minion to "court trouble". The moment the intervening nation comes out to teach the "little rascal" some sense, the masquerade will appear from behind the scene with a claim of protecting the weak from a bully.

Soon enough, Mr President, the nation soon realises it has been hemmed into a cul-de-sac, with a bigger power in the doorway. Therefore, the possibility of us defeating Niger in a war is debatable.

Mr President, forget the talk of "ECOWAS". It is Nigeria that will bear the brunt: we will finance the war; the other countries will just ride on our backs, asking for "bailouts" at the same time. Can our economy handle it?

We cannot be compared to Saudi Arabia in terms of financial strength and military gear, yet that country was fought to a standstill by Yemen, a country not even as rich, united or organised as Niger.

Oh, yes, the countries prodding us to go to war to restore democracy will promise us heaven and earth: debt relief, for instance, then weapons, giving us even those they earlier refused us and some we never thought we could have or afford, but that will also be because they want to test their toys of mass destruction and fine-tune them with us as guinea pigs. We should learn from Ukraine, Mr President.

Russia and its allies would do the same, and even more, for Niger. More because, as the Eastern bloc and its allies did when aiding Africa to cut itself from the shackles of colonialism and apartheid, it committed men into the field who paid the supreme price. Wagner, Russia's non-state fighting machine, whose mainstay is making war and so is always looking for the next killing field, will come in, invited or not. Sadly, it will not be on our side.

Again, Mr President, look at the porous 1,600-kilometre Nigeria-Niger border we could not monitor in peacetime. Can we then man it in wartime? An area we want to turn green by planting trees meant to halt desertification will become a theatre of war and scorched by artillery fire and bombing raids.

Mr President, before we fire the first bullet and open another front, we ought to consider if those fighting us conventionally will not empower those we are fighting unconventionally in our country to become more formidable. It is a good strategy, and by the time we realise the damage done to us, the North East, North West, North Central and South East will be pulling at the seams because the Centre can no longer hold.

If we do not want to look at the high probability of displaced people from both sides of the border, let us look at the over three hundred thousand of our



Hassan Gimba Monday Column

IDPs in that country. Can we contain them when the country tells them to leave? Are we ready for the inevitable security implications considering that what happened in Libya, farther off and unrelated to us, affects us still?

Mr President, let us think our strategies through. Rushing to impose sanctions just because it gives us the hard-on should be avoided. Now, whether we resume giving Niger electric power or not, we have pushed them to dam the River Niger to give their people electricity. A nationalistic regime would do so. We have unwisely torn the binding treaty that made that country forgo building a dam in exchange for us supplying them with electricity. Tellingly, a dam built there will dry up our Shiroro, Kanji and Jebba dams. We might have cut our noses to spite our faces. Mr President, we should see how Europe's sanctions on Russia backfired.

America and France have enjoyed more from Niger than we have, despite our northernmost part's cultural, religious and filial affinity with them. To protect their interests, the French and Americans even have military bases there, France with about 2,000 and America 1000. Mr President should ask the two powers why they

should not come down heavily on the usurpers to kick them out and return Bazoum to power.

Lest I Forget

What is happening to the People's Democratic Party (PDP)? The way they are incapacitated where Nyesom Wike and co. are concerned, makes one think of a eunuch in a harem. It cannot be damage control because they have done enough damage to the party already and continuously gnaw at its tendons. Wike was instrumental in the way the PDP National Assembly members voted their presiding officers and how principal officers, especially those for the minority, emerged to the detriment of the party.

With the way the party's bigwigs hobnob with the well-heeled former governor, all Nigerians concerned about strengthening our democracy must be concerned with the way things look. It is as if he has pocketed the decision-making organs of the party, while he is in the pocket of the ruling party. This is surely worth deeper scrutiny.

Hassan Gimba is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Neptune Prime.

Women's World Cup 2023: How NFF Prepared Falcons With 29 Matches In 29 Months

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Following what was generally perceived as a below-par performance by the Super Falcons at the 8th FIFA Women's World Cup finals in France, with a 3-0 defeat by Germany in the Round of 16, the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), drew up a deliberate and strategic plan to adequately prepare the team for the biggest-ever tournament scheduled for Australia and New Zealand.

For 29 months, starting in February 2021, the Super Falcons played a total of 29 matches across five continents of the world, prior to the commencement of the 9th FIFA Women's World Cup finals in Down Under.

The unprecedented preparation started with the Turkish Women's Cup tournament in February 2021, where the Falcons defeated their counterparts from Uzbekistan and Equatorial Guinea (the latter got a 9-0 hiding), as well as the women's team of CSKA Moscow football club.

Three months later, the Falcons played three matches at the USWNT Summer Series in the United States of America, before featuring in the Aisha Buhari Cup in Lagos and coursing through the qualification matches for the 12th Women Africa Cup of Nations Morocco 2022.

The team also played two matches against the Canada Women National Team in Vancouver and Victoria City in April 2022, before taking in six matches at the Women AFCON in Morocco.

They returned to the United States in September 2022 for two matches against four-time world champions USA, flew to Japan to duel with Nadeshiko and flew across the world to play three matches in the Revelation Cup Tournament in Mexico in February 2023. Two months later, they landed in Turkey for two



matches against Haiti and New Zealand, before a final camping kick-about with Lions FC of Brisbane in Gold Coast five days before Australia and New Zealand 2023 kicked off.

ALL THE SUPER FALCONS' MATCHES BEFORE FWWC 2023

18/02/21 – Turkey: Nigeria 1-0 CSKA Moscow Women
20/02/21 – Turkey: Nigeria 1-0 Uzbekistan
23/02/21 – Turkey: Nigeria 9-0 Equatorial Guinea
10/06/21 – USA: Jamaica 1-0 Nigeria
14/06/21 – USA: Portugal 3-3 Nigeria
17/06/21 – USA: USA 2-0 Nigeria
15/09/21 – Lagos: Nigeria 2-0 Mali

21/09/21 – Lagos: Nigeria 2-4 South Africa
20/10/21 – Lagos: Nigeria 2-0 Ghana
24/10/21 – Accra: Ghana 1-0 Nigeria
18/02/22 – Abuja: Nigeria 2-0 Cote d'Ivoire
23/02/22 – Abuja: Cote d'Ivoire 0-1 Nigeria
09/04/22 – Canada: Canada 2-0 Nigeria
12/04/22 – Canada: Canada 2-2 Nigeria
04/07/22 – Morocco: Nigeria 1-2 South Africa
07/07/22 – Morocco: Botswana 0-2 Nigeria
10/07/22 – Morocco: Nigeria 4-0 Burundi
14/07/22 – Morocco: Cameroon 0-1 Nigeria

18/07/22 – Morocco: Morocco 1-1 Nigeria (Morocco win on penalties)
22/07/22 – Morocco: Nigeria 0-1 Zambia
03/09/22 – USA: USA 4-0 Nigeria
06/09/22 – USA: USA 2-1 Nigeria
06/10/22 – Japan: Japan 2-0 Nigeria
15/02/23 – Mexico: Mexico 1-0 Nigeria
18/02/23 – Mexico: Colombia 1-0 Nigeria
22/02/23 – Mexico: Nigeria 1-0 Costa Rica
07/04/23 – Turkey: Nigeria 2-1 Haiti
11/04/23 – Turkey: New Zealand 0-3 Nigeria
15/07/23 – Australia: Nigeria 8-1 Lions FC

Ebonyi Council Chairman Calls For Formation Of Female Football

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The council chairman of Ivo Local Government Council, Hon Onyebuchi Ogbadu has called for the formation of female football team in Ebonyi State.

He made the remark, while fielding questions from journalists at the Pa Ngele Oruta Township Stadium, Abakaliki on Saturday.

The Ivo Council chairman commended the governor, Chief Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru for reuniting the state through sports and assured the state's Commissioner of Youth and Sports Development of their sincere support.

Ogbadu described the development as a great factor of building greater future among the indigenous youth and pointed out that it's necessary that the state has both male and female football teams which according to him, would be of advantage to the state with the Olympics stadium that's almost at completion.

He faulted the draw game played by his Ivo Local Government Area, and Edda and accused their opponents of influencing the referee that awarded extra five minutes that Edda equalized, prompting the 1-1 draw.

The All Progressives Congress (APC) State chairman, Hon Stanley Emegha lauded Chief Francis Ogbonna

Nwifuru for the steps taken so far since assumption of office and hinted that sporting activities have gone far in creating avenue for career development.

He emphasized that football, among other sporting activities, are serious sources of money spinning that advanced countries are investing heavily on and called on participating players to be committed and ensure they play according to the rules.

On his part, Edda Local Government Council chairman, Hon Ekuma Nkama commended his team and was optimistic that the council's team would coast home to victory.



Hon Onyebuchi Ogbadu

Rising Profile Of Hajiya Nagogo, Chairperson, Nasarawa Amazons FC, In Nigeria's Sports Corridor

By: ECHEAMOS

There is a popular adage that says, "What a man can do, a woman can do better." This adage is mostly propagated by feminists whenever they are trying to highlight the value of womanhood.

Even though some people, especially the male folks, view the above adage as sweeping and not reflecting the reality, but the fact remains, most women tend to go farther and beyond the projected or 'pre-empted' limits to deliver on a task or schedule, than their male counterparts.

Like the male folks, no successful woman achieved greatness or result which is celebrated today because they just sat down, did nothing, and with no affirmative response. They worked hard, wrestled and persevered for it; in fact, they broke barriers and stereotypes to get there, especially in a society that places little values and premium on women.

The name Hajiya Hussaina Suleiman Nagogo hovers around the sports space, mostly in the football circle, in Nigeria, and it's gradually creeping into the continent of Africa, and by extension, the world.

Recently, at the Nigeria Football Federation's Secretariat, Abuja, Hajiya Hussaina Suleiman Nagogo, alongside six others, were appointed and inaugurated by the Ibrahim Musa Gusau-led leadership of the Nigeria Football Federation, to constitute the Board of the Nigeria Women Football League, NWFL.

She is to serve as Vice Chairman in the Board for a tenure of two years. The NWFL Board is at par with the Board of the men's Nigeria Premier Football League as both are to spearhead the elite domestic football leagues in Nigeria.

Before her appointment, Hajiya Hussaina was the Secretary-General of the NWFL Club Owners' Association.

In year 2020, she was confirmed as substantive Chairperson of Nasarawa Amazons Football Club by His Excellency, Governor Abdullahi A. Sule of Nasarawa State, after serving in acting capacity following the death of the former occupant, His Royal Highness, Audu Nuhu (Gom Mama of Mama Chiefdom), the previous year.

Before the creation of Nasarawa State from the old Plateau State



Hajiya Hussaina Nagogo

in 1996 by then Military Head of State, General Sani Abacha (of blessed memory), Hussaina played professional Basketball for Plateau State and also featured prominently for Nigeria's Women's Basketball Team.

After retiring from the sport, she delved into women's football, and was one of the founding members of what is now called Nasarawa Amazons Football Club, formerly known as 'Solid Babes.'

Hussaina served in different capacities at the Club's Management, including as Team Manager, before succeeding the late Chairman, HRH. Audu Nuhu.

Since its establishment in 2003 by the first Civilian Governor of the State, His Excellency, Abdullahi Adamu, Nasarawa Amazons FC have won all the notable trophies available in women's club football in Nigeria, ranging from the FA Cup, now referred to as the Federation Cup (twice, in 2005 and 2019), League title (twice, in 2013 and 2017) and the Shield Cup (title won in a game played

between the previous season's league's champions versus FA Cup winners to herald the commencement of a new football league season).

The Club have also emerged runners-up, both in the League and Federation Cup competitions, at various times, respectively.

Owing to how it's being administered, players and coaching staff from the Club are littered across the various National Teams, including the Super Falcons (Senior National Women's Team), the Falconets (U-20 National Team), and the Flamingos (U-17 National Team), and are all doing very well.

During those periods of success, Hajiya Hussaina Suleiman Nagogo was hugely pivotal and remains so up until today. She is not only a voice but an administrator in deeds as a vast majority of the players in the Super Falcons' squad participating at the ongoing FIFA Senior Women's World Cup co-hosted by New Zealand and Australia passed through Nasarawa Amazons FC or have

been tutored by the coaching staff of the Club, either at Club or National level.

In an industry that so regularly focuses on and is led by men, Hajiya Hussaina has persevered, broken barriers and defied the odds to have some shine in leadership as the Club she chairs is regarded as one of the most successful women's football clubs in Nigeria, and most successful and decorated in the entire Northern Nigeria. More commendable enough is the fact that her shine is not just about uplifting young women to become successful sport athletes, but about diversifying the faces of leadership in sports for the total advancement of the industry.

Her approaches and diverse thoughts have continued to offer help to those in the industry, irrespective of whether it's male-dominated or not, so that the stakeholders can find success.

The Nasarawa Amazons' Chairperson is an inspiration to her colleagues, younger generation and the society as a whole. She proves to other women that they can aspire to be

anything in life, even in a male-led space.

She resonates the ambience of hope for those already in the industry to keep pushing for higher heights, and by inference, the ultimate height, actually.

By implication of her position as Vice Chairman of the Board of the NWFL, the retired Nasarawa State Civil Servant can attend meetings of the Board of the Nigeria Football Federation, the pinnacle of football administration in Nigeria, in the absence of her principal, the Chairman of the NWFL Board.

As a sporty woman, Hajiya Hussaina possesses qualities that are uncommon in most women leaders. She has the motivation and energy to work hard to achieve success.

She is confident and dares the unthinkable; she possesses greater strength and resilience to go the extra mile to get the job done, no matter the obstacles.

The Chairperson doesn't allow her accomplishments to make her complacent, neither does she allow her fears stop her from soaring.

She's a team-player, disciplined and self-motivated, possesses a competitive nature, a drive to win, and awareness that success solely emanates from hard work, focus and unwavering trust in God.

Hussaina's powerful breakthroughs in football administration are parts of the factors helping to correct the stark imbalance that exists in women's leadership in the sports industry in Nigeria as she uses her extensive leadership experience to impart her wealth of knowledge on sports, particularly football, both in the leadership today and in the future.

With this astronomical and steady rise, there's no mincing words that HAJIYA HUSSAINA SULEIMAN NAGOGO is on the path of attaining global influence in women's football administration.

Nasarawa State, Northern Nigeria and Nigeria as a whole could not be more proud of her achievements and personality in the Sports Corridor!

Eche Amos is the Head of Public Relations at the Nasarawa State Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, and Fellow, Chronicle Business School, Abuja, & writes from Lafia, Nasarawa State's Capital

Women's World Cup: Edeh Predicts Super Falcons Victory Against England, Makes Case For Pay Parity

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A prominent Nigerian football administrator, Barr. Paul Edeh, has predicted that Nigeria's Super Falcons have what it takes to surmount the hurdles when they face the Lionesses of England in the last 16 of the ongoing Women's World Cup on Monday.

Barr. Edeh who spoke while appearing on Kaakaki, an early morning show on AIT, on Friday, said he expressed confidence that the team led by coach Randy Waldrum will reach the knockout stage despite certain prevailing distractions surrounding them while preparing for the quadrennial competition cohosted by Australia and New Zealand.

Speaking on mode and measure of payments for footballers, Edeh, the incumbent Chairman of Benue State Football Association (BSFA) and President of Ratels Sports Development Foundation (RSDF) canvassed for pay parity between the men and women soccer lads.

He particularly said the onus lies on the World football governing body, FIFA, to champion the course of ensuring that both men and women enjoy equal salary and bonus payments.

"I have been a proponent of parity of allowances for both men and women. But ofcourse, I understand the argument that men's competitions bring more money because football is business not charity, but the fact remains that the rules governing football, for both men and women are same.

"I actually like the fact that FIFA is working towards bridging the existing gap. The world football body needs to really work with the member Federation to make it a reality because aside the monetary value, the time of play and all the onfield stuff are same.

"The women have done so much in the game and FIFA needs to ensure this parity idea works because it's giving the world governing body bad name... I believe that on or

before the next World Cup in 2027, the issue would have been addressed," he said.

On the raging controversy surrounding payment of participating bonuses to players at the ongoing World Cup, the seasoned administrator said, "The FIFA Secretary-General must have made the statement credited to her at the dressing room of Super Falcons as way of encouraging and motivating the players at that time.

"I want to believe that FIFA will need to consider at a better forum where the issue will be addressed, because paying players directly will be an indictment on FIFA and member Federations.

"In any case, I like what is happening to the women game because it kind of deepens discussion and FIFA as a body has an aspect of its emphasis that dwells on the need to be transparent and accountable in administering football.

"The issue which is in the front burner as long as the ongoing Women's World Cup is, is not supposed to make it look like NFF is corrupt because even the Federation hardly have funds to carry out their activities. Whatever that would have happened in the past is by the way. The current NFF leadership led by Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau has done so well so far in its effort to development women football despite meagre resources available to the Federation.

"If there are series of complaints against any Federation, it offers FIFA an opportunity to ensure and emphasis the need for accountability."

He then commended the performance of African teams so far in the tournament, and reckoned that investments made over the years in the development of women football is beginning to pay off.

Aside Nigeria, South Africa and Morocco are two other African countries that also made it to the round of 16 of the competition.

SWAN Visits, Hails Benue FA Chair



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) has expressed satisfaction with the leadership direction of the Chairman of Benue State Football Association (BSFA), Barr. Paul Edeh.

Both SWAN National body and its FCT chapter spoke in unison when top officials of the association paid a courtesy visit on Barr. Edeh, who celebrated his birthday, weeks after he emerged as Benue FA chairman.

Newly elected Secretary-General of SWAN, Amb. Ikenna Okonkwo, who represented SWAN National President, Mr Isaiah Benjamin, used the opportunity to present his Certificate of Return to the FA Chairman.

Thereafter, he thanked Barr. Edeh for his numerous contributions to

football development in Benue and the entire country.

He said with him on the saddle as the BSFA boss, football will witness total revolution within a short, adding, "already in few weeks after your emergence, the signs of better things to come are all over the place. The steps you have so far taken in less than two months appear as if you have spent more time on your current position."

The SWAN scribe then called on members in FCT to ensure harmonious co-existence among themselves as the Isaiah Benjamin-led administration is committed to a united and inclusive sports writers body in all chapters.

On his part, SWAN FCT chairman, Mr Chidoka Ndubueze, assured him that the association will continue to partner with

him for being steadfast as its Patron.

He said, "We are here for three things. One is to present to you the certificate of return of our new Secretary-General, to say thank you and celebrate your birthday, as well as to congratulate you on your emergence as the new Benue State FA.

"We want to encourage you to keep up the good work you have been doing as FCT SWAN patron."

Responding, Barr. Edeh thanked the entourage for their visit, and expressed gratitude for the unprecedented support he has enjoyed from SWAN.

He then preached unity among its members, saying it is the only way to deepen the already existing success built over the years.

"For FCT SWAN, it is my family, the umbilical cord of my emergency as Benue is tied around FCT SWAN.

How do we deepen the success we had over the years. There is need to unite, I want to see the bond of brotherhood moving forward before the end of the year.

"For national SWAN, there is alot we can do together, more so that the association is drawn back home, now it is in the north.

"We need to begin to create a cluster of activities that will make the association to stand out. I urge everyone to see how they can contribute their own quota, and the welfare of your members are critical that you must take seriously.

"I so much believe that with the current National President and Secretary-General, SWAN is on a trajectory to a new phase of progression. All they need is the support of all to succeed," he said.

NVBF Invites 19 Players For 2023 Nations Championship

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF) has invited 19 players to camp in preparations for the 2023 African Women's Senior Volleyball Championship billed for Cameroon from August 14 to 29.

The list released by the Technical Director of Nigeria Volleyball Federation, Chief Martin Melandi, has 2022 National Best Setter, Enewa Odoh (Customs), Best Spiker, Ijeoma Ukapbi (COAS Spikers) and Best Libero, Jummai Bitrus (CNS Spikers).

The Most Valuable Player (MVP) in the 2022 Nigeria Volleyball League, Kelechi Ndukauba (CNS Spikers) as well as MVP of the 2023 African U21 Women's Nations Championship, Mariam Usman (CNS Spikers) made the list of invited players.

Nigeria's most in-form volleyball player, Albertina Francis (NSCDC); experienced middle blocker Helen Umeh (Customs) and national setter, Sharon Achi (NSCDC) are in camp ahead of the Nation's Championship.

According to Melandi, the only foreign-based player in the camp is Mmeseoma Ugochinyere from Japan.

The Technical Representative on the board of NVBF said the technical committee approved the appointment of Samuel Ajayi as the head coach and assisted by Priscilla Agera.

The players have begun training at the indoor sports hall of Ahmadu Bello Stadium (ABS) in Kaduna State.

Nigeria women's senior team finished fourth position at the 2021 African Nations Championship held in Kigali, Rwanda.

FULL LIST

Enewa Odoh (Customs), Sharon Achi (NSCDC), Aliyah Usman (CNS Spikers), Mercy Promise (CNS Spikers), Happy Wushilang (NSCDC), Ijeoma Ukpabi (COAS Spikers), Comfort Amouwu (NSCDC), Naomi Yaro (Kada Emeralds), Mmeseoma Ugochinyere (Japan), Helen Umeh (Customs), Sandra Ozabor (Customs), Sarah Ali (COAS Spikers), Ezinne Blessing (NSCDC), Deborah Chukwu (COAS Spikers), Albertina Francis (NSCDC), Kelechi Ndukauba (CNS Spikers), Jummai Bitrus (CNS Spikers), Mariam Usman (CNS Spikers) and Bethel Ogochukwu.



Tanzania Federation Hails Super Falcons

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

President of the Tanzania Football Federation, Wallace Karia has congratulated the Super Falcons for reaching the Round of 16 at the ongoing FIFA Women's World Cup finals in Australia and New

Zealand.

In a letter to President of NFF, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau, Karia wrote: "On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), I would like to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate Nigeria team (Super Falcons) for qualifying

to the FIFA Women's World Cup round of 16. Last 16 is a solid statement to world football that Africa is no longer a push-over in women football.

"A class shown by Super Falcons indicated that Africa has capacity to conquer world football, and it's a matter of

time to put that into record. We are praying for you to win the coming match. We believe that commitment shown by your team is a direct ticket to quarter final, and clinching the world title."

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Yahaya Bello Receives Audu's Family, Reiterates Commitment To Equity, Fairness In Decision Making

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

Kogi State Governor, His Excellency, Yahaya Bello, CON, has received members of the family of the late political icon and former governor of Kogi State, Prince Abubakar Audu, on a 'thank you visit' yesterday in Abuja.

While briefly recounting the process that led to the choice of Prince Shaibu, the governor emphasised that equity, fairness, and justice always come first in his decision-making.

He stressed the importance of unity and tolerance among the three senatorial districts of Kogi State, stating that tribal sentiment has no place in

modern politics.

Governor Bello assured the minister-designate, Prince Shaibu, of his unwavering support, believing he will go far and make the nation proud by building on his father's legacy.

"This is an opportunity for you to build on your father's legacy. The joy that accompanied your nomination worldwide must be sustained through how you conduct yourself and lead the people. I have no doubt you will make the nation proud," the governor stated.

Governor Bello thanked the President and Commander-in-Chief, Senator Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the opportunity, assuring of

the state's unwavering support for his administration.

Barrister Eke Maimunat Audu, speaking on behalf of the family, expressed deep appreciation to Governor Bello for submitting Prince Shaibu Abubakar Audu's name for the ministerial appointment.

He said they were confident that the minister-designate would deliver with excellence, making both the state and Nigeria proud.

Prince Kabir Arome Audu remarked that their late father's wish was for his legacy of good governance and a united Kogi State to continue.

He praised Governor Bello for providing a platform

for the continuous existence of Audu's legacy in Nigerian politics by nominating Prince Shaibu, among thousands of qualified candidates from Kogi State.

The family commended the governor for personally attending Shaibu's screening at the National Assembly on Friday.

Prince Abubakar Shuaibu Audu, the minister-designate from Kogi State, has an impressive background as an executive director with Stanbic IBTC, holding an MBA from the University of Oxford, and an MSC in international securities and investment banking from the ICMA center of Henley Business School,

Women's World Cup: Edeh Predicts Super Falcons Victory Against England, Makes Case For Pay Parity

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Resident Doctors Declare Daily Nationwide Protests

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD), has declared daily nationwide protests and picketing of federal health institutions.

The association which is currently on a nationwide indefinite strike in a notice on Saturday, said the protest would commence on Wednesday, August 9 at 10:00am.

The National Executive Council (E-NEC) after its virtual meeting on Saturday issued the notice and addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Health.

Dr. Orji, Emeka Innocent, the President of the association, and the Secretary General, Dr Chikezie, Kelechi, signed the notice.

According to the notice, "We wish to bring to your notice, of the decision of the National Executive Council of NARD to embark on a daily peaceful protests and picketing of the Federal Ministry of Health, Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation, as well as all federal and state tertiary health institutions nationwide, with effect from Wednesday, 9th August 2023."

NARD further explained that the move became necessary to press home their demands that have been largely neglected by

the parent ministry and the federal government.

It said that they are pained that rather than make genuine and concerted efforts to resolve the challenges that led to the industrial action despite repeated ultimatumstry of such names on a monthly basis.

s, their parent ministry and the federal government have chosen to demonize Nigerian resident doctors instead, after all their sacrifices and it resolved that it is time the whole world hears its side of the story on the decay and corruption in the health sector as well as the neglect the public health institutions have suffered all these years that led to repeated industrial actions.

It said that the government still has time to genuinely address the issues at stake before Wednesday, 9th August 2023, or leave them with no other option.

The federal government had three days ago slammed a 'No work, No pay policy' against the striking resident doctors.

Dr Andrew Noah, the Director Hospital Services, in a letter he signed, the federal ministry of health directed Chief Medical Directors and medical directors of Federal Tertiary Hospitals to maintain an attendance register of all residents willing to work and furnish the Mini

been largely neglected by

