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NDLEA Uncovers Indonesia Bound 117 Grams Illicit Drug Tucked In Slippers, Wooden Drum, Others In Kwara, Ogun, Adamawa, Gombe

South African nabbed with drugs at Abuja Airport

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Eagle-eyed operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have thwarted the efforts of a transnational drug cartel to export a consignment of 117 grams of ketamine neatly concealed in a pair of leather male slippers being shipped to Indonesia.

Similarly, a 2.14 kilograms of skunk clinically hidden in the walls of a local wooden drum were equally intercepted by officers of the Agency.

In a related manner, attempt by a 29-year-old South African, Erasmus Jean-Pierre, to export 2.6

kilograms of methamphetamine concealed in his luggage to the Middle East through the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, NAIA Abuja was also thwarted by operatives.

The Director Media and Advocacy of the Agency Femi Babafemi made the disclosure in a statement yesterday.

He explained that the transnational drug cartel was busted by operatives attached to the Directorate of Operations and General Investigation, DOGI, attached to courier firms in Lagos.

"Nigeria - Eagle-eyed operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, on Wednesday 23rd August,



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Anthrax: Report Suspicious Illness, Death Of Animals, Expert Tasks Oyo Butchers



Exhibits recovered by NDLEA from the suspects

ABU SSANU Chairman Charges Women To Be Active In Unionism

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Chairman Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) ABU Zaria branch, Comrade Mohammed A. Haruna has charged Women to be active in unionism and office positions.

He gave the charge while declaring a one-day SSANU ABU Women Conference held at the NAERLS Conference hall on Thursday.

Comrade Mohammed A. Yunusa said, unless women participate and contested for offices that is when their voices will be heard and listened.

According to him, the world is transforming and women are occupying sensitive positions which signifies the women capabilities in holding positions either in the unionism or public offices. He cited an example of Hajiya Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of United Nations, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, among others.

In her welcome address, the ABU Branch Women Coordinator, Comrade Hauwa Yahaya commended the efforts of SSANU exco for ensuring the success of the conference.

She said the conference was organized to bring senior female staff together to remind them of the importance of participating in unionism and office positions available in their various working places.

Comrade Hauwa Yahaya also said, the theme of the conference is very unique and important to the women in service.

She advised women to remove negative thinking that is making them to shy away from being actively involved in unionism and occupying positions in their various chosen carrier.

The women coordinator advised members on the need to start contributing something for their purpose, through which they can assist themselves. The theme of the conference was, "Women's Health And Gender Diversity".

Three papers were presented, Hajiya Aisha Babale presented a paper on "Obedience to work ethics, A Prerequisite for Productivity and Self Fulfilment".

Barr. Hadiza Kabiru presented a paper titled, "Legal Framework for Women In Trade Union in Nigeria".

The third paper was represented by Dr. Olajumoke Adebayo on Cervical Cancer, Causes, Symptoms, Prevention and Treatment".

In her remarks, the Chairperson, Women Committee of the NLC Kaduna State, Comrade Martha Banki urged them to make the sacrifice of contributing as the coordinator requested.

Comrade Banki commended the ABU SSANU Women for organizing the Conference.



Pastor Yohanna Buru, being received by Professor Yahuza Sulaiman Imam

Kaduna Pastor Strengthens Interfaith Relations During Visit L NBAIS

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The General Overseer of the Christ Evangelical and Life Intervention Ministry, Pastor Yohanna Buru, has paid a visit to the National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS) headquarters in Kaduna, aimed at fostering a stronger relationship between religious communities.

Pastor Buru, who led an entourage, was received by Professor Yahuza Sulaiman Imam and his management staff.

He said the primary objective of the visit is to

extend congratulations to the Registrar/CEO of the board and to wish him success and divine guidance throughout his tenure.

Pastor Yohanna Buru emphasized that the visit marked not his first encounter with the board, as he has previously sought to cultivate positive relationships with its entire staff and management.

According to him, his rapport with the board aligns with its mission of promoting peace and unity across the nation.

He underscored the

significance of the Arabic language as a universally powerful means of effective communication, capable of disseminating valuable information.

Recalling from his personal experiences, Pastor Buru recounted encounters with Christians conversing fluently in Arabic during his visits to Jordan, Iraq, Iran, and other Arab nations.

He expressed astonishment while observing Christians comfortably communicating in Arabic within these regions.

Pastor Buru extended

calls to Muslim and Christian communities to continue living in harmony and mutual respect worldwide, regardless of their background in terms of tribal, religion, race, or culture.

In his remarks, Professor Yahuza Sulaiman Imam, the Registrar/CEO of NBAIS, conveyed his profound gratitude for the visit.

He expressed delight at Pastor Yohanna Buru's presence and extended appreciation to the Pastor and his delegation for their visit to the board.

Ensure Fairness, Equity In Your Appointments, Kaduna Group Tells Gov Uba Sani

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Southern Kaduna Renewed Hope Movement (SKRHM), has appealed to Governor Uba Sani to ensure fairness, equity and conscientious consideration in appointments and distribution of responsibilities in his government.

Yusuf Kanhu, the group's National Coordinator, while addressing

newsmen in Kaduna on Tuesday, also appealed to governor Uba Sani to reconsider the pattern of appointments and ensure fairness and equity, especially towards Christians and Southern Kaduna people in his administration.

The group decried the recent appointments made by the governor, saying that the appointments did not represent the diverse population of Kaduna State, particularly in terms

of religious and regional diversity.

The National Coordinator said, "In the last three sets of appointees, there has been an apparent imbalance, with a larger proportion of Muslims and a smaller proportion of Christians being appointed."

According to him, out of 14 Commissioners, only three are Christians while the rest are Muslims, suggesting that the governor should strive to ensure fairness, equity,

and conscientious consideration in the distribution of responsibilities and appointments.

While acknowledging the efforts made by the governor in appointing a few individuals from Southern Kaduna, he said that more should be done to involve individuals who have contributed to the emergence of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in positions of strategic importance.



Refuse Becoming Threat In Kano Metropolis - Investigation

By; JABIRU AHASSAN, Kano

Despite efforts being put in place by the Kano State Government under the state's Refuse Management Board, the refuse heaps is fast becoming a threat to actualizing environmental safety in especially the city centre.

Our correspondent who visited some parts of the Kano metropolis gathered that refuse dumps are taking over some streets, especially major roads, where some residents dump huge refuse very

close to the roads, which incidence, is on the increase.

At Kofar Ruwa to Kabuga route, the road from Kofar Ruwa to Kabuga through North West University, most of the mechanics and other vehicle spare parts dealers often dump whatever they bring out from their premises on the main road, which is a great set back to Kano Government's determination to ensure a healthy environment.

Speaking to New Nigerian, one of the mechanics working at

Kofar Dawanau area, advised the Kano Government to provide space that would be used to dump refuse, adding that the monthly environmental sanitation has become another option to clean and makes their areas healthier.

In his remarks, the former chairman of the Central Working Committee on Self-help Groups in Kano State, Alhaji Ibrahim Garba Aminu Kofar Na'isa, called on the government to bring back the activities of the self-help groups in order to

achieve the desired objectives in the area of cleaner environment.

"We are always ready to come out and work for the sanitation of our environment and I am advising the Kano State Government to join hands with the self-help groups that are willing to participate in cleaning the state like it was in the past, and I commend the new managing director of the Refuse Management Board, Ambassador Ahmadu Zago for his efforts to ensuring that our environment is healthy and tidy," he said.



Refuse sighted in Kano metropolis

NSCDC Arrest 39yr Old Man For Allegedly Defiling Minor In Ibadan



Suspect

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A 39-year old man, simply identified as Hammed is now in the net of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) for allegedly defiling an 11 years old girl.

Oyo State Commandant of the NSCDC, Dr Michael Adaralewa disclosed this while speaking at the state command Headquarters of the Corps at Agodi, Ibadan. He stressed that molestation of female child must stop, saying, "this is barbaric on our minors". Commandant Adaralewa said the suspect, a native of Saare Ilorin Kwara State, on 9th of this month August 2023 at his residence at Osungbade area of Molete Ibadan, allegedly raped the minor.

He stressed that the suspect who allegedly admitted to the crime, said he raped the girl when her mother who sells food within the neighborhood asked the

child to give him Isiaka soup at home and forced the girl and defiled her.

Commandant Adaralewa maintained that the Anti Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit of the Command arrested the suspect at Popo area of Ibadan on 17th of the month after the mother of the girl reported the case to NSCDC.

The NSCDC Commandant Michael Adaralewa disclosed that the case would be charged to court after the conclusion of the investigation.

Enjoining the people of the state to always furnish the corps with credible information whenever they see anything unlawful in their vicinity, said, "If you see something, always say something".

He then appealed to parents and guardians to always protect their children, especially the female child in other not to be victim of the wicked ones around.

Kaduna Govt Pays N205m To BUK, ABU, KadPoly, Others For Students Scholarship

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Kaduna State Scholarship Board, has released N205 million to various tertiary institutions in the country as tuition of students on the state's scholarship.

It is part of Governor Uba Sani administration's efforts to cushion the effects of the current economic realities on students.

Hassan Rilwan, the Executive Secretary of the Board, in a statement issued on Wednesday, said, "the Board has paid the money into the accounts of the various institutions."

According to Rilwan, in furtherance to implementing deliberate initiatives to

promote educational excellence and cushion the effects of the current economic realities on students, the Kaduna State Scholarship and Loans Board has announced the transfer of the sum of N25m into the accounts of Bayero University Kano for the tuition fees till graduation for students from Kaduna State.

He stated that the transfer of funds is in fulfillment of an earlier signed memorandum of understanding with Bayero University Kano, saying that board has successfully paid N25m to BUK authorities as its target is N45m for students from Kaduna State.

Similarly, he explained that in early

August 2023, the Board also paid N27m to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and increased the amount paid to Kaduna State University to N88.63m.

Additionally, he announced that the Kaduna State Loans and Scholarship Board has so far paid N183.6m into the accounts of various schools across Nigeria for Kaduna State Students, adding that it is seeking to enter into more agreements with Kaduna Polytechnic, University of Jos, ATBU Bauchi, Kaduna State College of Nursing amongst others.

He said that the Kaduna State Government led by Governor Uba Sani remains committed to keeping the

promises made during the campaign season as captured succinctly in the SUSTAIN manifesto.

New Nigerian recalls that recently, the Governor announced a downward review of school fees in state-owned tertiary institutions of Kaduna State University, Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, College of Education Gidan Waya, Kaduna State College of Nursing and Shehu Idris College of Health Sciences and Technology Makarfi.

He stressed that students from Kaduna State are encouraged to apply to access scholarships and other opportunities online, by visiting kdsg-scholarship.com for more information.

FG Constructed Kaduna Road Caves In, Surface Layer Washed Off Barely Six Months After Commissioning

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Joy and euphoria of Kakuri community was cut short as a result of sinking down of a road tarred by the federal government, through the Ministry of Agric and Rural Development. Our correspondent who visited the bad portion of the road, saw that the surface layer of the newly constructed road had already been washed off by the rains and a gully created.

The more than one kilometre road constructed in February this year by B.P Sany CO. Nig. Ltd, with an office address at 12 Ubijaja Crescent, Garki, Abuja, stretches from the moribund Kaduna Textile Limited (KTL) through Makera Suburb to Galadimawa Road, a major linkway in the area. A cross section of motorists, commercial tricycle operators and other road users who spoke to our reporter, expressed disappointment over the poor quality of job done by the contractor.

A commercial tricycle operator who simply identified himself as Isa Roja questioned the wisdom of making a road which could barely serve beneficiaries and deteriorate after a short period of time, adding that if such contractors were allowed to go scot-free, the public would be the ones to suffer for the infraction of very few.

"We were all rejoicing over the positive development of remembering us by the federal government through the ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development when this hitherto muddy road was tarred.

"Our people welcomed the development with fanfare and happiness because instead of going through a long distance route, We got a relief and a very short cut to our destinations.

"Alas! Our joy did not last long because as you can

see the road has started falling off with just one season of rain which is very unfortunate and pathetic.

"The road would have in normal circumstance serve us for years because trucks and heavy vehicles do not ply the road.

"How could a newly tarred road plied by motorcycles and light vehicles cave in barely six months after commission?" He wondered.

A motorcycle operator lamented the sad development, saying the contractor must have been compromised by a kickback arrangement which he noted was common feature in government circle in the award of contract.

"The contractor, I believe would have been sanctioned if truly he executed the project according to specifications but I strongly believe he did what he did in connivance with some government officials.

"How could such a fraud of a new road deteriorating within the shortest period of time be allowed to go unpunished," he asked.

A resident of the area who preferred to speak anonymously expressed his anger, saying their joy was made short-lived by poor quality of the road.

"When I saw that the road was made without drainage system which would have channelled away surface running water from the road and also serve as barrier against pressure from other climatic conditions, I knew the project was not going to stand the test of time.

"Secondly, the materials used were of very low quality, according to an expert who expressed reservations when job was being done on the road.

"The bitumen and other materials were of low quality and not suitable for roads in this part of the World with consistent climate of wet and dry seasons," he explained.



Senator Akpabio with Women leaders at the Conference

10th NASS Will Revisit Gender Equality Bill - Senate President

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio on Wednesday, said that the 10th National Assembly would revisit the Gender Equality Bill. Senator Akpabio disclosed this while speaking at the International Conference On Women In Governance organised by the National Institute For Legislative And Democratic Studies in Abuja.

The Senate President emphasized that there is the need for women both in appointive and elective positions in the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration to get deeply involved in the lobby process towards the actualisation of the bill.

Senator Akpabio advised the women to rally support for the aspirations of their women contesting for elective offices standing since they have the population.

"In the coming months and years, the National Assembly will work closely with Mr. President to achieve the lofty goals outlined in his Agenda. I am aware of the difficult economic challenges and hardships occasioned by

the removal of fuel subsidies", he said.

Senator Akpabio added, "Members of the National Assembly, perhaps more than anyone else, know the extent of the suffering of most Nigerians. This is by virtue of our role as the people's representatives. In fact, we ourselves are not immune from the fallouts of these policies".

"I wish to restate the commitment of this government to speedily implement measures that will lessen the pain, improve income and grow the economy. These short-term sacrifices are sometimes necessary before we can enjoy the fruits."

Reiterating his commitment to issues relating to improving the conditions of women in Nigeria as well as in political representation, the economy and governance, he said "those familiar with my antecedents will undoubtedly attest to my passion for promoting gender equality in all aspects of life, especially in the public sector"

"As a governor, I implemented a policy that deliberately favoured the appointment of women into key positions in my government. This was in

recognition of the immense contributions that women make towards the political, social and economic development of any state".

Senator Akpabio maintained, "I have consistently argued that for Nigeria to become truly great, it must as a matter of urgency invest in women empowerment", adding that the approach to the challenge of women's unimpressive numbers in all level of governance must go beyond mere tokenism of positions to genuine representation in which women's voices are genuinely heard, valued and integrated into government policies and laws.

The Senate President said the authentic inclusion of women in political leadership will change the course of Nigeria towards meaningful transformation and sustained growth.

"Women's empowerment is critical, given the general contribution of women to the Nigerian economy. In recognition of this strategic importance of women, the 'Renewed Hope' Agenda of President Ahmed Bola Tinubu, provides women empowerment.

"The policy document recognises that if Nigeria is to reach its fullest potential, every segment of the population must be given a fair chance to make their best contribution to the well-being and advancement of the country.

He stressed that "The agenda highlights the specific need for social inclusion and political empowerment. In this regard, it states that the President will work with the National Assembly to pass a law that promotes greater employment for women in all government offices, ministries and agencies to increase women's participation in government to at least 35 per cent."

According to him, "The legislation, when prepared, will also mandate the federal executive to reserve a minimum number of senior positions for women and the private sector shall also be strongly encouraged to do likewise. It is gratifying to note that the President has already achieved some milestones, with women constituting about 20% of the newly inaugurated cabinet.

NDLEA Uncovers Indonesia Bound 117 Grams Illicit Drug Tucked In Slippers, Wooden Drum, Others In Kwara, Ogun, Adamawa, Gombe

■ South African nabbed with drugs at Abuja Airport

2023, was thwarted attempt by a 29-year-old South African, Erasmus Jean-Pierre, to export 2.6 kilogrammes of methamphetamine concealed in his luggage to the Middle East through the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA) Abuja," it said. On the 29 year old South African, Babafemi hinted that the suspect, as confirmed, was intercepted during the outward clearance of passengers on Ethiopian Airlines flight ET 404 from Abuja to the Middle East via Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

"A thorough search of his luggage led to the discovery of the whitish powdery illicit substance factory packed in different parts of the bag.

"Preliminary investigation reveals that the suspect arrived Lagos through Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on Saturday 19th August, came to Abuja on

Tuesday 22nd August, and took possession of the brown bag containing the drug consignment on Wednesday 23rd August before heading to the Abuja airport for his flight out of Nigeria", the NDLEA spokesperson disclosed.

Meanwhile, NDLEA officers in Gombe state on patrol along Darazo road on Monday 21st August recovered an abandoned Volkswagen Sharon vehicle marked GME 76 XD containing a total of 373,420 pills of opioids including tramadol and diazepam.

In the same vein, operatives in Ogun state on Wednesday 23rd August raided the home of a drug dealer, Ifeanyi Orji in Ibafo area of the state where 81,000 tablets of tramadol 225mg weighing 32.4kgs were recovered.

In Adamawa state, NDLEA operatives on Tuesday 22nd August

recovered 60,000 pills of tramadol from a suspect, Ibrahim Abba, 25, who was travelling in a commercial Toyota Starlet car from Kalaa village to Mubi.

Equally, in Abuja the Federal Capital Territory, operatives intercepted two consignments of skunk with a gross weight of 1,242.1 kilograms.

According to Babafemi, the first consignment of 665.1kgs was seized from a truck around Area 3 on Sunday 20th August while the second one weighing 577kgs was recovered during a stop and search operation along Lokoja-Abaji expressway same day.

"The consignment was concealed in Jumia goods delivery packs inside a container Mercedes truck, whose driver, Yusuf Yakubu Asokomhe, and his assistant, Tunde Ogundare, were arrested", he said.

In Kwara state, operatives

on patrol along along Jebba - Minna road on Tuesday 22nd August, intercepted a commercial truck conveying goods from Lagos to Katsina with 37.5kgs of cannabis sativa hidden among other items.

The driver, Abdulazeez Usman and his assistant, Halidu Musa were arrested for further investigation. Similarly, In Yobe state, NDLEA operatives on Wednesday 23rd August intercepted an ash colour Sharon Galaxy vehicle marked AKK 484 XA along Potiskum-Gombe road coming from Baissa, Kurmi local government area of Taraba state.

Three suspects in the vehicle: Ya'u Yahuza, 30; Yahaya Muhd, 29, and Tanimu Salisu, 20, were arrested with 133 blocks of cannabis sativa weighing 62kgs.

Also, operatives in Edo on Thursday 24th August stormed the Uzebba forest

in Owan West local government area of the state, where they arrested Esazor Ohioze, 33, with 54.3kgs cannabis recovered from a hut while a total of 2.995696 hectares of cannabis farms were destroyed.

Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd) while commending the efforts of the officers and men of the NAIA, Gombe, Ogun, Adamawa, FCT, Kwara, Yobe, Edo Commands as well as those of DOGI for a job well done in the past week, he charged them and their colleagues across the country to intensify their drug supply reduction operations and equally balance that with drug demand reduction action.

Anthrax: Report Suspicious Illness, Death Of Animals, Expert Tasks Oyo Butchers

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Epidemiology Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr Semiu Akibu has asked butchers association, cattle dealers and other stakeholders to remain vigilant on Anthrax disease.

Dr Akibu said this at the weekend during a sensitisation on Anthrax, by the Oyo State Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association in collaboration with Ardor Fulani, butchers association, cattle dealers and other stakeholders.

The Epidemiology Officer said in doing this, the cattle breeders should henceforth, promptly report any suspicious illness or death of their animals and that early detection and vaccination remains the most effective preventive measures against Anthrax.

According to Dr Akibu, prevention is better than cure, hence the need for cattle breeders to always engage the service of veterinary doctors to keep their animals healthy and safe for consumption.

Speaking, Chairman of Oyo State Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association, Alhaji Abubakar Ibrahim hailed Gov Seyi Makinde, for taking a swift action and putting in place various measures to curtail the outbreak of Anthrax in the state particularly the conduct of sensitisation programmes for relevant stakeholders.

Represented by Alhaji Bello Yakubu, the Miyetti Allah Chairman said the

sensitization programme was about safety of lives as regards the Anthrax disease, which affects both animals and human beings. Commending Gov Makinde for catering for the plight of cattle breeders sometimes last year when their animals were vaccinated free of charge, Alhaji Ibrahim charged the governor to continue with the gesture to prevent the outbreak of the virus in Oyo State adding that the association would also give all necessary support in ensuring that the disease is curtailed.

In his remarks Oyo state Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Barrister Olanikanmi Olaleye affirmed that no case of anthrax had been recorded in Oyo State, as all hands had been on deck to ensure adherence to safety measures.

"We have been to several places in the state to give sensitisation on the imminence of the Anthrax disease in Oyo State and we thank God that as of today, there has not been any report of anthrax case in Oyo State", he said.

The commissioner added, "We want to give kudos to His Excellency for his prompt intervention in line with the collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, so that we would give a lot of sensitisation to the public. Actually, we have been able to meet with all the stakeholders in all the cattle markets in the state, informing them of the disease and how to know symptoms in relation to Anthrax."

"According to Dr Akibu, prevention is better than cure, hence the need for cattle breeders to always engage the service of veterinary doctors to keep their animals healthy and safe for consumption."



Exhibits recovered by NDLEA from the suspects

Rights Group Urges Lagos Assembly To Retrace Steps Over Rejection Of Commissioners Nominees

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A civil society organization, Vanguard Liberation Human Rights Activists has urged Lagos State House of Assembly to retrace their step over rejection of 17 Commissioner-Nominees.

The Convener, Vanguard Liberation Human Rights Activists, Comrade Aghedo Kehinde Stephen made this call in a statement made available to newsmen on Saturday.

According to the organization, the Speaker Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon Mudashiru Obasa seems to be working against #agreaterLagos agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu with the rejection of 17 Commissioner-Nominees.

The statement reads, "Recall that Lagos State House of Assembly during the week rejected 17 out of 39 Commissioner-nominees

forwarded the House for confirmation inline with provisions of Nigeria's constitution. The rejected nominees include former Commissioner for Health, Prof Akin Abayomi and his counter in Information Minister, Gbenga Omotosho.

"The 17 nominees were rejected for frivolous excuses and Obasa's deliberate power play as well as misuse of gavel during the voice vote for confirmation of Commissioner-Nominees by Lagos Assembly.

"Obasa has indeed declared war against President Bola Tinubu, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Lagosians by plotting to slow down the pace of development in centre of excellence by rejected Nominees with track record of excellent service delivery since 2019.

"Obasa-led Assembly is trying to bring governance to standstill for personal political gains.



Their act is not in the interest of the All Progressives Congress.

"For records, President Bola Tinubu during 2023 general elections campaign hailed Sanwo-Olu for implementing Lagos Master-plan and also fast

tracking development of the mega city. It's a known fact that the Governor made significant progress by working with Eggheads and professionals to deliver dividends of democracy and good governance.

"We urge the assembly to immediately retrace their step or face the wrath of civil rights movement. Legislative rascality cannot stop progress of a greater Lagos."

Delivering Innovations In Self-Care Project Holds 3-Day Data Capacity In Kaduna

By; AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

Society for Family Health through its Delivering Innovations in Self-Care (DISC) project held a 3-day Data capacity strengthening exercise for reproductive health coordinators and monitoring and evaluation officers from the 23 LGAs of Kaduna State.

The training was done in collaboration with the Federal Ministry Of Health and the Kaduna State Primary Healthcare Board, held in Kaduna and the The Fabs Hotel Zaria, had as its objectives the training of family planning providers with the DISC Empathy counselling skills so that they can support women of reproductive age on their self-injection journey and also addressing gaps noticed on data reporting of family planning services in the State at the facility, LGA and state level.

The training was declared opened by the State RHC, Hajiya Nafisat Isa Musa, who urged the participants to take the summit as a capacity building exercise aimed at improving their hands on skills on proper service delivery and that the KSPHCDB is always willing to partner with

stakeholders to make sure that health workers at the primary point of service delivery in the communities do exactly what is expected of them and charged the RHC and MEO to ensure they do a step down the training to their peers when they return back to their bases.

She said Kaduna State loses a lot of data in the family planning space and that she believes that this training should go a long way in reducing that trend.

In providing an overview of the project, and the State DISC SBCC Officer, Mr Terlumun Usha, said the DISC project aims at demonstrating that self-care beginning with contraceptive self-injection is a viable corner stone for sexual and reproductive health which can give the woman complete power over her contraceptive needs as well as increasing her contraceptive choices.

He said DMPA-SC or Depot MedroxyProgesterone Acetate subcutaneous is a family planning method that was formulated to be self-injected by women of reproductive age providing a 3 month protection against pregnancy and not necessarily the practice of

provider administering it to clients as is commonly seen in the state.

He introduced the DISC project to the participants informing them that the project is a 5-year project which is funded by the Childrens Investment fund foundation or (CIFF) has Population Services international (PSI) as technical partners started in 2020 in Nigeria and Uganda in three states of Lagos, Oyo and Niger States and recently in 2022 scaled up to 12 other states including Kaduna State.

He said in scaling up Kaduna became one of the first states that was considered because of the high usage of Injectables as a contraceptive method in Nigeria with Kaduna especially being the highest consumers of DMPA-SC or depot medroxyprogesterone acetate subcutaneous Self injection.

In his presentation on the Empathy Based Counselling the Business Manager, Research and Data Analyst of the DISC Project Mr Fidelis Edet, said Kaduna State is a state very dear to him and that DISC hopes to work closely with the State and other partners in self-care space like

PPFN and MSI to change the self-injection picture of Kaduna State.

He said when providers are adequately equipped with the necessary skills to address the concerns clients raise during counselling sessions in facilities, these providers will in turn be able to address these fears and concerns raised and reassure the clients while training them to self-inject.

Some of the common fears and concerns clients get to hear from clients he opined included fear of sharps or needs, fear of not doing it correctly as client is not a health care personnel.

He stressed on the need for the providers to take a little time to train their clients to self-inject as this would also go a long way in reducing their work load and the number of clients coming to the facility for family planning services especially when the client can self-inject and the provider gives her take home doses to use at home after 3 months.

Presenting on data quality, the representative of the Federal Ministry of Health, Mr Nwagbara Eberechi, said the importance of quality cannot be

overemphasized and stressed that the elements of a quality data which included timeliness, precision, integrity, validity, reliability and completeness must always be adhered to at all times.

He noted that data that can be trust can aid in good decision making and appropriate planning, accurate picture of health programs and interventions, ongoing monitoring and evaluation as well as improved Quality of Care.

The State Logistics officer on Reproductive health and Family Planning in the State ministry of health, Pharm Jamila Ahmed, said Kaduna State has done a lot in ensuring that facilities providing family planning services are never short on family planning commodities at all times and urged the RHCs to always ensure they do what is expected of them as this will aid in forecasting and logistics management.

The data submit which took place in 3 clusters for the three zones of the state also had in attendance the State Monitoring and Evaluation officer Mrs Faith Zakari, the State Health

Support Students With Hearing Impairments At Grassroots, Kaduna Dep Gov Tasks NGO

By ; F U N M I
A D E R I N T O, Kaduna

The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Her Excellency, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe has received the leadership of Hearing Support Foundation (HSF).

Hearing Support Foundation (HSF) is an NGO focused on rendering humanitarian support services to people with hearing impairments in Nigeria.

The Deputy Governor commended the foundation and charged the leaders to touch down at the rural areas as well as primary and secondary schools in order to support rural dwellers as well as pupils and students with

impairments in hearing. She urged the foundation's leaders to reach out to the State Primary Healthcare Board for discussions on areas of possible collaboration and partnership.

In a response, the Programme Coordinator of HSF, Dr Magaji Auwal told the Deputy Governor that HSF in partnership with the National Ear Care Centre has screened 150 Kaduna residents and will offer free treatment to those with various hearing impairments.

The foundation also presented an award of excellence to the Deputy Governor for her contributions and service to Kaduna State.



Hoodlums Suspected To Be Kidnappers Attack, Injure Customs Officer In Katsina

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Hoodlums suspected to be smugglers, have attacked and inflicted injuries on a Customs Officer in Katsina State. This was contained in a statement signed by the Public Relations Officer Zone 'B' Kaduna, Superintendent of Customs, Isah Sulaiman, dated Friday August 25, 2023.

"At about 1300 hours on Wednesday August 23, 2023, Officers and Men of Nigeria Customs Service, Federal Operations Unit Zone 'B', went on legitimate patrol duties to the Dankama Area of Katsina State.

"While carrying out their statutory duties of anti-smuggling, some hoodlums suspected to be smugglers launched a brutal attack on the Officers with dangerous weapons, thereby inflicting several injuries to Inspector of Customs (IC) Haruna A," it said.

It explained that the wounded officer was immediately rushed to the hospital for proper medical attention and is responding to treatment.

"It is pertinent to state that the Nigeria Customs Service is an agency that is saddled with the responsibility of enforcing government fiscal policies for collective societal good.

"The Unit's Officers would not fold their arms and allow smugglers who have no regard for the laws of the land to perpetrate their nefarious activities to the detriment of our security and economic well-being.

"On this note, Comptroller FOU 'B', Musa Ibrahim Jalo, is very concerned about the injuries inflicted on his officer and directed a full-scale investigation to fish out the perpetrators of this barbaric act.

"He stated that any further attacks on any Officer of the Unit would not be tolerated and would be treated with utmost resistance from our Operatives," it said.

He added that such violent attacks will never deter the operatives of the Unit from carrying out their legitimate duties, no matter whose ox is gored.

He appealed to traditional rulers, parents and community leaders to warn their subjects to desist from attacking security operatives, as anyone caught shall face the consequences of his action.



Banditry, Kidnapping, Others Will Soon Be Crushed -IGP Egbetokun

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE Lagos

The acting Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun has assured Nigerians that the menace of banditry, kidnapping and other high profile criminals will soon be subdued.

He however, urged Nigerians to be patient, just as he asked for more time, saying the action would be felt across the country. Egbetokun, who gave the assurance in Lagos on Wednesday when he inaugurated the Complaints Response Unit (CRU) at the Lagos State Police Command, noted that there has been significant progress in the area of security since he assumed office.

The IGP emphasised that the police has been making efforts to reduced crime to the barest minimum, adding that the criminals terrorising Abuja Kaduna road, South East and other parts of the country will soon be demystified.

"Those terrorising Abuja-Kaduna road, we are coming for them, I want Nigerians to give us time as they would soon see our actions in everywhere parts

of Nigeria.

"Today we have launched CRU, we would be taken all these things one after the other. The CRU will promote transparency, we want to build confidence in the mind of the public, we also enhanced public collaboration to achieve all these and whoever that have complaint now have a place to lodged complaint.

"I want to assure Nigerians that we want to make the CRU and other parts of the command functional and the officers that will man the unit will be professional and will be train regularly to be updated.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, CP Idowu Owohunwa said the establishment of the Complaints Response Unit in the Command is in line with the provisions of Sections 131-133 of the Police Act, 2020 and in compliance with the directive of the IGP, lead to establish the (SCRU) as a framework for promoting Police-Citizens' accountability and as a center for the receipt of complaints on police officers' service inadequacies from the public, coordinate immediate

response, facilitate the investigations and disciplinary processes where necessary, and render feedbacks to the citizens.

He also said the crime profile of the state is further accentuated by the prevalence of illegal firearms proliferation, and illicit drug abuse and trafficking, hardly does a day pass by without the ever vigilant operatives of the command recovering weapons and illicit drugs of various descriptions at stop and search points, raids of black spots, and other operational engagements with all such recoveries linked to the perfection of crimes across the state.

For the records purposes, we are proud to note, the IGP, that the establishment and commissioning of the Lagos State Complaint Response Unit positions the Lagos State Police Command as the first and, so far, the only Command of the 36 States of the Federation and the FCT to give effect to the provisions of the Police Act 2020 and the directive of the IGP in this regard.

"The most worrisome in Lagos State is a noticeable trend that indicates an increasing local

expertise in the fabrication of various types of firearms including replicas of foreign made pistols, AK47 and other assault rifles. This trend, coupled with the threat of cultism, projects a potent danger to the security space of the State and if nothing drastic is done by all strategic State actors and the citizens to complement the efforts of the Police in rolling back the dangerous tide before it gets out of hand."

While, Barrister Femi Falana, SAN warned police officers that torture has become a serious issue now, especially in a case where a suspect dies in the



course of investigation.

He said, very soon chief Magistrate will visit all police stations in Nigeria and such Magistrate is empowered by the law to grant a detained suspect bail.

Fight Against GBV: Kaduna Justice Commissioner Pledges Support

By ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

The Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice in Kaduna State, Sule Shu'aibu Esq, has pledged the ministry's commitment to support the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV), in the state.

Shu'aibu, noted that no right thinking person will see a woman being violated and turn away his face.

The Commissioner, made the commitment on Tuesday in Kaduna, during an "Engage Policy Moment to Conduct multi-stakeholder

Intergenerational dialogue; that includes youths, Women & Girls, marginalized groups, leaders of faith and culture, CSOs & Service providers engaging the VAPP and the GEO laws to consolidate on improved access to prevention, protection and justice to address issues of Gender Based Violence in Kaduna and Plateau States, organized by Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA).

WRAPA is implementing a two-year project titled "Legal and Social Empowerment Program on Women's Rights in Kaduna and Plateau States",

with support from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF).

This project seeks to achieve the effective implementation of the VAPP ACT and passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill in Kaduna State, which seeks to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls and promote equal opportunities for beneficiaries of the project intervention, (women and girls).

According to the Attorney General, "besides thanking you immensely, I pledged on behalf of the State that we will do our very best to collaborate, co-operate and support you in anyway whatsoever, wherever you deems fit that we can be supportive, please do not hesitate to knock on our doors.

"We will do our best, because there's no well-meaning individuals in the society today that will see any woman being abused and will feel comfortable, not only women, but children or youths also."

He thanked WRAPA and other stakeholders for all the efforts they have been putting in place, adding that the state won't relax and watch the Civil Societies doing the work alone, promising that the ministry will stand by them.

Earlier, the Secretary General of WRAPA, Saudatu Mahdi, said the overall success of the project was as a result of the consistency that the Kaduna State Government has shown around working on GBV.

"Working with the CSOs in Kaduna in the

past six years, we have seen consistency of commitment and political will and we are happy to celebrate that, and we will continue to work to ensure that the law (VAPP Law) as passed will now be of benefit to persons who are seeking justice." She added.

She explained that issues of gender has gone beyond women alone and now includes different components like the youths and the vulnerables in the society, noting that the youths in Kaduna State now has a voice because the state has made it clear that there is no place for GBV.

The meeting was aimed to galvanize sustainable innovative strategies, roles, and commitment from youths, women groups community influencers and other participants to jointly continue the advocacy for the passage and implementation of the laws to create awareness.

Rejig existing referral pathway to create linkages between survivors and services providers and safe drilling downwards to the hard-to-reach communities of women and girls. learn through experience sharing amongst youths, leaders of culture and faith, CSOs, Survivors, and women's groups.

To generate stories for re-strategizing on critical interventions for sustaining project aspirations and gains, supporting joint resolutions and harvesting survivors stories and improve visibility through youth engagement.



The Challenges Of Educating A Northern Child

By: SANI ABDULRAZAK

A Northern child with dreams as high as the sky knows so well that he can only realize his dreams with qualitative education. And with a myriad of colossal brouhaha standing in his way of acquiring such, and as if it is not enough, he now hears large sounds of war drums beating around him. Now that hopelessness is renting a large space in his mind, the Northern child, threatened by even his shadow toils and rasps from the walls of Illela to the waters of Lake Chad, up to the hills of Plateau asking; who will salvage the Northern child?

The ship has set sail apparently long ago and we are now looking for a black sheep. It is not completely out of place to say that Northern Nigeria is at its lowest ebb. A region that has over the years sunk deeply into the abyss of despondency and forlornness, with multitudinous challenges bedeviling a once home of peace and steadiness. A region that was once a model for unity and diversity with a cocktail of tribes; the perfect Eldorado. It is now glaringly clear that the peskiest question before us all is how do we educate a Northern Child?

It is apropos to kerf in our minds that Northern Nigeria sits pretty well as one of the poverty capitals of the world. Their farmlands have been deserted, thereby bringing the economy of the region to its knees, with industrial graveyards littered within the region; from the massive glass plant of Wurno to Arewa Textiles and United Nigeria Textile Limited in Kaduna to Kano Bottling Company, Ajaokuta Steel Plant, Benue Cement company among others, they are all dead, and with them millions of direct and indirect jobs. Extreme poverty has chromatographically separated us along religious and ethnic lines.

The stream that waters the roots of these knots in the region is the gargantuan number of out-of-school children in Northern Nigeria.

The country has about 20 million out-of-school children with a large percentage of them from Northern Nigeria. Sadly, these numbers are expected to grow, thereby making the region a fertile breeding ground for children of prieve and anger, thereby giving rise to the insecurities bedeviling us, and then there is the elephant in the room; the Almajiri system, that we feign oblivion about its gross societal negative impact. The only way out of our conundrum is to provide qualitative and affordable education to the



northern child, but then what are the challenges of educating a northern child?

Inadequate funding of our education sector has been the primary challenge of education in the region, and the country at large, and according to UNESCO 2021, the government pledges to allocate 26% of its annual budget to education, but the sector is receiving less than 10% of the budget in recent years. This has resulted in poor infrastructure, especially in our tertiary institutions.

These institutions are now a shadow of what they once were, with basic amenities like electricity and water supply lacking. Also, there is the problem of lack of basic facilities and overcrowding in these institutions of learning. Inadequate funding also gave rise to shortages and low teacher quality.

Most schools especially in rural areas are having these predicament. It is equally pertinent to note that the Nigerian government needs to, as a matter of national urgency review and update the country's education curriculum to ensure that it is relevant to the needs of the country and the job market. This will ensure that Nigerian graduates acquire the skills and

knowledge required to compete in the job market and contribute to the country's economic development.

Top on the list of challenges of educating a Northern child today is extreme poverty plaguing the region, made even worse by the insecurities bedeviling the region. The economy of the region depends much on agriculture, but today, insurgency and banditry have made us desert our farmlands only to bask in fear, apprehension and hunger, then mass abductions of school children in the region further deteriorated the crises.

A region with abundant human capital and resources; from large uranium deposits, copper, tantalite and gold in the North West, to the abundant tin, lead, zinc and massive iron ore deposits in the North Central, and gypsum, kaolin and hydrocarbon in the North East among others. A region blessed with vast, lush fertile lands for agriculture, it makes one wonder, and how did we get to this infelicitous spot? Bad leadership! It has allowed greed, unity phobia and materialism creep into our psyche so much that we mortgaged our resourcefulness and hardwork on the platter of free oil subversions

from a far distant land, and then fight dirty to retain power at the centre to preserve this crippling mindset.

Candidly, with no prima facie sense of irony, Northern leaders are always quick to tell the world of our present predicament with all sense of concern, but they say nothing of the fact that a good number of them are not only responsible, but instrumental in erecting the present distasteful picture of Northern Nigeria. They are only interested in having a firm grip on power, for their obviously selfish reasons while their region crumbles.

Since independence, Nigeria has been ruled by a Northern ruler for an approximate total of 44 years out of almost 63 years; out of the 16 Heads Of State and Presidents Nigeria has had, 10 have been Northerners yet the region has the highest number out-of-school children, and in every nook and cranny of Northern Nigeria, millions of people grovel in brobdingnagian multidimensional poverty.

Answers to these challenges can only be found if we collectively play our respective responsibilities towards salvaging the next generation because right now it is not enough. The government must

adequately fund the education sector and ensure transparency and accountability. The people must protect our educational institutions and infrastructures, they should also understand that they have more roles to play than the government in ensuring qualitative education for all.

Our basic schools must be that place where our biggest resource; children are well educated and trained. Our tertiary institutions must reclaim their rightful place as the veritable organ of social filtration, a marketplace of ideas producing the best minds. Qualitative education must be affordable to the common man. Endemic poverty pillaging Northern Nigeria must be urgently addressed. The people must be secured and have access to their farmlands.

The peace that used to be a paterfamilias of the region must be restored. We must educate the northern child, because if we fail to, it has a way of coming back at us all, like we are witnessing at the moment. Posterity awaits.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Sani Abdulrazak, author of "The Adventure of Ayya" can be reached via email at sazzak175@gmail.com

Frank Urges FBI, CIA To Probe Chicago Varsity Over Refusal To Release Tinubu's Academic Records

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, on Friday, called on the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to urgently investigate the authorities of Chicago State University over their curious reluctance/refusal to release relevant academic records a certain Bola Tinubu who is either a female or male, given that there is a president in Nigeria called Bola Ahmed Tinubu who is laying claim to a controversial certificate from that university.

Frank who made this request in a statement in Abuja, said the probe has become necessary to determine the authenticity of the certificates offered to Americans who graduated from the University that have now been called to question by President Tinubu's claims that the University awarded him with a certificate that was littered with errors by an unnamed employee of the University which he had tendered before Nigerian authorities.

He said in order that law abiding Nigerians are not made to believe that there is a level of compromise and complicity by the university in trying to shield Tinubu's academic record claims from public scrutiny despite such doubtful credentials that do not match the standards of any American Academic records, independent institutions in the United State need to step in.

He insisted the intervention is necessary because in previous electoral claims by Mr Tinubu,

he had also blamed errors in his academic record claims on other third parties having previously stated for the electoral record documentation in Nigeria that he attended institutions which he never did and he was exposed by those who attended the school such as Government College Ibadan.

He said rather than allow Tinubu's current claims of errors by unstated third parties in the CSU, the University authorities owe the American and Nigerian public the duty to publicly state the facts as they are, that Mr Bola Ahmed Tinubu, male, born in 1952, attended the University and submitted credentials that are accessible to the Nigerian Court System where Tinubu seeks to hold the highest office in the land, an office that requires unblemished integrity, honesty and public trust.

Frank said: "Tinubu's records are public documents because the Chicago State University is a public academic institution and not a secret cult organisation. After all, the fake certificate being paraded by Tinubu are on the website created by CSU for fake certificates and that of Tinubu is there as a bad imitation of the genuine Bola Tinubu (female).

"Tinubu is also a public servant that is duty bound to be accountable to Nigerians if he has nothing to hide or if the academic records he claims from the university are genuine.

"Or better still, if there is nothing fishy between him and the university. We believe the university should be proud to showcase the records of its former students by releasing

them on demand except they have been compromised.

"If Tinubu's certificate is genuine and something he is proud of, he should have allowed the university to release it to the public because he's serving the public as he claims."

He urged the University should not to ruin its image and reputation through conduct inimical to its integrity by refusing to release required records.

He added: "We advise the US government not to destroy its long-standing relationship with Nigeria because of one man.

"Otherwise, this case will make the world see the university system in US as corrupt and compromised because we understand how the American system works.

"If Tinubu is the President of America and American citizens request for his academic information, will they not grant the request?"

"They will do because every President of America and those holding public offices are answerable to the public, that underpins the principle of Accountability.

"If Donald Trump could be on trial, why will someone seeking public office in Nigeria be shielded from scrutiny at the point of entry by public institutions in America? Is it that the President of Nigeria is not meant to be accountable to the citizenry?"

"This is why we are calling on the American Secret Service - FBI and CIA - to investigate this clear act of possible bias on the part of Chicago State University because it does not speak well of



Timi Frank

CSU.

"Except, of course, it is a conspiracy of the United States and the Chicago State University to cover the illegality between Tinubu and Nigerians to be able to manipulate him for U.S interest.

"This would therefore mean they don't care whether there is a legitimate or illegitimate government in the country.

"If the US truly supports and is for a democratic transparent, free and fair electoral process in Nigeria, like they do in America, they should ensure that everything about Tinubu's academic record is released to Nigerians to enable them know who their president really is. That is the irreducible minimum expectation from the US.

"Besides, it is never a crime for taxpayers to challenge the

legitimacy of public office holders in Nigeria, just like in America where former President Trump is being tried for wrongdoing.

"The American institutions do not see Trump as a former president, but they are looking at the evidence before the US authorities and that is why they are trying him.

"There is no difference between what they are doing in America and what is being done in Nigeria. So, the US should do everything to give Nigerians the records required with all urgency.

"We appeal to the judge in the State of Chicago court to order the university to release those documents they way it would have been done if a U.S. citizen had made a similar application.

Oyo Central Senatorial: Dismiss Ilaka, PDP Petition For Lack Of Merit, Senator Akintunde Urges Tribunal

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Senator representing Oyo Central Senatorial District, Senator Yunus Akintunde has urged the National Assembly Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Ibadan to dismiss the petition filed against him by Chief Bisi Ilaka and his Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

In the joint final written addresses of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator on Tuesday by his counsels before the lordships of the National Assembly Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Ibadan, he prayed the tribunal to dismiss the petition for lack of merit.

The APC Senator Akintunde in the joint written address, stressed that the



Senator Yunus Akintunde

petitioner had failed to prove case of corruption against INEC and alleged over-voting in listed polling units.

"Forms EC 40 (G) produced in court was not issued by the presiding officer who is by law the only person who can cancel elections in a unit where there is over-voting or non-deployment of BVAS or violence," he said.

Senator Akintunde added, " This petition from Mr Bisi Ilaka and PDP is frivolous. It lacks merit and should be dismissed in the interest of justice,"

He urged the lordships to dismiss the petition on lack of merit, saying the petitioners have not established any fact to justify the reliefs sought.

The counsels to the first and second

respondents were Kolawole Eleja, SAN; Mr Kazeem Gbadamosi, SAN, while the third respondent (INEC) was represented by I. A Yusuf.

It would be recalled that Ilaka, the PDP Senatorial Candidate for Oyo South in the February 25 National Assembly election had dragged Akintunde, APC and Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) to the tribunal over his loss.

Ilaka and PDP had through their counsels, Festus Adesiyani and Juwon Omigbodun, blamed their loss in the election to corruption as well as over-voting.

Ilaka and PDP had through the counsels, called for cancellation and rerun in the affected polling units.

Army Will Strengthen Ties With Nigeria Police - GOC 3 Div **New Plateau CP visits GOC*

By: **BUHARI B BELLO, JOS**

The Commissioner Of Police, Plateau State command CP Okoro Julius Alawari has paid a courtesy call on the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Division Nigerian Army (NA) and Commander Operation SAFE HAVEN (OPSH), Major General A.E. Abubakar in his office at Headquarters 3 Division, Maxwell Khobe Cantonment, Jos to seek for more collaboration with the NA towards ensuring a peaceful and crime-free Plateau State.

The commissioner who recently assumed duty, disclosed that the visit was necessary to familiarise himself with other security agencies and also seek for strengthened synergy, which he said was critical to mitigating crime and ensuring stability on the Plateau.

Such a visit he averred, will further encourage, boost intelligence and information sharing among security agencies.

The Police Chief applauded the GOC/Commander OPSH for his efforts and giant strides in restoring law and order in the

troubled areas of the state.

He enjoined the GOC/Commander OPSH to sustain and strengthen the security architecture put in place so that the peace achieved would be sustained.

Responding, the GOC/Commander OPSH, Major General A.E. Abubakar noted the significance of synergy between security agencies especially, in the fight against criminalities in some volatile areas of the state.

He remarked that, the mandate of the leadership of the Chief Of Defence Staff Gen C.G. Musa & the Chief Of Army Staff Lt Gen T.A. Lagbaja, clearly emphasizes the significance of jointness and intelligence sharing in the defence of Nigeria. "The need for all security agencies to come together in unison and fight criminality with one voice cannot be overemphasized," He noted.

While commending the contributions of the police contingent in Operation SAFE HAVEN, Major General Abubakar noted the significance of stakeholders engagement and advocacy at the grassroot levels to end violence and restore



stability in the state.

He assured the Commissioner of Police of his resolve to strengthen the existing relationship between the Military and the Police on the Plateau.

In a similar development, the GOC/Commander OPSH also played host to Bache Cultural

Development Association, Bassa Plateau State and commended the group for its hospitality and respect for constituted authority. He further urged the association to always preach peaceful coexistence to its members and encourage the youths to engage in skillful ventures devoid of social vices.

Earlier in his remarks, the National President Bache Development Association, Mr Jacob Agal commended Major General Abubakar for his leadership style of responding swiftly to the yearnings of the people, especially areas engulfed with security breaches.

Kano Govt To Employ Best Graduating Students Of Nafisatu College Of Nursing Sciences

By: **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

By way of strengthening the health machinery in the state for more accessibility to health care

services in nooks and crannies of Kano State in accordance with its blueprint, the state government has promised to offer automatic employments to the best graduates of Nafisatu College of

Nursing Sciences Kwankwaso.

This was contained in a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Sanusi Nature Dawakin Tofa, made available on Saturday.

Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf disclosed this today during the presentation of certificate of practice to 36 nurses of the college who were certified by Nursing and Midwifery Council

of Nigeria following successful completion of their studies.

The proprietor of the college, former Governor of Kano State, Engr. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso tasked the graduates to be good ambassadors of the college and conduct themselves within the ethics of their profession.

Engr. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso maintained that with the approval by the Nursing Council for the college to commence two courses of community nursing and community Midwifery in September this year, the metamorphosis will continue till the college attain the status of a medical university.

The college Provost, Hajiya Halima Muhammad Yunusa said the recipients of the certificates are the pioneer products of the college who were admitted last three years ago and completed their studies triumphantly.

She called on the well to do in the society to sponsor children of the less privileged to study in the medical related fields for more female health personnel in the state.

NSCDC Arrests 13 Suspected Rail Vandals In Kaduna

By: **AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna**

Thirteen (13) suspected railway vandals have been apprehended by the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) with large quantities of long rails and sleepers worth 800 million Naira.

A statement issued by the Corps spokesman, Babawale Afolabi, explained that the suspects were arrested by the Commandant General's Special

Intelligence Squad.

According to the statement, the suspects were paraded at the NSCDC Headquarters, Abuja on Tuesday alongside five trucks conveying the large quantities of vandalised rails and sleepers.

Afolabi explained, "The arrests took place around the Manchok area of Kaura Local Government Area, the Zonkwa area in Zango Kataf local Government Area, and the Kaffanchan area in Jama'a

Local Government Area of Kaduna State."

The statement said that the 13 suspects and five trucks impounded have been taken into custody for profiling and further investigation and prosecution.

It added that the 13 suspects are still being interrogated and cross-examined after which other accomplices would be arrested and charged to court.

Afolabi added that 30 million Naira as bribe was

offered to the CGs SIS operatives which they declined upon arrest.

The NSCDC Commandant General, Dr. Ahmed Audi, the NSCDC Commandant General, lamented at the yet-to-be-identified iron and steel companies that always buy, process, and melt the vandalized rail track iron and sleepers, assuring that efforts are in top gear to smash and unmask the syndicates and make them face the wrath of the law no matter how highly or lowly placed.

UNICEF Harps On Nutrition, Hidden Hunger

*Calls for collaborative solution, engages stakeholders for advocacy, innovation, others

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has tasked stakeholders on collaborative solution to hidden hunger, engages stakeholders for advocacy, innovation and for a sustainable development.

The three days conference which took place at Re Meritona Hotels, Abakaliki witnessed presence of stakeholders from all works of life, members of the academia, clergymen, among others.

Speaking on the theme, 'Collaborative Solution To Hidden Hunger: Stakeholders Engagement, Advocacy and Innovation for Sustainable Development', the Health specialist and officer in charge of UNICEF Enugu Field office, Dr Olusoji Akinleye applauded the commitment of Ebonyi state Government to end hidden hunger, saying that hidden hunger is very challenging and has devastating effects.

According to Dr Akinleye, Hidden hunger is the hunger that you cannot see; it is not apparent nor obvious nor appear in the body, but a sort of deficiency in some components of food that does not necessarily contribute to someone's weight nor height, adding that It doesn't show in ones height nor weight, but shows in mental capacity and intellect, and sometimes, it can lead to death.

He further explained that a good number of people are suffering from this micronutrient efficiency, saying that Ebonyi is the worst in hidden hunger when

compared with other states in South East because it affects about 25 per cent of the state.

'It is actually a very important activity that Ebonyi State Government is doing today in the Sense that hunger is something that is very challenging and has devastating effect. All enemies are bad but the enemy you don't see are more dangerous and that is how the issue of hidden hunger came to be. This a hunger that you hardly see; if you see a child that is malnourished, you will know that child actually needs food.

'You can see it from the body, but hidden hunger is not like that, it vitamins, minerals, general food we call micronutrients.

"It doesn't show in your height, it doesn't show in your weight, it shows in your mental capacity and intellect and sometimes, it can lead to death.

"We have good number of people who are suffering from micronutrient efficiency. It also affects the development of society generally.

'Ebonyi State Government is the first to do it as far as we know, and it is something that is very important and we commend them for that and we are going to collaborate with them.

"Hidden hunger is the hunger that you cannot see; it is not apparent nor obvious. Hidden hunger is a hunger that does not appear in your body, its a sort of deficiency in some components of food that does not necessarily contribute to your weight nor your height. But rather it contributes to the ability to defend illnesses in your body. Its your ability to develop your

mental capacity. So it is not immediately obvious but we see the consequences thereof.

'The degree of this hidden hunger is about one in 4 unfortunately; its about 25% in this state.

"When you look at the regional bases, South East in particular; unfortunately again, Ebonyi seems to be doing the worst when compared to our neighbors in South East.

"I think bringing it here is to aroused and awaken government and the people to its existence and also to take action."

Earlier in her address, the Commissioner for Budget, Planning, Research and Monitoring in Ebonyi State, Chief Mrs Deborah Chinwe Okah noted that Hidden Hunger needs a proactive approach and support of stakeholders in order to alleviate hunger.

She stated that Ebonyi state Government has adopted multisectoral approach as well as policies, programmes and budgetary provisions to tackle hunger in the state, calling for the collaboration and support of stakeholders to end hunger in the state.

Also, some National Assembly members from Ebonyi State, such as: Hon Eze Nwachukwu, Emmanuel Uguru and Nkemka Kamah all declared their support to collaborate with government and other relevant agencies to end hidden hunger in their constituencies and the state at large.

Responding, the governor of Ebonyi State, Hon Francis Nwifuru said that in a conference like this, it is



imperative to get a comparative solution to hidden hunger and malnutrition through stakeholders engagement for a sustainable development.

The governor who was represented by his deputy, Mrs Patricia Obila noted that his administration will provide a multisectoral approaches to tackle malnutrition and hunger for the welfare and wellbeing of the society.

He commended the keynote speakers and other resource persons for their unwavering commitment to end hidden hunger and malnutrition in the state, calling for more efforts and support to actualize it.

He also reaffirm his intentions and plans to recruit over one thousand persons into the state workforce, saying that it was deliberate and a calculated plan to address the need for manpower necessary for general service delivery to lift people out of poverty.

Governor Nwifuru also used the opportunity to announce plans for salary increments to civil servants despite the anticipated national minimum wage.

The conference featured presentation of awards to deserving stakeholders of the state including the wife of the governor, Mrs Uzoamaka Maudlin Nwifuru, among others.

Prof Gwarzo Awards Scholarship To 50 Best Law Graduands

By: IMRANAANDULLAHI, Kaduna
The President of Maryam Abacha American University of Niger-Maradi, Prof. Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo, has awarded scholarships to 50

best graduating students of law to pursue Masters degrees in the university.

He announced the award of the scholarship on Sunday, 20th, August, 2023, at a Graduation/Award Dinner

organized by the Law students of 2020/2023 academic session.

According to him, the students were offered the scholarships to serve as a motivation for their exceptional performance and commitment to sustaining the university's tradition of excellence.

He urged the beneficiaries to make the best use of the opportunity so as to become professional international lawyers to continue to make MAAUN a destination of choice as well as a beacon of knowledge and transformation.

While describing law as an increasingly demanding profession, Prof. Gwarzo, noted that the profession, when practiced judiciously, helps to bring about justice, protect human rights, regulate interactions and maintain social stability.

Prof. Gwarzo, who expressed commitment to empowering students to actualize their dreams, described education as a key to unlocking human potential and a strong force against insecurity.

Highlights of the event included award presentations to staff and students, live musical performance, group pictures and a host of others.

Those in attendance during the dinner were the President of MAAUN Kano, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Israr, Vice President Administration, Dr. Habib Awais Abubakar, Vice President Administration, MAAUN Niger, Dr. Shuaibu Tanko, Examination Controller, MAAUN Niger, Murtala Musa, Dr. Ali Kakaki, Dr. Maryam Jibril and Dr. Samira, among others.



X-raying Score Card Of Nkom As DG/CEO, Cadastral Mining Office Abuja

By; MOHAMMED DAUDAEIBO

First appointed on 12th January, 2019, and his purposeful leadership acumen catapulted him for another tenure which began 12th January 2023. Under his watch, the Nigerian Mining Cadastre Office recorded 86 per cent increase in revenue generation, raking in over N8.9 billion between 2019 and 2021 compared to 4.8 billion Naira generated in corresponding years, which is also accounts for about 50 per cent of the contribution of the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development to the economy.

This article or narrative is based on the objectivity of Dr. Obadiah who recently unveiled robust and grandiose of reforms in the automation of the Mining Cadastre system which has revolutionized online the administration and excellent management of his mandates, is taking the Office to an enviable height and he deserves the honest supports from well-meaning Nigerians and Mr. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration to enable the workaholic Engineer.

'He who the cap fits, let him wear it'. Engr. Obadiah Simon Nkom has indeed justified his appointment. and needs time to do more services. Mr. President as a 'Talents Hunter' should beam his search light on Engr. Nkom and his likes which we don't have them more Spartan in Nigeria today.

It is also to the credit of Engr. Nkom during his first term as amplified by His Excellency, the former President Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, that the Nigeria Mining Cadastre Office was named the best agency of the Federal Government in the category of Digital Innovation Awards for the year 2022 under the auspices of Nigeria internet Registration Association (NIRA) for adding value to the activities of the Cadastre Office,

According to the industry

followers and the stakeholders alike, described Engr. Nkom as man with 'magic wand in his hand's for the monumental turnaround of the agency, the Nigeria Mining Cadastre Office Abuja success stories is truly incomplete without the name of Engr., Dr. Obadiah Simon Nkom selfless service for the generality of the Nigerian nation.

Indisputable leaders in the world over are known for their ability to face the truth head on, eloquence, starkness, visionary, sincerity of purpose and above all ; selfless services to humanity which Engr. Obadiah Simon Nkom, is a precision of all the qualities of a modern technocrat as described by many industrialists , the entire universe is yearning for, unarguably; the Nigeria Cadastral Mining office Director-General , in distinction has done perfectly well since taken the mantle of leadership and based on the ways and manner the stakeholders are pleased with his sterling performances with particularly reference to the encomiums and Awards presented to him so far for turning of mining industry as a way of revenue generation is laudable.

One thing men of clout have in common is their taciturnity. Most goal getters do their thing without blowing the rooftop with praise singing. For the Engr. Obadiah Simon Nkom leadership insight, it has been the story of successes recorded since his appointment in 2019.

The untold success stories of Nigerian Cadastral Mining Office Abuja, anchored on probity, transparency and excellent managerial wisdom displayed by the agency led by Engr. Obadiah Simon Nkom. The reality on ground seems unbelievable and even unachievable but to Mr. Nkom, it is not a herculean task.

Today, Engr. Obadiah, is doing exceptionally well,

it is for this, that I am doing this feature to amplify the achievement of the current Management of the Nigerian Cadastre Mining office Abuja. This augmentation for the erudite Director-General for gargantuan turnarounds and expansions for better services to the entire nation as the Agency has achieved feats and notably are the expansions which witnessed the creation of Zonal Offices in six geo-political zones of the country; comprises of Kaduna, Jos, Ibadan, Benin, Maiduguri amongst others.

He has also migrated all the Office activities to online platform called e M C Plus for transparency and efficient service delivery to the Public.

Since the beginning of social enthusiasm, provisions have been carefully structured to recognised and reward those whose performances thrilled mankind including public and private organizations and even changed communities for overall interest of all and sundry. Unfortunately, there is vast number of remarkable men and women who have carved a niche for themselves through personal and the official engagement, but these people are rarely recognized and celebrated. Several refuse to make headlines while some either by omission or commission have been sidelined.

The Director-General, Nigerian Cadastral Mining Office Abuja, ENGINEER OBADIAH SIMON NKOM is in the latter category of these venerated personalities Mr. Simon has made positive reforms that have placed the agency as one of the performing agencies in Nigeria.

Engr. Nkom is doing everything humanly possible by making Mining industry more attractive to investors, regulatory transaction cost while enhancing



Nkom

collaborative endeavors as necessary ingredients for creating conducive business environment or the endowed mineral deposit in Nigeria. This goes a long way to showcase the Director-General's preparedness, inequity and veracity o take the agency to its rightful place in the Mining industry in Nigeria is indeed paramount.

The recent positive reforms by the agency shows how serious Mr. Simon and his dynamic team can go in optimizing robustness of the regulatory framework for development and harness abundant mineral resources and mining industry in Nigeria.

It is in realization of these critical deliverables, that a holistic automation process, through information technology and infrastructure deployment to enhance global competitiveness of the Mining industry were put in place by Engr. Obadiah Simon Nkom who has served as the 30th President of Nigerian

Mining and Geo-Science Society (NMGS).

Judging from the Director-General's robust knowledge and technical know-how in the mining industry, one can safely say that under Mr. Simon's watch, the Nigerian Cadastral Mining Office Abuja would certainly witness a monumental turnaround for optimal performance. Engr. Obadiah as, prior to this appointment, combines exceptional intellect and the vision upon which the agency was established in the. The main objective for establishing the agency is to regulate the Mining industry in Nigeria through several activities.

The Mining Cadastral Office was established to independently administered mineral titles to those who want to invest in the sector. It plays pivotal roles in the economic diversification is achievable under the watchful eyes of Engr. Obadiah sterling performances so far.

Nigerians and our beloved Mr. President,

Bola Ahmed Tinubu should be rest assured the mission and vision of Nigerian Cadastral Mining Office, Abuja will be achieved to the fullest as Mr. Simon and his management team are capable of distinguishing themselves through hard work, honesty and commitment to the service of the country. An administrator par excellence and a patriot, Mr. Simon is selfless, humble even to a fault, and a team player. It is his philosophy that managers should at all times be exemplary. He is focused on ensuring that the staff work towards the actualization of the Mining sector's core mandate, which is necessary for any organization to thrive. In fact, he strongly believes the Mining sector can contribute significantly. Eibo is a media and communication specialist, who sent in this piece from Kaduna and can be reached on email via mohammedeibo2014@gmail.com

N5bn To Governors: The Need For Tool For Monitoring And Measuring Impact Of State Level Fuel Subsidy Mitigants

By; MURTALA ADOGI MOHAMMED

The State Level Fuel Subsidy Mitigants provided to states by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu presents a significant opportunity to drive inclusive development and poverty reduction across the nation.

To ensure effective and equitable utilization of these funds, it is imperative for the Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF) to adopt a uniform tool or template for monitoring and measuring the impact of the mitigants. This justification stems from various reasons that underscore the importance of a standardized approach.

1. **Transparent Resource Allocation:** A uniform monitoring and measuring tool will promote transparency and accountability in the allocation of the State Level Fuel Subsidy Mitigants. By providing a standardized framework, the NGF can ensure that the funds are distributed fairly among states based on their specific needs and priorities.

2. **Consistent Impact Assessment:** A uniform tool will enable states to consistently assess the impact of the mitigants on key sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and poverty reduction. This approach will allow for meaningful comparisons and benchmarking, enabling states to learn from each other's successes and challenges.

3. **Evidence-Based Decision Making:** A standardized monitoring and measuring tool will facilitate evidence-based decision making at both the state and national levels. Accurate data and information will guide policymakers in identifying effective interventions, allocating resources strategically, and targeting areas that require further attention.

4. **Efficient Resource Utilization:** A uniform tool will help states optimize resource utilization by identifying areas of overlap, duplication, and gaps in project implementation. This streamlined approach will



Murtala Adogi Mohammed

prevent wastage and ensure that funds are directed towards projects with the highest potential for impact.

5. **Harmonized Reporting:** A consistent monitoring and measuring tool will simplify the reporting process for states, ensuring that accurate and relevant data is provided to the NGF. This will enable the NGF to compile comprehensive reports on the overall impact of the mitigants, facilitating informed decision making at the national level.

6. **Enhanced Accountability:**

A standardized approach will enhance accountability by enabling citizens, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to monitor and evaluate the progress of projects funded by the mitigants. Transparent reporting will strengthen public trust and confidence in government initiatives.

7. **Aligning with National Agendas:** The adoption of a uniform tool aligns with national agendas such as the Nigerian Agenda 2050 and the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs). Consistent monitoring and measuring of impact will contribute to the achievement of these broader goals by ensuring targeted investments in priority areas.

The Nigerian Governors' Forum should embrace the adoption of a uniform monitoring and measuring tool for the State Level Fuel Subsidy Mitigants.

This approach will enhance transparency, accountability, and efficient resource utilization while promoting

evidence-based decision making and consistent impact assessment. By working together, states can maximize the positive effects of these mitigants and accelerate the nation's journey towards sustainable development and poverty reduction.

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Shattered Dreams: Nigeria's Relentless Descent from Colonial Chains to Self-Inflicted Chaos

By: **Amb ALIYU BINABBAS**

I have a dream, a dream of a Nigeria finally unburdened from the chains of colonial manipulation, where the shackles of inequality and injustice are ripped apart, and a united, powerful nation emerges.

But let's face the harsh truth: our current reality tells a dramatically different story, one where Nigeria's potentials are squandered due to the legacy of colonization, internal turmoil, and leadership failures.

As we stand on the precipice of change, it's imperative to confront the lingering grip of colonialism that still throttles Nigeria's path. The nauseating ties that keep us tethered to the United Kingdom and the Western powers, those former colonizers, have proved nothing but detrimental.

The era of maintaining these shackles must end; it's time to explore new alliances, possibly with the BRICS group of nations—a coalition of emerging economies that could actually benefit us and foster true collaboration in a swiftly evolving global stage.

From the moment we claimed independence, Nigeria embarked on a downward spiral that has been unrelenting. Let's put the plummeting value of the Nigerian Naira against the US Dollar front and center. The ever-widening gap between these two currencies is a glaring symbol of a nation that's failed to navigate the international economy effectively, spiraling into an abyss rather than ascending to prosperity.

And then, in this sea of struggle, enters Bola Ahmed Tinubu—claiming a prominent spot in the spotlight, though not for noble reasons. As Nigeria grapples with internal fractures, socio-economic setbacks, and a political landscape teetering on the edge, certain figures seem all too willing to exploit these vulnerabilities for their selfish gain.

The audacity of a leader manipulating an ECOWAS military intervention as a ruse to clinging to the presidency is a stark reminder of misplaced priorities. It's a tactic that further diverts attention from the real needs of the Nigerian populace.

My dream, forgive me for daring to dream, envisions a Nigeria where unity isn't just a



Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas

word, where leaders genuinely prioritize the nation's wellbeing over their personal power trips.

In this alternate reality, a functional Nigeria would harness the boundless potential

of its diverse people, irrespective of their ethnicity, religious beliefs, or regional

affiliations. It's a world where education, healthcare, and opportunities flow evenly to every citizen, regardless of their societal standing.

But let's not kid ourselves, the gap between this vision and the grim reality is gaping and impossible to ignore. The Nigerian populace, shackled not only by external forces, but also by its own apathy, remains stuck in a perpetual cycle of inaction.

The power to change lies within us, but it's been smothered by years of complacency and indifference. We're collectively under a spell—a convenient illusion that let's select few maintain control, while the majority languish.

Picture this: if everyone stood up, if every Nigerian refused to accept this nightmarish status quo, the government would crumble overnight. But instead, we continue to doze in a trance of our own making. The power to reshape our nation, to strip away the remnants of colonization, and to tear down the scaffolding of corrupt leadership rests within our collective will.

It's time for Nigerians to shake off the stupor, to realize that the power to break free from these chains is within our grasp. Let's not be blinded by the history of oppression or the puppetry of opportunistic leaders. By daring to envision a Nigeria where justice prevails, where unity is more than an empty slogan, we ignite the spark of change.

In the end, the dream of a united, prosperous Nigeria refuses to fade away. It's a dream that challenges us to look past our differences, to rise above the weight of the past, and to work collectively toward a future that's brighter for all. If we have the audacity to dream, to unite as a formidable force, we can bulldoze the barriers of history and create a Nigeria that stands as a beacon of hope, not only for ourselves but for the entire continent and the world.

Amb Aliyu Bin Abbas is the President, National Youth Alliance (NYA).



Lesson From Killer Nurse Case

By Safiya I. Dantiye

THE case of Lucy Letby, a 33-year-old nurse in the UK who was given a life sentence for killing seven babies and attempting to kill six others few days ago should be something to make us reflect on how we do things in our country.

Coming back to our country, only God knows how many people are killed in hospitals through negligence, incompetence or deliberate act like that of Lucy Letby. But since it is not in our character to scrutinise, people really get away with murder. And where a victim's parent or relative tries to report to the authorities if he suspects something foul, he would be prevailed upon to accept it as an 'act of God.'

Lucy Letby worked at the Countess of Chester hospital's neonatal unit from 2015 and that was when the problem started. She injected air into intravenous line and injected insulin to the babies among other methods of murdering them. She was removed from the unit in 2016 and the deaths stopped. However, after much suspicion she was arrested in 2018.

The most fascinating thing about this case is the diligent investigation that took years to unravel the truth, and as so many cases have proved, if well investigated, no matter how many years it takes, the truth must come out. But that is in places where they are dogged about finding out the truth and definitely where such dedication matters.

In fact, in such places there are investigators that are assigned to what they call cold cases, cases that have been unsolved for many decades. They are not ignored or brushed aside by saying, 'nothing else can be found'. We read or watch from time to time where such cases are solved by finding new evidence.

Coming back to our country, only God knows how many people are killed in hospitals through negligence, incompetence or deliberate act like that of Lucy Letby. But since it is not in our character to scrutinise, people really get away with murder. And where a victim's parent or relative tries to report to the authorities if he suspects something foul, he would be prevailed upon to accept it as an 'act of God.'

The point here is not about forgiveness or being unforgiving. It is about justice and sanitising the society, because how could you kill somebody deliberately and be allowed to go without even being taken to court? There is the possibility of this woman killing another child.

I remember in the mid-80s, one man went to a chemist and complained of some ailment.

He was given an injection, he collapsed and died. Nobody reported the case to the police; nobody investigated the qualification of the person who administered the injection and on and on. It was accepted as an act of God, while such people go about killing people.

Also, some time ago, one man bought a concoction that was called 'service', a cure for all kinds of ailments at a Juma'a mosque on Friday. He took it at home and died. No report was made to the police even if it was reported, it would be said that they may not see the medicine vendor as such people move from place to place. But it is because there is no willpower otherwise it is not as difficult as we make it to be.

Few years ago, one man told me his two-year-old son had died. He later told me that it was their neighbour that killed him by putting a poison in kosai (bean cake) and giving it to the boy. He said she confessed at the police station but she begged for forgiveness and he had forgiven her!

It is hoped that this case may not be seen by the authorities, especially the police as something far from us, it should in fact make our police uncomfortable and make them vow to change how things are done here. They should strengthen their investigation units and pursue cases to the end at no cost to the people seeking justice.

I asked him whether they were on bad terms with the neighbour, he said no, but that she was just envious.

The point here is not about forgiveness or being unforgiving. It is about justice and sanitising the society, because how could you kill somebody deliberately and be allowed to go without even being taken to court? There is the possibility of this woman killing another child.

But perhaps some take the easy way out of leaving everything for God to judge than press the matter that they know may not come to an end. First of all, you have to be prepared to be giving money to the police to do their job, call it transport money or whatever. Some don't have money for this extortion.

They would complain that there is no fuel in their cars which may be true, which brings us to ask how those western countries' police get fuel for their cars and even police helicopters.

It is hoped that this case may not be seen by the authorities, especially the police as something far from us, it should in fact make our police uncomfortable and make them vow to change how things are done here. They should strengthen their investigation units and pursue cases to the end at no cost to the people seeking justice.

Bello Mohammed Goronyo: Solutions To The Challenges Of Water Resources

By; YUSUF MAKARFI

As Nigeria and indeed the world is facing the challenges of water for various uses, the search for lasting solution is on. The issue of water resources in Nigeria has been a protracted one for decades and yet there seems to be no end in sight, due to the excessive water shortage in both rural and urban areas.

Accordingly, with competing water uses, lower levels of irrigation potential, degrading water sheds and courses, fragmented and uncoordinated water development and so much more, there is compelling need for the government to curtail this threatening menace.

To achieve this, competent and patriotic hands must be brought on board to direct the affairs. This is why it is a welcome development to have IHon. Barrister Mohammed Bello Goronyo as the State Minister for Water Resources.

Remarkably, so much has written and said about this person that his name has become a household subject of lengthy discussion. Well, to put it straight, Hon. Goronyo has seen it all politically as humanly as possible.

Goronyo has been tutored by the best in political chess game, Senator Aliyu Magatakardan Wamakko (Sarkin Yamma).

As his protegee, he was forged by the fire of developmental and strategic political fungibility, where he exhibited tremendous promise, while bringing his wide range of political and personal experience to bear in his personal development as a political gladiator.

As a teacher, a progressive politician of repute and an accomplished jurist, Goronyo never disappointed in discharging his duties in all the responsibilities he held in his journey of political discovery.

As a mentee of Magatakardan Wammako, the political grandmaster of Sokoto State, Goronyo has followed the footsteps of his master, never forgetting to serve the people, creating all inclusive platforms

and exhibiting higher level of loyalty and recognizing the essence of leadership as harbinger to peace, development and an avenue to serve the people.

A man of good breeding and candour, whose pedigree both personal, academically and politically remain as intimidating as ever.

As a Student of Strategic Studies and International Relations, Goronyo will bring to bear his vast expertise in the discharge of his responsibilities as the Minister of State Water Resources.

With the analysis made above on water resources and sanitation, President Tinubu's government has truly engaged a person whose records do not consider failure as an option.

As a legal luminary of immense reputation, Goronyo will activate the Water resources Act 101 of 1993 with regard to construction, operations and maintenance of dams.

With his enormous wit, political maturity and abundant virtue of generosity with his time and resources; qualities which attracted and caught the attention of the President to appoint him as minister in his new cabinet.

Goronyo would not have the difficulty in attracting local and foreign partners to boost and harness the abundant possibilities in our water resources development.

According to one writer, "As a Minister, his experience, qualification and leadership abilities will play a pivotal role in contributing to the development of Nigeria. With focus on good governance, inclusive policies and strategic planning, he is well positioned to drive positive change and foster economic growth".

Without doubt, Hon Barrister Mohammed Bello Goronyo is not only a square peg in square hole, but much more than that. As a legal luminary, a rare political breed, a fine student of strategic studies and an abiding loyalist to his political mentor that has equally carved a niche for himself, he is sure to write his name in the history

"To achieve this, competent and patriotic hands must be brought on board to direct the affairs. This is why it is a welcome development to have IHon. Barrister Mohammed Bello Goronyo as the State Minister for Water Resources."

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

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Width	25.4 (CM)	Width -	10 (Inches)

POLITICAL RATE

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

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

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

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

Two Tears For Dadiyata And The Sun

By; HASSAN GIMBA

At about 1am, on the cold night of Friday, August 2, 2019, exactly two months after celebrating his 34th birthday, Malam Abubakar Idris, commonly known as Abu Hanifa Dadiyata, or just Dadiyata, was abducted in front of his house at Barnawa, a quiescent area of Kaduna.

Armed men kidnapped the PhD student and History of English Language lecturer at the Federal University, Dutsinma, from his house after they breached his house's security from where they took him away in his BMW car.

For all these four years, no ransom was asked and nobody has contacted his family in any way. This sensibly cancels out, from the range of suspects, those who abduct as a way of making money, a new business channel that has proved to be lucrative in today's Nigeria. But it also made some suspect the nation's security agencies, especially the Department of State Services (DSS).

Dadiyata was said to be an unapologetic supporter of Abba Yusuf (Abba Gida-Gida) when he contested the governorship of Kano State on the platform of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2019 general election.

This prompted Sanusi Dawakin-Tofa, spokesman of the gubernatorial candidate, to come out the next day with claims that the social media influencer had been arrested by the security agency. He then called on the DSS to release Dadiyata unconditionally.

"As members of the opposition in Kano and Nigeria, we will continue to give constructive criticism to the ruling party within the confines of the law," he added in a statement.

Believing that the DSS was behind the abduction of Dadiyata, the PDP also asked the secret police to ensure his release.

"The PDP therefore demands the DSS high command to speak out and take urgent steps to secure the release of Idris from his abductors before it is too late," Kola Ologbondiyan, spokesman of the opposition party, said in a statement.

But the DSS denied having the social media influencer in its custody while the police in Kaduna said they had commenced an investigation into his disappearance.

Abba Yusuf has now been elected as governor of Kano State under the banner of the New Nigeria Peoples

Party (NNPP) and he has promised to go to the roots of this issue.

Even the United Nations frowns at such disappearances. In Articles 1 and 2 of the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Article 1 says, "Any act of enforced disappearance is an offence to human dignity. It is condemned as a denial of the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and as a grave and flagrant violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirmed and developed in international instruments in this field.

"Any act of enforced disappearance places the persons subjected thereto outside the protection of the law and inflicts severe suffering on them and their families. It constitutes a violation of the rules of international law guaranteeing the right to recognition, as a person before the law, the right to liberty and security of the person and the right not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It also violates or constitutes a grave threat to the right to life.

Article 2 states that "No State shall practise, permit or tolerate enforced disappearances..."

But beyond this, it is not only painful and sad but worrisome and unfortunate that this young man, or any other person, can suddenly disappear and none of the country's security agencies can provide any definitive information on his whereabouts - after four years!

Dadiyata is today somewhere. That somewhere is where his parents, wife, children, friends, loved ones, associates and students cannot access. Is that "somewhere" in this world or in the other? What should it be for him, hope or a tear and a requiem?

"Article 2 states that "No State shall practise, permit or tolerate enforced disappearances..." But beyond this, it is not only painful and sad but worrisome and unfortunate that this young man, or any other person, can suddenly disappear and none of the country's security agencies can provide any definitive information on his whereabouts - after four years!"



Hassan Gimba

Monday Column

That False Fiction

Tears of the Sun is the title of a 2003 American action thriller film depicting a fictitious U.S. Navy SEAL team commanded by Lieutenant A.K. Waters (Bruce Willis) who came to Nigeria and routed a battalion of its army.

The team purportedly came to Nigeria on a mission during a fictional civil war in which the "Fulani" were massacring the Igbo to rescue Dr. Lena

Fiore Kendricks (Monica Bellucci). But as always with Yankees who portray themselves as a people who can sacrifice their lives for others, the doctor, an American by marriage, refused to be airlifted from the war zone with them unless they saved 70 refugees, too.

In the story, less than a dozen American SEALs on a humanitarian mission were able to defeat over 300 Nigerian soldiers about to annihilate the Igbos and cut off its "tribal lineage" - whatever that means.

The film, shot in Hawaii, has no resemblance to Nigeria in any way. Save for a few spoken Hausa words like "you will die", "we will kill you," or in Igbo "oh, God", neither did the "Fulani", who looked more Igbo, look like Fulani, nor the Igbo Igbo.

I just wonder why there was never a complaint from any quarter in Nigeria over that gross misrepresentation and its motive to cause more disaffection and disunity.

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

How The FIRS Is Breaking New Grounds In Revenue Collection

By: JANTIKU IJANADA

Just when we thought the peak in tax collection was attained, the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) brought forward another harvest of revenue collection, peaking any collection in our nation's history. The tax agency recently announced a total tax revenue collection of N5.5 trillion for the half-year period of January to June 2023 signifying the highest tax revenue collection ever recorded by the Service in any first six months of a fiscal year.

Even though this did not come as a shocker, it is still fascinating to see how the FIRS has improved so much under its current leadership and by extension set the country's course on the path of economic growth, development and sustainability.

Prior to this feat, the Service achieved a total collection of N4.95 trillion in 2020 (representing 98% of target met). This was amidst the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Nigerian economy as well as the business disruptions and looting during the #EndSARS protests. The tax agency collected in tax revenue the total sum of N6.405 trillion (representing 101% of target met) in 2021 and a total of N10.1 trillion in the year 2022.

The 2022 tax collection was the highest ever made by the FIRS in a single year, signifying over 96% of its collection target for the year, marking the highest tax collection ever recorded in its history and the first time that the FIRS will cross the N10 trillion mark in tax revenue collection. That was a jinx breaker as it rewrote Nigeria's tax collection history and set in motion the journey to future collections in double digits.

There is no doubt that the coming of Muhammad Nami as Executive Chairman of the FIRS, birthed a new era of reinvigoration and transformation of the agency. His reforms and strategies have paved ways for the service to achieve much more than it had achieved in time past under previous leaderships.

The FIRS have been diligently building on the Executive Chairman's 4-Cardinal Goals of: Making FIRS a Customer-Centric Institution; Making FIRS a data-centric Institution.

Improving Stakeholder Collaboration; and Rebuilding the Institutional Framework of the Service.

These goals were carefully curated to give direction towards transforming the service for improved tax revenue collection. The service at the same time identified more areas where it could improve in the delivery and efficiency of its collection. And this has no doubt yielded tremendous success as seen in its 2023-2024 tax revenue outlook presented to the National Economic Council.

During the presentation, Mr. Muhammad Nami noted that the service was able to collect N5.5 trillion in tax for the first half



of the year as a result of "improved voluntary tax compliance by taxpayers, the continued improvement of automation of our tax administration processes, including the updated VAT filing processes; as well as our dogged engagement with stakeholders in both the formal and informal sectors of the economy."

The FIRS boss also stated that the tax revenue collected from the oil sector from January to June 2023, stood at N1.73 trillion, as against a target of N2.3 trillion; while non-oil tax collection stood at N3.76 trillion, as against a target of N2.98 trillion. With this, the agency has achieved over one hundred percent of its target for the first-half of the year when compared with a mid-year target of N5.3 trillion.

Further more, the Service collected a total of N1.65 trillion tax revenues in June 2023. This sum is the highest tax revenue collected by the Service in any single month.

With its continued hyper achievements, one question that keeps coming to mind is,

what is this current management of the FIRS doing differently? What are they adding to the table that is yielding these progressive results?

Muhammed Nami while speaking on how the tax agency achieved its 2023 half-year collection on channels television Business Morning Show revealed the key reforms responsible for its continuous successes. The reforms includes: Improvement in stakeholder engagements; ensuring that taxpayers are satisfied; issuance of circulars to guide and educate taxpayers on tax laws, legislations, how to file, filing returns, etc; enlightenment of taxpayers on their rights and obligations and redesigning the FIRS organizational structure to ensure optimum efficiency of staff.

Other reforms he stated include the constant training and retraining of FIRS staff to improve their capacity; the use of data and intelligence for tax collection and taxpayer profiling; building a comprehensive tax database; consistent stakeholder engagement in both the

formal and informal sector; and deployment of the "TaxPro Max" as a tax administration solution as well as other technological tools automation of tax administration processes.

These reforms indeed are the contributors to the huge, unprecedented successes in revenue collection. Given its antecedent, one can confidently project better, prosperous days for the agency and the nation at large going forward. Mr. Nami also attested to this when he said that: "We believe that the performance in the second half of the year would be better considering the continuing improvement to our tax administration processes and positive impact of current government's policies on the economy."

The FIRS has a bigger target of N7.5 trillion for the second half of the year. It is almost certain that this will not be one nut too hard to crack for the agency and who knows, it might just surprise us again by exceeding its target as seen in the first half of 2023.

Hopeland Get N1m As They Win Igwe Nnewi 60th Anniversary Soccer Completion

*SWAN President hails Pillar Of Sports, Chief Ejidike

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

After giving good account of themselves, Hopeland FC smiled to the banks with one million Naira, after beating hard fighting Rangel 8-7 in the final of the Diamond Football Championship to honour the 60th Anniversary on throne of HRH, Igwe K.O.N. Orizu III, Igwe Nnewi.

In the final match decided on Friday at the Ifeanyi Ubah Stadium, Nnewi, luck smiled on Hopeland FC, who won the match 8-7 through spot kicks, after the match ended 0-0 after

regulation time.

For their efforts, Rangel were presented with N300,000, a trophy, and medals.

Winners, got a giant trophy, medals and the one million cash prize.

Dignitaries that watched the final match of the competition sponsored by Pillar of Sports in Nigeria, Chief Donatus N. Agu Ejidike (JP), included the sponsor, HRH, Igwe K.O.N. Orizu III, Igwe Nnewi, President Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Mr. Isaiah Kemje Benjamin (JP), accompanied by other National executive, Secretary General,

Ikenna Okonkwo, Vice President South South, Azuka Ralph Chiemeka and Financial Secretary, Ijeoma Peter Nwante.

Others spotted are, the Anambra State Football Association Chairman, Chikelue Iloenyosi and former Super Falcons player, Madu.

The competition was organised by the Pillar of Sports to mark the 60th anniversary on throne of Igwe Nnewi.

Meanwhile, the President of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Mr. Isaiah Benjamin, earlier, hailed the Pillar of Sports in Nigeria, Chief Donatus N. Agu Ejidike (JP), for

his commitment to sports development in the country.

He expressed this when he led some executive of the committee to a meeting with the Pillar of Sports in Nnewi, Anambra State on Friday August 26, 2023.

Mr. Benjamin said that the Pillar of Sports has been magnanimous in supporting just not the association, but sports in general. SWAN President explained that the association has been committed to sports development and is happy to have a Pillar of Sports that understands the needs of sports development.

Earlier in his remarks, Chief

Ejidike congratulated Mr. Benjamin for emerging SWAN President at the Rivers Delegates Conference.

He thanked the SWAN delegation for honouring his invitation to attend the final of the Diamond Football Championship to honour the 60th Anniversary on throne of HRH, Igwe K.O.N. Orizu III, Igwe Nnewi.

He was at the meeting with the SWAN Secretary General, Ikenna Okonkwo, Financial Secretary, Ijeoma Peter Nwante and Vice President South South, Azuka Ralph Chiemeka.



Timi Frank Condemns Sham Election In Zimbabwe, Accuses AU, ECOWAS Of Silence

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank on Sunday, condemned the rigging of Presidential election in Zimbabwe by the ruling ZANU-PF party.

Frank in a statement in Abuja, also accused the Heads of State and Governments of the African Union and indeed the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) of eerie silence in the face of electoral injustice being meted on the opposition presidential candidate in Zimbabwe widely believed to have won the election.

According to Frank, such electoral coups in the form of rigging often snowball into military coups and violent change of governments because of discontent and deep seated anguish of the people who have been denied the right to freely choose who to lead them by fraud and force.

He insisted that Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa was declared winner in questionable circumstances following widespread irregularities

orchestrated by the ruling party in instilling fear and suppression of votes in opposition strongholds.

He noted that candidate of the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), Nelson Chamisa, was robbed of votes as attested by international observers and South African Regional body that monitored the election.

According to him, foreign poll monitors insisted that the elections had failed to meet regional and international standards just like the outcome of the February 25, 2023 presidential election in Nigeria that failed on all parameters due to overbearing influence of the ruling party and its use of financial inducements, intimidation and harassment of opposition and voters to deny Nigerians of their rightful choice.

The head of the European Union's observer mission said the vote took place in a "climate of fear", while Southern African regional bloc SADC's mission raised issues including voting delays, issues with the voter roll, bans on opposition rallies and biased state media coverage.

"For example, voting was forced into an

unprecedented second day because of delays in the printing of ballot papers in some key districts including the capital Harare, an opposition stronghold principally to deny Chamisa of votes," he said.

He condemned a situation where African ruling parties are increasingly violating the electoral rights of the opposition parties and their candidates through rigging saying the trend will continue if measures are not taken to make African Heads of States to respect the sanctity of the ballotbox.

He urged regional political blocs like the AU and ECOWAS to urgently call the President of Zimbabwe to order as a step towards curbing coup d'état now rearing its ugly head in many Africa countries like the recent one in Niger Republic.

"This is what African leaders are doing that is leading to military coups in the continent of Africa. An electoral coup has just taken place where the sitting President has outrightly rigged the election against the expressed will of the people.

"But neither African presidents nor AU has

condemned what has happened in Zimbabwe. But if there is a military coup in Zimbabwe tomorrow, they will all begin to issue war threats in a bid to restore democratic rule," he said.

He called on the United States of America, United Kingdom and other international bodies, to lend their voice to condemn the electoral heist in Zimbabwe if they are genuinely interested in ending coups in Africa.

"So we are telling the international community that until they come together to make sure that African elections are transparent, free and fair, coups will not end in Africa," he declared.

He called for urgent international sanctions against the President of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa and any President that rigs election in Africa to fraudulently perpetuate themselves in office against the wish of the people.

"The United Nations must ensure that henceforth Presidents or heads of governments that were rigged into office are not invited to attend its General Assembly or any of its international gatherings," he said.

Ogun Police Apprehends 3 Over Tricycle Theft, Recovers 2 Tricycles, One Motorcycle

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Three suspects are now cooling their heels in the custody of Ogun State Police Command over alleged theft of tricycles and a motorcycle.

The suspects were said to have been apprehended during different operations with the stolen items recovered from them.

The Ogun State Police Command spokesperson, SP Omolola Odutola gave the hint I'm a release yesterday.

According to the release, two of the suspects were nabbed by operatives attached to Sagamu Division, led by the Divisional Police Officer CSPOyekanmi Fatoberu.

It reads, "The Sagamu Divisional Police Officer, CSP Oyekanmi Fatoberu, have successfully apprehended some notorious robbers who specialize in tricycle and motorcycle theft on August 20, 2023. Acting on a tip-off, one Shaibu Isah, a 21-year-old resident of Ibadan, Oyo State, who was known for stealing motorcycles in Ogun State and then disappearing to Oyo State was spotted at the Central Mosque in Ago Iwoye, Ogun State, and apprehended.

"Based on the credible

information received, the Divisional Police Officer mobilized his team to the scene and caught Isah in the act of trying to unchain and steal a parked Bajaj Boxer motorcycle with registration number SGM 557 VQ, which was recovered as evidence and taken to the Sagamu Police Station. Isah has confessed to the crime.

"In a separate incident, Sunday Achiri, 23, and Azeez Mufutaru, 27, both residents of Abari area in Mowe and Inarowo Igbo Street in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State, were arrested for planning to steal a tricycle that was given to them on hire purchase.

"They admitted to absconding with the tricycle, registered as SRA 036 UM, belonging to an individual named Precious from Mowe, with the intention of disposing it.

"The suspects, along with the recovered tricycle, have been handed over to the Reedem Divisional Police Officer for further investigation.

Meanwhile, the Ogun State Commissioner of Police Alumutu Abiodun Mistapha has advised the public to opt for smart hire purchase systems that involve trackable hirers to prevent incidents of absconding and property diversion.

FG Constructed Kaduna Road Caves In, Surface Layer Washed Off Barely Six Months After Commissioning

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Joy and euphoria of Kakuri community was cut short as a result of sinking down of a road tarred by the federal government, through the Ministry of Agric and Rural Development.

Our correspondent who visited the bad portion of the road, saw that the surface layer of the newly constructed road had already been washed off by the rains and a gully created.

The more than one kilometre road constructed in February this year by B.P Sany CO. Nig. Ltd, with an office address at 12 Ubijaja Crescent, Garki, Abuja,

stretches from the moribund Kaduna Textile Limited (KTL) through Makera Suburb to Galadimawa Road, a major linkway in the area.

A cross section of motorists, commercial tricycle operators and other road users who spoke to our reporter, expressed disappointment over the poor quality of job done by the contractor.

A commercial tricycle operator who simply identified himself as Isa Roja questioned the wisdom of making a road which could barely serve beneficiaries and deteriorate after a short period of time, adding that if such contractors were allowed to go

scot-free, the public would be the ones to suffer for the infraction of very few.

"We were all rejoicing over the positive development of remembering us by the federal government through the ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development when this hitherto muddy road was tarred.

"Our people welcomed the development with fanfare and happiness because instead of going through a long distance route, We got a relief and a very short cut to our destinations.

"Alas! Our joy did not last long because as you can see the road has started falling off with just one season of rain which is very

unfortunate and pathetic.

"The road would have in normal circumstance serve us for years because trucks and heavy vehicles do not ply the road.

"How could a newly tarred road plied by motorcycles and light vehicles cave in barely six months after commission?" He wondered.

A motorcycle operator lamented the sad development, saying the contractor must have been compromised by a kickback arrangement which he noted was common feature in government circle in the award of contract.

"The contractor, I believe would have been sanctioned if truly he executed the project according to

specifications but I strongly believe he did what he did in connivance with some government officials.

"How could such a fraud of a new road deteriorating within the shortest period of time be allowed to go unpunished," he asked.

A resident of the area who preferred to speak anonymously expressed his anger, saying their joy was made short-lived by poor quality of the road.

"When I saw that the road was made without drainage system which would have channelled away surface running water from the road and also serve as barrier against pressure from

Badaru Competent To Head Defense Ministry, Group Declares

By; TOM GARBA, Yola

ASocio-political group, Arewa New Agenda (ANA), has reiterated its dedication to support the newly appointed Minister of Defence, Mohammed Badaru Abubakar.

The chairman of the group, Sen. Ahmad Abubakar MoAllahyidi, conveyed this in a press briefing with journalists in Abuja, on Thursday.

"ANA envisions a Nigeria where the North thrives, possesses vibrancy, and assumes responsibility for its destiny," he said.

As ministers embark on their governance challenges, ANA expressed dismay at the unjust criticisms some have faced, cloaked in religious and ethnic disguises, even before they've settled into their roles.

MoAllahyidi said, "H.E. Mohammed Abubakar Badaru, the newly appointed Minister of Defense, was singled out for such unjustified attacks.

"Badaru's eight-year tenure as Jigawa State's Governor was an exemplary record of ensuring safety, peace, and coexistence despite the state's geographical vulnerabilities.

"Despite being a state neighboring insecure countries and states, Jigawa is one of the few states in the north that has never had the insuring issue.

"The association found it fitting for him to lead the Ministry of Defense, given his history of safeguarding territorial integrity.

"Badaru's successful track record in both public and private spheres underscores his competence for this role". ANA emphasized the cultural and traditional imperative of supporting and respecting leadership, dismissing any calls for Badaru's dismissal as premature and unfounded. Meanwhile, MoAllahyidi

said, "ANA is resolute in its pledge to foster social harmony and peaceful coexistence as Nigeria continues its journey toward national improvement.

"Undoubtedly, Nigeria is grappling with some of its most trying times in the path to nationhood. The demand for forward-thinking ministers capable of harnessing both human and material resources to enhance the lives of citizens has never been more critical.

"While this is a nationwide need, the north, for undeniable reasons, requires these ministers even more.

"ANA places great significance on how the forthcoming presidency of Tinubu addresses the twin challenges of insecurity and economic instability.

"However, it's vital to acknowledge that these concerns aren't the only ones afflicting the nation." ANA congratulated the 45 recently sworn-in ministers and urged them to strive for distinctiveness.

"This appointment presents a fresh opportunity to drive socio-economic progress, and the association condemns any lavish displays of office privileges amid the country's economic struggles," the group said.

However, ANA called on ministers from the Northern region to work diligently for the betterment of both the North and Nigeria as a whole.

The association emphasized the need to prioritize the collective vision over personal interests, echoing the overarching goals set forth by the President.

ANA stressed the importance of ministers engaging with the people to comprehend their aspirations and incorporate these into President Tinubu's government agenda.

Former Enyimba FC Coach Unveiled For Akwa Utd

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Coach Fatai Osho, formerly of Enyimba FC and Rivers United has picked a job as the new Coach of Akwa Utd FC of Uyo for contract term of one year.

Unveiling Coach Osho to football community at Nest of Champions International Stadium in Uyo, this week the Club Chairman, Paul Bassey said that coach Osho fitted into the plans and visions of the management.

Bassey described the new coach as vibrant and with over 12 years of experience in coaching and could win laurels for

the team and make the state proud.

He pledged the support of the state government, stakeholders and fans to make him succeed in his coaching endeavours.

The club chairman also charged the new coach to take the team to continental wins as only victory was needed by the fans in the state.

"This coach we are unveiling is a Coach with his pedigree, with his experience is a coach that could take us to Eldorado.

"He is a coach that can return us to the continental, allow me to present to you Coach Fatai Osho. The coach has also worked with Remo Stars,

Enyimba FC, Rivers United FC and we believed as he is here will win laurels." Bassey said. Osho in his response, thanked the Akwa Ibom State Government for the contract and promised to take Akwa Utd to greater heights.

He added that the only thing they team could add to the beauty of the stadium is result and success in winning matches.

"Anybody coming here will know that second place is already a failure, I remember my days in Enyimba, there if you come second you've actually failed.

"Now, I am with the Akwa United which is the most important thing, winning matches. I can't do this alone, so, I need your cooperation.

"I can assure you that we're going to work harder to achieve results," Osho said.

In his goodwill message, the State's Chapter Chairman of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Emmanuel Akpan pledged the support of his association to enable the new Coach succeed.

He expressed optimism that with Coach Fatai Osho, Akwa Utd FC are in for wins to continental.



Unveiling Coach Fatai Osho for Akwa Utd

Nigeria Born Ridwan 'Scorpion' Will Win Asian Title Boxing Belt -Okunniyi

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Chairman of Synergy Promotions, Sir Olawale Okunniyi on Saturday, assured Nigerians of victory as Nigerian boxing champion, Ridwan 'Scorpion' Oyekola prepares for another International boxing bout against Keisuke Matsumoto of Japan on

August 30 in Tokyo.

Sir Okunniyi gave the assurance while speaking with the journalists declared that going by the optimal preparations and top form of the Nigerian boxer, victory is certain for him in the Japan National Title Belt and WBO Asia Title Belt.

The chairman of the local organizing committee for the World Boxing Federations (WBF) Super

Featherweight belt won by Scorpion in 2020, urged Nigerians to support Ridwan, the Scorpion, who will be battling a 'son of the soil', Keisuke Matsumoto a Japanese born in Yokohama, Kanagawa, with professional boxing record of eight wins in eight bouts (8-0-0) in his backyard in Japan.

"I want to urge all lovers of sports especially boxing in

Nigeria to support Ridwan 'Scorpion' Oyekola because with your backing and prayers", he said.

Sir Okunniyi added, "I can assure that he will make Nigeria proud by winning both the Japan National Super Featherweight belt and the prestigious Asian Super Featherweight International title belt in far away Japan".

**Hopeland Get N1m
As They Win Igwe Nnewi
60th Anniversary
Soccer Completion**

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Zulum At 54: Northern Governors Greet One Of Theirs

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Chairman of Northern Governors' Forum and Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has felicitated with Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum as he marked his 54th birthday on Friday.

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

"I join the good people of Borno State and indeed the family and

well wishers of my dear brother and friend, Professor Babagana Zulum in celebrating his 54th birthday, which is a great milestone in life worth celebrating", the Governor stated in a goodwill message.

Governor Inuwa commended the unwavering commitment of Professor Zulum in addressing the challenges of governance in his State, and in carrying out people-oriented projects and programmes, which endeared him to the masses, not only in his state but across the country.

He lauded the Chairman of the North East Governors' Forum for

using his good office to impact positively on the lives of his people as well as for his strives to restore peace in the insurgency ravaged Borno state and by extension, the North East sub-region.

"Your courage and excellent performance as well as the zeal and passion for peace and good governance have indeed stood you out", the Governor noted.

The Gombe governor prayed Almighty Allah to continue to bless Governor Zulum with good health, wisdom and long life to keep serving the nation and humanity.



Nigeria Customs Service Partners NUJ On Service Delivery

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The acting Comptroller-General of Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Mr. Adewale Adeniyi has called for more synergy and collaboration between the service and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) for effective service delivery.

Adeniyi, who was represented by the Commandant of Nigeria Customs Training College, Ikeja, Deputy Comptroller Haniel Hadison, made the call at the 2023 Gala/Awards Nite of the Nigeria Union of Journalists on Friday in Lagos.

According to Adeniyi, "Smuggling activities in the country can be curtailed to a large extent through partnership with the media.

"This inter-agency partnership and collaboration needs to be intensified because the media is positioned to inform and educate the public on the merit of anti-smuggling operations of the NCS."

The Comptroller-General explained that the activities of the NCS have always elicited mixed reactions especially from some persons who are bent on criticising and attacking its

operations, while calling on members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm to be part of this fight.

"To curb this menace, the media becomes very instrumental in the dissemination of information about Customs activities in the

interest of Nigeria, and as well educating the public on government fiscal policies," he appealed.

The Customs boss, pledged his commitment to work with journalists for effective service

delivery because the role of the media is key in the attainment of the NCS's mandate.

"The service requires the support and guidance of the media to consolidate the progress made in trade facilitation, revenue collection amongst areas of its

mandate," Adeniyi affirmed.

The CG assured journalists of partnership in all Customs formations for better understanding of the undertakings and operations of the NCS.



Award Recipients at the NUJ Gala/Award Night with NUJ Vice President B Zone, Mrs. Ronke Samo and NUJ Chairman Lagos Council Mr. Adeleye Ajayi.