

**LASTMA Rescues  
3 Victims Trapped  
Under 40ft  
Container During  
Auto Crash**

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## Arewatees Harps On National Unity, Says Peace Non Negotiable Asset

\*Set to gift 55,000 Nigerians branded t-shirts ahead Independence Anniversary

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**NDLEA Apprehends  
Wanted Teenage Bandit,  
Busts Warehouse  
With Multi- Billion  
Naira Illicit Drugs**

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# Use Of Military Force In Niger Republic Is Direct Attack On Northern Nigeria, Group Warns

Seeks extension of time for dialogue between ECOWAS, Junta

By: USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

In line with the ongoing efforts and other decisions by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to ensure the use of military force against the military junta of Niger Republic, a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental and non-criminal organization in Nigeria has called for the extension of dialogue by the ECOWAS.

During a press conference

by the group under the aegis of Advocacy for Peace and Socio-economic Empowerment of Women and Youth yesterday in Kaduna, the chairperson, Fareeda Umar Bakori expressed fears that the use of military force in Niger Republic is a direct attack to Northern Nigeria. She added that, as Nigerian citizens and as Northern youth, their main goal is to advocate for good governance and a better Nigeria by creating awareness, because the

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[20/08, 6:53 pm] Jacob Dickson: Chairperson, Advocacy for Peace and Socio-economic Empowerment of Women and Youth, Fareeda Umar Bakori (middle) speaking during the press conference.

## Police Arrests Man For Raping, Killing 8-yr Old Katsina Girl

\*Nabs two bandits informants, others

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**Niger Coup:** Focus On Promoting Transparency, Good Governance In Region, Muslim Women Groups Task ECOWAS

\*Warn against war in Niger

\*Expressed fears over safety of women, children if war option scales through

## Military To Set Up Additional Formation To Tackle Banditry Activities Around Zaria, Speaker Assures

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria  
Speaker, House of Representatives, Abbas Tajudeen has hinted that the Nigerian Military will establish an additional formation to tame bandit attacks in Zaria.

He made this known during a condolence visit to the Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli at his palace in Zaria on Friday.

The speaker said the

purpose of the visit was to commiserate with the emirate over the mosque collapse and cases of bandits attacks in zaria and environs.

"As the leadership of the national assembly, we have engaged the relevant security agencies on better modalities of addressing the challenge".

Abbas told the emir that, the engagement has yielded results as the Nigerian army pledges to

established additional camps at some of the identified routes of the bandits.

On the other leg of the visit, the Speaker said he will work closely with the emirate council on the quick and timely renovation of the collapsed mosque.

Responding, the Emir of Zazzau Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli applauded the speaker's visit and urged him to expand the

gesture to cover other volatile areas of the emirate.

The emir specifically urged for the siting of such military camps around Kurege, Kugu and other western axis of the ancient city of Zaria.

Highlights of the visit were donations for the renovation of the mosque from some of the principal officers and members of the National Assembly, who accompanied the Speaker.



Speaker, House of Representatives, Abbas Tajudeen, during a condolence visit to the Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli at his palace in Zaria recently.

## Ribadu, Egbetokun, Arase To Attend Ex-IGPs, Retreat On Effective Policing

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The National Security Adviser, AIG Nuhu Ribadu (rtd), the Chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC), Dr. Solomon Arase and the acting Inspector General of Police, Dr. Olukayode Egbetokun have been scheduled to attend a two-day Retreat for retired Inspectors General of Police.

Themed, "Intervention Of

Ex-Inspectors General of Police For Strategic Contribution To Effective Policing In Nigeria", the retreat is to hold at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture IITA, Ibadan Oyo State from Monday, August 21st to Wednesday August 23rd 2023.

A statement by Ikechukwu Ani on behalf of the Secretariat Committee of ex-IGPs 2023 Retreat, stated that the Executive Governor of Oyo State,

Seyi Makinde will be the Chief Host.

According to the statement, several topical papers will be presented at the Retreat such as; Current State of Police Preparedness; Issues, Challenges and Prospects and Strategic actions and steps towards restoring NPF's primacy in internal security architecture of Nigeria;

"There will also be a discussion and experience-sharing

session on the imperativeness of employing the experiential knowledge of the retired IGPs in the effective management of internal security in Nigeria.

"Alhaji Aliyu Attah GCON, retired Inspector General of Police and Chairman of the Committee of Retired Inspectors General of Police is the convener of the Retreat, the first in the history of the Committee", it added.

## FUGA Appoints Jajere, Attai Deputy Vice Chancellors

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Senate of Federal University Gashua, Yobe State, at its 44th Regular Meeting, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Maimuna Waziri, has approved the nomination of Dr. Ibrahim Ahmed Jajere and Dr. Mohammed Attai Yakubu as Deputy Vice-Chancellors Academics and Administration, respectively.

A statement by the Registrar of the University, Dr. Abubakar Mamuda, says the Senate approved the nomination of the two deputy Vice-Chancellors in line with the provisions of Section 4 of the Universities Act, No. 11 of 1993, adding that the appointment is subject to Council approval and is for a period of two (2) years renewable.

Dr. Ibrahim Ahmed Jajere, a reader in the Department of Geography and Director of the Centre for Gum Arabic Research, was overwhelmingly selected as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic),

while Dr. Mohammed Attai Yakubu, a reader in the Department of English and the Director of Advancement, was selected as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration).

In their acceptance speech, Dr. Mohammed Attai Yakubu, who spoke on behalf of the appointees, expressed appreciation to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Maimuna Waziri, and members of the Senate for finding them worthy for the appointment, assuring that they would discharge the responsibilities of their offices with the utmost dedication and commitment to duty.

Usman Danfodio University of Sokoto in 1982 and his M.A in Literature in English from the same University in 2001, and later bagged a Ph.D. in Literature in 2014 from Kogi State University, Anyigba.

Attai joined the services of Federal University Gashua in February 2018 in the Department of English as a Senior lecturer, rising to the rank of Reader in 2019.



Dr. Ibrahim Ahmed Jajere and Dr. Mohammed Attai Yakubu, Deputy Vice-Chancellors Academics and Administration

# Ebonyi Speaker Assures Of Robust Welfare Package For Workers

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The Speaker of Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Honourable Moses Ije Odunwa has reassured of robust welfare package for the workers of the state assembly for keeping faith with the present administration in the state under Rt. Honourable Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru.

Chief Odunwa expressed this at the Legislative Complex, Nkaliki Road Abakaliki during its maiden meeting with the staff of the State House of Assembly. The State Chief Lawmaker said that the administration of the Ebonyi State Governor, Rt Hon Francis Nwifuru has provision that would benefit all residents of the state and place Ebonyi on the global map as one of the most beautiful states in the country through his charter of needs.

He acknowledged the present hard economic reality in the country and enjoined them to exist to exercise patience saying it was going to last momentarily but rather continue to rely on God

The Speaker maintained that the current administration has zero tolerance for absenteeism, truancy and indolence and called on the workers to demonstrate dedication, passion and hard work as partners in progress.

Earlier, the clerk of the House, Mrs Patricia Anasi thanked God for the victory of Chief Odunwa to emerge as the Speaker saying that it was his delivery of dividends that earned him his second term in office and pledged smooth working relationship with him.

On her part, Secretary, Ebonyi State House of Assembly Service Commission, Mrs Ezeagu Maryrose Chinwe, congratulated the Speaker for his present position and appealed to on behalf of the Staff of Ebonyi State House of Assembly to continue considering the welfare of workers owing to the hard economic reality in the country and pledged to support his administration to ensure that it succeeds

Lending her voice, the Chairman of Parliamentary Staff Association of Nigeria Ebonyi



State Chapter, Mrs Regina Oshibe reiterated the readiness of the staff to display diligence in discharging their official duties and assured the workers preparedness to partner with the Speaker and honourable members of the House to ensure quality service delivery. While giving vote of thanks, the

HOD Finance, Mr Thomas Izuinya Commended the Speaker Rt Hon Moses Ije Odunwa for demonstration of will to succeed which makes the 7th Assembly to be peaceful and prayed God to continue to give him wisdom, vision and focus. The meeting was graced by

honourable members, deputy clerks, heads of departments other principal staff and entire workers of the Assembly, while a minute silence was observed in honour of one of the staff, late Mrs. Patience Nweke whose death occurred two weeks ago.

## Insecurity: Niger, Zamfara Governors Meet National Security Adviser Ribadu



By ; I M R A N A Governors had a closed-door meeting with the

ABDULLAHI, Kaduna Zamfara and Niger National Security Adviser, State governors, on in his office in the Federal Thursday, visited Capital Territory, Abuja.

the National Security He added that Governor Adviser (NSA), Mallam Lawal is seriously Nuhu Ribadu. concerned by the Both of them were on the insecurity situation in visit with an intention to Zamfara State, that is the find out a lasting solution reason why he has been to the problem affecting looking for possible ways the two and some other to bring an end to it.

states in the region and He said: "Governor Dauda Nigeria as a biggest Lawal and Governor country in Africa.

Mohammed Umar Bago Zamfara State Governor, visited Mallam Nuhu Dr. Dauda Lawal and Ribadu in their effort to Niger State Governor, improve synergy between Mohammed Umar Bago in the two States and the their collective effort to office of the National find a lasting solution to Security Adviser.

the lingering banditry "Restoring peace in disturbing their states is Zamfara has been the reason why they Visits Governor Lawal's priority the national security from day one as the adviser.

Executive Governor of the

A statement by the State. Spokesperson to the "At the meeting, the Zamfara Governor, Governors discussed Sulaiman Bala Idris, important security issues revealed that the with the NSA."

## Governor Inuwa Yahaya Approves Appointment Of District, Village Heads For Akko, Yamaltu And Deba Emirates

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya. CON has approved the appointments of new District and Village Heads for Akko, Yamaltu and Deba Emirates.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Friday August 18, 2023, this is in exercise of the powers vested in the Governor under the Gombe State Chieftaincy Law.

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi who conveyed the Governor's approval, announced Jibrin Abubakar Mele as District

Head of Panda with the following as Village Heads under Akko Emirate: Jauro Hama Malam (Kayel-Baga), Hussaini Hassan (Panda), Usman Ahmed Kumo (Kumo-Santuraki), Muhammad Dalhatu (Modibbo-Abba) and Alhaji Yaya Madaki (Yarima-Shehu). Others are: Abdullahi Shatima (Galadima-Umaru), Mallam Maikudi Ardo (Ardo-Kadiri), Gidado Babari (Lambiyel) and Adamu Jauro Lawwol (Wuro Lawwol).

For Yamaltu Emirate, the Governor approved the appointment of 4 District Heads. They are: Idris Isa Tela (Hinna), Sulaiman Inuwa Difa (Difa), Shuaibu Sarki Musa (Jagali) and Hussaini Mohammed Shinga (Shinga). Also appointed as Village Heads are Maina



Magaji Abubakar (Difa), Jamilu Musa Jagali (Jagali), Sulaiman Magaji (Shinga).

Similarly, the Governor has approved the appointment of Aliyu

Usman Lambam as District Head of Lambam in Deba Emirate.

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

## Kaduna Electric Donates To Victims Of Zaria Mosque Collapse

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Kaduna Electric has donated an undisclosed sum of money to families of the deceased and the injured in tragic collapse of the roof of the Zaria Central Mosque. Announcing the donation, the Head of Corporate Communication, Abdulazeez Abdullahi, said the gesture which was approved by the

the company's Managing Director/ CEO, Yusuf Usman Yahaya, is aimed at ameliorating the hardship suffered by the victims.

He said the donation will be channeled through the Emirate for onward disbursement to the victims. It would be recalled that the Managing Director had earlier described the collapse of

the part of the roof of the Zaria Central Mosque which resulted in the death of about ten worshippers as "a painful tragedy and a very sad day in the history of Zazzau Emirate" He said, during a condolence visit to the Emir of Zazzau, Mal Ahmad Nuhu Bamalli, in his palace, that the Management and entire staff of Kaduna Electric share in the pain and agony of the families of those who lost their lives and those who sustained injuries.

"On behalf of the Management and entire staff of Kaduna Electric, we hereby express our deep and sincere condolence to His Royal Highness, the Emir of Zazzau, families and loved ones of the deceased and the people of Zazzau Emirate in general over the unfortunate incident that occurred on yesterday; we pray to Almighty Allah to grant the deceased eternal rest and the injured speedy recovery", he said.



## November Guber: Kogi Assembly Speaker Tasks Women On Dedication To Ododo Project

\*Says APC agenda is the best for the state

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

The Speaker of Kogi State House of Assembly, Rt.

Honourable Aliyu Umar Yusuf has charged women in the state on the need to dedicate themselves to delivering outright victory to the APC candidate in the November 11 gubernatorial election, Alhaji Ododo Ahmed Usman.

A statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker, made available to newsmen, quoted the speaker to have stated this during the Flag-off of an empowerment programme carried out by Team Bashir Gegu Women for Ododo/Oyibo 2023 Project in Lokoja.

The Speaker, who was represented at the occasion by his Chief of Staff, Hon Isah Umar Lawal, noted that the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), remains the best bet for the people of Kogi State and urged the women to sustain their belief in the party's candidate in the next gubernatorial

election.

He reminded them of how the APC policy in the state has given them national recognition, making them a reference point in Nigeria's politics as they occupy sensitive political positions under the government of Alhaji Yahaya Bello.

The Speaker noted that the group's sponsor, Engr Bashiru Gegu, is a man faithful to the ideals of the current administration, which has given APC women the opportunity to make impact in the society, by the virtue of the political offices they oversee.

Rt Hon Yusuf who further stressed the need for them to utilize the items distributed to add value to their lives, promised not to leave them behind in his own empowerment programmes.

The benefitting widows expressed gratitude to the donor for his show of love to them and promised to remain steadfast to the cause of the APC in the state.

Highlights of the occasion was the presentation of the items to the beneficiaries.



# Use Of Military Force In Niger Republic Is Direct Attack On Northern Nigeria, Group Warns

■ Seeks extension of time for dialogue between ECOWAS, Junta

West African nations under ECOWAS, have finalised plans to intervene militarily in Niger to reverse the already executed coup.

According to Fareeda Bakori, "any military intervention or war with the Republic of Niger is unthinkable, considering the historical, cultural, religious, political, economic and kinship ties between Niger Republic and our dear country Nigeria".

She said, "as we all know, military junta detained President Mohamed Bazoum of Niger on Wednesday, July 26 and toppled the democratically elected government in the country, but we are not in support of the ECOWAS decision to retain the option of military intervention in Niger, facing the way for the mobilization of a force, a force which will mainly be composed of Nigerian and Senegalese troops.

"Both countries have mutually supported each other on critical issues of national security. Niger on many occasions, protected Nigeria from security sabotage and terrorism.

Niger Republic has accommodated Nigerian refugees from the North-East and North-West geopolitical zones. Both Nigeria and Niger based diplomatic relations upon non-interference in the internal affairs of the other. As we all know, part of our foreign policy is the principles of non-interference and non-alignment.

"I think Nigeria is facing serious economic difficulties and its military is already overstretched due to being involved in internal security operations, which should be carried out by domestic security agencies such as the police. So we urge our president who doubles as the Chairman of ECOWAS, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu not to rush into an avoidable conflict as that will only raise the prospect of a major regional conflict and serious domestic implications," the group's chairperson noted.

However, the group unequivocally stated that, they regard the people of Niger not only as their neighbors, but rather as their brothers and sisters,

so any military intervention against Niger Republic will unavoidably and directly affect Northern Nigeria by worsening and further destabilizing the region which has been plagued by insecurity and infrastructural decay.

"It may also lead to a humanitarian crisis, as Nigeriens will migrate to northern states if the war intensifies. The region may become lawless, leading to military excesses and indiscriminate killings.

"Another major threat to our security is the perception of the two neighboring countries of Niger that are being governed by the military, that is Mali and Burkina Faso. They feel that any military intervention in Niger is a declaration of war on them, so when Niger is attacked, it is going to trigger a regional warfare that no one knows how it will end.

"We should also keep in mind that Russia is exploiting this opportunity as well, to extend its global dominance to Africa. So it's a whole lot more than

just a war with Niger Republic but a war with many interested parties seeking to advance their own dominance. We should not as a country be led into a war like Saudi Arabia, which is now trapped in Yemen.

"Consequently, we call on president Tinubu as a leader of ECOWAS, to extend time for dialogue with the coup leaders. We pray for diplomatic negotiations in resolving this without the use of force. Any harsh and hostile sanctions against Niger should be reversed. For example, Nigeria's decision to cut electricity supply to Niger violates the treaty that enabled Nigeria to build a dam on the River Niger," said Fareeda Bakori.

Similarly, the group suggested that the government of Nigeria should rather than venturing into the war, channel same resources to other critical areas of national development such as power, agriculture, education, security and so on, because they believe that peace is always better than war.

# NDLEA Apprehends Wanted Teenage Bandit, Busts Warehouse With Multi-Billion Naira Illicit Drugs

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The long arm of the law has caught up with a notorious teenage bandit on the wanted list of the police, following his arrest by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

Similarly, the agency has bust a warehouse in Lagos, where multi billion Naira worth of illicit drugs were concealed. The Director, Media and Advocacy of NDLEA, Femi Babafemi who made the disclosure in a statement yesterday, said the suspected bandit was nabbed along Ilela-Sokoto road.

Identified as Aliyu Mohammed, 19, the NDLEA spokesperson hinted that the suspect had in his possession, some wraps of skuk at the time of arrest on Thursday, 17th August 2023.

He confirmed that the suspect is on the wanted list of the police and has since been transferred to the police in Sokoto State for further investigations.

On the multi-billion Naira worth of illicit drugs, Babafemi explained that the warehouse is tucked in the midst of the popular International Trade Fair Complex, Alaba, Ojo area of Lagos by the operatives on Saturday 19th August.

According to him, "The operatives recovered from the warehouse owned by a wanted billionaire drug baron, 1.4 million (1,400,000) pills of tramadol 225mg weighing 826kgs; 3.2 million (3,200,000) pills of codeine with gross weight of 3,360kgs; and 2,841 cartons of codeine syrup containing 284,100 bottles with 28,410 litres of the psychoactive substance, with a combined street value of Four Billion Eight Hundred and Twenty Million Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N4,820,500,000) only."

During the operation that lasted hours, a suspect, Paulinus Ojukwu, who is Chief Security Officer to the wanted drug baron who parades as automobile spare parts dealer, was arrested and now assisting ongoing investigation".

The latest drug warehouse bust is coming on the heels of the arrest of a drug baroness, Faith Ebele Nwankwo who was nabbed on Wednesday 9th August with Two Million Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand (2,750,000) pills of tramadol 225mg and 250mg recovered from her residence at House 6, C close, 3rd Avenue, Festac area of Lagos and a warehouse located at Plot 3432 Sola Akinsola

Street, Divine Estate, Amuwo Odofin, Lagos.

Meanwhile, NDLEA operatives on Friday 18th August intercepted Twenty Million US Dollar notes (\$20 million) suspected to be counterfeit during a stop and search operation along Abaji-Lokoja road, within the Federal Capital Territory.

The suspected fake money was recovered from a bus coming from Lagos to Abuja, while the 53-year-old driver of the vehicle, Onyebuchi Nlededin was arrested. The previous day, Thursday 17th August, Jude Ndubuisi, 52, was arrested with 2.2 kilograms of methamphetamine during a raid operation at Kabusa village, FCT.

The suspect was initially arrested with 20.75kg cannabis on 7th July 2022 and was on court bail following his ongoing prosecution when he was nabbed for yet another drug crime. Another raid of two notorious drug joints within the FCT: Dei Dei and Tora-Bora Hills led to the recovery of 82.8kg skunk, 1.8kg rohypnol and 1.2kg diazepam on Wednesday 16th August.

In Osun, NDLEA operatives in the early hours of Saturday 19th August destroyed clusters of cannabis farms measuring about 3.49000 hectares (over 7.5 tons) at Mopatedo in Ifedayo local government area of the State. Two suspects: Sunday Ootogbo, 40, and Peter Aniel Makra, 35, were arrested inside the cannabis farms. Additional 30kg cannabis weeds and 16.9kg of cannabis seeds were also recovered from the farms.

At least, three suspects: Ndubuisi Okorie, 44; Ebilima Emmanuel, 38, and Okechukwu Anthony Smart, 40, were arrested in connection with the seizure of 168kg cannabis consignment from them when their vehicle was intercepted along Owerri-Onitsha expressway, Imo state on Saturday 19th August.

Another shipment of controlled drugs containing 6,000 capsules of tramadol, 1,200 tablets of swinol, 155 bottles of codeine syrup and 20 tabs of Molly was equally seized on the same road on Sunday 13th August while a follow-up operation in Oyigbo area of Port Harcourt, Rivers state led to the arrest of the owner of the consignment, Remigius Ogechukwu, 33.

While a teenager, Boniface Odinakachukwu, 19, was apprehended with 99.4kg skunk at Isikwe Road, Achi in Oji-River LGA, Enugu state on Friday 18th August.

# LASTMA Rescues 3 Victims Trapped Under 40ft Container During Auto Crash

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Three passengers reportedly escaped death by whiskers at the weekend in Lagos as they were rescued by operatives of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) under a 40ft container during a vehicular accident.

Our correspondent gathered that the victims were trapped under the container during a multiple auto crash which occurred at Anthony Inward Obanikoro area of Lagos on Saturday.

As learnt, the accident

occurred when a truck conveying the 40ft container had a brake failure and rammed into two Toyota Camry cars and a tipper fully loaded with sand as a result of brake failure and rammed into two Toyota Camry cars and a tipper fully loaded with sand.

The Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of the Agency Adebayo Taofiq in a release on Sunday said the rescued victims were immediately taken to nearby hospital by members of their families. Taofiq, who quoted Lastma Lawal Hammed

Babatunde 'Eagle Bravo' (Zone 11 Anthony) who led the rescue team, confirmed that the multiple accident involved a 40ft container, 2 Toyota Camry cars (KRD 432 JA & APP 43 HN) and a tipper loaded with sand (T 17001LA).

He said, "Lastma Babatunde confirmed further that those 3 rescued accident victims were trapped under the 40ft container.

"According to preliminary investigation, the 40ft container truck while on a top speed collided with 3 other vehicles including a tipper fully loaded with

sand as a result of brake failure.

"He disclosed further that those 3 rescued accident victims were immediately taken to nearby Hospital by members of their families.

"The General Manager of LASTMA, Mr Bolaji Oreagba cautioned motoring public to always ensure that their vehicle are in good condition before embarking on any journey both withing and outside Lagos.

"Police men from Ilupeju Police Command supported Lastma officials during the rescue operations".

## Subsidy: Kwara Govt Speaks On FG's Palliatives, Announces Nonpartisan Committee To Handle Distribution

\*Police Commissioner, Emir of Shonga, Religious bodies, DSS, CSOs to lead palliative committee

\*Govt to consider poultry, fish farmers in maize palliative

\*State Govt to pay back 48% of N4bn

\*Gov Abdulrazaq commends President Tinubu

By: BILIQIS ONAOLAPO  
OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

**K**wara State Government has confirmed receipt of N2bn out of the N4bn relief funds that the Federal Government released for purchase of rice to be distributed en masse to vulnerable members of the public in the state.

The state also said it awaits a balance of N2bn of the funds as well as N1bn worth of maize (40,000 bags) which the Central Bank of Nigeria is selling to each state from the national strategic reserve.

"We wish to explain in context the details of the N5bn Federal Government's relief package earlier reported in the media. Each state is to receive N4bn to purchase bags of rice in the current market value and distribute same to citizens in the state, with the most vulnerable persons as the first priority. This is as agreed at the National Economic Council," Chief Press Secretary to the Governor Rafiu Ajakaye told a news briefing on Friday.

"Each state is to also receive N1bn worth of maize from the strategic national reserve

through the Central Bank of Nigeria. This is not in form of cash; it is maize. As of Friday August 18, 2023, the Kwara State Government has received N2bn of the N4bn. It awaits the balance. The state also awaits the maize from the CBN. It is important to mention that 48% (N1, 920,000,000.00) of the N4bn is a noninterest loan that will be paid back over a period of 20 months at N120, 000,000.00 monthly. This deduction begins in November.

"The state government has consequently ordered immediate purchase of rice in the value of the amount. For transparency and fairness to all, distribution of the palliatives will be overseen exclusively by a committee headed by the Kwara State Police Commissioner Egun Oluwarotimi Adelesi, who will be supported by the Emir of Shonga Dr. Haliru Yahya, state chairman of Jama'atu Nasrul Islam and Christian Association Chairman (CAN) chairman (or their representatives), Dr. Lawal Olohunbebe and Mrs Grace Funke Bolaji (both representing CSOs); chairman of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations Dr

(Mrs) Saudat Abdulbaqi, Mr. Steven Awoyale (youth), a representative of the DSS, a female representative each from the 'disability' community and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), and Permanent Secretary (General Service) in the Office of the Secretary to the State Government Alhaji Abdulrahman Ameen Babatunde (Secretary). Further details will be released by the committee.

"Similarly, the state government hereby confirms receipt of the remaining three trucks of the bags of rice. The government had on August 8, 2023 announced delivery of two truckloads of bags of rice, while awaiting three more. Distribution of the remaining three truckloads has commenced through various channels of reaching out to the public, including lawmakers who represent the 24 state constituencies and other



stakeholders in the state.

The State Government, again, urges that these palliatives be shared in the spirit of fairness to all, particularly to the most vulnerable persons, because it is simply impractical for everyone to get at the same time.

"The government appeals to members of the public to remain patient and calm as multi-layered steps are being taken in phases, including huge interventions to support massive food production, local production of

gas-powered vehicles, support for small and medium scale enterprises, manufacturing and other businesses, to boost the economy and ease the difficulties arising from the removal of fuel subsidy.

"The Governor commends the President, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for the several initiatives of the Federal Government to bring ease to the people. The Governor reassures all Kwarans of his commitments to their welfare at this time and always."

## el-Rufai's Ministerial Nominee: APC Chieftain Warns Against Blaming Gov Uba Sani

By: JACOB ONJEWU  
DICKSON

**H**ajiya Bilkisu Gidado, a prominent All Progressives Congress (APC) Chieftain in Kaduna, has advised fellow party members to refrain from blaming Governor Senator Uba Sani for the recent nomination of Nasir el-Rufai's ministerial replacement.

In her interview with newsmen, she dismissed rumours of Governor Uba Sani expressing preferences for candidates, as he has never engaged in such discussions.

Gidado clarified that those suggesting Governor Uba Sani's dissatisfaction with the nomination are not being fair, as the governor and the former governor share a strong



friendship. She highlighted the credentials of both potential nominees,

Hamisu Abubakar Mai Rago and Jafaru Sani, noting that they are dedicated APC members who

contributed significantly to the party's success in the previous election.

Gidado stressed that the selection should be seen as a matter of destiny and divine will.

She emphasized the need for unity and understanding among politicians during this time, cautioning politicians to desist from spreading falsehood against the governor Uba Sani on the issue.

Hajiya Bilkisu Gidado described as a strong loyalist and supporter of Governor Uba Sani, urged all APC members to rally behind the party's chosen nominee, irrespective of their

political zone.

She underlined that the goal is to foster party unity and benefit the state. Recognizing the former governor's achievements in urban development and governance, Gidado acknowledged the widespread support for his national appointment.

She called upon the state's citizens to pray for and support Governor Uba Sani's policies, ensuring that they would be inclusive and non-discriminatory.

As the conversations around ministerial replacement continue, Hajiya Bilkisu Gidado's words underscore the significance of maintaining harmony within the party and supporting the decisions made collectively.

# Kaduna Forum Warns Against Convening FEC Meeting Without A Minister Representing Kaduna

By: JACOB ONJEWU  
DICKSON

A group, Amalgamated Kaduna Peoples Forum has tasked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to in fairness to Kaduna State, ensure that a ministerial nominee from the state is appointed, screened and sworn-in before the first Federal Executive Council (FEC) is convened.

They expressed this at a press conference held in Kaduna on Friday August 18, 2023.

"The Renewed Hope Initiative of Mr. President and the task ahead of us is challenging and enormous, we are calling on Mr. President to: Ensure that the Ministerial Slot of Kaduna State be filled before the first Federal Executive Council (FEC) to enable us have a representative and to genuinely contribute to National development," they demanded.

Reading the text of the briefing, its convener, Jibril Adamu Seze said that Tinubu must be resolute and avoid being misled by those they tagged, "Villa Cabals".

"Mr. President must be resolute and focus to enable him identify



what Nigerians tag as "Villa Cabals" individuals who constantly prevent nice ideas to flow by frustrating brilliant, competent and result oriented people around.

"We are appealing to Mr. President to demonstrate commitment by giving Kaduna people more opportunity at the National to proof his love for Kaduna being el-Rufai's state," they added.

According to them, the reward for el-Rufai's courage, bravery and political landscaping should be recognized as a mark of

honor especially his patriotic choice of a Southern President, he stood against currency redesign policy alongside other governors all in an effort to secure a Southern President and many more which played a significant role in bringing this administration onboard.

"This commitment should not be neglected at all cost," they warned.

According to them, "As Professionals with vast knowledge and experience in mobilizing/coordinating fellow Like-minded people to work in

promoting democracy by focusing on engagement, reconciliation, dialogue and consultation rather than criticizing irrationally.

"We have not in any given circumstances, undermined the ability and capacity of this noble administration and as patriotic citizens of our nation, we are all committed to building a sustainable new Nigerian of our dream free from all sorts of distraction," they stressed.

They therefore, used the opportunity to appreciate individuals and groups who

supported the then nomination of Malam Nasir el-Rufai whom they described as their leader.

"We all have contributions to make in making Nigeria great either as a public office holder's or otherwise," they added.

They mocked those who wrote petition against the nomination against Mal. Nasiru dl-Rufai, pointing out that they have done more harm than good to the collective aspiration of Nigerians, "by denying this progressive administration the services of reformer, developer and builder of men.

"We are confident and optimistic that His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani considering his antecedent of track records will build extensively in transforming Kaduna and make it the best among equal".

They acknowledged and recognized, "with all sense of humility, respect, support and love for Mal. Nasir el-Rufai, he served us for good 8-years and he transform Kaduna by making it an invest investment destination of choice."

# Arewatees Harps On National Unity, Says Peace Non Negotiable Asset

\*Set to gift 55,000 Nigerians branded t-shirts ahead Independence Anniversary

By: AUSTINE EMMANUEL,  
Kaduna

In a bid to promote peaceful coexistence among Nigerian citizens both at home and in diaspora, a group, Arewatees has said that they are targeting 50,000 children and 5,000 adults to wear Nigeria's branded t-shirts ahead of it's 63rd Independence Day celebration.

The Founder and Creative Director of the lifestyle brand with a peace building mission, Samuel Okopi disclosed this during a media parley held in Kaduna at the weekend, said there is hope for Nigeria

According to him, Arewatees was birthed in 2016 at the height of insurgency ravaging the country especially in the North, with the core mandate to build peace, reinforce the power of positive message, thereby bringing people together in the spirit of oneness, irrespective of tribe, religion and race.

He noted that the project over time has gained momentum on the ground of national appeal, adding that the company since inception had given out over 700 t-shirts branded with the Nigeria Coat of Arms, National Anthem and Pledge, among other

national symbols with the ideology to present the nation and it's cultural heritage to the world.

The Creative Director further stressed that Nigerians are very resilient and creative and therefore there is the need to instill love and passion into the heart of her young ones so that they can grow in passion for their country, giving everything they have got for national growth and development.

Speaking on this year's programme, "Nigerian Peace Project, 2023" Okopi said "we want this project to penetrate every state in this country in a significant manner, encapsulating the vision of the project which is unity.

"We are targeting 50,000 children and 5,000 adults both at home and in diaspora on October 1 because we do not want a situation where only few states are using the t-shirts. We want it in a national and subnational level where everybody is using it to brook peace and unity.

"Imagine seeing 50,000 kids on 1st October wearing these shirts across the country, bringing that love back for the country again

and they are happy wearing national symbol. The impact would be massive. We want the young ones to grow with love and passion at heart for their country because it's when you love something that you can be able to give your all to it.

"The whole idea is that we are going to use different symbols that has national designs like the national flag, the coat of arms, pledge and all of that to help people to understand themselves as Nigerians and help to promote peace in our respective communities.

"The impact of this project over the years is huge, it has been great. From the feedback we got. We are really getting the attention of people to love their country more. We are getting people to know about Nigeria using our social media handles. There's a lot to love about Nigeria and not just the US.

"We see Nigerians as very resilient people, creative that is why we moved past our challenges to look at the positives. Recently, from July 10th this year, We decided to gift our t-shirts as prizes to the best graduating Students of 80 schools in Nigeria that was the plan.

"As at today, we have gifted over 100 t-shirts to 27 schools in Nigeria cut across Rivers, Plateau, Taraba, Abuja and Kaduna here and we selected two subjects, creative arts and civic studies. We might have challenges but we can still look beyond ourselves to give gifts to people.

"The whole idea is to let the young people of today to know that creativity, Innovations and knowing more about your country are some of the tools we need to build peace around ourselves.

"Some persons have given up on Nigeria already but we are trying to use this medium to let them know that they have a beautiful country. No matter the challenges we have, if we can come together, unite and understand ourselves we can be able to reverse the situation for the common good of all.



T-shirts being given out by Arewatees

"We wanted to give out t-shirts to 80 schools but at the moment, we were able to give 27 schools. We feel the government can be supportive just sponsoring this t-shirts for kids," Okopi said.

He urged government at all levels including Civil Society Organizations, (CSOs) well meaning individuals and those who believe in the Nigeria project to support Arewatees so as to be able to achieve success, come October, 1st and beyond.

# Southern Kaduna Youth, Students Want Durunguwa As Minister

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

**S**outhern Kaduna Youth and Students Forum has thrown its weight behind Dr. AbdulMalik Durunguwa to fill in vacant slot of Kaduna State in the cabinet of the present administration.

In a letter of appeal to President Bola Tinubu and Governor Uba Sani, signed by its National Secretary, Comrade Peter Anto and made available to newsmen over the weekend, the forum eulogized leadership virtues and competence of Durunguwa as most deserving amongst his peers to emerge minister from Kaduna State.

The youth and students noted that Southern part of the state has been marginalized as no ministerial appointment was given to the zone in the last eight years under the APC.

Durunguwa, a former Executive Secretary of Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and a current Federal Commissioner of National Population Commission (NPC), according to the forum, has contributed so much in the development of the state and Nigeria in general.

As a faithful and committed party man, the statement acknowledged contributions of Durunguwa to the growth and development of APC in Kaduna State and the country at large, saying loyalty should be rewarded to encourage individuals with passion to serve humanity.

"Your Excellencies President Bola Ahmed Tinubu President of the federal republic of Nigeria and Governor Uba Sani Governor of Kaduna State, we are compelled at this point to write to you a passionate appeal on behalf of the entire youths of Southern Kaduna on the need to nominate and appoint one of our very best son of the soil, father to



Dr. AbdulMalik Durunguwa

many, philanthropist per excellence, an embodiment of kindness and an encyclopedia of knowledge in person of Dr. Abdullmalik Durunguwa as a minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"It is unarguably true that Dr. Abdullmalik Durunguwa being a dedicated party man has contributed enormously to the emergence and successes of his party the All Progressive Congress (APC) in the state and Nigeria at large and stands tall in the ranks of members deserving of being appointed as Minister of the federal republic of Nigeria representing Kaduna State.

"It may interest you to know that the Southern part of Kaduna State has

in the last eight years been deprived of federal representation with regards to ministerial appointments particularly during the last administration of former President Muhammadu Buhari, and former Governor Nasiru el-Rufai, with all ministerial appointments from Kaduna within those periods went to the Northern part of the state as against the spirit of fairness, justice and equity.

"Dr. Abdullmalik Durunguwa served as the Executive Secretary of Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency and is currently a Federal Commissioner with the National Population Commission and has contributed to the revitalization of the

commission through his commitment to hard work and innovations.

"We are confident that Dr. Abdullmalik Durunguwa has the well-with-all to pilot the affairs of any ministry if appointed.

"While urging H.E President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to consider appointing Dr. Abdullmalik Durunguwa as minister of the federal republic of Nigeria, we are also appealing to H.E the Governor of Kaduna State Senator Uba Sani to support this noble call by forwarding Dr. Abdullmalik Durunguwa's nomination to the President for considerations," the statement added.

## Subsidy Removal: Gov Makinde Approves Additional 16 New Buses For Oyo, Saki, Ogbomoso, Ibarapa, Iseyin

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

**G**overnor Seyi Makinde has approved deployment of additional 16 new luxury buses to Saki, Iseyin, Ogbomoso, Oyo and Ibarapa areas of the state to cushion the effects of fuel subsidy removal on the citizens. Chairman of the 15-man Sustainable Action for Economic Recovery (SAfER), sub-committee on Transport services, Alhaji Gafar Bello said this during an on the spot-assessment to the Pacesetter Transport Service (PTS).

Alhaji Bello stressed that this is in addition to the already 30 buses that were deployed for the same purpose within the State capital, Ibadan about two weeks ago by the state governor.

According to Alhaji Bello, the total buses now captured under SAfER to cushion the effects of subsidy removal within the State is now 46, adding that the SAfER committee headed by the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Otunba Segun Ogunwuyi is committed to the timely delivery of action plan conceptualised by the Governor to cushion the effect of subsidy removal and make life worth living for the masses.

Alhaji Bello who was accompanied to the PTS company by other members of the sub committee including the State Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Comrade Ademola Babalola; the State Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Kayode Martins, a Director of Transport in the State, Mr. Babatunde Olanakanmi maintained that the committee on Transport including those of Food Security; Food Palliatives; Healthcare Services and SMEs were working round the clock to make the plan of the Governor a reality.

The immediate past Accountant General of the State and now Executive Assistant on Finance, Budget and Economic Planning said the

Governor approved immediate deployment of 10 buses for inter-State movement of commuters from those towns to Ibadan at a very reduced price.

"Already, the residents of Ibadan are presently enjoying these new buses as movement from Iwo-road interchange to Orita-Challenge and those of Amuloko-Beere which used to be between N400 and N500 now goes for just N100 only. Many of our people are already appreciating the Governor for this gesture as a number of our people now jettisoned their personal vehicles for these buses", he said.

Alhaji Bello added, "The feedback we are getting has shown that our people are enjoying the intervention of His Excellency in the transportation sector. And this is why the Governor on Wednesday approved immediate deployment of additional buses to commute residents traveling to and from Saki, Iseyin, Ogbomoso, Oyo and Ibarapa areas to Ibadan. Two buses each of 56-seater and 40-seater have been deployed to each of these major towns".

"And it is also expected that by the middle of next week, additional six would be available for movements of passengers at short distances within these towns and environs. All these efforts are just a tip of the iceberg as food palliatives to 200,000 vulnerable household; 100,000 healthcare services; food security where grains and N500million would be given to deserving farmers and another N500million for Small and Medium Enterprises are all in the offing and our people would start benefitting from them before this month runs to an end."

Alhaji Bello then solicited the support and cooperation of the people for the state government in its avowed efforts to ensure drastic reduction in poverty and mitigate the effects of subsidy removal amongst the citizenry.



# PHOTONEWS



*Governor of Katsina State, Malam Dikko Umaru Radda, with Executive Director, of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr. Faisal Shuaib, when the governor hosted a team of international development partners, during an advocacy visit in Katsina. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS*



*L-R: Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris Malagi, Fnipr, during a visit to Niger State Governor, His Excellency, Umar Bago. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS*



*L-R: Governor of Katsina State, Malam Dikko Umaru Radda PhD, Guest of Honour at Senator Muntari Dandutse's Constituency Programme when the senator presented 12,700 bags of fertilizer and vehicles to his constituents in Funtua town. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS*



*L-R: Governor of Katsina State, Malam Umar Dikko Radda with Senator, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal during the wedding fatiha of Deputy Senate President's son, Abdullahi with his bride, Bilkisu Aliyu Sani Madaki, daughter of the Deputy Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Aliyu Sani Madaki in Kano on Friday. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS*



# COMMUNITY FOCUS

## Kurmin-Gwari: Another Kaduna Squalor In Dire Need Of Social Infrastructure, Urban Planning

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Kaduna, the capital of the defunct Northern Region has her shares of ghettos located mostly in inner part of the city which used to be the epicenter of textile industry in West African subregion.

Having squalor settlements across Nigeria is not new which could be attributed to years of neglect by development authorities saddled with responsibility of turning suburban areas into urban centres.

Kurmin-Gwari Settlement located in the southern part of Kaduna City could be described as a typical squalor found in virtually every Nigerian state,

including the capital, Abuja.

To start with, Kurmin Gwari settlement has just one single tarred road which zigzags its way through out the linear squalor from which houses mushroom, connecting one another as if they were owned by a single individual.

A tour of houses in the low-income area mostly occupied by factory workers and petty traders showed the absence of social infrastructure such as drinkable water, access roads, stable electricity, schools, hospitals etc. Our reporter discovered that virtually all houses in the suburbs have their backyards as passage ways to other compounds.

More unsettling was the observation by our reporter that few residents who own cars mostly for commercial purpose park their vehicles on the only tarred road and walk an average of 300 to 400 meters to gain access to their homes after working hours.

An inconvenience many described as tiresome especially during the wet season when all the footpaths become

muddy.

A first time visitor to the enclosed settlement, particularly after nightfall would probably confuse the place with a nomadic hamlet; all one could see is local lanterns in front of each residence used as illuminating objects.

As important as education is which should attract the attention of authorities has been neglected as children of school ages have to walk some distance of an average of two kilometres to access a dilapidated primary school renovated by NBL as part

of the company's corporate social responsibility gesture while those of post primary school ages have to walk to Kachia Road to attend a government secondary school.

The whole area lacks serviceable health facility which necessitates residents with one health challenge or the other to go all the way to Kakuri or Makera for medicare.

A cross section of residence who poured their minds expressed their sadness and disappointment over what they describes as many years of

nonchalant attitude by elected and appointed representatives, especially state and federal lawmakers who should have paid attention to plight of people in the settlement.

"As you have seen for yourself the ugly state of our environment with poor hygiene condition due to absence of basic amenities that could make life worthwhile.

"Politicians would come here during campaigns and promise us heaven on earth but would vanish into a thin air after we have voted them.

"This is very bad, insensitive and

ungentlemanly way to treat your subjects," a resident Bulus John lamented.

The story was the same with several other residents engaged by our correspondent who called on the state governor and other representatives of the area to wade into their problem by providing basic infrastructure so they too would live happy lives like others across the state.



## Niger Coup: Focus On Promoting Transparency, Good Governance In Region, Muslim Women Groups Task ECOWAS

*\*Warn against war in Niger*

*\*Expressed fears over safety of women, children if war option scales through*

By: **BILQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin**

To prevent future military coup in the West African sub region, an umbrella body, Federation of Muslim Women's Associations (FOMWAN) has advised those at helm of affairs in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to set an agenda of promoting transparency, accountability and good governance in the region.

This was contained in a statement made available to our correspondent in Ilorin yesterday, jointly signed by FOMWAN National Amirah, Sanni Rafiah Idowu (Mrs) and National PRO, Hon Maimuna Momodu.

"It is also timely that ECOWAS has an agenda for its member-countries to deliver on their development mandates by promoting transparency, accountability and good governance in the region," the statement said. According to the group, the agenda is the viable route to sustaining democracy and preventing further coups.

"This is how to add value to the lives of people and drive sustainable development. We reiterate the use of more diplomatic approach that stands to yield better result," FOMWAN added.

According to the statement titled, "NIGER COUP: ECOWAS: WHAT IS THE VALUE ADDITION" the group said, "in the wake of the recent coup d'etat in Niger Republic and the subsequent sanctions imposed Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS) including threats of a military intervention, Muslim women in Nigeria call for restraint.

"Strongly united under the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN) we implore that ECOWAS critically looks at the bigger picture with a view to determine what value her actions will add to the region generally politically and economically.

ECOWAS must realize that border closure and electricity cuts adversely affect livelihoods by deepening poverty among ordinary citizens of Niger Republic, a country that ranks seventh in global poverty," they pointed out.

The group emphasized that sanctions will also affect the economies of the neighbouring countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad, Benin Republic, and Nigeria).

They added that, "seven Northern states in Nigeria

that share borders with Niger Republic (Jigawa, Kano, Kebbi, Zamfara, Sokoto, Yobe, and Borno) are already dislocated either by the ravages of Boko haram, banditry or kidnappings to be further denied livelihoods arising from sanctions.

"FOMWAN calls for the removal of the sanctions to reduce the sufferings of the people. Sanctions at this stage definitely have no value-addition".

FOMWAN said that it is concerned that women and children are most likely to bear the brunt of the political actions of the ECOWAS states.

"Eleven point two (11.2million) people are already displaced in West and Central wAfrican Republic (2022, reporting.unhcr.org), women and girls are 6.7million while children are 1.7million," it said.

The group insisted that ECOWAS needs to arrest this trend as a regional body because it affects the education of children and exposes women and girls to sexual exploitation and other forms of violence.

"Promoting more displacements of citizens within the West African sub-region is definitely a major setback for our development stride.

Military intervention should not be an option for ECOWAS, rather we advocate for dialogue.

"This is because the vagaries of wars and social unrests create unpredictable situations whose direction and end we may not know. ECOWAS needs to be careful not to pitch her forces against superior gang-up of other forces who are resolved to support Niger in the event of a military intervention.

"It is also pertinent at this juncture for ECOWAS to interrogate the recurrence of military coups in West Africa, with the apparent overwhelming support of the populace.

"To entrench democracy in the sub-region, ECOWAS countries must be seen to walk the talk by making democracy the attractive option for ordinary people, a government of the people, by the people, for the people," FOMWAN stressed.

In the light of this bigger picture therefore, FOMWAN said it expects ECOWAS to jettison all coercive strategies with the Niger junta.

"Instead, it must work with the internal stakeholders in Niger Republic to draw up a timetable of a return to democracy in that country," it argued.

## Illegal Mining: EFCC Will Ensure Extant Laws Against Illegal Miners Are Enforced - Acting Zonal Commander



*Acting Zonal Commander EFCC, Ibadan, ACE I Halima Mustafa Rufa'u during the visit.*

By: **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The acting Zonal Commander of the EFCC, Ibadan, ACE I Halima Mustafa Rufa'u has declared that the commission will ensure that extant laws against illegal miners are enforced. ACE Rufa'u said this during a courtesy visit to the Oyo/Osun State Customs Area Controller, Comptroller Babajide Jaiyeoba.

She decried the threat activities of illegal solid mineral operators in the zone pose to national economic growth, lamenting that resources

meant for the development of the country are being mismanaged by unscrupulous individuals for their personal gains.

"It saddens me to see that our natural resources that should have been used to develop our country, build good health facilities, alleviate poverty, improve our educational system, etc. are being mismanaged by unscrupulous individuals for their personal gains", she said.

ACE Rufa'u added, "But the EFCC is undeterred by the antics of corrupt individuals who are benefiting from the illegal mining operations and will ensure that extant laws

against illegal miners are enforced".

"I am glad to be here today on this familiarization visit but more importantly, this visit offers an opportunity to deliberate on how best to tackle the menace of illegal mining in Oyo, Osun and Ekiti States".

Appreciating the warm reception accorded her, She called for a more robust collaboration and synergy between the EFCC and the Nigeria Customs Service.

Speaking, the Oyo and Osun Area Command of the Nigeria Customs Service, Comptroller Babajide Jaiyeoba expressed confidence in

the competence of both organizations to tackle the menace head-on.

"This visit is coming at the right time, when there is an increase in illegal mining activities in the State but I can assure you that the fight will be won given the fact that both organizations are willing and ready to partner against the illegal activities", he said.

The Comptroller lauded the EFCC

Commander for the visit and commended her for the critical roles the EFCC is playing to combat illegal mining activities and cybercrime in the state.



*Senator Akpabio at the wedding ceremony on Friday*

# Police Arrests Man For Raping, Killing 8-yr Old Katsina Girl

**\*Nabs two bandits informants, others**

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Police Command as part of its achievement in the ongoing fight against all forms of crime and criminalities in the state has arrested a 25 years old Jibrin Yusuf who raped and killed an eight-year old girl.

The Command also arrested two suspected notorious informants to bandits and another suspected notorious motorcycle thief and the recovery of the stolen motorcycle.

Speaking while parading the Suspects before Journalists at Police Headquarters in Katsina, the Command Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu said it was on August 2, 2023, at about 1430 hours the command succeeded in arresting a "25 year old Jibrin Yusuf of Kanon-Haki village of Faskari Local Government Area, a suspected notorious rapist and killer of an eight (8) year old girl."

ASP Sadiq Aliyu explained that, "the fact of the case was on that

faithful day, one Hassan Jibrin, 'm', the father of the late victim employed the services of the suspect to convey fertilizer from one of his farms to the other situated at the outskirts of the village, while the victim was assigned to guard the fertilizer at one of the farms while her father attended to some labourers which the suspect took advantage of and forcefully dragged the little girl to a nearby farm where he raped, used a sharp knife and slaughtered the victim. He further moved the corpse to another farmland, covered it with leaves and made away with three (3) bags of fertilizer."

Superintendent of Police Aliyu said upon receipt of the report, Police detectives promptly swung into action and succeeded in arresting the suspect.

ASP Sadiq Aliyu said during the course of investigation, the suspect confessed to the commission of offence and the three stolen bags of fertilizers were also recovered.

On the arrest of two suspected notorious informants to bandits, ASP

Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu said,

"On July 12, 2023, at about 1200 hours based on credible intelligence, the command succeeded in arresting the duo of one (1) Mohammed Bello alias Dan Ali, 'm', of Sabon Gari, Ikara L.G.A., Kaduna State, and one (2) Abubakar Mohammed, 'm', of Kumbotso L.G.A., Kano State, suspected notorious informants to bandits."

He disclosed that, on July 12, 2023, the duo criminally conspired, deceived, and lured their friend

Salmanu, to a point between funtua and Zamfara state where they planned with one Gora, a notorious bandits leader hibernating in Zamfara forest and kidnap the victim.

According to ASP Sadiq in the course of investigation, the duo were traced and arrested in connection with the offence where they confessed to the commission of the offence. Investigation is ongoing.

However, on the arrest of a suspected notorious Motorcycle thief and recovery of the stolen

Motorcycle the Police spokesman said it was on July 07, 2023 at about 0700 hours while on routine patrol, the command succeeded in arresting Sadiq Abdullahi, aged 22 years old of Rafindadi quarters, Katsina, the suspected notorious motorcycle thief."

Assistant Superintendent of Police Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu said nemesis caught up with the suspect when he was accosted by men of the command's Anti-kidnapping Unit (AKU) while on routine patrol along Katsina - Jibia road, in possession of a suspected stolen white Jing cheng motorcycle (rubber rubber).

ASP Sadiq Aliyu said that, during the course of investigation the suspect confessed to have stolen the said motorcycle from Gafai quarters, Katsina, belonging to one Ahmad Lawal Babaye of the same address.

ASP Sadiq said the suspect further mentioned "one Surajo Sani, of Magamar Jibia, as the receiver of his stolen items, one Sani Abba alias Uban shegu, 'm', of Kofar-Yandaka quarters, Katsina, and one Hamisu Mamman, 'm', as his abettors."

## Katsina Gov Seeks Tighter Border Patrols To Check Arms, Drug Trafficking

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has reiterated the need for tighter border patrol to address the menace of arms, drug trafficking and condemned harassments of residents of some Katsina communities by operatives of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) Called anti-smuggling special force.

Governor Umaru Radda charged the Nigeria Customs Service to renew its fight against smuggling of arms and illicit drugs, fueling armed banditry across States in the North West and Central geo-political zones.

Governor Radda made the call in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Mohammed Kaula when he received the Senate adhoc Committee investigating the incessant killings of people smuggling rice and other prohibited goods into the country by officers of the Nigeria Customs.

Mohammed Kaula said the committee chaired by Senator Francis Fadahunsi, has Senators Abdulaziz Musa Yar'adua, Adeola Olamilekan, Shuaib Salisu, Kawu Sumaila, Tony Nwoye and Suleiman Sadiq as members.

The committee accompanied by some Senior Customs Officials from Federal Operations Unit Zone "B", Mohammed Kaula said was received by Governor Radda at the General Muhammadu Buhari

(Government) House in Katsina. "Governor Dikko Radda observed that, while it is essential for the Nigeria Customs Service to stop the smuggling of contraband food items, it is more important for the agency to curb the smuggling of arms and illicit drugs into the country," the Governor's spokesman said.

According to Governor Radda "In as much as it is essential to stop the smuggling of food items such as rice and tiger nuts among others, it is more of a priority for the Customs to curb the movement of arms and illicit drugs through our borders because these contraband items end up in the hands of armed bandits."

"Curbing the smuggling of arms will also complement ongoing efforts by security agencies in the fight against bandits and other armed groups operating in different parts of the country. I have interacted at length with the members of the committee, we support their work, and we hereby call on our people that reside along the borders to cooperate with them," he said.

Ibrahim Mohammed Kaula said while speaking further, the Katsina Governor, expressed dismay on the increasing harassment suffered by members of Jibia border communities from the hands of customs officials.

This, he said, compounded the movement of consumable goods from and to the area. emphasizing that, "Nigerian law had spelt out clearly prohibited goods that could not be allowed into the country."

## NNPP SW Leader, Olopoeniyan, A Political Warlord - Ajadi

**\*Congratulates him on 60th birthday**

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Chieftain of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in Ogun state, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Tuesday, described the South West leader of the party, Alhaji Rasheed Adebisi Olopoeyan as a political warlord.

Ambassador Ajadi in a statement to rejoice with Alhaji Rasheed Adebisi Olopoeyan on his 62nd birthday declared that as a politician of note whose contributions to the development of the South West and Nigeria politics as a whole cannot be quantified.

The NNPP gubernatorial candidate in Ogun state in the

March 2023 polls maintained that the story of Alhaji Olopoeniyan sojourn on earth "is one of the abundances of the God's Grace, whose unfailing love for humanity has been sufficient in his life.

"Today, on behalf of myself, my family and our party, New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in Ogun state, I have the pleasure of wishing a business guru, exemplary leader and great politician a truly marvellous birthday", he said..

Ambassador Ajadi



Composite picture of Ambassador Ajadi (left) with Alhaji Olopoeniyan.

added, " We are happy for our indefatigable and leader of note, political warlord for attaining 62nd years on the surface of earth. Alhaji Olopoeyan has fantastic qualities, he is dependable, trustworthy and always there for his people.

" His selfless service to humanity, Oyo State, South West and the nation at large and many achievements he has recorded in both personal and public life, are some of the reasons I cannot but celebrate him on this occasion of his 62nd birthday. We pray to Almighty God to continue to keep you in good health and bless you with many more years of robust service to humanity. Amin".

# Non-Aligned Movement Pushes For Honourable Ikara As Minister From Kaduna *\*Writes Open Letter*

**P**RESS RELEASE BY NON-ALIGNED YOUTH FORUM, EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AND POLITICAL RESEARCH, KADUNASTATE CHAPTER. OPEN LETTER TO RT HON FEMI GBAJAMILA AND PRESIDENT ASIWAJU BOLA AHMED TINUBU ON ADOPTING RT HON YUSUF BALA IKARA AS MINISTER FROM KADUNASTATE.

In recent times, the political atmosphere in kaduna state and by extension the nation is charged with the unfortunate bowing out of Mal Nasiru El-rufa'I from the ministerial aspiration.

This move has created a vacuum and a fertile playing field for various interest groups and political lobbyists to establish overnight alliances to project their candidates for consideration by the president and his noble Principal Officers especially the much influential Chief of Staff, Rt honorable Femi Gbajamila.

Therefore, this letter is to him. In it, is message of hope, message on pointing to the path of all inclusive governance and praxis on politics of loyalty and service delivery by no other than Rt Hon Yusuf Bala Ikara.

Rt Hon Yusuf Bala is a seasoned political actor who never changed political party since his foray into politics.

He has been content with being on the side of the opposition up to the time when concerted efforts of his likes turned the table.

Sir, in the frantic search of a potential minister, there should not be considerations of who is the nice guy on the bloc but who can deliver on the mandate of the "renewed hope" of the president Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

In consideration of Nigeria political space, alliances, contributions and achievements hold immense significance.

Rightly so, if capacity is what is sacrosanct in consideration of a prospective positions or that of a minister, then we should not look further.

This is more so as Yusuf Bala, from Ikara has proven records held in various capacities at the National Assembly where he held very sensitive positions as member to numerous committees where he performed exceedingly well to the consternation of many while



*Honourable Ikara*

deploying immense capacity woven in patriotism and unflinching loyalty to his principals.

As it were, while serving in the Federal House Representative, his vast experience was brought to bear as he sterlingly demonstrated tact, capacity and immense zeal in the sensitive committee he served. In the ongoing contest for the slots of ministers in kaduna state, wits or extant connections alone are not enough but capacity, capability, loyalty and pedigree in national assignments.

Be that as it may, Rt hon Yusuf Bala Ikara served in various committees which included the Petroleum Upstream and downstream committee, the committee on Niger Delta, Federal character commission, committee on Port harbour and water ways in the eight years he was in the chamber.

The Chief of Staff can without doubt attest to his competence and abundant potential in the delivery of his mandate to nigerians as they both served the nation together at that level.

It is also on record that Yusuf

Bala pooled his resources to assist the less privileged in his immediate constituency by initiating human development project which were aimed at boosting the socio-economic structure of his people in critical areas such as education, securing of job opportunities for the teeming grass-root youth while introducing viable intervention initiatives in agriculture being majorly the occupation of rural communities.

Permit us to also register the fact that aside from politics, Yusuf Bala is an entrepreneur and

consultant of the highest repute as a private citizen, to wit, he is engaged with the the engineering company Baco Tools in Portharcourt, Bonsec engineering and Marine, Pieros Technology, consultant as a maintenance engineer with Pan-African maritime, Halal integrated services port Harcourt among other services delivery multinational outfits.

In setting the record straight, he was a gubernatorial contestant in kaduna state but politely withdrew from the contest for the incumbent to emerge. Rt hon. Bala has supported the campaign efforts of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu by mobilizing and firming up massive support for the eventual victory of the APC at the top and in kaduna state.

In Nigeria's post independent politics, the precursor of disagreements and fallout of political mentors and their mentees are majorly devaluation of loyalties of the mentees.

Recognizing that, Rt hon Yusuf Bala Ikara has come up well equipped by avoiding unnecessary altercations with political contemporaries, embracing the ethics of humanity which is guided by tolerating people of different ethno-religious walks of life.

Finally, in the ongoing trajectory for potential ministerial appointments in Nigeria, the membership of this Forum have observed and seen the notable work and progressive roles played by him within the country. While also acknowledging the diverse and conflicting interests in the ministerial nominations, we are comforted by the patriotic ideals of Rt Hon Yusuf Bala Ikara in the face of many conflicting factors. The nomination of Yusuf Bala will also accommodate and settle the issue marginalization of Zone one which has been left out of requisite federal appointments for long.

We all stand with bated breathe and expectations for Rt Hon Yusuf Bala Ikara to be called upon by President Bola Tinubu through the wise counsel of Rt hon Gbajabiamila to serve in his noble cabinet.

Therein, will the nation be spellbound by the political prowess of Yusuf Bala which is steeped in experience and balanced in a well coordinated personality.

Albab Abdullahi  
Convener

# OYSADA: 1,545 Farmers Receive Agric Inputs In 19 LGAs - Oyo State N-Cares Coordinator

\*Beneficiaries in Oluyole, Ona-Ara, Egbeda, Oyo East, Atiba, Lagelu LGAs hail makinde over timely intervention

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Coordinator for Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (N-Cares) Result Area 2, Mr. Kolawole Adewumi Bamigbola has disclosed that no fewer than 1,545 beneficiaries have received agricultural inputs in 19 of the 33 local government areas in the state.

Mr Bamigbola who made this known while speaking with journalists in Oluyole local government at the last phase of the distribution to the 19 selected local government areas in the state as a support from Gov Seyi Makinde said the distribution of the agricultural Inputs to beneficiaries was carried out by the Oyo-Ncares in partnership with the World Bank under the Oyo State Agribusiness Development Agency (OYSADA) in line with the vision of the state governor to assist farmers that were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Oyo State N-Cares Coordinator stressed that the local government areas so far covered in the distributions are Iwajowa LG (100 farmers); Oluyole LG (70 farmers), Ibarapa North LG (60 farmers), Ibarapa central LG (50 farmers) Ibarapa East LG (100 farmers), Lagelu LG -70, Ido - 90, Iseyin - 80, Oorelope - 70, Oyo East - 80, Olorunsogo - 170, Saki East - 65, Oriire - 100, Kajola - 80, Ogbomosho South-90, Surulere - 70, Egbeda - 70, Atiba - 100, Ona-Ara - 20.

Mr Bamigbola maintained that "all these beneficiaries comprises of casava farmers, maize farmers, rice and tomatoes farmers", and that the state sponsored Youth



Some beneficiaries with items received.

Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness Project, YEAP beneficiaries were carried along in the distributions exercise that cut across all the 19 LGAs so far, adding, "all our beneficiaries should count this as a privilege and utilize these inputs for the intended purpose. The Programme is about providing agricultural inputs support to small scale farmers that were affected by COVID-19 during the year 2020," he said.

Mr Bamigbola added, "Though Covid-19 is no more ravaging the country, we still find out that there is still hardship that is occasioned by the removal of petrol subsidy, so these inputs given to the beneficiaries will assist them, and serve as a kind of

palliatives to these famers so that there would be reduction of hunger and poverty in the society."

In Oluyole local government 70 Cassava farmers, out of which are 30 YEAP beneficiaries received the agricultural inputs as empowerment materials from the state governor through OyoN-Cares to ensure food security in the state, as each beneficiaries received 20 bundles of Cassava cuttings, 2 bags of NPK Fertilizer and 1 litre of herbicide, while in Atiba local government, each of the 100 Tomatoes farmers received 25 sachets of tomatoes seeds, 1 pre-emergence and 1 post-emergence herbicide, with NPK 20-10-10 Fertilizer, while in

Ona-Ara local government each of the 20 tomatoes farmers also received their agricultural inputs.

Also, in Oyo East local government, each of the 80 cassava farmers received 20 bundles of cassava cuttings, with 2 bags of NPK, and 1 litre of herbicide. Also in Lagelu Local Government Secretariat Iyana-Offa total number of 70 farmers comprises 40 cassava farmers and 30 maize farmers received their agricultural inputs, and that each of the 40 cassava farmers in the local government received 20 bundles of cassava cuttings, 2 bags of NPK fertilizers, and 1 litre of herbicide, while each of the 30 maize farmers collected 10kg of maize seeds, 2 bags of

NPK fertilizers and 1 pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicide.

The Chairman of Oluyole local government, Hon. Olaide Popoola said, "This benefit is one of the palliatives rolled out through the goodwill of Governor Seyi Makinde, I'm now using this medium to enjoy all the beneficiaries in Oluyole Local Government to make good use of these items so that better future could await Oluyole Local Government as far as agriculture is concern."

The Chairman of Ona-Ara counterpart Hon. Musibau Sanusi while lauding Governor Makinde for supporting the farmers at the grassroot tasked the beneficiaries not to engage in selling of the inputs given to them, but to make better use of it, he also noted that the local government will do more to help the genuine famers to be more productive, by providing hectares of land, seedlings among other things in order to complement the efforts of Gov. Seyi Makinde on food security across all the geo-political zones of the state.

Speaking, one of the beneficiaries, a Cassava farmer from Egbeda local government, Mrs Olatoyosi Rashidat said, "I'm so grateful for this opportunity by the state government, I was sponsored to Nasarawa state to learn agriculture in a more bigger scale and with the use of modern technologies, coming back to Ibadan I ventured into cassava farming and today I'm one of the beneficiaries that received 20 bundles of cassava cuttings, fertilizer among other things."

## Kaduna Ethnic Youth Leaders Clamour For Mairago To Fill In Kaduna Ministerial Slot

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Coalition of Kaduna Ethnic Nationality Youth Leaders have called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, to appoint Barrister Yusuf Hamisu Abubakar (Mairago) to occupy the position of Minister of Environment and Ecological Management, reserved for Kaduna State, following the voluntary withdrawal of Malam Nasir el-Rufai from the race.

The group also called on Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State to support the noble call for the interest of peace, unity and progress of the state and country.

A statement signed by the Chairman of the Coalition, Malam Aliyu Sani in Kaduna on

Friday, described Mairago as a pillar and a force to reckon with in the political firmament of Kaduna State and Nigeria.

The statement described him as a selfless and philanthropic politician who will be a tremendous asset to the government of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

The statement added, "We are fortunate to have Barr Yusuf Hamisu Abubakar Mairago in Kaduna, he is phenomenal, charismatic, a dedicated loyal party member and exceptionally hard working individual. His contributions are numerous, with positive impact in all ramifications, which resulted to the success of APC in Kaduna during the 2023 elections."

It noted that it could boldly be inferred that the foundation upon which the present government of Kaduna State rest upon lies on the shoulders of critical stakeholders like Yusuf Hamisu Mairago.

The group added, "Mairago's wealth of Knowledge and experience as a legal practitioner, a lecturer, an economist, a manager and an administrator has prepared him for the Ministerial job, his style of leadership has earned him general acceptability and followership, a rare breed politician whose door is open to all irrespective of political party, religious or tribal inclination."

It is on the strength of the above that All

Kaduna Ethnic Nationality Youth Leaders put their voices unison and are clamouring for Yusuf Hamisu Mairago, saying that the people of Kaduna State yearn for him and believed his appointment by President Tinubu to fill in the slot of Ministerial position from Kaduna State will be a right step towards the right direction.

The statement called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to grant the wishes of the people of Kaduna State and appoint Barr. Yusuf Hamisu Abubakar Mairago to fill in the reserved slot for Minister of Environment and Ecological Management from Kaduna State.

# AGRA-NAERLS Conducts Training On Cabbage Farming Practice To CABs, EAs

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

**A**GRA-NAERLS Kaduna Consortium Project with Bayer company, conducted a joint training of EAs and Community Based Advisors (CBAs) on cabbage farming practices to build smallholder farmers' resilience to increase productivity, strengthen their market participation, and best value for money. The training was conducted at National Agricultural Extension Research And Liason Services (NAERLS), Zaria.

During the training, Bayer representative, Mr. Ojo Oluwale, presented Cabbage Seed (ansal fl) Pack to the Project Manager/ Principal Investigator Professor Christogonus Kayode Daudu, and one of the CBAs.

A group photograph session was part of the highpoints of the training.



# Niger Coup: ECOWAS Should Tread With Caution

By: Auwal Ahmed Ibrahim Goronyo

The recent coup in Niger has created a challenging situation that requires careful consideration and cautious action from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

It is imperative for ECOWAS to respond appropriately by denouncing the unconstitutional seizure of power, engaging in diplomatic dialogue, and collaborating with international partners to ensure a peaceful transition that respects democratic principles and safeguards the well-being of the people of Niger.

ECOWAS, as a regional organization, has a responsibility to uphold democratic values and promote stability in West Africa. Coups d'états undermine democratic processes and often lead to political uncertainty, human rights violations, and economic downturns.

Therefore, it is crucial for ECOWAS to firmly denounce the coup in Niger and insist on a prompt return to constitutional order. This firm stance sends a strong message that such actions will not be tolerated within the sub-region.

However, caution is necessary to consider the potential consequences of an overly harsh response.

Swift and severe reactions, such as imposing strict economic sanctions, can inadvertently exacerbate the situation and harm the ordinary citizens who are already struggling.

The imposition of such measures could cripple the economy, leading to increased unrest and discontent among the population.

ECOWAS must carefully calibrate its response to strike a delicate balance between upholding democratic principles and avoiding prolonged instability.

ECOWAS' decision to impose economic sanctions as a means of pressuring the coup leaders in Niger is highly controversial and likely to have adverse effects on the population.

Although, such sanctions are often utilized to signal disapproval and encourage a return to constitutional order, they often result in unintended consequences.

The burden of these sanctions is typically borne by ordinary citizens who are already grappling with poverty and economic hardship. ECOWAS's



President Tinubu

imposition of economic sanctions could exacerbate the suffering of the Nigerian people, pushing them deeper into poverty and worsening their quality of life.

One approach ECOWAS should take is diplomatic engagement with the leaders of the coup. Engaging in dialogue and negotiation can encourage a peaceful transition of power and minimize the potential for violence.

By establishing channels of communication, ECOWAS can work towards a resolution that respects the rights and welfare of the people of Niger.

This approach allows for the possibility of finding common ground and creating an environment conducive to peace and stability.

Moreover, ECOWAS should seek collaboration and support from the wider international community. By rallying international partners such as the African Union, United Nations, and other regional organizations, the collective pressure on the coup leaders is increased.

A unified front from the

international community sends a strong message that democratic principles must be respected, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts should be pursued.

This can contribute to the restoration of constitutional order and a transition process that prioritizes the well-being of the people of Niger.

In parallel with diplomatic engagement, ECOWAS should also explore opportunities for mediation and conflict resolution mechanisms. The organization has previously demonstrated success in resolving political crises in the region through dialogue and negotiation.

Lessons learned from previous experiences of conflict mediation can be applied to the current situation in Niger. By employing a neutral and impartial approach, ECOWAS can promote trust-building among the various actors and facilitate meaningful discussions that lead to a peaceful resolution. Furthermore, ECOWAS should emphasize the importance of inclusivity in the transition process. A key factor in ensuring

stability and avoiding further harm to the affected population is the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process.

By including representatives from civil society, political parties, and marginalized communities, ECOWAS can help create a more inclusive and participatory transition process.

This approach ensures that the voices and concerns of all Nigerian citizens are heard and considered, thereby reducing the risk of further unrest.

ECOWAS should also pay close attention to the socio-economic impact of the coup on the people of Niger.

The political instability resulting from the coup has the potential to exacerbate existing social and economic challenges facing the country. ECOWAS should actively engage in providing humanitarian assistance and support to vulnerable populations affected by the coup. By addressing the immediate needs of the population, ECOWAS can alleviate suffering and demonstrate its commitment

to the well-being of the people of Niger.

Also, ECOWAS's response to the recent coup in Niger must be cautious and thoughtful. While it is crucial to denounce the unconstitutional seizure of power, it is equally vital to consider the potential consequences of a harsh response.

A balanced approach that combines condemnation with diplomatic engagement, international collaboration, mediation, inclusivity, and addressing socio-economic impacts can contribute to a peaceful transition and the preservation of democratic values and human rights.

By carefully navigating this complex situation, ECOWAS can effectively promote stability and safeguard the well-being of the people of Niger.

*Auwal Ahmed Ibrahim Goronyo is a lecturer of Mass Communication Department, Kaduna Polytechnic, can be reached via Auwal Ahmed Ibrahim*





## Fuel Subsidy Removal: What's The Experts' Solution?

By Safiya I. Dantiye

I don't know why they have not envisaged the hardship people would suffer and proffer solution, though some 'clever' ones now say we have to suffer before we get it right. But how do you expect a family man who earns N30,000 a month to understand that, when the money could not pay his transport fare for a month? With what would he feed his family?

That is the final stance since fuel subsidy was said to be unsustainable, and the narrative is that it 'does not benefit the poor', but only few wealthy people that make billions in the subsidy 'scam.'

Well the deed is done; fuel subsidy is removed to the happiness of the experts and the not-so-experts as well, who behave like experts in case you look like an illiterate if you dare voice a different opinion.

However, surprisingly there are no clear answers from the experts on the ripple effects that follow the fuel subsidy removal. Transport fares have skyrocketed and with it the cost of everything.

But these few days, things seem to be getting worse at an alarming rate. A bag of rice bought at N34,000 barely a month ago is now N41,000.

The continuous fall of the naira against the dollar and the stories of increase in pump price to over N700 per litre have created panic that President Bola Tinubu said there was no plan to increase fuel price. He also met with the Central Bank acting governor, Folashodun Shonubi, on how to stabilise the naira.

In any event, from all indications, the experts are at a loss; they don't have a solution other than the mantra of removing fuel subsidy and using the money for infrastructure and so on.

Those in the informal sector, like artisans and public transport drivers, are not finding it easy as well. The drivers complain that people are not travelling as frequently as before because of the increase of the transport fare. Unless it is compelling, people no longer travel.

I don't know why they have not envisaged the hardship people would suffer and proffer solution, though some 'clever' ones now say we have to suffer before we get it right. But how do you expect a family man who earns N30,000 a month to understand that, when the money could not pay his transport fare for a month?

With what would he feed his family?

Some may say he is lucky he has a job, he may be, but that doesn't remove the fact of his dilemma and he deserves more to combat the current price increase. But he is not getting it and he is expected to be happy.

Those in the informal sector, like artisans and public transport drivers, are not finding it easy as well. The drivers complain that people are not travelling as frequently as before because of the increase of the transport fare. Unless it is compelling, people no longer travel.

There are many touching stories all over the place, but the experts have not told Nigerians whom they harassed how to survive this poverty. And instead of placating the people, some people are still quick to point out that fuel is still cheaper in Nigeria than in other West African countries.

Then suddenly universities increased registration fee starting from N100,000 upwards depending on the course, yet the government insists that federal universities are free, and the universities defended their action by saying the increase in the registration fee was in tune with 'reality.'

But the purchasing power of the parents has not increased and many parents and students don't know what to do. I was listening to a radio in Kano and as some radio stations allow people to solicit for help, especially in seeking medical help or tuition fee, I heard a young man who was asking for help from people to help him pay his registration fee in a university. He said he was a medical student.

There are many touching stories all over the place, but the experts have not told Nigerians whom they harassed how to survive this poverty. And instead of placating the people, some people are still quick to point out that fuel is still cheaper in Nigeria than in other West African countries.

I think it is the height of insensitivity as if the people don't count; that they may go to blazes. But just because somebody suffers more than you do, does it make it right or humane to say you should not complain about your pain?

In this regard, the experts should please come up with the solutions on how to get people out of this economic hardship. Their expertise is needed now more than ever!

# Olubadan Suspends Mogaji Over Land Dispute

## \*Demands apology to Ibadanland, affected landlords

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lekan Balogun on Friday, announced the suspension of one of his Mogajis, Chief Olawale Oladoja, Mogaji Akinsola as a Mogaji in Ibadanland. Oba Balogun said the Mogaji was placed on suspension over his alleged activities in the Akinsola Village in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State.

Speaking through the Ashipa Olubadan, Oba Biodun Kola-Daisi on behalf of the Olubadan Advisory Council, Oba Balogun said, "several facts were established here today and they pointed to the fact that Mogaji Akinsola didn't follow the code of conduct usually handed down to both Biodun Mogajis and Baales when being appointed.

"In this instance, the case was already in the Palace, but, did you inform the palace before the police was invited? Your action inconvenienced, embarrassed the Olubadan stool and the Ibadanland", he said.

Oba Balogun added, "You crossed the line and the council has decided that you be suspended as Mogaji, you are ordered to tender public apology to

the people inconvenienced. You defied Olubadan, took laws into your hands by going ahead to take such drastic decision.

"This will serve as deterrent to others who fail to appreciate and recognize the responsibility their position as either Baale or Mogaji entails. Your suspension will last for as long as it takes to resolve the problem you have created".

The Personal Assistant (Media) to the Olubadan, Oladele Ogunsola while briefing journalists after the Olubadan in Council meeting, disclosed that three communities, Akinsola, Aponmode and Labinkulu were affected by the action with the other two communities as represented by Baale Aponmode, Dauda Bolarinwa Aponmode and Morufu Raufu relaying how they were reportedly recruited by Mogaji Akinsola to join him in reclaiming the land from the landlords and how they turned him down.

Mr Ogunsola stressed that Mogaji Akinsola in his presentation told Oba Balogun and his members of Advisory Council that he made several attempts to resolve the matter before he decided to take action and that the matter was also

reported to the palace and moves were being made to intervene but didn't wait for the conclusion of the palace intervention before he approached the security agents for the execution of the court judgment that gave his family the right of ownership of the disputed land.

It would be recalled that about 200 houses in the community under reference were on Wednesday put under lock and key and red-marked which he said was to prove his being in charge with the action throwing the residents out of their houses, leading some of them to sleep in the open throughout the night following which they protested to the Olubadan Palace on Thursday.

The complaints and the public outcry that greeted the matter which trended on the internet led to the emergency meeting conveyed on Friday which had in attendance the Olubadan, some of the members of his Advisory Council, the representatives of Ibadan Mogajis led by Chief Asimiyu Adepoju Ariori, Mogaji Akinsola and the representatives of the residents and where the decision to suspend the Mogaji and other actions were taken.



The suspended Mogaji with others at the Olubadan in Council meeting on Friday.

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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

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Width	25.4 (CM)	Width -	10 (Inches)

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

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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? (2)

By; HASSAN GIMBA

We have looked at various forms of government in the first part of this treatise. We ended with the posers, "Can we continue this way? Is it the fault of the system or the operators of the system? Should we scout for a better system or better operators? 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?" We signed off with this thought: "Perhaps we have been imposing on ourselves systems that are alien to us, to our culture, to our souls."

Some think there is something wrong with the system we are practising. And some swear it is our fault, leaders and followers alike.

Parliamentary democracy crashed in Nigeria with the 1966 coup. Then the soldiers kept pushing each other out, with new entrants claiming the dethroned didn't know how it was done. Our first experiment with presidential democracy lasted about 58 months – from 1979 to 1983. We now have 23 years, and hopefully, it has come to stay.

Nigeria has experienced gains and developments in all the types of governments we have practised. This proves that there can be developmental strides in any type of government depending on the operators. And this is why even in dictatorships there are the malevolent.

While not making a case for any form of government, one may say Libya, Iraq, China, Cuba, most of Eastern Europe, Asian Tigers and Russia, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, etc., all experienced their development under one form of dictatorship or the other.

Apart from the United States of America, Brazil, Georgia and Indonesia, Ghana, Niger and Kenya are some countries that are successfully practising the presidential system of governance.

Russia, France, Romania, Taiwan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Egypt are successfully implementing the semi-presidential system. It is a system where there is a president and a prime minister and the president has genuine executive authority, unlike in a parliamentary republic, even though some of the roles of a head of government are exercised by the prime minister.

You find successful countries among those who are practising parliamentary democracy as well. Those that readily come to mind are Finland, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Singapore and Turkey. These are countries with a president who serves as a symbolic figurehead. A prime minister is the active head of the executive branch of government and also the leader of the legislature.

Brunei, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates practise absolute monarchy in which the monarch is the de facto head of the executive branch and exercises all powers, while

Denmark, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden practice constitutional monarchy where a prime minister is the head of the executive branch of government and also the leader of the legislature. And the head of state is a constitutional monarch who only exercises his or her powers with the consent of the government and is largely a figurehead.

Iran practises theocracy and China is a one-party state. Yet all the mentioned countries are developing steadily, boosting local production, taming crime, having low rates of unemployment, having enviable GDP, impressive foreign reserves and sturdy currency, etc.

In our last discourse, we looked at just one aspect that could change Nigeria for good – capital flight occasioned by the government buying foreign-made cars. Between 2015 and 2021, the Office of the President alone spent N5 billion on vehicles.

In this year's budget, the president's office is to spend N1.6 billion on new vehicles – it was about N500 million the year before.

In 2018, the Senate, House of Representatives and the management unit of the National Assembly spent about N6.6 billion on new cars. Senators' purchase totalled N3.2 billion, the lower chamber acquired theirs at N3 billion and the management of the National Assembly procured cars worth N430 million.

In September 2019, the 9th Assembly spent N5.5 billion and voted for the procurement of their own – Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) for each of the 479 members of the upper and lower chambers of the National Assembly.

To cut a long story short, this year alone, the Presidency and Ministries, Agencies and Departments of government are expected to spend at least N40 billion to purchase vehicles. And this is just a conservative figure. Add to it the cost of tires, maintenance, etc., and you will be left with a mind-boggling figure. Join that of the National Assembly, states and local governments to it and think of how such amounts can change the lives of millions

"Can you imagine the ripple effect of such monies going into enhancing our local car production efforts? The glass manufacturing industries, car upholstery, tyre production, etc., which would sprout up, as a result, will surely help in cutting down our unemployment rate and arresting galloping inflation by strengthening and stabilising our currency."



**Hassan Gimba**

## Monday Column

of Nigerians.

Can you imagine the ripple effect of such monies going into enhancing our local car production efforts? The glass manufacturing industries, car upholstery, tyre production, etc., which would sprout up, as a result, will surely help in cutting down our unemployment rate and arresting galloping inflation by strengthening and stabilising our currency.

Again, with such an amount, each of Nigeria's 774 local governments can get at least a comprehensive health centre at N10 million each and a standard referral hospital, one in each geopolitical zone. Imagine how these would improve our overall health and give livelihoods to hundreds of thousands.

You may even go further to think of N50 million spent in each local government to set up cottage industries or invest N5 million in each of Nigeria's 8,800 wards to upgrade one vocational centre to teach self-sufficiency skills to our youths. Imagine the number of people that would be taught how to fish!

There are many, many ways such money would be more beneficial to Nigerians than spending them on cars to massage the desire for luxury among government officials.

Considering some of our misplaced priorities, we may, after all said and done, conclude that it is not so much the system but rather the people that is Nigeria's problem. To this, I do not see many denying it.

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

# How Nami's Administrative Skills Has Turned Around FIRS Fortunes

By; ANDREW OKONKWO

Anybody who knew the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) before the advent of the administration of Muhammad Nami would in all fairness concede that he has remarkably used his salient administrative skills to improve the operations of the apex tax body. His dexterity in achieving an upward swing in revenue generation has much to do with his administrative skills than the deployment of technology.

To understand the road Nami traveled before arriving at this destination, there is a need to look back at the state of affairs in the Service before he happened. It will not be overstating the fact to say that the state of disrepair, staff disorientation, and demotivation in the Service when Nami took over the reins of leadership, was legendary. There was a backlog of more than ten years of promotions, the reporting line was skewed and obsequious, the structure was straitjacketed, and work ethics were thrown overboard. Staff allowances were not regularly paid which thereby affected staff morale and caused disenchantment.

With this overt climate of the insufferable condition of service prevailing at the time of his assumption of office, there is no gainsaying the fact that the task he found himself handling required tact, circumspection, and astute administrative skills. And Nami rose to the occasion. He navigated the turbulent economic climate occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic, the dwindled oil revenue, and the EndSars protest to post an impressive record of revenue generation. Today, the country relies on the non-oil tax revenue being administered by Nami's leadership.

One thing that stands out for Nami, besides his ability to manage people and resources, is his ability to headhunt and identify resourceful people who are fit for various tasks and offices. The first thing he did when he assumed the mantle of leadership of the Service was to reorganize the structure of the Service. In doing this, he freed up offices, created new departments, additional state coordination, fourteen satellite offices, and more functions thereby making it possible for promotions to happen and staff to aspire to higher offices and responsibilities.

He similarly restored to the staff



functions that were given to consultants which made it possible to harness the potentials and initiatives of the staff. One important result of this is the in-house building and implementation of the now famous TaxPro-Max, his baby which is yielding astronomical revenue haul for the country. This remarkable achievement could only have been possible with one that has administrative skills and the foresight to see beyond the here and now.

In the same vein, fixing the right people in the right positions as well as utilizing the experience and expertise of retiring officers of the Service has helped greatly

in shoring up some gaps which would have put the Service in a serious manpower deficit. Therefore, being able to mix both the experienced and the upstarts has helped to entrench mentorship and succession plans in the Service. This trend would surely bring about inbreeding and quality manpower that would be capable of standing up to any headwinds.

From the inception of his administration, Nami has maintained a studious approach to administering the affairs of the Service by setting up some cardinal goals for the organization, which are rebuilding the FIRS institutional

framework, making the Service data-centric, and customer-centric, and having a robust stakeholder collaboration. And these are not just mere concepts.

True to his words, he has religiously fixed his focus on achieving these goals against all odds. That is why presently he has created a department called Intelligence Strategic Data Mining and Analysis in the Service. He equally established Special Tax, Tax Incentives Management, and Special Crimes and Investigation Departments as a way of strengthening the mechanism of tax collection and administration. He has also

maintained a close engagement with all facets of stakeholders to enhance the visibility of the Service and enhance its operations.

Nami has equally applied his leadership and administrative skills through wide consultation with both internal and external stakeholders in policy formulation toward enhancing workflow and work ethics within the system. This has resulted in the formulation of the right policies and reduced roles conflict considerably. Reporting lines have also been strengthened and redefined in a way that has put the staff on a sound footing for enhanced productivity. This is done through constant and rigorous performance evaluation.

All these point to the fact that Nami's administrative skills manifest consummate leadership qualities and performative vision. Nami understands the intricate combination of administration, leadership, and vision for the attainment of organizational goals. That is why he has been able to raise the bar of revenue collection to an all-time high. And in the coming years he will do even better.

Andrew Okonkwo writes from Abuja.

**“One thing that stands out for Nami, besides his ability to manage people and resources, is his ability to headhunt and identify resourceful people who are fit for various tasks and offices. The first thing he did when he assumed the mantle of leadership of the Service was to reorganize the structure of the Service. In doing this, he freed up offices, created new departments.”**

# We Are All Nigerians: ECOWAS Military Intervention And The Complex Implications

By: **Amb ALIYU BINABBAS**

The contemplation of a potential ECOWAS military intervention in Niger has ignited a storm of debates, concerns, and speculations.

While the intention may be to restore stability and order, the intricacies of such an intervention must be dissected comprehensively.

This article delves into the multifaceted dimensions of the situation, from the historical context of past interventions to the regional implications, including the potential resurgence of internal conflicts.

Furthermore, the strategic considerations surrounding the scenario of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the Nigerian constitution's stance on leadership during military conflicts will be examined.

Ultimately, the analysis underscores the necessity for a united Nigerian populace to navigate the complex terrain ahead.

**Historical Context and Concerns**  
The history of military interventions, particularly in conflict-torn regions, is replete with lessons that must not be forgotten. Such interventions often prove to be double-edged swords, with outcomes far from the intended objectives.

Frequently, they exacerbate pre-existing problems, prolong conflicts, and inflict unintended civilian casualties. Nigeria's own history bears witness to this, with the memory of the Biafra war still casting a long shadow over the nation.

An ECOWAS military intervention, while aiming to restore stability, could inadvertently worsen the situation it seeks to remedy. The potential escalation of violence, displacement of civilians, and further destabilization of the region are stark possibilities.

Moreover, the historical, cultural, and ethnic ties between Niger and Northern Nigeria add a layer of complexity. The intervention, regardless of its intent, could be interpreted as an attack on the North, resurrecting dormant secessionist sentiments and regional tensions.

**Ethnic and Regional Implications**

One of the most pressing concerns arising from the prospect of an intervention is the potential for renewed regional tensions and internal conflicts.

The memory of the Biafra war remains fresh in the minds of many Nigerians.

The ECOWAS intervention could inadvertently fan the



*Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas*

flames of division and disunity, as it could be construed as an intrusion in the North's interest in favor of Western colonists.

The delicate balance of ethnic and religious diversity in Nigeria has always required careful handling. The intervention, while attempting to restore stability, could inadvertently ignite dormant regional and ethnic conflicts.

The repercussions of this would be devastating, leading to further disintegration of national unity and possibly serving as a catalyst for another Biafra-like scenario.

**Strategic Considerations and Presidential Role**

In the midst of these complex considerations, the role of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu takes center stage.

The Nigerian constitution permits the continuity of presidential power during times of military conflict, precisely outlined in Article 135 subsection (3) If the Federation is at war in which the territory of Nigeria is physically involved and the President considers that it is not practicable to hold elections, the National Assembly may by resolution extend the period of four years mentioned in subsection (2) of this section from time to time; but no such extension shall exceed a period of six months at any one time..

This constitutional provision is grounded in the need for stability and the uninterrupted functioning of the government, especially during times of crisis. The strategy of utilizing a

military conflict to consolidate power is a high-stakes game. Such a tactic aims to leverage the continuity clause to maintain President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's grip on power. However, this approach may polarize the nation further, igniting accusations of manipulating a crisis for personal gain.

The potential consequences, including the exacerbation of divisions and the erosion of public trust, are significant.

**Potential Consequences and Humanitarian Concerns**

The potential consequences of an ECOWAS military intervention extend beyond the immediate geopolitical implications.

The increase in internally displaced persons (IDPs), the loss of life, and the

destabilization of an already fragile economic structure are among the grave concerns.

Civilian populations often bear the brunt of conflicts, leading to immense human suffering and long-term societal dislocation.

Furthermore, the Nigerian judiciary finds itself in a precarious position. The impending burden of rendering impartial judgments in the face of an ongoing military intervention complicates the already intricate legal landscape.

Balancing democratic principles with the need for stability presents a significant challenge, one that could strain the institution's integrity and capacity to uphold the rule of law.

**The Imperative of Unity and Resilience**

Amidst these multifaceted challenges, the central theme remains unity. Nigeria's strength is rooted in its diversity and collective resolve to face adversity.

The current juncture demands a united front, transcending ethnic, regional, and political divides. The emphasis should be on preserving the nation's core values of unity, diversity, and resilience.

**Conclusion**

The contemplation of an ECOWAS military intervention in Niger is fraught with complexities that cannot be underestimated. Historical precedents, ethnic tensions, constitutional provisions, and strategic considerations all contribute to the multifaceted nature of the situation.

The potential for unintended consequences, regional conflicts, and political maneuvering underscores the importance of a cautious approach.

As Nigerians, it is incumbent upon us to remember that our nation's strength resides in our unity. The shared goal of a prosperous, stable, and united Nigeria should transcend personal ambitions and immediate gains.

Only through collective effort, informed decision-making, and a commitment to shared values can Nigeria navigate these turbulent waters and emerge stronger on the other side. In the end, it is our responsibility to ensure that Nigeria's destiny is determined by its people and guided by a vision of a brighter future for all.

*Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas is the President of National Youth Alliance (NYA)*

# 2023 African Volleyball C'Ship: Nigeria To Face Kenya In Quarterfinals

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Nigeria will face vice champions Kenya in the quarterfinals of the 2023 African Senior Women's Volleyball Championship in Yaounde, Cameroon. Nigeria lost to Algeria 2-3 (16-25, 18-25, 25-23, 26-24, 6-15) in their last group stage match at the multipurpose sports hall yesterday.

Nigeria recorded two wins against Mali and Burundi as well as three losses in the hands of Cameroon, Egypt and Mali in the group stage. The head coach of Nigeria women's volleyball team, Samuel Ajayi said losing the fifth set to Algeria was painful. Ajayi said all attention will be shifted to the quarterfinals of the championship as Nigeria faces silver medalists at the 2019

African Championship in Rwanda. He said, "I am not happy with our loss against Algeria in the last group stage match. My players were not impressive in the first and second set but got their rhythm in the third and fourth set. I expected my players to win their fifth set but we made too many errors allowing the Algerians to take the first four points." "All attention has been shifted to the

quarterfinals and we are playing one of the best teams in the championship. Kenya were unbeaten in their group stage matches and are very experienced with proper exposure. "Nigeria will not respect Kenya on the court when both teams meet on Tuesday; this might be our chance to make a huge statement in the championship.



## SESC Boss Lauds Tinubu Over Choice Of Enoh As Sports Minister

By; AYO OJEDOKUN,  
Lagos

The National President of the Super Eagles Supporters Club (SESC), Prince Vincent Okumagba has applauded President Bola Ahmed Tinubu over choice of Senator John Enoh as the new Minister of Sports, saying the decision indicates that the present administration has excellent plans for Nigeria's sports.

Okumagba who is also the Vice President of Africa's Football Supporter's body in a congratulatory message issued and made available to New Nigerian Sports, hinged his optimism on the trajectory of the former foremost lawmaker, who served in many important committees while in the Senates.

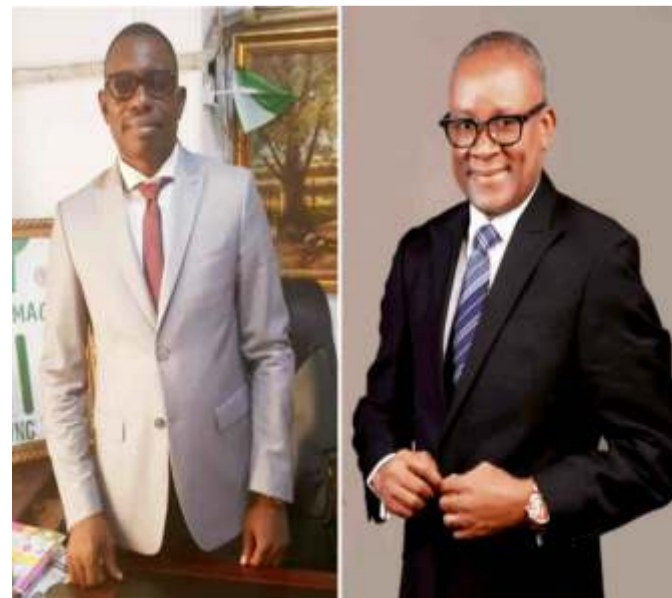
"We as Supporters Club and huge stakeholder in the Nigerian Sporting sector are applauding President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's choice of Senator John Enoh as the new Minister of Sports. We believe his

vast experience in lawmaking will be a huge advantage to the accomplishment of his new assignment.

"I want to heartily congratulate the new sports minister, Senator John Enoh, on his well justified appointment. As a former lawmaker he understands the dynamics of every sector, so I believe he will hit the ground running.

The Founder and President of Super Eagles Supporters Club however, pledged the commitment of his executive, along with every member of SESC to work in harmony with the new minister to chart a new direction for Nigeria's sports.

"We are all stakeholders and partners in progress. We are ready to work together in the best interest of our great country. We shall partner with the minister to ensure that our football takes center stage in our nation's development history," the statement said.



## Rangers Tame Stubborn All-Stars, Supreme Kings In Friendlies

By; AYO OJEDOKUN,  
Lagos

Coach Fidelis Ilechukwu and his lieutenants continued their build-up for a perfect 2023/2024 season with the 'Flying Antelopes', Rangers International F.C with two wins over Enugu NPFL All-Stars team and Aba based, Supreme Kings F.C in friendly fixtures on Friday, August 18, 2023.

In the first game of the day, the players fielded by the coaching crew tamed hard fighting, Enugu NPFL All-Stars that had the likes of Uchebo Okechukwu, Christian Obiozor, Bishop Onyeudo, Uche Okafor, Chibuzor Madu, and others 2-1 inside UNEC Stadium, Enugu.

Frank Uwumiro and Jonas Emmanuel were the heroes for the coach Ilechukwu tutored side as their goals on 75 and 87 minutes sandwiched Precious Omodu's strike from the spot on 85 minutes to earn Rangers a deserved win.

In the second match of the day, Aba-based side,

Supreme Kings F.C which had earlier held their own against Abia Warriors and Heartland, came up unstuck against Rangers who dispatched the youthful side with some quality players, 5-0 in the match that happened at the Rangers Training Pitch, Liberty Estate, Independence Layout Enugu.

Ifeanyi OgSeventy-ba opened the floodgates of goals at the quarter-hour mark after being set up by a Chukwudi Nwaodu pass just as Chidiebere Nwobodo helped himself



to a brace on 20 and 38 minutes with experienced campaigners, Leonard Ugochukwu and Godwin Obaje put their names on the score sheet on 78 and 83 minutes. Rangers will next square up with fellow premiership campaigners,

Abia Warriors F.C in a pre-season friendly encounter on Sunday, August 20, 2023, at Rangers Training Pitch, Liberty Estate, Independence Layout, Enugu with kickoff fixed for 4.00 pm.



## Stay Off Crime, CP Warns Akwa Ibom Corps Members

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Commissioner of Police in Akwa Ibom State, CP Olateyo Durosinmi has rekindled the warning to Batch B Stream 2 Corps members posted to the state for their national assignment to stay off all forms of crime, especially illicit drugs and cultism that could ruin their present and future endeavours.

CP Durosinmi, who made the warning on Friday

during their swearing in ceremony at the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Orientation Camp in the state, however, assured the corps members of their security and safety.

He enjoined them to make new friends and keep good company as well as take advantage of the opportunities available during the NYSC service year to better themselves and society.

The CP, joined the Akwa Ibom State Governor,

Pastor Umo Bassey Eno, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth and Sports to welcome the newly corps members to the state.

Meanwhile, CP Durosinmi has decorated one hundred and forty-three (143) Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) who were recently promoted from the rank of Inspectors of Police.

The CP, who conveyed the hearty congratulations of the acting Inspector

General of Police, IGP Kayode Egbetokun, advised the newly promoted Officers to double their efforts in crime fighting and maintenance of law and order in Akwa Ibom State. CP Durosinmi, who noted that promotion comes with additional responsibilities, urged those promoted to act professionally while discharging their duties and eschew all vices capable of denting the image of the Police Force.



Commissioner of Police in Akwa Ibom State, CP Olateyo Durosinmi addressing Batch B Stream Corps Members posted to the state.

## Gov Makinde Approves August 20 As Ise Day, Declares Monday Public Holiday

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Government on Friday, declared Monday August 20 as Ise Day public holiday.

This was contained in a

circular signed by the Secretary to the Oyo State Government, Professor Olanike Adeyemo.

According to the circular, the public holiday followed the approval of August 20 of every year as

Ise Day in the state by Governor Seyi Makinde.

In the circular, the governor urged traditional worshippers in the state to use the occasion to pray for the peace, unity and stability of the state in

particular and the country in general.

The approval indicates the governor's commitment to inclusivity and respect for all religious practices in the state.

## 2023 African Volleyball C'Ship: Nigeria To Face Kenya In Quarterfinals

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## Niger Crisis: Sheikh Lau, Ulammas Commended For Brokering Peace

By; TINAPHINEAS, Yola

A Nigerian Islamic cleric, Sheikh Bala Lau and some ulammas, have been commended over their intervention to broker peace between the Nigerian military junta, ECOWAS and the Nigerian populace.

Prof. Yakub Abdalla, a UK based Critical Infrastructure Protection consultant expressed this in a statement made available to New Nigerian.

According to him, the Bala Lau-led Islamic mediation team has succeeded in quenching the embers of war that would have engulfed the area and has also made the difference in halting unnecessary shedding of blood in the country through mediation and constructive engagement.

Abdalla pointed out that the actions of the clerics is consistent with Islamic injunctions and typically reflects the humanity and humane culture of the African people.

Yakub said, "Peace in Islam is an eternal constitution. The principle of Islam is peace and coexistence, not conflict, violence and war.

"Islamic peace-making therefore is a teaching and tradition that transcend divisions. It may be that God will grant love [and friendship] between you and those whom ye [now] hold as enemies. For God is Oft-Forgiving, Most-Merciful' (Quran 60:7).

"I am writing today because I realize that after the Prophet of Islam (SAW) every other leadership in nations has been by elections. Even in monarchy like Saudi Arabia and other Islamic nations there is always limited democracy, a conferment of leadership by the kingmakers that represent various interest groups in the society. Even here in the UK, we have limited elections because we do not elect our king or Queen but are conferred through kingmakers that represent interest groups.

"The challenge we have in Niger Republic and every other forceful government is

the conferment through the barrel of the gun.

"The threat to life of a person or group of persons through lethal means, except as a means of defence, is not only cowardly but callous in all ramifications."

Pointing out the fault line that comes along with a barrel induced government, he said, "Niger and other countries in their shoes have done the wrong thing, denying their own people the right to be represented.

"The military are currently dishing out menu of what they believe Nigeriens want, whether it right or wrong. In this coup No.8 in Niger Republic, they would have known that their best days were the civilian days.

"There have been seventy-eight coups in West Africa since 1952 with severe lack of continuity and unbearable economic consequences.

"Every time there is a coup in West Africa, some colonial masters or the common culprit, the CIA is accused as responsible. The cause of action usually is to run to another colonial master who will continue the pulverization of our lands and resources. West Africa has no independent political philosophy and most times it is impossible to measure success of governments in the region.

"All our countries are copycats, plagiarising constitutions of western nations while trying to live Middle Eastern or far eastern lifestyle. We are not English, French, Arabic, Chinese, or Russian. We have very serious identity crises.

"Unlike other nations we are Africans who have our mother tongues, community based values, and respect for our elders. We have various religions, but in these identity crises most of our leaders adhere to a main and minor religion. Many would go to churches or mosques and also go to some diabolical covens, clairvoyants, or psychic readers. For Africans it is always God plus; the very reason why IZALA was formed in 1978.

"We are unique in our own