

Police Apprehends Self Kidnapper, Suspected Robbers, Cultists, Recovers Firearms Cartridges In Delta

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Group Suggests Nomination Of Rt. Hon Yusuf Bala Ikara For Minister As el-Rufa'i Allegedly Opts Out **PAGE 14**



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Kaduna Pastors Visit Zaria Mosque Collapse Site, Offer Condolences To Emirate, Muslim Ummah



From left Osun State Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi, Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke and Osun State Speaker, Rt.Hon Adewale Egbedun at the 2023 Osun Osogbo Festival held at the Osun Groove, Osogbo. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria
The General Overseer of Christ Evangelical and Life Intervention Ministry in Kaduna State, located in the North Western region of Nigeria, Pastor Yohanna Buru, has made a solemn visit with other Christian clerics to the Zaria Central Mosque. The visit was undertaken to extend his heartfelt condolences to the Muslim Ummah and the entire nation in the wake of the tragic loss of lives and injuries sustained resulting from the collapse of a section of the historic central mosque during Asar prayers. Accompanied by a team of fellow Christians, Pastor Yohanna Buru arrived in

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NDLEA Busts Major Illicit Drug Syndicates, Nabs Baroness, Others

** Intercepts multi billion Naira illicit drugs*

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Consider Ministerial Nominee From Kaduna Central Or South, APC Chieftain Advises Tinubu

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North West Gave You Victory At Polls, Don't Rubbish Their Champion el-Rufai, MURIC Warns Tinubu

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Wildfires: Death Toll Rises To 90, Thousand Others Missing In U.S. State Of Hawaii

Grandpa In Oyo Police Net For Selling Day-old Grand Daughter for N700,000

*5 others arrested at Abia Baby factory, suspected armed robbers, cultists nabbed in Ibadan



The arrested suspects

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A grand father identified as Monday Chukwuka is now in police net for selling his one-day old grand daughter for N700,000.

Briefing journalists in his office at the Oyo State Police Command headquarters, Eleyele Ibadan on Saturday, Oyo State Commissioner of Police, CP. Adebola Hamzat said the grand father was arrested in his hideout in Ibafo area of Ogun State.

CP Hamzat stated that men of the Oyo State Police command were informed of the incident on July 10, 2023 after which they swung into action.

"On 10th July, 2023, an actionable intelligence report was received by a team of Police Operatives attached to the Command Monitoring Oyo State about

the "harvesting of a day-old baby girl" from her teenage mother, identified as Sarah Chukwuka in Oyo town and sale of the girl child to a criminal cartel that operates a baby factory in Abia State", he said.

CP Hamzat added, "upon intelligence led interview, Monday, who is the biological father of the teenage girl who gave birth to the day-old baby girl, confessed to the crime and explained in details how he took the baby from her mother (his biological daughter) as soon as she gave birth under the pretext of handing over the baby to someone who would take good care of her."

"The suspect further explained in details, how he moved the day old baby to Abia State where he sold her to the owner of a baby factory located at Obehi, Okwa West in Abia State at the rate of Seven Hundred Thousand Naira

(N700,000.00)."

CP Hamzat stressed further that "Investigation activity was extended to Abia State and in the process of a coordinated raid on the baby factory, a female suspect identified as Popoola Bunmi and four other accomplices whose names are Chinwedu Peter, Chidinma Blessing, Chuckwu Christopher, and Favour Chukwu were all apprehended in connection with the criminal activity."

According to CP Hamzat, "Bundle of new birth certificates and some equipments being used for baby deliveries were equally recovered from the factory, adding that the suspects as at the time of apprehension were unable to give any satisfactory explanation about the parentage of the babies recovered from the factory."

Speaking with journalists, Monday said, "I decided to

sell the baby because I cannot afford to take care of my teenage daughter and the baby and I used the money (N700,000) to rent a shop and buy goods."

Also, the mother of the teenage baby, Mrs. Sarah, said, "I was not aware that my husband wanted to sell the baby, he only told me that he wanted to give the baby to someone to nurture her and return the baby after two years."

The suspected buyer of the baby, Favor Chukwuka said, "I bought the baby following a request from a couple (name withheld) who are childless, I was given just N50,000 as my own share the job."

Other suspected criminals paraded by the Command include armed robbers suspects, suspected cultists, some hoodlums that specialized in stealing cars, and notorious criminal receivers among others.

Zaria Mosque Collapse: Sardaunan Badarawa Sympathizes With Uba Sani, Emir Of Zazzau, Victims' Families

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Hon. Usman Ibrahim known as Sardaunan Badarawa has joined other prominent Nigerians in expressing shock and empathy over the Zaria Juma'at Mosque disaster in which scores of worshippers were reported dead.

In a statement personally signed and made available to journalists in Kaduna on Saturday, Sardaunan Badarawa sympathized with Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani and Emir of Zazzau, Ambassador Nuhu Bamali over the unfortunate occurrence in a house of worship, describing the disaster as one too many at a time people of the state and country in general are trying to adjust to life in the present economic reality. While praying for the

repose of the souls of the deceased, Sardaunan Badarawa who also holds the title of Santurakin Hausa, asked for Allah's consolation and comfort for families of the lost ones.

"This tragedy is a huge loss, not just to the victims' families but to the entire nation and humanity in general.

"It came at a time the country is in need of prayers for Allah's intervention on the sudden socio-economic challenges facing the citizens.

"We can't question Allah for what has happened but We are however, consoled by the fact that the worshippers passed on performing one of the obligatory duties of their Lord and Maker.

"May Allah in His infinite mercies forgive and admit them into Paradise," he

Maradin Zazzau Extends Condolences To Kaduna Govt, Zazzau Emirate Over Mosque Tragedy

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

A traditional title holder in Zazzau Emirate, the Maradin Zazzau, Alh. Haruna Mohammed Jumare has extended condolences to the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani, the Emir of Zazzau, Ambassador Ahmad Nuhu Bamali, the Iyan Zazzau and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr Tajudeen Abbas, as well as the entire people of Zazzau Emirate over the tragedy that



Maradin Zazzau

befell some worshippers inside the Zaria Central Mosque on Friday which claimed many lives.

He stated this while reacting to the tragedy that occurred at Zaria Central Mosque on Friday.

Haruna Jumare described the tragedy as sad, pathetic and a great loss to the Zazzau emirate, Kaduna State and Nigeria in at large.

He said the unfortunate event has created a

vacuum that no one can fill, especially to the families of the deceased.

The traditional title holder prayed to Allah to forgive their shortcomings and accept them as martyrs and grant them Aljannatul Firdaus.

To the deceased families, Alh. Haruna Muhammed Jumare prayed Allah to grant the families, Kaduna State Government and the Zazzau Emirate, the fortitude to bear the irreplaceable loss.



Sardaunan Badarawa

Consider Ministerial Nominee From Kaduna Central Or South, APC Chieftain Advises Tinubu

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A former Chairman of the All Progressive Congress (APC) Caucus in Kaduna State, Alh. Ahmed Tijjani Ramalan has appealed to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to consider a ministerial nominee from Kaduna Central or Kaduna South to replace former governor, Nasir el-Rufai, for inclusiveness.

An open letter to Tinubu yesterday, Ramalan said, "The ministerial position should go to Zone 2 or Zone 3 where persons and politicians of high caliber are well placed to take such a position in view that both el-Rufai and Governor Uba Sani are from Zone 1."

He called on President Tinubu to look critically into the sharing of political positions in Kaduna State, saying that the over-concentration of political offices in one zone is not auguring well for the APC in the state.

He explained that before 2015 when the APC took Kaduna State by storm from the PDP, which had held sway for 16 years, there had been equity in sharing the spoils accruing according to understanding by politicians and other stakeholders in the state.

According to him, based on the gentleman agreement, when the office of the governor goes to one, naturally the deputy governorship position should go to the 2nd or 3rd Senatorial zones.

He added that for a delicate

balance, the Ministerial position usually went to the remaining Senatorial zone to achieve inclusiveness and complete representation in the state, stressing that it means all the 3 Senatorial zones were fully represented at both the state and federal levels.

He said that after the former governor failed to make the ministerial list, it is said that he or the governor has forwarded the name of a certain Jaafaru Sani from Kubau Local Government Area, saying that it is still in Zone 1 as a possible replacement as is the same zone that birthed the present Governor and the said kith and kin of el-Rufai.

According to him, given that the politics of the APC in Kaduna State is not only about El-Rufai or anyone else but the entire members of the party and the People in the State.

He observed that the political isolation of Zone 3 has not in any way helped the fortunes of the APC and peaceful co-existence in Kaduna and decried that the people of Kaduna State had a raw deal from the anti-people and impoverishment policies of the el-Rufai style of totalitarian and destructive leadership.

He prayed that by the letter appealing to His Excellency, the APC National Chairman to act swiftly to ensure that the concerns of the APC followership act promptly to allay the fears of the people of Kaduna State and the Unity of APC in Kaduna State.

Ministerial Nomination: Governor Uba Sani Cautions Media Against Fake News

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Governor of Kaduna State, His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani has called on media houses, social media users, and macro-blogging sites to desist from spreading false and unverified information as this could mislead readers and cause unnecessary tension in the polity.

The governor gave this advice, while fielding questions from members

of the press on his recent meeting with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his alleged rejection of a certain individual proposed by his predecessor, Malam Nasir el-Rufai to replace him as a ministerial nominee.

According to a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Muhammad Lawal Shehu on

August 12, 2023, Governor Sani stated categorically, "The only thing that is true in the story is that I met with the

President. Every other thing is false and a conjecture to create friction between me and Malam Nasir el-Rufai. At no time did we discuss the issue of replacement."

Further emphasizing the importance of responsible reporting, Governor Sani urged media outlets to be cautious and avoid becoming tools for mischief-makers who specialize in spreading falsehoods and divisive narratives.

While commending media

houses and bloggers who consistently ensure due diligence in reporting factual stories, Governor Sani reminded members of the press of their duty as the fourth estate of the realm.

"In these days of clickbaits and fake news, it is imperative for traditional and new media platforms to maintain their integrity by sharing balanced and verified stories that will be useful in moving the nation forward," the Governor said.

North West Gave You Victory At Polls, Don't Rubbish Their Champion el-Rufai, MURIC Warns Tinubu

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As the failure of Senate to confirm the ministerial nomination of the former governor of Kaduna State, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, continues to generate controversy, an Islamic human rights organization, the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC), has told President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to save the North-West alliance which gave him victory at the polls by ensuring that el-Rufai gets the ministerial appointment.

MURIC made its stand known on Sunday August 13, 2023 after an emergency meeting of its Central Think Tank (CTT) held in the evening of the previous day.

A statement signed by the Executive Director of MURIC, Professor Ishaq Akintola, after the meeting reads:

"The Central Think Tank (CTT) of the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC) met yesterday to consider the circumstances surrounding the failure of Senate to confirm the nomination of the former governor of Kaduna State, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai, as a minister.

"CTT considered the issue a major setback to the North-

West alliance which gave President Bola Ahmed Tinubu victory during the 2023 presidential election. Furthermore, CTT regards the non-confirmation of Mallam Nasir el-Rufai's ministerial nomination as a big threat to future alliance between the North and the South-West. The North may not hobnob with the South-West again if the champion of the North-South alliance is shabbily treated.

"CTT also noted the huge contribution of Mallam Nasir El-Rufai who persuaded the Northern political elite, particularly the twelve Northern governors, to allow power to go to the South. It was observed that the monumental power shift of 2023 was a fulfilment of a 2019 agreement. It was therefore an act of honour while El-Rufai is seen as the icon of Northern integrity.

"CTT affirms clearly, emphatically and unequivocally that it behoves the South as represented by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to reciprocate the North's noble stand by walking his talk, particularly his open offer and public invitation to Malam el-Rufai to join his cabinet. The story of Tinubu's invitation to el-Rufai to join his cabinet is

already public knowledge.

"It has become necessary to jog the President's medulla oblongata today because the North has exhibited integrity by keeping its promise on power shift to the South. It therefore, behoves the South to reciprocate, to manifest decorum, decency and dignity, particularly with the 'Omoluabi virtue' for which the Yoruba are well known.

"Tinubu has a duty to protect the good name of the Yoruba people in particular and the whole South in general. Besides, a promise is a promise in Islam and Tinubu is a Muslim. Allah says in the Glorious Qur'an 'And fulfill the promise, surely (every) promise shall be questioned about.' (Qur'an 17:34). Allah also said, 'O you who believe! Fulfill your pledges.' (Qur'an 5:1).

"The good relationship and the bond between the North and the South-West must not be allowed to break. 2027 is around the corner. Even 2031 is already knocking and politicians are already doing their calculations. The North supported Tinubu because they found him to be credible. He must not do anything capable of diminishing that credibility.

"el-Rufai is the gem of the collection and everybody

knows it. He is a performer. He is cerebral, iconic. If it is true that the president himself already hinted el-Rufai to set the machinery in motion for the energy sector, the president is morally bound to walk his talk regardless of all other encumbrances.

"Records show that there are precedents. Festus Keyamo was cleared in spite of Senate's earlier objection. Something made Senate change its mind. Ex-President Olusegun Obasanjo got this same el-Rufai cleared despite Senate's opposition in 2004. el-Rufai withdrew having read between the lines. He will still do it for the sake of Nigeria if the president's body language conforms.

"Criminality, dishonesty, fraud, impunity, lack of patriotism and other Nigerian problems spring from a wrong mindset. They will all disappear or at least be reduced to the barest minimum if the leadership sets the pace. Islamic scholars North and South who nurtured the North-South alliance are watching. All men and women of conscience are keeping vigil. Nigeria holds its breath and shivers. The buck stops at Mr. President's table."

Wildfires: Death Toll Rises To 90, Thousand Others Missing In U.S. State Of Hawaii

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

As brushfires continue to ravage non-contiguous American State of Hawaii, death toll has climbed to 90 while a thousand others remain unaccounted for.

Hawaii one of American two

states located outside the country's mainland, was in the last few days, troubled by large scale wild inferno that devastated the island.

The Hawaiian island of Maui, worst affected in the disaster, has been an epicenter of other natural disasters such as

volcano, flood and earthquake. Death toll continued to hike as firefighters and other rescue personnel struggle round the clock fishing out survivors who jumped into the sea in efforts to evade the burning fires.

President Joe Biden who expressed sadness over the

incident, ordered a full scale rescue and relief operation to the island located 3,200 kilometers in the South Pacific away from the United States.

District Attorney who already instituted legal suit to determine if there was indeed negligence

by authorities to respond to emergency needs of the people of the Archipelago.

Experts believe time is indeed running out for rescue operatives to recover victims alive who may have fallen into the deep blue sea.

Kaduna Deputy Governor Hails UNICEF Over Interventions In Health, Education

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, has expressed Kaduna State Government gratitude to UNICEF for supporting the state in the health, education and other sectors.

Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa made this known when a delegation of UNICEF Nigeria, led by Jane Bevan came on courtesy visit to Government House on Thursday, to Deputy Governor's Council Chambers in Kaduna.

The Deputy Governor who received the WASH team, restated the state's commitment to attaining ODF status by 2024, one year before the national deadline, saying, "we are not leaving any stone unturned".

She stressed that the Uba Sani administration will work to strengthen the existing partnership especially in human capital development, an area which the current administration places very high premium.

On her part, the leader of the delegation, Chief of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), UNICEF Nigeria, Jane Bevan applauded Kaduna State Government for the progress made in improving access WASH in the state after conducting field assessment in some communities across the state.

Bevan, noted that seven LGAs in Kaduna State have attained the Open-Defecation-Free (ODF) status, expressing optimism that the state will attain state-wide ODF status before the 2025 deadline.

The Commissioner of Health, Ummah K. Ahmed, Commissioner of Business Innovation and Technology, Patience Fakai, Deputy Chief of Staff, James Kanyip, alongside other senior Kaduna State Government officials attended the meeting, held at the Deputy Governor's Council Chambers.



OYSADA: 965 Farmers Get Agricultural Inputs In Oyo State So Far

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

No fewer than 965 farmers in Oyo State have so far, benefitted from the distribution of agricultural inputs by the state government

The benefitting farmers are from 12 local government areas of the state, namely, Iwajowa, Kajola, Iseyin, Ibarapa, Ibarapa North, Ido, Saki East, Oorelope, Olorunsogo, Oriire, Ogbomosho South and Surulere.

Speaking with journalists on Thursday during the distribution of farm inputs to 90 farmers in Ido Local Government Area, Oyo state Coordinator for Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus, (N-Cares) Result Area 2, Mr. Kolawole Adewumi Bamigbola, said the distribution is geared towards boosting food production in the state.

Mr Bamigbola who gave the breakdown of the beneficiaries in Ido Local Government Area as 90, comprising 80 cassava farmers and 10 tomatoes farmers, said, "each of the cassava farmers received 20 bundles of cassava cuttings, two bags each of NPK fertilizer and one liter of herbicide, while each of the ten tomatoes farmers received 25 sachets of tomatoes seeds, one and half bags of fertilizer, one liter of pre-emergence herbicide and one liter of post-emergence of herbicide."

He stressed further that 100 farmers received agricultural input in Eruwa, Ibarapa East Local Government Area and that each of the 80 cassava farmers in the local government area received 20 bundles of cassava cuttings, two bags of NPK fertilizer, and one liter of herbicide, while each of the 20 maize farmers in same local council received 10kg of maize seeds, two bags of NPK fertilizer, as well as one liter of pre and post-emergence herbicides.

In Aiyete, Ibarapa North Local Government Area, no fewer than 60 farmers comprising 30 cassava farmers and 30 maize, received agric input.

Addressing the beneficiaries shortly after the distribution of the inputs to the farmers, Chairman, Ido Local Government Area, Hon. Sherif Aderemi Adejo lauded Governor, Seyi Makinde for his vision towards ensuring food sustainability across all the geopolitical zones of the state.

Hon Adejo stressed that the agricultural input given to the farmers are part of the programmes set aside by the state governor to support the farmers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, saying, " we have to appreciate our able governor, Engr. Seyi Makinde for supporting our farmers with these agricultural inputs which I believed will boost the farm products of the respective



Some benefitting farmers at Ido Local Government Area on Thursday.

beneficiaries at the end of this farming season.

" I want all the beneficiaries to make good use of their inputs as this will not only boost their products but also compliment the efforts of the state governor toward ensuring food security across the length and breadth of the state.

"We are farmers in Ido Local Government Area and we have school of farmers right here in our secretariat where we train

our farmers on the new innovations of farming and mechanized ways of farming, and I want to assure all of you that are yet to be members of this school that we will register you free of charge and we shall continue to carry you along on the benefits we have for farmers in our capacity at this local governments level.

"For those of you that benefit from today's distributions, please make good use of them, and for those of you that are yet

to benefit from the kind gesture of the state governor, I'm using this opportunity to appeal to you to please relax, your time will soon come, I want to remind you all that our talk and do Governor has again promised to assist another set of 10,000 farmers across the state, this according to the Governor Makinde is one of the palliatives set in motion to cushion the effect of the fuel subsidy removal, so I believe you will all be captured in the next phase of the distribution."

Niger Republic: Sanusi Lamido, An Inspiring, Courageous Leader - Hon Peller

**Lauds his efforts in bridging nations for peace*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Ayedero of Yorubaland, Honourable Shina Abiola Peller on Friday, described a former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the 14th Emir of Kano, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, as an inspiring and courageous leader who strives to make a difference beyond borders in ensuring that democracy is restored to Niger Republic peacefully.

Hon Peller in a statement shared on his verified social media platforms lauded the former CBN Governor for taking courageous action in bridging nations for peace amidst the turmoil in Niger Republic.

According to Hon Peller, leadership " is about taking responsibility, making a positive impact at a trying period, and not just about holding positions in government", adding, that others should take a cue from the exemplary leadership action of the former Central Bank governor in making selfless and courageous efforts geared towards



Sanusi (left) with Honourable Peller

making a difference in African countries and the world at large.

"HRH Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, the 14th Emir of Kano is truly an inspiring leader,

making a difference beyond borders. Amidst the turmoil in Niger Republic, this remarkable Leader fearlessly takes action, bridging nations for peace", he said.

The Ayedero of Yorubaland added, "Leadership is not just about holding positions in Government, but about taking responsibility and making a positive impact. It's about stepping up, even in challenging times, to bring about change and inspire others to do the same. Dialogue and diplomacy are what we need to restore democracy to Niger Republic".

Hon Peller stressed that dialogue and diplomacy are the best tools needed to restore democracy to Niger Republic and that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) chaired by Nigeria's president, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu should keep intensifying its diplomatic effort in restoring democracy to the country peacefully.

"HRH Sanusi Lamido Sanusi exemplifies true leadership through his words and actions. It's our prayer that this courageous leader be blessed with strength and protection. We pray for more leaders like him, who selflessly dedicate themselves to making a difference in the world".

Zaria Mosque Collapse: Gov Uba Sani Expresses Shock, Consoles Victims' Families

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

The Governor of Kaduna State, His Excellency Senator Uba Sani has said that he received with shock and sadness, the news of the collapse of the iconic Zaria Central Mosque and loss of lives and injuries to some residents, who were observing their prayers in the early evening of Friday August 11, 2023 in Zaria.

The governor expressed condolences to the families of the victims and prayed for

Allah's divine healing and recovery of all those injured in the unfortunate incident.

The governor thanked His Royal Highness, Ambassador Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, the Emir of Zazzau for the fatherly role he played in rallying his subjects to carry out rescue operations, offer assistance to the injured and to console the families of the victims.

The Governor also commended the efforts of the first-responders, medical personnel and good citizens of Zaria in

rescuing the survivors.

According to a statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Muhammad Lawal Shehu on August 11, 2023, the governor further disclosed that an advance team of senior government officials led by Alhaji Balarabe Abbas Lawal, the Secretary to the State Government, are already in Zaria to assess the situation on ground and attend the Islamic funeral rites of the deceased.

The statement read, "the State

Government will also order an immediate investigation into the cause of the unfortunate incident.

"The Zaria Central Mosque constructed in the 1830s, has for decades opened its doors to Muslim faithfuls from all parts of the world," the statement said.

Governor Sani urged citizens of the state to offer prayers for the repose of the souls of the departed.



Zaria Mosque Collapse: Northern Governors Commiserates Emir Of Zazzau, Affected Families

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum and Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has extended his deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the families affected by the tragic collapse of parts of the Zaria Central Mosque which claimed the lives of many individuals and left numerous others injured in Zaria, Kaduna State.

In a statement, Governor Inuwa Yahaya described the incident as heart-wrenching tragedy which sent shockwaves, not only in the ancient city but across the nation.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been affected by this heart-wrenching tragedy. During this difficult time, we stand in solidarity with the families of the victims, offering our support and solace as they navigate through their grief and pain".

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, Governor Inuwa Yahaya emphasized the need for relevant authorities to investigate the circumstances surrounding this unfortunate incident and put measures to prevent the recurrence.

"It is imperative that we learn from this tragedy and implement effective preventive measures to safeguard lives and uphold the sanctity of places of worship. Safety and security within places of worship are of paramount importance, and we must work collectively to ensure the well-being of our citizens as they engage in acts of worship".

The Chairman of the



Governor Inuwa Yahaya

Northern Governors' Forum commiserated with His Royal Highness, the Emir of Zazzau, Ambassador Ahmad Nuhu Bamalli, the government of Kaduna State and the entire Muslim community. "We share in your grief and that of the entire Emirate, and extend our arms in support. Our faith and

unity shall provide the strength to overcome this tragedy and emerge stronger from the sorrowful event". The Governor prayed Almighty Allah to reward the deceased with Aljannat Firdaus, grant solace to the bereaved families and quick recovery to the injured.

Christian Clergy Extends Condolences Over Zaria Mosque Collapse During Worship

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

The General Overseer of Christ Evangelical and Life Intervention Ministry, Pastor Yahanna Buru has extended condolences to the Muslim Ummah in Northern Nigeria, following Zaria Central Mosque tragedy.

In a statement issued on August 12, 2023, in the aftermath of the distressing incident that gained widespread attention across newspapers and social media platform, Pastor Buru, expressed heartfelt condolences to the Muslim community in Northern Nigeria. According to reports, the Zaria Central Mosque in Kaduna State collapsed on Friday, resulting in the tragic loss of at least four lives and leaving seven others injured.

Pastor Yohanna Buru shared his grief and solidarity with Muslims throughout the region, invoking divine blessings upon those who lost their lives in the unfortunate incident.

"May their souls find eternal peace, and may God's mercy welcome them to paradise.

"As Christians, we extend our deepest sympathies to Muslims across Nigeria who are affected by the Zaria mosque collapse," Pastor Yohanna Buru conveyed.

The Christian cleric further revealed that he had

personally conveyed messages of condolences to his Muslim scholar friends, underscoring the importance of unity and shared prayers for lasting peace in the nation.

Pastor Zigo Aziz, a fellow member of the same church, also joined in extending condolences to the bereaved families affected by the Zaria tragedy.

He expressed sympathy for their loss and extended his heartfelt support to the Muslim community in the Northern region.

In a related development, the Emir of Zazzau, Mallam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, said that the victims had been engaged in the Asr prayer, one of the daily Islamic prayers, around 4 pm at the time of the unfortunate incident.

While expressing their shared condolences, the Christian leaders jointly called for peaceful dialogue and diplomatic efforts, urging against military intervention in the return of the former president of Niger Republic, Bazoom.

"As both Christians and Muslims unite in grief and solidarity, their collective prayers are directed towards a harmonious and peaceful coexistence within the nation.

"We are one family Under God, our biological parents were Adams and Eve, we all have holy books, we are brothers and sisters," he noted

My Free WAEC, NECO, JAMB/Post UTME Tutorial Classes To Support Education Development - Dr Akande

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Assistant Registrar of ESPAM-Formation University, Benin Republic, and the Founder of Easy-Prevarsity Educational Consult, Dr. Akande Kazeem Babatunde has organised free tutorial classes for students preparing for WAEC, NECO, JAMB/Post-UTME in Ido local government area of Oyo State.

Addressing newsmen in Ibadan, Dr Akande said the free tutorial classes will be with an academic scholarship in the six zones in Ido Education Authority area of Oyo State as part of his efforts to support education development in the state, especially in his locality.

He stressed that the gesture is in collaboration with the office of the Education Secretary, Ido Local Government, Ido Town, Ibadan, adding that a free application form can be obtained at any of the

schools or the education secretary office in Ido.

The Assistant Registrar of ESPAM-Formation University, Benin Republic, maintained that his motive as an educationist is to promote quality education at his locality on a comprehensive scale.

"As an educationist we can promote quality education by working to increase access to free teachings,

and we are also promoting quality education by raising awareness about the benefits of a good education", he said

Dr Akande listed the designated six zones as, Omi Zone: St. Andrew's Model Schools, Omi Adio, Ido zone: Ido High School, Ido, Akufo Zone: Akufo Community High School, Akufo, Apata Zone: Apata Community High School, Logudu Bembo, Apete

Zone: St. Peters Anglican Primary School, Apete, Ibadan and Idiya Zone: Idiya Community Grammar School, Idiya.

He however, promised to support People's Democratic Party (PDP) candidates who emerge in Local Government elections with these scholarships and projects, and also extend the same courtesy to the Oyo State Government.

Dr. Akande is also the peace coordinator for Rotary in Nigeria, Chairman African Institute for Justice of the Peace (AFRIJIP), Founder of Ecolerite Institute of Peace Advancement, and President General Alliance of Yoruba Youth Worldwide (AYYCW). ECO WAS Youth Ambassador and Grand Patron of Agbekoya Farmers Association Oyo State.

He stressed that these associations have similar mission and vision which is to provide lasting peace in our societies and the world at large.



Dr. Kazeem Akande



Pastor Buru

Project Your ArtWorks, Artefacts For Export, Compt James Urges Moriri Gallery



Comptroller James and Founder/CEO of Moriri Gallery

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Comptroller of Immigration Service Rivers State Command, CIS James Sunday has urged the Founder/CEO of Moriri Gallery Kayode Adeoti to expose his artworks and artefacts to international market to attract foreign income.

James offered the counsel during a visit to the indigenous art gallery in Port Harcourt to identify with the investment in artworks and artefacts as a means of generating revenue for government.

In a statement issued by the spokesperson of the command, ASI Nwosu Chukwu made available to New Nigerian Newspapers, Comptroller James encouraged the Director of the studio to expose the facility to the public by exhibition, trading the artworks as export products of Nigerian Artworks for foreign returns in foreign currency instead of just exhibition,

"The artworks I am seeing here can match anyone, anywhere in the World, I encourage you to trade it as exportable artefacts", tasked.

Moriri Gallery is an institutional art structure dedicated purposely and strategically laid out in an eco-friendly space with the touch of a serene African mangrove setting.

The gallery is housed on 2 floors with interesting architecture which brings about unique experiences when interacting with the works of different artists.

The concept of "Moriri" is an attempt to bring appreciation to art, culture and nature. Moriri Gallery was inspired and founded during the COVID 19 pandemic and it opened its doors to artists and art enthusiasts on November 6th, 2020 at Rumuogba Estate in Port Harcourt.

Moriri Gallery hosts 2 exhibitions annually focused on practicing studio artists and academy artists who are scholars in higher institutions.

In addition to the annual exhibition series, the gallery publishes an art journal titled, Moriri Chronicles – Journal of Contemporary Culture ISSN - Print: 2971-5636, Online: 2971-5644.

Kayode Adeoti, an art lover, enthusiast and collector is the founder and director of Moriri Gallery of Contemporary Arts.

NIS Rivers Command Produces 38,613 Passport Booklets In Six Months

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos.

The Passport Office of the Rivers State Command, Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) is at its optimum in the production of passport booklets, as it produced a total of 38,613 copies between February and July 2023.

This is sequel of the encouragement by the command for online application and online payment to reduce the overcrowding and time wastage by applicants.

In a statement by the Comptroller Rivers State Command of NIS Sunday James obtained by our correspondent on Saturday b, the system has also improved on service delivery to the public through a Servicom help

desk.

James however, disclosed that close to 500 booklets of the passports are yet to be collected, just as he urged applicants to keep to their appointment dates for capturing and collection.

"As a take away from the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the service, the command has produced reasonable number of passports, as at the time of filing this report the passport office has produced between February and July, 38,613 booklets.

"Many applicants are yet to collect their produced passport and the service is using this opportunity to call on anyone who was captured a month or two ago and others with very cogent reason giving and

were captured for health and medically related issues or other urgency that is proven and confirmed have being produced awaiting collection.

"The Comptroller James Sunday PCC after his visit to the passport office advised the Passport Control Officer Audi Maisudan a Deputy Comptroller to step up action in the area of feedback and reaching out to applicants whose passports are already produced to come and collect it and those with issues to be notified to enable them resolve their issues to clear pending cases and get the passports produced.

"As a Command we are enjoining applicants

captured a month or two ago, and those with genuine reasons bothering on life threatening medication abroad, Business, study and crucial issues for intervention to always start the process early, or go for the 10 year, 64 page to save time and avoid the urgent rush syndrome.

"Students traveling abroad for study and families relocating are advised to pick up the 10-year, 64 page enhanced e-passport for their utmost comfort and ease of stay abroad.

"Close to 500 passports are awaiting collection, the public are notified by this statement to keep to their appointment dates for capturing and collection," the statement reads.



Comptroller Sunday James inspecting the booklets

Kaduna Governorship: Parties Close Case, Tribunal Adjourns For Final Address

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal on Friday, adjourned till September 4, after all parties closed their cases in the petition marked EPT/KD/Gov/4/23.

In the said petition, the gubernatorial candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Isa Ashiru accused the Independent

National Electoral Commission (INEC) of non-compliance to the Electoral Act and corrupt practices during the last gubernatorial election in the state.

The petitioners had closed their cases after calling no fewer than 21 witnesses and tendered several documents to back their case.

The INEC, being the first respondent also opened and closed its case without

calling any witness.

Governor Uba Sani who is the 2nd respondent, earlier said he had 30 witnesses to defend his victory, but, ended up closing his case on Friday without calling any witnesses.

"We have 30 witnesses and they are ready, but we have no reason to call any," Duro Adeyele, (SAN), counsel to Gov. Uba Sani told tribunal.

At the resumed hearing on Thursday, the 3rd

respondent, the All Progressives Congress (APC) closed its case by tendering six sets of documents without calling any witness.

Meanwhile, Ashiru's lead counsel, Oluwole Iyamu (SAN) opposed to all documents presented by APC to the tribunal.

The Justice Victor Owiwelled panel adjourned the proceeding for the adoption of final written addresses.

Obaseki, Oyegun, Oronsaye Harp On Importance Of Well Trained Public Servants

By; RALPH OKHIRIA, Benin City

The prestigious John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy (JOOPSA) in Benin City, Edo state, was on Saturday, commissioned.

The gigantic complex is named in honour of the first executive governor of Edo State, Chief John Odigie Oyegun, who on August 12, 2023, marked his 84th birthday anniversary.

The governor who thanked all those that attended the formal inauguration of JOOPSA which he noted, is an institution built to transform public and civil service delivery and bridge the knowledge gap of Edo public servants.

According to Governor Obaseki, "the ability of a government to execute its policies is largely dependent on the quality and ability of its public servants. That is why from the beginning of our Administration the transformation of the public service of our State has been given priority.

"It was clear in my mind that it will be impossible to deliver on the mandate of our Administration without a strong and effective Public and Civil Service. Unfortunately, the public service we met was very weak in several areas. Its processes and procedures has become blurred because they were manual and therefore the civil service sluggish and prone to corruption and environment hazardous, offices without proper toilet facilities.

"Welfare of workers was terrible and wondered why the civil servants themselves allowed their situation to deteriorate to such an extent. Nothing like performance Management, nothing was done strategically and criteria for promotion was never merit based. You must belong to society to be considered and training and human capacity development



was relegated.

"It is now important to change the narrative if we are to succeed to reposition Edo for sustainable, socio economic growth".

He further noted that in the last six years his administration has taken a holistic approach to revamp the public and civil service in Edo State to enable it function effectively and efficiently.

"Edo State transformation and enhancement projects in the public service which we call Edo Steps has resulted in significant and unprecedented improvement in the capacity of the public servants to delivered optimally.

"Today, the public service in Edo State is the most digitalized public service in Nigeria, with over 5,000 computer and fiber optic connection across offices in the State. By September 1st 2023, Edo State would have achieved a paperless governance environment which will make us

the first state to achieve these feats. I will be the last governor to work with physical files in the state.

"The offices of our public servants in Edo State are the best they can be and well equip with State of the art facilities which can be compared to any you can find in the world with 24/7 electricity and fast internet connectivity.

"We have taken the welfare of our public servants as a priority because we know that if you don't pay people properly, and take care of them you should expect high productivity from them. The don't joke with the welfare of of our workforce as we ensure that all working with us have health insurance as you don't need to pay for treatment.

"We have fully funded contributory pension scheme, which we started 1st of January 2017 and the scheme I am told that the savings in that scheme is

approaching N10 billion as we will not have a situation when people retired you don't have money to pay them".

Obaseki said in order to curb and deal with the human capacity deficit in the civil service, his administration embarked on setting up JOOPSA as a centre of excellence to train and build the capacity of public servants to enable them perform optimally.

The celebrant, Chief John Odigie Oyegun who recalled the honour done the late first Nigeria female senator, Franca Afegbua and granting of automatic employment to first class graduates who are of Edo indigenes, by the state governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, said he is so proud and fulfilled to have had a special building named after him while he is still very much alive.

Oyegun who also narrated his journey in the civil service and how he rose to the position of

Super Permanent Secretary, said though his stay was short having retired at the age of 48, added that a leader must be focused and ready to take risk.

He commended the state governor for laying a solid foundation that will stand the taste of time, stressing that the governor is the man who envisage the future.

But in his keynote address, former Head of Service of the federation, Mr. Stephen Osagiede Oronsaye, said his suspension as the then head of service to the federation was unconstitutional.

Mr. Oronsaye said he stepped on many toes while serving as the HoS in a bid to reform the civil service and that he has no regret for all that he did.

He disclosed that without a motivated workforce, no administration can deliver on its mandate hence academy like JOOPSA is needed.

Only el-Rufai Will Determine Our Support For Tinubu - Northern CSOs

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Following the controversies surrounding his clearance for confirmation as a ministerial nominee, a group, Coalition of Northern Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), has opened up that only Malam Nasir el-Rufai will determine their support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

The group expressed this at a press briefing in Kaduna on Friday August 11, 2023, with the text of the briefing, jointly signed by its National President, Hon Jamilu Ismail and Secretary North West, Dr. Abdulrauf Abdullahi.

"That we as Northern Nigerian Youths are proud to be associated with Mal Nasiru Ahmed El-Rufa'I and as a Minister or not we stand with him and we say no retreat no surrender.

"That based on the directives of Mal Nasiru Ahmed Rufa'I, we shall continue to support President Tinubu's administration," they declared..

Warning that the time to act is now, the group said that it is unfortunate that Mal Nasiru Ahmed el-Rufa'I who is an icon of International repute, a true democrat and a fore runner in the

emergence of His Excellency Sen Bola Ahmed Tinubu would be kept on hold by the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the basis of non-clearance by the Security Agencies. This is not acceptable to us as Northern Youths.

"Mal Nasiru el-Rufa'I has been the pioneer of the President Tinubu movement in the North and Nigeria at large, the man who stood firmly against all odds to support the emergence of the candidature of the Presidency from the South West and singled out President Tinubu as his candidate which was a movement supported by the Northern colleagues and today we as Northern youths are proud to say that we supported the President Tinubu campaign because of the presence of Mal Nasiru El-Rufa'I in the movement.

"Today, the same man who gave his all is been haunted for only God knows what.

"You would all recall that Mal Nasiru el-Rufa'I made a wonderful presentation during his screening at the Senate and Senators from Kaduna State unanimously and publicly supported his nomination," they pointed out.

According to the CSOs at the Emergency Solidarity Press Conference In Support Of Mal Nasiru Ahmed el-Rufa'i, they said that el-Rufai's shining star cannot be dimmed by such actions of people scared of his growing influence.

"However, we know that stones are only thrown at trees with ripe fruits and one thing you cannot take away from Mallam is his intellectual capacity and sagacity. This he has showcased in Kaduna State today.

"His antecedents as former BPE Chairman, former Minister and the immediate past Governor of Kaduna State speaks volumes.

"Today we put it to the Security Agencies, the Nigerian Senate and the President of the Federal Republic of Nigerian that we hurt and this delay is not pleasant to us.

"In Northern Nigeria today we don't have a mentor we look up to today by Mal el-Rufa'I and know that his nomination and screening wont scale through unchallenged but we can say authoritatively that he would surmount the challenges because nothing good comes easy.



COMMUNITY FOCUS

How We Invest In Farming To Maintain WASH Facilities - Kaduna Community

By: ALEX UANGBAOJE,
Kaduna

Ugwan Saro, a Community in Hunkuyi Ward of Kudan Local Government Area of Kaduna State last Wednesday, revealed how they were able to sustain Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), facilities in their community for four years.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with Kaduna State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA), with funding support from UK's Department for International Development (DFID), now FCDO, under the Sanitation, Hygiene and Water in Nigeria (SHAWN II) programme, provided the community with WASH facilities such as borehole, toilets, hand washing facilities as well as measures to keep their community clean.

The SHAWN II programme was UNICEF's major strategy to help Nigeria attain Open Defecation Free (ODF), status before 2025. On Wednesday, UNICEF Nigeria, Chief of WASH, Dr. Jane Bivan, paid an assessment visit to Kaduna State, where she met with different stakeholders in Igabi and Kudan LGAs.

During an interaction with WASH Committee at Saro community, on how they were able to sustain projects within their area, the committee Secretary, Muawiyah Jafar, disclosed that every year, they invest into farming and use the proceeds to maintain the facilities.

According to him, "since inception we agreed on a levy of N20 weekly per household within the community and N500 monthly for those who are directly connected to the water tank.

"This way, we were able to raise some money and we invested it into farming of rice and maize and every year, we continue to reinvest the profits back to farming and keep some for the maintenance of the facilities."

Muawiyah, added that since the SHAWN II project was introduced to their community a lot of things have changed, as the rate of illnesses has drastically

reduced, thanking UNICEF and other partners for making water available in their community and also supporting them to make their community clean.

The Chief of WASH, at the end of her tour, commended the various communities and stakeholders for their sense of hygiene and how they were able to keep the facilities after a long time.

"Am really impressed with the level of sanitation and hygiene in this LGA. From what I have seen and what I have heard from the commitment of the committees, the Chairman, and the local leaders, the coverage is really high.

"Everybody has toilets, it's fantastic that this LGA is open defecation free, now we really need to keep up the momentum to make sure we maintain this and ensure it doesn't fall back. We can promote the coverage that happened in this LGA to every other LGAs so that we can promote sanitation across the state." She said.

Dr. Bivan, noted that the idea of investing into farming to sustain the WASH projects is fantastic, but however advised them to also use part of their fund to expand water access by connecting more households to the water source.

District Head of Hunkuyi, Haliru Mahmoud, appreciated UNICEF and RUWASSA, for the support they gave that enabled them to be able to educate and sensitive their people on the dangers open defecation and benefits of good hygiene.

During the visit, the Chief of WASH, along with Director General, RUWASSA, met with Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftancy Affairs, Kudan LGA Chairman and his cabinet, District Heads of Hunkuyi, Leader of Kyaudai Community in Sabo Gari Ward, WASHCOMs, Community Volunteers Hygiene Promoters (CVHP), Toilet Business Owners (TBOs), of both Ugwan Saro and Kyaudai communities.

She also visited the In-charges of Mando and Rigachikun, Primary Health Centres as well as held a meeting with WASH stakeholders in the state.



Kaduna Pastors Visit Zaria Mosque Collapse Site, Offer Condolences To Emirate, Muslim Ummah

Zaria yesterday morning to pay his respect at the mosque and offer condolences to the Muslim community.

In a touching gesture of interfaith unity, the Christian cleric, alongside esteemed Islamic scholars, expressed that the purpose of their visit was to convey messages of sympathy to the Emir of Zazzau, Ambassador Nuhu Bammali, and the entire Emirate Council.

Buru expressed shock upon hearing the news of the untimely demise of at least five worshippers and conveyed sincere prayers and condolences to the grieving families who have lost their beloved ones in this tragic incident.

While touring the mosque, Pastor Buru emphasized the importance of rebuilding the mosque to ensure that worshippers

can continue to pray there without interruption.

"We offer our prayers for the souls of those who have departed, beseeching that they find eternal rest. Likewise, we extend our well-wishes for a swift recovery to those who have sustained injuries. Let us remain mindful that we are all part of the same human family, united under the presence of God," he remarked.

He added, "Recognizing that Adam and Eve are our shared forebearers, there exists a profound need to foster stronger bonds of understanding amongst us."

With a sincere heart, he beseeched that the souls of the departed find eternal peace, and that those who are injured may swiftly recover.

"In these challenging times, let us stand united, offering support, and

solace to one another.

"May we all find the strength and serenity bestowed upon us by the divine," he prayed.

Speaking further, he said that the Zaria Central Mosque holds immense historical and spiritual significance, having served as a sacred place of worship for over 150 years.

"We acknowledge the deep-seated attachment and emotional resonance that the Muslim community maintains with this hallowed space, and we share in their sorrow and mourning," he added.

Pastor Yohanna Buru conveyed his gratitude to Ambassador Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, the Emir of Zazzau, for his compassionate leadership in mobilizing his subjects for rescue efforts, extending aid to the

injured, and offering solace to the victims' families.

He fervently appealed to both Muslims and Christians to consistently offer prayers for peace and stability within the nation.

Top Islamic scholars from 19 Northern states of Nigeria visited Zaria, among them is Sheikh Yahaya Jingir from Jos, Sheikh Bala Tijjani Kalarawe from Kano and Sheikh Yusuf Sambo Rigachikun of Kaduna State, visited the mosque and the palace to win Muslims ummah all over the world.

Cheif Imam of Zazzau Emirate, Alhaji Dalhatu Kasimu expressed delight over the visit to the mosque by Pastor Yohanna Buru.

He appreciated the visit and urged Pastor Buru to continue spreading the gospel of peace and harmony. He added that this visit would strengthen good relationship between Christians and Muslims across the country.

Health Workers At Uniuyo Threaten Strike As Robbers Attack Facility

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Nurses and other classes of health workers of the University of Uyo Health Center have threatened to embark on strike following Tuesday night's armed robbery attack at the facility. The protesting health workers said they need adequate security measures in place to ensure safety of both patients and health workers.

Recall that armed robbers on Tuesday night, invaded the institution's health center, recently relocated from UNIUYO main campus to Town Campus along Nwaniba road, Uyo.

Some of the patients who narrated their ordeal to our correspondent, said the hoodlums stormed the post natal ward on Tuesday night and carted away phones and other valuables belonging to both patients and health workers.

"Two of them came into the post natal ward with guns, threatening to shoot if we fail to surrender our valuable items. They took our phones and monies, they also removed some amount of money from the hospital drawers. Three others were outside the health center.

"When the nurses heard their initial threats, they ran into the delivery suites, locked themselves in, and we the new mothers were left bare for the robbers.

"I am however, thankful to God that the idea to steal new babies was not part of their agenda. They took our

handbags, emptied them and later threw them into nearby bushes". One of the patients who just delivered a baby narrated

One of the health workers who pleaded anonymity told our correspondent that UNIUYO security unit was contacted as soon as the hoodlums stormed into the premises of the health center, but response only came after the robbery had long been concluded.

The health worker therefore, appealed to management of the institution to step up modalities to strengthen internal security in the campus, especially around the health center to avoid compounding health cases for patients.

Efforts to reach the Director of Information, University of Uyo, Mr Udoro Ekpo was unsuccessful as he neither picked his calls nor respond to text message.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Odiko Macdon confirmed the robbery incident and suspected a link between a suspect just lynched at UNIUYO gate on Friday afternoon and the hoodlums who invaded the health center

The PPRO who however, condemned jungle justice, pledged the command's resolve to get to the root of the robbery incident

"Someone already has a medical condition and is even at the hospital and you still have the mind to dispose such of his or her valuables.

Wamakko Moves To Fumigate 3 Sokoto LGAs Against Malaria Pandemic

By: IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

In his personal efforts to ensure a healthy and malaria pandemic free environment in Sokoto metropolis, Senator Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko has launched a fumigation exercise in Sokoto North Senatorial District.

This year's exercise which is billed to cover three local government areas of Wamakko, Sokoto North and Sokoto South respectively.

According to a statement by his Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Bashir Abubakar, it is an annual gesture by the former Sokoto State Governor.

The acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Basic Education, Sokoto State, Alhaji Al-Mustapha Abubakar Alkali who represented the lawmaker at the launch, said the gesture by the former governor is to bolster the eradication of the recurring malaria pandemic in the state.

Similarly, Wamakko according to Alkali, described the 2023 exercise as efforts for one big family which he said the past People's Democratic Party (PDP)-led government in the state tried to truncate for egocentric political reasons, while disclosing that the present All Progressives Congress (APC)-led



administration in the state has same undying passion of providing quality healthcare services to the needy and the generality of the people of the Sokoto State.

Wamakko also expressed confidence that, the Ahmed Aliyu-led government will support the programme to ensure a statewide coverage for the benefit of all.

He recalled that the immediate past administration in the state abandoned its responsibility to cater for the dire needs of the citizens in many sectors

of human endeavors.

The lawmaker further called on the benefiting communities to support the programme to ensure its success, while hoping that the fumigation exercise would help reduce the breeding and spread of mosquitoes in the areas designed for coverage.

Speaking, Alhaji Ahmed Baba Altine applauded the efforts of Senator Wamakko towards bringing succour to his constituents, while charging the beneficiaries of the exercise to support the personnel undertaking the

exercise for the desired success.

Also, APC Chairman, Sokoto North Local Government Area, Alhaji Almustapha Tsoho Kwandawa, appreciated Wamakko for sponsoring the exercise which he said will assist towards eradicating the menace of malaria in their domains.

He assured of their support for the exercise towards ensuring its success throughout the period.

Kaduna Governorship: Parties Close Case, Tribunal Adjourns For Final Address

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal on Friday, adjourned till September 4, after all parties closed their cases in the petition marked EPT/KD/Gov/4/23.

In the said petition, the gubernatorial candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Isa Ashiru accused the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) of non-compliance to the Electoral Act and corrupt practices during the last gubernatorial election in the state.

The petitioners had closed their cases after calling no fewer than 21 witnesses and tendered several documents to back their case.

The INEC, being the first respondent also opened and closed its case without calling

any witness.

Governor Uba Sani who is the 2nd respondent, earlier said he had 30 witnesses to defend his victory, but, ended up closing his case on Friday without calling any witnesses.

"We have 30 witnesses and they are ready, but we have no reason to call any," Duro Adeyeye, (SAN), counsel to Gov. Uba Sani told tribunal.

At the resumed hearing on Thursday, the 3rd respondent, the All Progressives Congress (APC) closed its case by tendering six sets of documents without calling any witness.

Meanwhile, Ashiru's lead counsel, Oluwale Iyamu (SAN) opposed to all documents presented by APC to the tribunal.

The Justice Victor Oviwe-led panel adjourned the proceeding for the adoption of final written addresses.

Bloodbath As Bandits Kill Over 100, Sack 59 Villages In 3 Taraba LGAs

By; NICHOLAS DEKERA, Kaduna

No fewer than 100 persons have been massacred in Takum, Ussa LGAs and Yangtu Special Development Area of Taraba State within 12 months by alleged gunmen identified as herders and 59 village settlements sacked by the marauding herders.

Emmanuel Ukwon, President General Kuteb Worldwide, who spoke at the weekend on the wave of attacks on Kuteb Communities of Takum, Ussa and Yangtu and the latest attack on Tuesday claiming three lives, lamented the wanton killing of innocent people and destruction of property worth hundreds of millions of Naira.

According to Ukwon, "killings became pronounced in the past few months as over 100 persons have been killed within 12 months, the latest being the attack of Tuesday where over 3 of our people were butchered to death by these herders.

"The killings began when a suspected herder took his cattle into one of our brother's farm, our brother accosted the herder who in turn drew out his matchet and attacked him. Our brother died as we were taking him to the hospital. Since then, the herders have been attacking from one village to the other. As we speak at least 59 villages have been sacked." Ukwon revealed.

Investigations revealed that the following villages have come under heavy attacks with many villagers losing their lives and property, Tati, Fawan Simta, Bassan, Muji 1, Muji 2, Tukog, Tati, Kumbo, Ucha, Nyido, Rimamnyang Nyido, Kwentam 1 Lagos, Kwentam, Rimamndeyati, Alaha, Kpambo Puri, Ripaenchin, Urerimam, Kpamshibe, Pangtso, Rubur Nyim (Jenuwa Kogi), Rikwenboi (Kwari), Acha Nyim, Sati Tsingnya, Rikwentwen, Rikwenmbakun Fikyu Nyim, Fikyu Ndukwe, Rikwentumum, Kando, Kijwaen, Kongkaen, Sik and Kakum.

Ukwon also stated that villages like Mbiya 1, Mbiya 2, Tamiya, Rikumcwo, Waeshong Rufu, Lumpa, Mbiya, Kabsi, Bura, Jwunyim, Waesi, Shienda (Kpambo yashe) have been sacked.

Others also hit by the wave of ruthless invasion are, Acha Sabka, Mzunki, Jenuwa Rikya, Jenuwa Nyifiye, Jenuwa Ribasi, Jenuwa Ruwa, Rukur, Urerimam, Utobrimam, Titih, Kutika, Fangta, Paenko and Fukrum.

Speaking with one of the villagers who survived the attack in Bura, Takum Local Government Area, who pleaded anonymity, the victim alleged "that the gunmen usually come in the night in their numbers armed with dangerous weapons.

"There is an army barracks here in Takum but it seems they have been overwhelmed. The IDP camps have been displaced. As I speak with you now, there is no IDP camp in Takum, the gunmen have invaded and scattered all of them," he said.

Confirming the situation in Takum and others, the Police Public Relations Officer, Usman Abdullahi maintained that, "there is security challenge in Takum, but the Commissioner of Police is on top of the matter as our men have been

mobilized to the affected areas."

The Taraba PPRO however, insisted that the police was never overwhelmed and that there are "no IDP camps in Takum because most of the affected persons are farmers who left IDP camps for their farms and not that they were attacked by gunmen."

Reports say PPRO Abdullahi had earlier confirmed the number of deaths in Tuesday attack in Kunkwa village of Yangtu Special Development Area as three.

The victims, whose names were given as Rimamskep Atenji, Andekwab Ashasim and ElKannah Akyara, were reportedly killed by the bandits on their way to the farm.

Stakeholders in Takum, Ussa and Yangtu who pleaded anonymity maintained that the Federal Government must redouble efforts via deployment of more troops to arrest the situation and ensure lasting peace.



AbdulRazaq Mourns Ex-Kwara Gov Latinwo

By; BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin.

Kwara State Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq has commiserated with the people of the state, especially Offa community, over the death of a former military administrator of the state, retired Group Captain Salaudeen Adebola Latinwo. Latinwo, one of the pioneering elite officer cadets recruited into the Nigerian Air Force in 1963, was born in Offa. He rose through the ranks, and would later become the military administrator of Kwara State in the Muhammadu Buhari years. In a statement on Saturday, Governor AbdulRazaq called the death a sad occurrence and a big void in the crop of great statesmen whose well of wisdom and experience is invaluable. "On behalf of the AbdulRazaqs, the



Late Latinwo

government and people of Kwara State, the governor sends his heartfelt condolences to the family of the late military administrator, the Offa community, and the military establishment on this development," according to a Government House statement. "The Governor prays to Allaah to repose the soul of the former leader in Aljannah and uphold his family and the community he left behind," the statement said.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya Mourns Veteran Journalist, Mato Adamu

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor and Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, has received with heavy hearts, the news of the passing of a veteran journalist and former BBC Hausa Service correspondent, Alhaji Mato Adamu, who died yesterday in Gombe, aged 60.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli at the weekend, in a message of condolence, Governor Inuwa Yahaya extolled the accomplishments of the late Alhaji Mato, acknowledging his contributions to the realm of journalism, and his role in shaping public discourse through his journalistic endeavours. Beyond his illustrious career with the BBC, Mato also had a stint in Gombe where he served as a media consultant to Governor Inuwa, during which he brought his vast expertise to bear on enhancing the communication strategies of the state government, leaving a lasting impact



Late Mato Adamu

NRM Chieftain Refutes Claims Party Endorsed APC's Ododo, Opens Can Of Worms

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

National Financial Secretary of National Rescue Movement (NRM), Reverend Emmanuel Olorunmagba has reaffirmed the stance that anyone in the party who claims they have endorsed All Progressives Congress (APC's) gubernatorial candidate, Alhaji Usman Ododo, for the Kogi State November 11 governorship election has scammed him big time!

The affirmation came in reaction to a response of Mallam Bala Abdulgafar Dirisu, whom he referred to as "the mere governorship ticket placeholder, who erroneously assumed that he has acquired the status of a Kogi State gubernatorial candidate for National Rescue Movement (NRM)."

Idrisu Bala of National Rescue Movement (NRM) on Saturday July 29, 2023, convened a press conference at Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Secretariat in Lokoja Kogi State with some people he claimed to be from five different political parties, announcing that they have adopted the APC's gubernatorial candidate, Usman Ododo on behalf of their party.

But in a reaction, Reverend Emmanuel Olorunmagba who is NRM chieftain of Kogi State extraction, debunked the claim, asserting that the was not part of any so called endorsement for Ododo, as nether the national nor state executive ever discussed such endorsement.

Then Idrisu Bala responded, titling it, "Reverend Olorunmagba can't Speak For NRM, We Stand By Endorsement Of Ododo." Again, Olorunmagba insists that the so called endorsement remains a scam that there was no time and at any level, did NRM ever discuss the endorsement of Ododo, let alone agreeing to endorse him.

He further said that the response by Bala Idrisu, is not only full of lies and deceitful manipulation, but also laden with concocted name calling in his (Idrisu's) usual manner.

"For he finds it difficult to sustain intelligent discussion that exposes his errors, without retorting to threats and name calling.

"However, I will not descend with him into the mud, but will address the lies and the deceptive manipulations he loaded his response with.

"And this will be the commencement of opening of cans of worm to the so called endorsement, to categorically reassert that it was a big scam."

The NRM chieftain said it is laughable that Bala Idrisu said Rev Emmanuel Olorunmagba cannot speak for NRM as he is not the spokesman of the party. Yet the same Idrisu in the said statement, claimed to be speaking for NRM, warning his fellow member of the National Working Committee of the party.

"He even went to the extent of claiming to have endorsed a candidate from another party on behalf of NRM.



Reverend Olorunmagba

"The pertinent questions begging for answers remain, is Bala Idrisu now the spokesman of NRM? Or did Mr. Sola Afuye who is the substantive National Publicity Secretary of the party mandate him to speak on his behalf? Or is Bala now the National Chairman of the party or BoT chairman to have arrogated such "all-in-all power" to himself? The answer is capital NO!

"Secondly, Mallam Bala Abdulgafar Dirisu was only a mere placeholder to quickly fill the gubernatorial space just to beat the deadline of INEC submission, so that if the party later gets a credible governorship candidate, he will be replaced based on the decision of the National Working Committee of the party through an NMC meeting. But funny enough, he started feeling like authentic governorship candidate of the party and without any kind of meeting with other members of the National Working Committee and without even consulting with the NWC he went to Lokoja to claim to have endorsed APC gubernatorial candidate, Usman Ododo, on behalf of the party.

"Again, I ask, is Bala Idrisu now the all in all of the 47 members of the National Working Committee of the party? We know that the answer is capital NO! It's of note that even Kogi State Executive Committee was not carried along. Our investigations reveal that he only did the backyard business with just two people who erroneously assume they are the "all in all in NRM". Yet he falsely claimed that it was the decision of the party.

Bala Idrisu was said to have, deceptively claimed as follows, "Before the Kogi State chapter of the NRM endorsed, Ododo, all the party members met and the decision was unanimous. Our resolution was forwarded to the national secretariat of our party which finally gave it's blessings."

"The statement above by Idrisu is total falsehood. The fact is, there was no meeting where such was discussed. Even the Kogi State Executive Committee was not carried along. In fact, most of the members of the National

Working Committee as well as state executive only read of it for the first time when the news of the so called endorsement got to social media; apart from the three of them doing the backyard business.

"I put it to Mallam Bala Abdulgafar Dirisu that either at national or state level, he should give the date of the so called meeting he claimed. Present an evidence of the notice of the purported meeting. List the names of those present at the so called meeting (since there must be a quorum for a meeting to hold). Where is the venue of the meeting and who took the minute of the imaginary meeting? According to our constitution, these are the requirements before a meeting can hold.

"The fact remains and I reaffirm that, there was no meeting of NRM where such so called endorsement was discussed let alone agreed upon.

"Thirdly, Idrisu referred to a current and substantive National Financial Secretary of the party NRM as "the estranged National Financial Secretary of the National Rescue Movement (NRM)". Well, if there is anyone in doubt he/she can check the profile of the party national officers directly from INEC website then you will see clearly, boldly and unambiguously that Reverend Emmanuel Olorunmagba is listed as the National Financial Secretary. So I don't need to dwell on this. As it's obvious that he (Bala Idrisu) doesn't even know the meaning of the word, 'estranged' he used, he might have heard it somewhere and decided to borrow the word.

"Fourthly, on the claim of Idrisu that, "Olorunmagba is not residing in Kogi State. He is mostly in Kaduna State and knows nothing about Kogi politics." The question to him (Bala Idrisu) is that, as he Idrisu is also resident in Abuja, does he assume that Abuja is now the capital of Kogi State, or is Abuja where Bala Idrisu is living now part of Kogi State?

"The truth is that Idrisu is an Abuja politician and I am more on ground in Kogi State than he is, as I do travel to Kogi State periodically, more than him and get involved more in Kogi State

politics.

"And to further expose how he has not been on ground in Kogi State, in the last election held on 25 February, 2023. Idrisu contested Senate position for Kogi West compromising seven (7) Local government areas, while I contested for House of Representatives Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu Federal Constituency, comprising two local government areas. The total votes I got in the two local government areas were more than the total votes he got in all of the seven local government areas he contested, put together. The records are there for anyone to verify. Then who is more at home now when it comes to Kogi State politics?"

Rev. Emmanuel added that it's time to start opening the can of worms over the scam played out and tagged endorsement.

"Initially, I didn't want to open the can of worms, but since Bala is pushing and dragging the issue, I will start opening them. For each response to him, I will open one.

"In stage-managing the so called endorsement, Bala Idrisu and his partners in their usual 'arrange' characteristics, had to deceitfully arrange for someone to come to claim to be representing Boot Party, and that he is from Kogi State. And the fact is that the person so arranged, is not even a member of Boot Party and he is not from Kogi State. Funny enough, at the end of the so called endorsement, from the money said to have been given to them for the so called endorsement, the share of the money that supposed to be for Boot Party resulted in serious fight. The person who was used to claim to be representing Boot Party was reported to have insisted that since he took such risk, he should get a loin share of the money for Boot Party. But Idrisu and his partners felt otherwise and wanted to collect all the money for Boot Party and just drop peanuts for the person they used. The fight was said to be so serious, to the extent that Bala Idrisu and his people had to frame them up to DSS to arrest those who felt they should not be used and dumped; as they refused to release the money to Bala and co, due to the argument on the sharing formula. They were said to have been arrested and that they had to bail themselves from DSS net.

"This can be clearly confirmed from the DSS office in Lokoja, Kogi State," he said.

The Kogi born NRM chieftain stressed that he decided to give the above scenario to show Bala Idrisu and two others in NRM, "that we are well furnished with adequate information of the scam called endorsement. And more of this kind will still be exposed in my subsequent response as long as they continue to drag the issue.

"I believe that the National Publicity Secretary of our party, NRM in person of Mr. Sola Afuye who I know will always stand on the side of the truth, will also address this issue as time goes on," he concluded.

Kogi Gov't Appoints Multimedia Journalist As CPS To Assembly Speaker

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Kogi State Government has appointed a multimedia journalist, as the Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker of the state House of Assembly, Rt Honourable Aliyu Umar Yusuf.

A letter signed by the Secretary to the State Government, Mrs Folashade Ayoade Arike (PhD), said the appointment is in view of the dedication and loyalty of the journalist to the administration and his track record as a proven professional.

Yabagi, who is a proven writer, editor, blogger and multimedia guru, hails from Lokoja in Lokoja Local Government Area of Kogi State.

He is awaiting his Masters of Science (MSc) result in Mass Communication from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN).

He graduated in the same discipline from Kogi State University, now Prince Abubakar Audu University, Anyigba.

He also obtained a National Diploma in Mass Communication from Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna.

The speaker's press secretary started his

journalism career immediately after secondary education from the Kogi State Broadcasting Corporation, where he served as a freelance and then an intern.

Upon realising his passion for writing and mass information dissemination, he then ditched his ambition to be become a broadcaster to print following his Industrial Training with The Graphic Newspaper.

Upon completion of his one year training, the management of The Graphic retained him after which he was given the opportunity of furthering his education by gaining admission into the university.

Yabagi is a former The Nation Newspaper correspondent in charge of education, particularly campuses of higher education in Kogi State and covered important events, wrote interesting features and conducted interviews and analysis on issues during his time with the Lagos based National Newspaper.

He was an editor, writer and publisher with the Insidestory, a Kogi based news blog before his appointment into the National Agency, the



Yabagi

Intercountry Centre for Oral Health for Africa (ICOH) as the head of Information and Public Relations Unit, a position he had to relinquish to take up the CPS position.

He was a runner up during the 2015 Nigerian Writers Awards in the Best Writers Category (Campus). He is

the first winner of the Most Consistent News Reporter of the Year Award in the first edition of the Kogi Social Media Awards in 2018 among other laurels.

Yabagi has received several journalism training from reputable organisations and institutions.

He is married with a child.

Group Suggests Nomination Of Rt. Hon Yusuf Bala Ikara For Minister As el-Rufa'i Allegedly Opts Out

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Following reports that Malam Nasir el-Rufai has declined his nomination as Minister of the Federal Republic and jetted out of the country, a group, All Progressives Congress (APC) Grassroots Development Network (AGON) has suggested his replacement with Hon Yusuf Bala Ikara.

This was contained in a statement signed by AGON's Secretary, Musbahu Adamu Gimi, made available to out correspondent yesterday.

"We have to canvass for a viable alternative to Malam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufa'i in case he backs out from the nomination.

"As public oriented group, this association, APC Grassroots Development Network is therefore, rallying support for Hon. Yusuf Bala Ikara, a two-time member, House of Representatives," the group said.

According to them, "As it were, the position of a minister must reflect either political antecedent/technocratic antecedent, public responsiveness of the minister, community initiative, loyalty to the existing government and creation of opportunities through positive engagement with national and international communities."

They argued that this pedigree, when properly harnessed in one person, will inadvertently reflect

on the entire administrative policies and trajectory of the President.

"Expectedly, Rt. Hon. Yusuf Bala Ikara has been on the podium of political permutation of the post independent democracy, where he has served at various levels of responsibilities.

"Wherever he served, he always left the places better than he met them. His love and passion for the progress of Nigeria and its people is unquantifiable as he deploys every bit of resources towards human development and various emancipation programmes for youth and the grassroots.

Imperatively, it is expedient to chip in here that when others that were given opportunity ended up being at each other's throats with their executive governors who facilitated their nomination, with Yusuf Bala Ikara as a minister from Kaduna State, it will be a plus to the Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Malam Uba Sani as he is exceptionally loyal and imbued with uncommon sense of patience and forbearance, two attributes that are important for successful leadership positions.

"We therefore, wish to state here categorically that there is no substitute to Malam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufa'i, but when the tides of change blow differently, we must take a stand and that stand undoubtedly points to Rt. Hon. Yusuf Bala Ikara," they declared.

Mosque Collapse: Hon. Hussaini Abdulkarim (Mai Kero) Condoles Kaduna Govt, Speaker Tajudeen, Zazzau Emirate

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Hon. Member Representing Kaduna South Federal Constituency, Hon. Abdulkarim Ahmed (Mai Kero) has extended condolences to the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Distinguished Senator Uba Sani, the Emir of Zazzau, Ambassador Ahmad Nuhu Bamali, the Iyan Zazzau and Speaker of the 10th House of Representatives, Dr Tajudeen Abbas, as well as the entire people of Zazzau Emirate over the tragedy that befell some worshipers inside the Zaria Central Mosque on Friday.

This was contained in a statement signed by his media Aide, Sharifudeen

Ibrahim Muhammad, made available at the weekend.

Hon. Hussaini Mai Kero, in a statement by his Media Aide, Sharifudeen Ibrahim Muhammad (Dan Jarida) on Saturday, described the tragedy which led to the demise of eight and left many others with severe injuries, as sad, pathetic and a great loss to the Zazzau Emirate, Kaduna State and Nigeria in general.

He said the unfortunate event has created a vacuum that no one can fill, especially to the families of the victims.

Representative Hussaini Kero, prayed that Allah forgives their shortcomings, accepts

them as martyrs and grants them Aljannatul Firdaus.

He asked Allah to grant the families of the deceased, Kaduna State Government and the Zazzau Emirate, the fortitude to bear the irreplaceable loss.



Gov Sani and el-Rufai

Oriade Council Boss Gifts 200 Indigent students Free GCE Forms

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The joy of 200 indigent students of Oriade Local Council Development Area (LCDA) in Lagos knows no bounds, as they were gifted free forms and scratch cards for the 2023 General Certificate of Education (GCE) to enable them sit for the examination.

A statement by the Head, Public Affairs Unit of the Council, Chief Rabi Hassan, said that the forms were distributed to them by the Chairman of the LCDA, Hon Ramotalai Akinlola-Hassan on Thursday, 10th August, 2023 at the council secretariat.

Addressing the beneficiaries who are mainly youths, selected from the seven wards of the council, Hon Akinlola-Hassan, who was represented at the occasion, by the secretary to the local government, Alhaji Rasak Olojede urged them to take advantage of the opportunity given them by the council and ensure they excel in the examination.

She said " We have used tax payers' money to get the GCE forms for you free, because we want you to succeed in life and be useful to yourself, family and the society at large".

She continued, " It is a thing of joy to inform you that, our administration has made the distribution of free GCE and JAMB forms to indigent students an annual exercise, since 2017, when we began our first tenure in office, and to the glory of God many of our beneficiaries have achieved academic success in their life."

Hon Akinlola-Hassan stated further that, the distribution of the free GCE forms is a fulfillment of one of her electoral promises to the people of Oriade LCDA, adding that she started giving out free GCE and JAMB forms to indigent students during her time as a member of Lagos State House Of Assembly, representing Amowo-Odofin Constituency 11.

She appealed to the beneficiaries to justify the huge amount of public fund expended to procure the GCE forms, by ensuring that they prepare very well for the examination and refrain from any form of malpractices.

Earlier in her remarks, the Head Of Education and Library Services Department in the council, Mrs Lasisi Afolake commended the council chairman for prioritizing the educational development of youths in Oriade LCDA.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, the duo of Suliat Kehinde and Jimoh Toheeb expressed their appreciation to Hon Akinlola-Hassan and assured her that they will work assiduously to come out in flying colours during the examination.

Some of the principal officials of the council who attended the event, are the council manager, Builder Akitoye Semiu Babatunde, the council treasurer, Olugbuyi Babatunde, supervisor for education, Tunde Balogun. Others are, the Human Resources Officer, Mrs Simire Bolanle and other management staff.

Gombe Governor Approves Appointment Of District, Village Heads

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya CON has approved the appointments of District Heads and Village Heads for 5 emirate and traditional councils.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available at the weekend, this is in exercise of the powers vested in the governor under the creation of Emirates, Districts, Villages and Wards as well as appointment and deposition of Emirs and Chiefs Law.

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi who conveyed the Governor's approval, announced the following as district heads under Gona Emirate: Nasiru Saidu Ahmed (Garko), Usman Idrisa Aliyu (Lafiya Mango), Mohammed Abubakar (Kalshingi), Bello Hassan (Lawanti), Dahiru Abdulkadir Abdussalam (Amada) and Abubakar Muhammad (Shongo).

Those appointed as village heads under Gona Emirate are: Lawan Sintali



Gov Yahaya

Tukulma (Garin Modibbo), Bashar Maikudi Manu (Tumfure North), Magaji Adamu (Njomari), Ibrahim Gurama Mohammed (Yankari), Dauda Tafida Bomala (Bomala), Abba Haruna (Tumfure South) and Abdullahi Lamido Umar (Lawanti). Others are: Abubakar Daudu Muhammad (Dagarawo), Abubakar Muhammad Idrisa (Shongo-Idrisa), Hamisu Abubakar (Kalshingi), Adamu Mohammed (Wuro Tanna) and Aliyu Saidu (Gona).

For Pindiga Emirate, the Governor approved the appointment of Barr. Mohammed Magaji Ibrahim as district head of Tai and Abubakar Sarki Ahmed as district head of Kashere South with the following as village heads: Nelson Ishaku Mamuda (Dongol-Alewa), Muhammad Baba Kembu (Jabba), Abubakar Musa Mai-jari (Lambo-Daji), Ismaila Mohammed (Tamfifi), Warrajo Alhaji Liman (Warra), Umaru Muhammadu (Badara), Muhammadu Jungudo (

Hammaseyo), Samaila Uba (Maiganga) and Sanusi Matawalle (Garin Alkali).

For Dukku Emirate, Mohammed Haruna is appointed district head of Lafiya, while Umaru Mohammed Lamido is the new district head of Bodor in Funakaye Emirate. Similarly, Sulaiman Hamza is appointed district head of Awak in Kaltungo Chiefdom.

According to the statement by the SSG, all the appointments are with immediate effect.



One of the Beneficiaries being presented her form.

Gov Bello Assures New APC Members Of Fairness

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The zonal chairmen of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in the three senatorial districts of Kogi State, on Thursday, officially dumped the party for the All Progressives Congress (APC), along with all the party's chairmen in the 21 local government areas of the state.

The SDP top executives, who made their decision to join the ruling party public at the Government House in Lokoja, said they weighed their options and chose the continuous development of the state and wellbeing of indigenes above other considerations.

SDP's Zonal Chairman for Kogi East, Suleiman Isah, criticised what he described as SDP's campaign, based on ethnicity, saying it was detrimental to the state's

socio-cultural wellbeing, and could undermine the peace enjoyed in the past few years.

"We are happy that this is happening today. Even while we were in the opposition, we were aware that you did a lot for the state. The infrastructure projects are what anyone cannot deny, Your Excellency. We have all decided to join the APC to support the efforts at further developing the state. And we will give all the necessary support to ensure victory for the APC candidate in the governorship election," Isah said.

He acknowledged Governor Yahaya Bello's commendable accomplishments in health, education, road infrastructure, and agriculture, among others, over the past seven years. The zonal chairman, who can now be referred to as a former SDP chieftain,

assured the governor of the commitment of all the SDP chairmen to the Kogi Agenda through the APC candidate, Ododo Ahmed Usman.

Acting Chairman of SDP for Kogi Central Senatorial District, Zubairu Ibrahim, also commended the governor for infrastructure development in the state and specifically acknowledged his significant efforts at ensuring security of lives and property.

He said the people of Kogi State now enjoyed improved security and peace compared to what obtained in the past, stressing that well meaning Kogites would not sacrifice that on the altar of politics.

Governor Yahaya Bello, while receiving the defectors, commended what he called their courageous step, as well as their willingness to

contribute to the advancement of the state.

He reiterated his strong commitment to maintaining an inclusive government that extends equal opportunities to both longstanding and new members of the APC.

Governor Bello stressed that the timing of their movement from SDP to APC was significant, given his administration's noteworthy achievements in Kogi State, which had earned the APC widespread support.

Governor Bello emphasised the crucial significance of fostering unity among the diverse ethnic communities within the state.

He underscored the importance of collaborative, issue-based campaigns and noted that success in any election would depend on broad support.

He urged the people to reject divisive tactics in the interest of all.

KADIFF Set To Honour Six Nigeria's Film Industry Practitioners



Ali Nuhu



Gloria Anozie Young

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The founder of Kaduna International Film Festival (KADIFF), Israel Kashim Audu on behalf of the festival lifetime achievement award nomination team, has announced that six film practitioners who have made a mark for themselves over the years in the Nigerian film industry popularly known as "Nollywood", have been penciled down for awards. A statement signed by his Personal Assistant, Ambrose Fadoyin, made available to our correspondent at the weekend, said that those who will be honoured, are, Ali Nuhu,

Dr. Ahmed Sarari (National President

MOPPAN), Francis Duru, Mustapha Nabaska and Gloria Anozie Young.

The statement informed that Fatima Washa will be receiving a special recognition award from the film festival.

While congratulating them the founder of KADIFF Audu Kashim Israel urged them to continue to do more in promoting and projecting Nigeria's rich culture to the world, adding that they were carefully selected because of their growth and contributions to the film industry over the years and no doubt, KADIFF is proud of their success stories.

The 6th Kaduna international film festival will be held from August 22 to 26, 2023 at Alliance Française de Kaduna State, Nigeria from 9:00am daily.



Yahaya Bello Approves Aides For Kogi Assembly Speaker

By: AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello has approved the appointment of aides to the Speaker of Kogi State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon Aliyu Umar Yusuf.

It was made known in a statement signed by Yabagi Mohammed, Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker, Kogi State House of Assembly, Lokoja.

"Those whose appointments have been approved have also begun to receive their Letters of Appointment. "To this end, Hon Isah Umar Lawal is the Chief of Staff to the speaker, with Hon Jiya Aliyu Abdulkadir to serve as the Special Adviser on legislative matters while Hon Salisu Datti is the Chief Protocol Officer," it stated.

Also appointed according to the

statement, are Hon Mohammed Isiaku Mohammed, Hon Abdullahi Usman, Hon Usman Aliyu, Hon Yusuf Obareku Abubakar, Hon Sunday Ocheni and Hon Omoine Ohunene Mahjeedat who are all Senior Special Assistants to the speaker.

It went further to state that, Hon Abubakar Badaru Muhammed is the new Personal Assistant.

Interfaith Solidarity: Pastor Buru Rallies Muslims, Christians In Joint Prayers For Peace In African Nations

***Urges ECOWAS to adopt diplomacy, dialogue to address coup d'etat challenges**

By: USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

Pastor Yohanna Buru, the General Overseer of Christ Evangelical and Life Intervention Ministry in Kaduna, has rallied his friends, including Christian and Muslim scholars from across West Africa, to embark on a collective journey of ceaseless prayers and fasting which according to him, the goal is to urgently seek peace and stability across all African countries.

Pastor Yohanna on Thursday, made the call during a conversation with journalists in Kaduna.

He urged religious leaders from across Africa, both at home and in the diaspora, to join in continuous prayer and fasting, seeking divine intervention for unity and peace across the black nations worldwide. He emphasized the significance of prayer in our lives, stating that, "it enables us to receive God's peace that transcends our understanding, in life's most challenging moments, as well as in times of joy, prayer helps me remain aligned with what matters most to God."

Pastor Yohanna firmly stated that what the 54 African nations require in this critical period is heartfelt prayers and devoted fasting, rather than resorting to military coups or actions.

He expressed belief that by entrusting all the issues disrupting peace and stability in the region to

the Almighty, genuine solutions can be obtained.

He lamented that many of the black nations are grappling with setbacks in various aspects of human development, despite their abundant natural and human resources.

Buru noted that through the power of prayer and fasting, the challenges related to diseases, insecurity, and economic regression that affect all ECOWAS member countries can be harmoniously resolved.

Highlighting Nigeria's significant role, Pastor Yohanna mentioned that one out of every five Africans is a Nigerian.

"With a population of 218 million, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with its citizens dispersed around the world," he pointed out.

He reiterated that majority of African nations are currently grappling with high living costs and economic challenges.

"Moreover, some countries are battling the detrimental effects of terrorism, banditry, and kidnapping, which have hindered their progress," he added.

Pastor Buru underscored the merit of democratic governance as the best system that upholds freedom for humanity.

He explained, "Prayer is a profound means through which religious believers can establish a connection with God. By laying their troubles



before Him, seeking forgiveness and aid, they draw nearer to the Divine. Christians believe in the potency of prayer as a direct channel of communication with God, and this teaching was bestowed upon them by Jesus Himself."

He called on all nations of African

descent, scattered throughout the world, to embrace the potency of prayer and fasting as a pathway to resolving diverse conflicts.

Additionally, he urged ECOWAS to adopt diplomacy and dialogue to address challenges stemming from coup d'etat across African countries.

He ended by calling on all imams

and pastor's in Nigeria and Niger Republic to embark on ceaseless prayers, while appealing to ECOWAS to use diplomacy, wisdom, dialogue and negotiate with all stake holders toward restoring peace and stability in the region.

Peace, Unity: Coalition Asks ANA To Organize Nat'l Day For Forgiveness, Reconciliation

***Says despite insecurity threats there is still hope for Nigeria**

By: TOM GARBA, Yola

During a two-day Round Table Dialogue to Explore Path to Peaceful Coexistence in Northern Nigeria, Arewa New Agenda (ANA) has been tasked to organize a national day for forgiveness and reconciliation.

The call was made by representatives from diverse ethnic councils, including the Yoruba Community Council, South-South Peoples Forum, Fulbe United for Peace and Development, and Igbo Delegate Assembly, where they engaged in candid discussions during the session.

The round table, chaired by Senator Ahmed Abubakar MoAllahyidi, ANA Convener, was graced by notable figures, including National Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Basiru Ajibola, represented by Senator Yunus Akintunde and extensively discussed on, "Tranquility Through Ethno-Religious Tolerance & Peaceful Coexistence".

The event which was aimed at fostering unity and understanding among the various ethnic groups in the region.

Participants said that continuous

dialogue, advocacy, and sensitization efforts will help to address communal conflicts.

Aims include, "Encouraging State Governments to create secure environments for all ethnic groups residing in northern Nigeria and proposing a National Day of Forgiveness and Reconciliation, in collaboration with government and community leaders.

"Promoting inclusivity in state governments to reflect the contributions of ethnic communities, establishing inter-faith commissions at the state level to manage ethnic and religious matters and reorienting the national orientation agency to actively promote messages of peace in schools.

"Exploring the establishment of a national livestock commission to manage livestock issues and its value chain and urging ethno-religious leaders to educate their followers about respecting cultures and religions." participants said.

They shared concerns, while reminiscing a time when peaceful coexistence was the

hallmark of Northern Nigeria, questing for tranquility through ethno-religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

Peace and unity was the center stage during the two-day round table dialogue held at the International Conference Center in Abuja, which was organized by ANA and brought together prominent leaders from diverse ethnic communities across Northern Nigeria to address the pressing issue of escalating violence and unrest.



Senator MoAllahyidi

They expressed worries how Northern Nigeria has been plagued by relentless violent attacks, primarily attributed to extremist sects such as Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) and Boko Haram.

According to them, the attacks have cast shadows over the region, leaving communities grappling with fear and uncertainty.

It is one of reasons that ANA take a bold effort to address the growing menace and initiated the round table dialogue, seeking input from key stakeholders within the northern Nigerian communities.

The participants are however, hopeful that the region can reclaim its past glory of harmony and unity.

The session yielded a series of resolutions aimed at forging a brighter future for the northern Nigerian states and the entire nation. Some of the key resolutions included:

"The collective acknowledgment of the opportunity to rebuild the

social fabric of unity and brotherhood in Nigeria. And Recognition and appreciation for the efforts of the Arewa New Agenda in promoting dialogue among diverse communities.

"Acknowledgment and appreciation for the work of ethnic community leaders and individuals in fostering tolerance and coexistence. And Identification of factors obstructing peaceful coexistence, such as lack of cultural respect, absence of inclusive governance, and inadequate understanding of cultural values."

The round table concluded with a collective call for the restoration of history education in schools and a renewed commitment to fostering unity and peace across the nation.

Signatories at the event included, Senator Ahmad Abubakar MoAllahyidi, Mr. Mike Iyangudo, Chief Chikezie Nwogu, Mr. Abdulrazaq Mustapha, and Ardo Aliyu Liman Bobboi.

As Northern Nigeria navigates its path towards a more harmonious future, the outcomes of this significant round table dialogue holds the promise of renewed hope and progress for the region and the nation as a whole.

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Nigeria And Presidential Democracy: Any Better Alternative? (1)

By: HASSAN GIMBA

First published on September 23, 2019, and repeated on August 22, 2022.

Since man became aware of himself and realised that whether by mutual arrangement or contrived by nature, there are always leaders and followers, communities fashioned out ways and means in which to live together under organised systems to regulate and conduct their affairs.

From primitive father figure leadership to the animalistic instinct of the strongest leading the flock, man has experimented with many ways in which to live in harmony with one another and with the larger community.

Since then, nations have tinkered with various forms, some of which developed into an absolute monarchy (absolutism), limited monarchy (constitutional monarchy), direct democracy and representative democracy. Others are dictatorship, oligarchy, totalitarianism and theocracy.

The presidential system of governance, on which we based our 1979 constitution, and first practised in governance that year, is modelled after the American system.

The presidential system is based on a tripod – the executive, legislature and judiciary, with the head of government, called the president, leading the executive branch. It is both a democratic and republican system of government with fixed tenures for elected officials.

The presidential system of government is seen as democratic because the electorate directly elected the president and is, therefore, directly answerable to the people. There is also effective control by the president and also quick decision-making and execution of government policies.

Another advantage is the stability it offers because of the fixed term of office and where to locate responsibility for any acts of commission and omission.

While we can say it has such advantages, the presidential system tends to degenerate into a winner-takes-all 'dictatorship' with individual liberties taken away, citizens' rights trampled upon and views of political opponents suppressed.

Other disadvantages include the very difficult processes for change of government before the expiry of tenure, even if the president's policies are not favourable to the people as well as the thin line between national and partisan issues.

There may also be a strained relationship between the executive and legislature, where the president may refuse to assent to bills from the legislature while the legislature, generally multi-party in composition, may not cooperate with the president in some of his policies. Then, there is the possibility of distraction and loss of focus by the executive, who may be consumed with the ambition of winning the next election.

Another type Nigeria has tried is the parliamentary system of government. Parliamentary democracy is the system in which the executive derives its democratic legitimacy from the

confidence the legislature has in it, typically a parliament, and is also held accountable to that parliament. In a parliamentary system, the head of state is usually a person distinct from the head of government. This is in contrast to a presidential system, where the head of state often is also the head of government and, most importantly, the executive does not derive its democratic legitimacy from the legislature. The head of government here is elected to power through the legislature. One of the disadvantages of this system is that the government can be unstable. The prime minister is elected by the majority party and can be removed at any time if the majority party loses confidence in that person as a leader.

Another form is the semi-presidential or dual executive system of government in which a president exists alongside a prime minister and a cabinet, with the latter being responsible for the legislature of a state.

The Economist Intelligence Unit, though, does not see Nigeria as practising any of the above. In its Democracy Index of 2016, it rated Nigeria's as a "hybrid regime".

In its definition, a hybrid regime is a mixed type of political regime that manifests based on an incomplete democratic transition. Hybrid regimes combine autocratic features with democratic ones; they can simultaneously hold political repressions and regular elections. The term "hybrid regime" arises from a polymorphic view of political regimes that oppose the dichotomy of autocracy or democracy. Hybrid regimes are characteristic of resource countries (petro-states). Such regimes can be stable and tenacious.

Furthermore, hybrid regimes pay attention mainly to the decorative nature of democratic institutions (elections do not lead to a change of power, different media broadcast government point of view, the "opposition" in parliament votes the same way as the ruling party, etc.), from which it is concluded that authoritarianism is the basis of hybrid regimes, however, hybrid regimes also imitate dictatorship, while having a relatively lower level of violence.

We also have direct democracy or pure democracy, which is a form of democracy in which people decide on policy initiatives directly. This differs from the majority of currently established democracies, which are representative.

Switzerland is the closest state in the world having a direct democracy where citizens may challenge any law voted by the federal assembly. Switzerland's Executive, Judicial and Legislative institutions are organised on federal, cantonal and communal levels. Switzerland, unlike many other European states, does not have a president or a prime minister, and the country's citizens are at the pinnacle of power.

Its legislature is made up of the National Council and the Council of States. The Council of States consists of 46 members who represent the cantons. After every four years, the citizens of Switzerland



Hassan Gimba

Monday Column

vote for 200 members to constitute the National Council.

The two chambers of parliament undertake legislative duties and their sessions in parliament are open for citizens to attend. Any citizen can challenge any law or amendments proposed by the federal assembly.

Six members constitute the Executive branch – the Federal Council of Switzerland. They engage in what we can term a collective presidency and are elected by parliament. Each of these members leads a federal department (ministry). The country's seven departments are Finance and Economy, Education, Internal Affairs, Defence and Sports, Energy, Traffic and Environment, and Justice.

The question here is whether the forms of government it has had have served Nigeria well. We have experimented with the parliamentary system. Though the army scuttled it midterm, even then Nigeria was already in deep trouble and wobbling as a nation.

We then went through the journey of nationhood under the military jackboots and yet again returned to representative democracy that was also scuttled and we found ourselves back in the stranglehold of the military.

Our current democratic journey is the longest in our nation's history. From the short-lived Abbey Westminster form

bequeathed to us by our colonial masters to another short-lived presidential system in the Second Republic, adopted because America was the bastion of democracy, we have come thus far and we have the belief it would last.

However, cries of marginalisation rend the air. Placing partisan interests above national interests is the order of the day; divisions along ethnic and religious lines have set in and the struggle for power and its retention have taken a "do or die" dimension, affecting the neutrality of the judiciary, the last hope of the common man.

By the day, the gulf in communication between the average Nigerian and his representative in government widens so much it seems they live in two separate worlds with nothing in common, perhaps except religion and tribe or party and town.

Can we continue this way? Is it the fault of the system? Should we scout for a better system? Should we look inwards? Will a system in tandem with our inner being be the answer to our multifaceted and ever-growing problems as a nation? Perhaps we have been imposing on ourselves systems that are alien to us, to our culture, to our souls. We shall be examining this issue ahead, God willing.

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

US City Partners ICCIA To Strengthen Business Ties

By ; A Y O
OJEDOKUN Lagos

Nigeria may be in for interesting times as a delegation from the City of Miramar, Florida, USA stormed Lagos, to strengthen talks with the Ikeja Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA).

As partners in progress, the ICCIA under the leadership of Dr. Edward Olutoke, is working hand in gloves with Miramar City delegates on how to facilitate trade with Lagos State and Nigeria by extension.

Speaking during the roundtable, Alexandra Davis, Vice Mayor of the City of Miramar said the city is the 13th largest in Florida and its open to businesses.

"The city offers a wide range of new business incentives with strong working relationships towards ensuring that businesses are equipped with the right resources and tools.

"Such partnership is geared towards helping small businesses grow in leaps and bounds beyond the shores of Nigeria if they tap into this opportunity.

"We are optimistic and readily available to assist you in opening your business swiftly and



efficiently," Davis added.

The event urged business investors seeking international recognition to key into this opportunity as potential partners will witness business boom through Miramar's major facilities such as seaports, airports, educational institutions and culturally diverse population just to mention a few.

Mary Estime Irvin, Vice Mayor,

City of North Miami disclosed that job opportunities abound as investment will get value for their funds in the city.

Meanwhile, the President of Ikeja Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Dr. Edward Olutoke, who described the visit as timely said the event was aimed at fostering smooth partnership between the city of Miramar,

Lagos State and Nigeria by extension.

The partnership will also provide networking opportunities for both new and old business to thrive upon in the nearest future. Ambassador Olutoke further reiterated the commitment of ICCIA towards solving some of the challenges confronting Nigerians using Agriculture, Entertainment and Tourism as

means to liberate the citizenry financially.

"In as much as travelling is key for humanity, we'll like to work with you so that Nigerians can gradually grow their businesses, especially the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Mrs. Blessing Irabor, President, Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT), lauded the initiative.

"We can categorically tell you that Nigerian women are highly industrious and creative, which accounts for why they will be looking forward to working with City of Miramar Officials, so that we can take trade facilitation to the next level.

Renowned Professor of Economics Ibrahim Bakare and Prof. Tunji Azeez, Dean, School of Tourism, Lagos State University (LASU), also commended the Initiative, while giving

assurances that Lagos State University will not be left behind in the scheme of things.

The event was spiced with exchange of gifts by the delegation and ICCIA, while Dr. Rafiu Oladipo, President General, Nigeria football supporters club highlighted how sports will be used as a tool to strengthen the partnership.

Police Apprehends Self Kidnapper, Suspected Robbers, Cultists, Recovers Firearms Cartridges In Delta

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A middle-aged man who faked his own kidnapped for ransom and believed to have kidnapped his brother and wife, has been arrested by police operatives in Delta State.

He was reportedly apprehended at the spot where the sum of N1.3 million was earlier paid as ransom for the release of his elder brother and wife who died in the custody of kidnappers.

Our correspondent gathered that the suspect, identified as Eseoghene Ezekiel Obeje was arrested by police operatives attached to Oropoke Division, led by the DPO, CSP Paul E. Oboware at Odovie community Ughelli North LGA.

Prior to his arrest, Ezekiel, 28, was said to have called his elder brother, having been released after the payment of the ransom that he (Ezekiel) has been kidnapped and a ransom of N500,000 is being demanded, which was paid into his account.

The Delta State Police Spokesperson DSP Bright Edefe who made the disclosure in a

release on Sunday, said the arrest of the suspect was based on a marching orders by the Commissioner of Police CP Wale Abass to the DPO.

It reads, "The Command has been investigating the murder of one Regina Ogana 'f' who was kidnapped alongside her husband and other members of her family on 02/08/2023.

"The Command received another distress call from the husband of the deceased that one of his brothers Eseoghene Ezekiel Obeje 'm' aged 28 made a suspicious call to him that he was kidnapped and that the kidnappers were demanding a ransom of Five Hundred Thousand Naira only (#500,000) and Money was transferred into the said Eseoghene's account as his ransom.

"The Commissioner of Police CP Wale Abass gave a marching order to the DPO Oropoke Division to embark on an intelligence-led investigation and ensure that the perpetrators are arrested.

"Consequently, on 11/08/2023, at about

1145hrs acting on technically generated information, operatives of the Divisional Anti-Crime Patrol team led by the DPO CSP Paul E. Oboware stormed Odovie community Ughelli North LGA and arrested the said Eseoghene Ezekiel Obeje at the same spot where the sum of One Million Three Hundred Thousand Naira (#1,300,000.00) was earlier paid as ransom for the release of his elder brother and husband of the deceased.

"Investigation revealed that the said Eseoghene is a member of Eie confraternity, he faked his own kidnapped and is also suspected to have masterminded the kidnap of his brother and other family members which led to the death of Regina Ogana. The suspect is in custody and investigation is ongoing".

In a related development, Edefe said "On 10/08/2023 at about 2130hrs, operatives of Rapid Response Squad (RRS) acting on a complaint received via petition, stormed Issele-Azagba community Aniocha North LGA, where one Igwe Uche 'm' aged

29yrs, Victor Agogozia 'm' aged 30 yrs, Afam Okoro Victor 'm' aged 30yrs, all residents of Issele-Azagba were arrested and upon search of the suspects, one locally made cut-to-size pistol, one single barrel gun, one live cartridge were recovered. Suspects and exhibits are in custody and effort is being intensified to arrest other members of their gang.

"In Another development, on 13/8/2023 at about 2130hrs acting on credible intelligence received about some hoodlums who were on their way to attack unsuspecting person(s) along Umusadege quarters, the DPO Kwale Division CSP Edwin Igoche in a proactive manner, swiftly mobilized crack team of the division to mid-western road and in the process, two suspects namely Ugo Uzoka 'm' of Umusadege qtrs aged 31yrs and Ebinum Snu 'm' aged 33yrs were arrested during which one cut-to-size gun and six cartridges were recovered from them. Suspects are in custody and Investigation is ongoing".

Fish Out Those Trying To Destroy Political Fortunes Of Our Leader, el-Rufai Group Tasks Security Agencies

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Worried by the delayed clearance for immediate past governor of Kaduna State, Malam Nasir el-Rufai, a group, el-Rufai Legacy Promoters has tasked security agencies to do the needful by identifying those behind the scenes trying to rubbish his hard earned political fortunes.

The group expressed this in Kaduna on Friday, at a press briefing.

"We are calling on security agencies to double their efforts in identifying individuals or groups who want to by all means, destroy the political integrity of our leader," the group said.

Reading the text of the briefing, Convener, Comrade Nuhu Sani Nuhu Sani said that they remain hopeful in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's capacity to deliver, however, he must not allow people who do not wish Nigeria well to sabotage his efforts, suggesting that el-Rufai is one of those that can contribute immensely to the administration. "Mr. President Sir, we are confident in your capacity and ability to deliver on your campaign promises of making Nigeria great through your laudable initiative of Renewed



Hope, as such, you must not tolerate any evil agenda by some few who want to sabotage your giant steps in building a new Nigeria.

"Mal. Nasiru is an intellectual of kind, a developer, master of renovation and Innovation one in a million, a great leader worthy of emulation, whose initiatives are spectacular. Your enemies will not end well and their evil aim will never be," they said.

The group at the press conference in solidarity of Nasir el-Rufai

whom they described as their leader, hailed Tinubu for nominating him as a minister.

"On behalf of the good, hardworking and politically oriented people of Kaduna State, we are fully in support of Mal. Nasiru el-Rufai's Nomination by Mr. President and we want to appreciate him for that noble opportunity.

"We will continue to support individuals who have demonstrated high level of professionalism, political

capacity and excellent track records of wonderful performance and achievements.

"el-Rufai did not only transform Kaduna into what it is today, he has revived the iconic and developmental lost glory of the North and as such, no amount of intimidation, sabotage and blackmailing will stop his prudent legacies of good governance to prevail.

"He is bridge builder whose efforts in unifying Nigeria is second to none," they pointed

out.

They vowed that they will not in any given circumstances, tolerate any form of political blackmailing and irrational propaganda capable of promoting disharmony within the society.

"Kaduna as a cosmopolitan city is lucky to have the likes of el-Rufai and we will continue to celebrate him by acknowledging his efforts in laying a solid political foundation guided with mentorship," they vowed.

NNPP Extends Ogun Caretaker Chairman's Tenure By 3 Months

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The National Leadership of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), has extended the tenure of the Ogun State Caretaker Chairman of the party, Hon. Prince Ibrahim Adekunle by three months with effect from July 27, 2023.

According to a letter with Reference No NNPP/HQRTS/ADM/3/4 dated July 27, 2023 addressed to Adekunle and signed by the Acting National Chairman, Abba Kawu Alli and the National Secretary, Dipo Olayoku, the extension is with immediate effect

The letter made available to journalists on Thursday, said " it is delighted to convey the decision of the National Working Committee (NWC) of the party to extend his tenure as the Chairman Caretaker Committee for NNPP in Ogun State by another three months.



Caretaker Chairman

"Your new appointment takes effect from July 28, 2023. You are expected to use this period to continue to work towards putting the party on a strong footing in the State Accept our hearty

congratulations", it said. NNPP in another letter dated Friday, August 2, 2023 informed the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC) about the development.



electoral umpire that the National Working Committee (NWC) of NNPP at its meeting on July, 2023 approved the extension of the appointment of Hon. Prince Ibrahim Adekunle as the Chairman, Caretaker Committee of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in Ogun State for three months with effect from July 28, 2023.

NNPP maintained that the decision to appoint Adekunle as the Ogun State Caretaker Chairman followed the expulsion of the former Chairman, Comrade Sunday Olaposi Oginni for anti-Party activities and the dissolution of the State Executives under him.

The party then tasked INEC to accord Adekunle the due recognition and assistance he deserved.

The party in the letter addressed to the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) titled "Letter of Introduction", the party informed the country's

Of What Value Is Sanusi's visit And Meeting With The Leader Of The Junta?

By: UMARARDO, Ph.D

I write to advise that President Bola Tinubu streamlines his policy thrust and direction on the Niger Republic imbroglio to achieve the desired outcome as quickly and as cheaply as possible. As made abundantly clear, the policy objective of ECOWAS is the restoration of constitutional government in Niger; but the means of attaining this objective is being muddled up by flurry of unwarranted activities and persons.

ECOWAS gave an ultimatum which came along with punitive measures of economic sanctions, closure of borders, imposition of no-fly-zone and cutting off of power supply against Niger. But the response coming in from Niamey indicates neither the ultimatum nor the punitive measures shook the resolve of the junta in retaining power.

The regime seems undeterred! With such a resolve from Niamey, Abuja obviously has boxed itself in a corner as it became obvious that the punitive measures and threats of military action will not work. Hence the president then took the right approach that guarantees success - i.e. diplomatic dialogue!

He formulated a high and more sophisticated practical political/diplomatic approach to the issue, using the common historical denominator binding the communities of the Sahel for centuries as a means to achieving peaceful resolution of the crises. He rightly employed the services of respected leaders, former Head of State Gen. Ābubakar AbdulSalaam and the revered traditional ruler, the Sultan of Sokoto, to undertake and implement the necessary diplomatic errand and mediation with the junta in Niger.

This highly placed envoy went and initiated discussions with the junta with great success. It returned and briefed the president on the next move forward.

Then all of a sudden, out of the blues, we saw pictures of the 14th Emir of Kano, Mohammad Sanusi II, along with the Emir of Damagaram in Niger Republic, surfacing with the head of the Nigerien junta.

So what is the meaning of Sanusi's visit and meeting with the leader of the junta? By his own admission, he went there not on behalf of the president and government of Nigeria or on behalf of ECOWAS because already the Gen. AbdulSalam

envoy is still in place. He said he went there on his own initiative, thereby making the entire affair a free-for-all game.

This, certainly, does not portray the government in good light. Although he said government knew of his going, but how did he get into Niger given that government has officially closed both the land borders and airspace?

This means that the borders are only closed on certain categories of people, making gibberish of the border closure policy. Even at that, did he inform his traditional leader, the Sultan, knowing that the latter is an official envoy of government on what was taking him to Niger?

I do not know, but I doubt it. If he did not, then it is an inexcusable fault. Since he was neither sent there by government nor unlikely to have informed the Sultan before going, his trip is therefore a breach of both state and traditional protocols.

With all due respect, for him to have returned and briefed the president on the outcome of his private visit also tells so much on the lack of a clear cut direction of government on this matter.

I wonder what value Emir Sanusi's visit to Niamey will add in the resolution of the problem, other than further complicating things for government. Has the 14th Emir convinced the junta in Niger to relinquish power to the deposed President Bazoum?

Other than seeing the head of the junta and having a photo session, did he attain any milestone more than what the AbdulSalam team attained? The answers to these questions are certainly in the negative! So what is the value of the visit to government? I bet nothing! For the value of it, the visit should not have been sanctioned by government in the



first place. Now what is the position and role of the AbdulSalam team? Has the president lost confidence in them! There is definitely a dearth on good advice in the presidency!

Then again things became further grimmer when the president yesterday received members of Nigerian Council of Ulama, enjoining them to mediate with the Nigerien junta. With all due respect, one will have to ask - how? How are they going to mediate? Are they to go and meet the junta and talk to them to relinquish power? Or are they to meet their counterparts in Niger and admonish them to go talk to the junta to relinquish

power? Or are they to go into prayers and spiritually get the junta to relinquish power? Has purely political, diplomatic and power issue now become spiritual? How the ulamas will mediate on this matter I just cannot fathom! In fact, even if granted that they can mediate (which I cannot see how), who is the paramount leader of the Islamic ummah in Northern Nigeria? It is not the Sultan? How come then government called Islamic clerics to mediate on a matter of this nature without the Sultan being involved? These are basic conventional standards that need strict adherence for positive results.

I think the government is not

only making the wrong choices on this issue, but it is also going about it wrongly. It is obvious the president's advisers are not thinking through issues well and thorough, hence leading him to taking impulsive and inappropriate decisions.

For me, the best way forward is for the government to stick strictly to the Gen. AbdulSalam envoy already constituted and is at work. It is guaranteed to scale through and deliver the needed results. Any other thing will only cause confusion and portray the government as lacking in clarity and direction.

Too many ingredients in the pot only spoil the soup, goes a wise African proverb.

Elections: Kaduna State Football Association Inaugurates Appeal Committee



By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kaduna State Football Association Normalisation Committee has inaugurated a five-man appeal committee ahead of the oncoming state FA elections.

The Committee members comprise of Yakubu Ibrahim, Alex Manna Barr Musa Ahmadu, Alhaji Ahmadu Modu and Tijanni Yusuf. The committee would listen and adjudicate in case of disputes that may arise from the FA election.

In his acceptance speech, Bar Musa Ahmadu said they are proud to part of the set up, hoping that under the Chairmanship of Alhaji Sabo Babayaro, Kaduna State would conduct the best FA elections. He also added that while

the committee hopes that there would no cases of appeal, should there be appeals, members of the committee would dispense justice without fear or favour of any one. He further added that, the committee won't succumb to any pressure.



NUJ Lagos Council Expresses Thoughts On Refineries, Palliatives, Niger Republic, Others

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Lagos State Council has called on the Federal Government to repair the refineries so that they will be at optimal use in order to reduce importation of fuel. The council also urged the Federal Government to look into the sharing methods of the proposed palliatives to cushion the effect of fuel subsidy removal and monitor its implementation, especially to those who are not civil servants.

"The gesture should also be extended to pensioners," the Lagos journalists said. They advised the government to consider putting infrastructures in good shape in order to save them from decay. NUJ Lagos State Council expressed the views in a communique issued at the end of its August 2023 Congress which was held on Saturday. The congress appealed to

President Bola Tinubu, who is also the Chairman of ECOWAS, to explore more diplomatic means to resolve the crisis in Niger Republic.

On the condition of roads in the country, the congress enjoined the Federal and state governments to focus on fixing of roads that are in deplorable state.

On salary review, the council said, "In view of the economic hardship caused by the removal of fuel subsidy, the congress urges the Federal and state governments to ensure immediate implementation of the upward review of salaries."

On developments in the South East of Nigeria, the congress agreed that it is high time the Federal Government addressed the issue of 'sit-at-home' protests called by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), stressing that the development "is having psychological effect on the people and grounding economic situation in the area."

"On developments in the South East of Nigeria, the congress agreed that it is high time the Federal Government addressed the issue of 'sit-at-home' protests called by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB),"

No Going Back On War Against Land Grabbing In Ibadanland - Olubadan

*Seeks cooperation between Police, Olubadan in Council

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lekan Balogun has vowed that there will be no going back in the ongoing war against land grabbing in Ibadanland.

Oba Balogun made this known at the weekend, while playing host to the Oyo State Commissioner of Police, CP Adebola Hamzat during his familiarization visit to the Alarere palace of Oba Balogun.

The royal father pointed out that there is the need for the Oyo State Police Command to work hand in hand with the traditional institution in Ibadanland to permanently get rid of the menace of land grabbing. According to Oba Balogun, for the ongoing efforts of the traditional institution at waging war against the land grabbing menace to be successful, there must be synergy between the traditional institution and the police.

"I'm passionate about ensuring that the unwholesome tag of Ibadan being notorious for land grabbing be permanently removed. Let everybody desirous of owing land in Ibadan be free to do so without let or hindrance", he said. Oba Balogun added, "A code of

conduct is already in place that any of my Baales or Mogajis found getting involved in shady land deal would be removed and I seek for your cooperation as law enforcement agents".

He stressed that the commitment of his reign to the total eradication of the cankerworm could not be compromised, hence his request for all hands to be on deck.

The Olubadan then praised the police for the efforts made so far to track down the culprits behind the dastard murdering of a young and newly inducted Nurse, whose corpse was found at Oke-Sapati junction, Yemetu in the ancient metropolis during the week with a charge to them not to relent until the truth about the incident manifests and the offenders face the music.

Oyo state Commissioner of Police, CP Hamzat while speaking said the same issue of land grabbing was part of his discussions with the state governor, Engr. Seyi Makinde immediately he arrived the state and that he was assured by the governor that his administration was working to strengthen the law against the land grabbing menace.

CP Hamzat stressed that though, the state had a law in place that



Olubadan of Ibadanland receiving Oyo state Commissioner of Police CP Adebola Hamzat to his palace

deals with the issue but it had since been discovered that it was too weak and had not been effective as it should be, saying, "the governor made it known that the necessary amendment to make the law strong to deal decisively with the problem was being made.

"This, to us in the Command is cheering and enabling. When we have in place an enabling law

that empowers us to work optimally, we will be motivated. So, with the new law coming as promised by the governor, I can assure our revered father that his wish for a city free of land grabbing menace is almost in place", he said.

CP Hamzat added, "We are happy too that we can rely on Your Majesty for advice, counselling and support at all

times as you have been doing over the years. The people own us and we are being paid from their taxes to work for them and this I pledge on behalf of the Command to continually do conscientiously".

The Commissioner of Police then assured of the commitment of his Command to work with the traditional institution as being requested.

APC Grassroots Development Calls For Considering Of Hon Ikara As Minister From Kaduna State

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

All Progressives Congress (APC) Grassroots Development, a prominent community-based organization under the leadership of Pharm Tukur Bashir has called on Malam Uba Sani and APC Kaduna State to consider the nomination of Rt. Hon. Yusuf Bala Ikara as a Minister from Kaduna State.

Tukur Bashir expressed this, while addressing newsmen in Kaduna yesterday.

"The man is someone who has dedicated his time to serving humanity. He has an outstanding record of good leadership.

"He is also a grassroots politician which he has demonstrated while representing

Ikara/Kubau Constituency at the Green Chamber for two terms. He assists many youth not only at his constituency but at the whole zone, with employment opportunities, scholarships, admissions and capital for entrepreneurship for those that did not go to school. He is loyal and competent," the group said.

According to them, Malam Nasir el-Rufai remains their preferred candidate, but if he changes his mind by not accepting his nomination, then Rt. Hon Yusuf Bala Ikara is the most preferred choice from the APC Grassroots in Kaduna, looking at his track records and political antecedents.

"Ikara's extensive experience in public administration, particularly in his role as a

member of the House of Representatives, has equipped him with deep understanding of the challenges faced by the nation.

"His strategic thinking, decisive decision-making, and ability to collaborate effectively with various stakeholders, has enabled him to initiate and drive effective policies that have benefitted his constituency and the nation as a whole.

"Furthermore, Rt. Hon. Ikara's qualities that includes that he is widely identified with his transparency, fairness, and accountability, which earned him the trust and respect by all and sundry.

"We believe that the appointment of Rt. Hon. Yusuf Bala Ikara as a Minister from Kaduna State will address the needs of the

people, foster economic growth, peace, unity and enhance social welfare.

"We therefore, appeal to the government and the APC to religiously consider the proposition of Rt. Hon. Yusuf Bala Ikara as his appointment for minister will undoubtedly be a step forward to Tinubu administration, Uba Sani as well as a significant contribution to the nation's progress and development," the group said.

The prominent pressure group within the APC, has its roots across eight local government areas of Zone One Kaduna State, such as, Zaria, Lere, Soba, Kubau, Sabon Gari, Makarfi, Kudan and Ikara local government areas.