

# New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

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We Will Support  
Tinubu In  
Ameliorating  
Problems Confronting  
Nigerians - NASoW

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**It Is Our Responsibility  
To Maintain Power Supply  
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Gov Uba Sani

**Over 1m Individuals  
From 210,000  
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## **NSCDC, NIS Recruitment: Coalition Of Borno Youth Seek Zulum, NASS Intervention, Justice**

**■ Say those with godfathers shortchanged them**

By ; SADIQ  
ABUBAKAR,  
Maiduguri

A Coalition of Borno Youth who applied for recruitment with the Nigerian Security Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) in May 2023, yesterday, called on Governor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State and the National Assembly (NASS) members from Borno State to come to their aid and allow justice to

prevail.

The group also appreciated the earlier assurances and support of HRH, the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Abubakar Garbai Ibn.Umar El Kaneni to ensure justice is served on their issue few months ago, when they paid him homage and laid their complaints before the royal father.

Spokesman of the youth group, Garba Rabiu at a press briefing with journalists at the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Press Center



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**Remains Of  
Pilot Of Air Force  
Jet That  
Crashed In Niger  
Laid To Rest  
In Zaria**



**Osun APC Crisis Deepens,  
Aregbesola Launches  
Omoluabi Caucus**

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*\*Says "We are not faction. We are genuine foundation members of the party"*

## Nigerian Army General Slumps, Dies During Exercise

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kadun

**A** Nigerian Army Officer Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Ahmadu fell, died yesterday morning, while taking part in the Service 2nd Annual Physical Training Test 2023 in Abuja.

The incident sent shock across military formations as the army officer had been known for gallantry and was a stickler for professionalism and regimental duties.

According to a source, Brig. General Ahmadu was rushed to an Abuja hospital, where he was confirmed dead after he fell during the physical test exercise.

The senior Artillery officer was buried according to Islamic rites in Kaduna.

Siblings of the deceased military officer expressed sadness in a phone interview with our correspondent over the sudden demise of their beloved brother.

Aliyu Ahmadu, one of the siblings couldn't suppress his subs while eulogizing the humane qualities of a senior brother whom he disclosed assumed patriarchal roles in the family after the passing on of their father in 1997.

He added that the entire family, friends and of course the Nigerian military would miss the selfless and patriotic service of his elder brother.

Aminu Ahmadu, another sibling of the fallen General, said he owes his success in life to late

Ahmadu, a senior brother he described as loving, caring and always in the lookout for people in need and distress so he could come to their aides.

"He had distinguished himself in service to country and humanity in general through rendering moral and financial support to make the society a good and comfortable place for all, as he had always preached.

"My late elder brother detested laziness and idleness particularly among able-bodied youth in the society.

"To ensure our youth were gainfully engaged in one gainful vocation or the other, he strived to discreetly provide moral and financial supports to teeming number of people around him," he stated.

The late Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Ahmadu passed out from Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) in 1995 with Bachelor Degree in Mathematics.

He had risen in rank through regimental and academic excellence to become a Brigadier General.

He was Battalion Commander and Instructor NDA, Assistant Director (Data) Dpt of Military Secretary, Deputy Chief of Staff Ministry of Defence, Abuja.

The late General was security training officer and Battalion Second in Command United Nations and African Union Mission and also military personnel

officer U.N Mission in Sierra Leone.

He was Intelligence and Security officer / Regimental Adjutant 322 Artillery Regiment Ministry of Defence and General Staff Officer Grade II Ministry of Defence among other regimental and professional postings held by Brig.Gen. Ahmadu.

## Court Nullifies Restriction On Deposed Kaduna Traditional Ruler, Awards N5m

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

**A** Kaduna State High Court sitting in Kafanchan on Monday, nullified the restriction of movement placed on Brig.Gen Iliya Yammah (rtd), the deposed traditional ruler of Arak Chieftdom.

New Nigerian recalls that the state government barred Yammah from entering Arak Chieftdom following his removal in May, 2023 in line with section 11(3) of the Kaduna State Traditional Institution Law 2021.

The provisions of section 11(3) of the aforementioned law provides that where a chief or an Emir is deposed, he can only access his domain upon the approval of security agencies.

Yammah through his lead counsel, Garba Pwul (SAN) had argued that restricting his client entry into Arak Chieftdom was a breach of his fundamental right to freedom of movement enshrined in section 41 of the 1999 constitution as amended.

Judge John Ambi, in his ruling on the matter, struck out section 11(3) of the Kaduna State Traditional Institution Law for being inconsistent with the provisions of section 41 of the 1999 constitution as amended.

Ambi held that the applicant's right to freedom of movement could only be limited under conditions outlined in section 41(2) of the 1999 constitution which the respondents never alluded to in their

counteraffidavit.

He argued, "The constitution is abundantly clear that where any law is inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution, such a law is null and void to the extent of its inconsistency."

Accordingly, the court awarded N5m damages to the applicant as against N200m he prayed the court for breach of his fundamental right.

The presiding judge, however, refused the prayer for an order compelling the respondents to tender public apology to the applicant in two national dailies.

In a swift reaction after the ruling, Garba Pwul (SAN), lead counsel for the applicant, said the

judgement was a demonstration of the role of the judiciary as the last hope of the common man. According to him, "The judgement is a sound one. The judge has demonstrated courage which is exemplary.

"The applicant can now freely access his domain and relate with his family and also go to his farm lands.

"I hope that from this judgement, the Kaduna State Government will learn to treat citizens including traditional rulers with decorum and rule of law in their mind."

On his part, the state counsel, Alex Aku, said the government will study the judgement of the court before deciding the next line of action.

## NGO Trains 120 Teachers On SGBV Prevention In Zamfara

By; A D A M MUHAMMAD, Gusau

**A** Zamfara-based Governmental Organization (NGO), Voluntary Aid Initiative (VAI) has sensitized 120 teachers on the fight against Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Zamfara State.

The Executive Director of the NGO, Mr. Musa Umar stated this while fielding questions from newsmen in Gusau.

According to him, the sensitization was conducted in collaboration with the UKAid funded NGO and International Alert respectively.

He said a total of 120

teachers from public and Islamic schools from four communities of Tsafe, Birnin-Magaji, Bilbis and Nasarawar-Godal were reached.

His words, "The activity is aimed at sensitizing the school teachers on SGBV prevention and how they can champion campaigns

against SGBV in the community".

He pointed out that part of the outcome of the sensitization, the participants have expressed commitment to take the campaign by utilizing networks and platforms in their respective communities.

## NANS Kaduna Axis Expresses Pleasure Over School Fees Reduction

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

**T**he leadership of National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) Kaduna State axis, has expressed total pleasure over the review of school fees of the state owned tertiary institutions by the government.

A statement signed and issued to newsmen on Monday by the Kaduna State chairperson, Faith Progress Istifanus, disclosed that without mincing words, the leadership of Kaduna NANS has remained resolute and steadfast towards assuring the welfare and interest of the students are being

salvaged.

"While we appreciate our heartfelt gratitude to the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani, it is important we to plead for further succour and palliatives for our teeming students in order to ameliorate the current economic hardship," the chairman said.

It would be recalled that In response to the public outcry over the current fees being charged by tertiary institutions in Kaduna State and its effect on school enrolment and retention, the Kaduna State Governor, Senator Malam Uba Sani directed Heads of tertiary

institutions in conjunction with the Ministry of Education to obtain relevant information on the extant fees regime in the state owned tertiary institutions. Similarly, on Monday August 21, 2023, Kaduna State Government



announced reduction in the state owned tertiary institutions fees ranging from 30 to 50 per cent downward review in various state institutions.



Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Ahmadu

# Troops Rescue Another Chibok Schoolgirl, Mary In Dikwa

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Operation Hadin Kai Joint Task Force (JTF) Headquarters Theater Command troops while on operation at Sambisa Forest around Dikwa axis of 81 Task Force Battalion Dikwa Command, rescued another abducted Chibok school girl, named Mary Nkeki.

Aged 27 years, she hails from Bura area of Chibok Local Government Area of Borno State and ibako by tribe.

Mary was rescued by the troops in the bush while on operation at the periphery of Dikwa-Gamboru- Kala axis along with other Boko Haram members who escaped from captivity of the insurgents and who voluntarily surrendered by laying down their arms and subsequently submitted

themselves to the military. The Theater Commander, Operation Hadin Kai JTF Headquarters Theater Command Maimalari Containment Maiduguri, Major General Gold Chibuisi at a press briefing with journalists in Maiduguri on Monday, said the girl has undergone series of medical treatments as well as other investigations and found to be fit and ready for rehabilitation by the state government before subsequently handing her over to her parents and relations.

He said, "One of the mandates of operational in the North East is to end terrorism or rescue, abducted victims and restore peace in the region. There have been evidences of successes recently. These results are even evident in the rescue of about 16 Chibok girls

recently. "Operations by troops of operation Hadin Kai in Borno have been successful towards achieving our mandate and we have continued to apply both kinetic and non kinetic strategies with positive results in line with international best practices.

"They have been handed over to the Borno State Government after undergoing medical evaluation or treatment at the 7 Division Medical Services. Therefore, consolidating on the numerous successes recorded so far, troops of Operation Hadin Kai have again, rescued another abducted Chibok schoolgirl, Mary Nkeki on August 14, 2023 by troops of 81 Task Force Battalion Dikwa during operations into the terrorists enclaves. She is on serial number 55

of the abducted Chibok schoolgirls list.

"Mary is 27 years old ibako by tribe from Kabul Bura Village and Chibok Local Government Area of Borno State. While in captivity, she was forcefully married to one Adam a Boko Haram terrorist fighter. Since her rescue, she has undergone thorough medical examination in our medical facility.

"Equally, she has been adequately resuscitated and will be handed over to the Borno State Government for further administration.

"I want to use this medium to assure the general public that the good people of the North East in particular and the good people of the North East in particular, that operation Hadin Kai remains resolute and determined in neutralising all vestiges of terrorist

elements as well as criminals meandering in the North East to return total and long lasting peace to the region

"Our immense appreciation goes to the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR and the Chief of Defence Staff, General C.J. Musa, the Chief of Army Staff, the Chief of Naval Staff and the Chief of Air Staff for their strategic guidance and provision of requisite logistics and operational problems, which have fought the continued successes recorded in Operation Hadin Kai.

"We will continue to discharge our constitutional duties professionally, as we continue to work assiduously to restore absolute peace and normality or normalcy to

the North East," Chibuisi said.

He assured the commitment and determination of the Nigerian military to crush all the remnants of the insurgents in their hide outs or enclaves, especially those who refuse to surrender, while explaining that their doors are open for any Boko Haram member that wants to voluntarily surrender and rejoin his people anytime, anywhere.

The Theater Commander expressed gratitude to the government and people of the state as well as North East zone in supporting and cooperating with the Nigerian military to restore peace in the region, stressing that, the Nigerian military will not relent in its efforts to rid the region and country at large of insurgents and miscreants.



## We Will Support Tinubu In Ameliorating Problems Confronting Nigerians - NASoW

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

President, Nigeria Association of Social Workers (NASoW), Alhaji Mashood Mustapha has declared that the association is ready to support President Bola Tinubu's administration in ameliorating various social problems confronting the citizens.

Alhaji Mustapha stated this in a letter, a copy of which was made available to journalists in Ibadan yesterday by NASoW National Public Relations Officer, Comrade Musliudeen Adebayo, The NASoW President in the letter, also promised that the association will work with the coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Professor Muhammad Ali Pate to alleviate social and psychosocial challenges facing Nigerians.

According to Alhaji Mustapha, the doors of the association remain open for deliberations with the Minister towards

improving humanity in the country

"The President and entire Executive Council members of the Nigeria Association of Social Workers which is the recognized umbrella body for all social workers in Nigeria heartily congratulate the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Welfare on your auspicious appointment", he said.

NASoW President added, "NASoW National Executive and State Councils recommit our allegiance to working with your ministry towards alleviating the numerous social and psychological challenges bedeviling our citizens in line with the agenda of the President Bola Tinubu administration.

"Our doors remain open for deliberations with your honourable offices towards improving humanity. Do accept our hearty Congratulations and prayers for a successful tenure".



Alhaji Mashood Mustapha

# Ebonyi CAN Executive Inaugurated, asked On Praying For Leaders

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The immediate past Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Ebonyi State Chapter, Rev. Dr. Scamb Nwokolo and other newly elected Executive of the association in Ebonyi State has been inaugurated with a charge to avoid unfounded criticisms against political Leaders at all levels and to avoid religious sentiments in their dealings with those in position of leadership at the state and national levels.

The charge was given by the Governor of Ebonyi State, Chief Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru at the inauguration of the newly elected Executives of CAN in Ebonyi State held on Thursday August 17, 2023 at Christian Ecumenical Centre, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State capital.

The Governor, represented by his Deputy, Princess Patricia Obila, observed that in as much as criticisms are necessary for the growth of any administration, it should be done maturely and constructively.

He beckoned on CAN and indeed all Christians to pray for their leaders in order to derive good leadership from them.

In his words, the governor said, "Let us pray for our leaders; let us give them good directions. The time is gone for negative criticisms.

"Although criticisms are part of our growth, if you must criticise, do that maturely with good and objective points. The leaders need your prayers to grow; we need your prayers to serve you better." the governor's representative noted.

While congratulating the new CAN executives, the governor urged them to see their inauguration as a call to serve God and humanity, not for business



or material gains.

He also admonished them to be good ambassadors of the church, and to take the message of good moral behaviours to their various denominations as a means of curbing social vices ravaging the nation at the present time.

"I want to congratulate all those that have been inaugurated today. And remember, this is not a call for business, it is not a call for money-making, but a call to serve God and humanity

"Also we want you to help us as ambassadors of Christ, in your various denominations to preach and talk to our people against all these social vices, letting them know that there is nothing as rewarding as exhibiting good characters."

In his inaugural address, the new CAN Chairman, Rev. Scamb Nwokolo promised to run an all inclusive administration that will revive the confidence of people in CAN. He appealed to all Church leaders to endeavour to speak with one voice on crucial matters affecting the life of the Church in Ebonyi State and the Nigeria nation in general.

He pledged to carry all segments of CAN along through open door administration devoid of all forms of exclusion and segregation. He emphasised that his leadership would strive to

sustain and build upon the legacies of his predecessor, including the reviving and rejigging of the School Evangelism Program of CAN in the state.

"We thank all of you for the confidence you have in us by electing us to the various positions. We assure you that we will do our best relying on God's grace to ensure that this body continues to perform its statutory functions in the face of contemporary challenges in our country.

"Therefore, the school evangelism becomes paramount to curbing the prevalent rate of high moral decadence in our society. CAN will embark on a campaign of good and Godly parenting, positive influence and having moral and spiritual anchor for our children in the hand of Almighty God."

In a brief charge to the new CAN leaders, the Abakaliki Synod Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, Archbishop Chidi Igwe, called on all Christians to rise up, follow and support those whom God has chosen to lead them.

He advised the inaugurated executive members to always pray for their leader and not run him down, adding that prayers and unity of purpose were the keys to success

Other officials inaugurated with the

Chairman included Rev. Joseph Nwibo as Vice Chairman, Rev Fr. Joseph Origbo as Secretary, Pastor Obed Elom and Senior Pastor Solomon Eriugo as Assistant Secretary and treasurer respectively, among others.

Earlier in his remarks, the Chairman of the occasion, Arc Edward Nkwego described the new chairman of CAN as a compassionate man of God who needs support of all and sundry to accomplish his vision for Christian body in Ebonyi State. He Admonished CAN to be apolitical and support government where necessary to ensure that the welfare, security and well being of the people.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the CAN National Secretary Pastor Samson Fatotun who represented the CAN national President, Most Revd. Daniel Okoh and other zonal and national executive.

Others in attendance, included principal officers of Government, Speaker and members of the State House of Assembly, Leaders and members of CAN at Southeast zone, State and Local Government levels.

Others were church members, friends and associates of the Leaders who were inaugurated.

# Fuel Subsidy: Zulum Gives 12,200 Households' Palliatives At Muna, Ngwom Communities

## \*73,200 persons reached

## \*Thanks Tinubu for intervention

**By; Sadiq Abubakar Maiduguri**  
Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, on Monday, distributed food palliative to 12,200 vulnerable households living in Muna, Custom and Ngwom communities. At least 73,200 persons will benefit as each of the 12,200 households is made up of six persons. The palliative distribution is to ease the

hardship from the removal of the fuel subsidy. The 12,200 beneficiaries comprised of 7,000 male- heads of households and 5,200 female-heads of households. Each of the male-heads received a bag of rice and one bag of sorghum grain while the females received a carton of pasta and one wrapper each. Speaking to newsmen after the

distribution, Governor Zulum expressed gratitude to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for approving a grant to all the states of the federation. Zulum noted that the president approved N5b for states with each state receiving N1b worth of maize grain and N4b cash to buy rice for distribution to citizens. "We want to express our gratitude to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the magnanimous gesture to the States",

Zulum said. He added: "Like I said in Abuja, the president has approved the release of N5b for states for the procurement of food items to be distributed to citizens. The FG is magnanimous enough to approve 52% of the money as grants to states, while 48% amounting to N1.9 billion is to be refunded over time", Governor Zulum said.



# NDDC Moves To Ensure Workable 2024 Budget, Sustainable Development

By; PATRICK TITUS,  
Uyo

The Managing Director of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Dr. Samuel Ogbuku has said the commission's resolve under his regime to address the critical needs of the region as well as inefficiency in budget implementation remains a task that must be achieved. Towards the achievement, the Commission on Monday in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, engaged critical stakeholders of the region to fashion out an implementable budget for the Commission in 2024.

Converging on a two-day conference with the theme, "Partners for Sustainable Development Forum-NDDC 2024 Budget Conference", Dr Ogbuku said the event became necessary to ensure a common pathway for even development in the region.

According to him, the stakeholders forum was aimed at providing a veritable platform for achieving effective

budgeting system in line with the "Renewed Hope" project of the Federal Government.

"This conference is very vital. For one, it helps to revive the platform of the partners for sustainable development forum which was created as part of the regional master plan implementation guideline, to bring all service providers and project implementers to the same table to fashion a common pathway based on shared vision for the development of the Niger Delta region.

"For another, it affords all of us the incentive and opportunity to pool our resources together, initiate projects and programmes within the obligatory goal of building a better region and empowering our people.

"By so doing, we would, arising from the conference, galvanize our energies for a common purpose, eliminate duplications and institutional suspicions in the development process, reduce incidence of working at cross purposes as well as reduce wastage

of scarce resources allocated for regional developmental initiatives by all stakeholders.

"To succeed, we must remain to doing things differently from the past. We must move from the era where we express a determination to making a difference in Niger Delta, to actually making that different." Ogbuku said.

In his keynote address, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Niger Delta Development, Dr. Shuaib Belgore urged the NDDC to evolve budgets that will meet the development needs of the states and communities in the region.

Represented by the Director of Planning and Statistics, Alfred Abbah, Belgore commended the current management of the commission for the stakeholders forum initiative.

"The way forward is to embrace robust and innovative pathways anchored on transparency and Stakeholder participation towards right-budgeting, thus maximizing the available

resources to address the most critical needs of the people", he said.

Representative of Traditional Rulers Of Oil Minerals Producing Communities of Nigeria, (TROMPCON), HRM, Oba Obetemi Ogbaro described the stakeholders forum as apt, and commended the NDDC new board for the initiative of doing things differently to achieve results.

OBA Ogbaro, who is the acting National Chairman of TROMPCON, assured of the royal fathers support to the commission, and urged it partner them when before siting projects in their domain in line with need assessment.

The two-day conference which took place at Ibom Icon and Golf Resorts, Uyo, has in attendance representatives of governments of the nine Niger Delta states, international oil companies (IOCs), traditional rulers, youth groups, civil society organizations among others.

## Jigawa AFAN Congratulates Defense Minister Badaru, Prays For His Successful Delivery



Jaga

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The Jigawa State chapter of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) has congratulated the newly inaugurated Defense Minister, Alhaji Badaru Abubakar for climbing the ladder of national assignment after successful tenure completion as the Executive Governor of Jigawa State.

In a statement issued to newsmen by the association's chairman, Alhaji Idris Yau Mai Unguwa Jaga, AFAN described the defense minister as a dynamic leader who will work selflessly to ensure that all relevant security initiatives are implemented with full option.

"On behalf of our association, we felicitate our former governor and now member of the

Federal Executive Council, Alhaji Badaru Abubakar on his inauguration as the Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by his Excellency, the president and Commander-in Chief, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and wish him a successful implementation of his policies on security and progress of this great country," the statement added.

Mai Unguwa Jaga reiterated their association's determination and commitment to the economic progress of Jigawa State and the nation at large in order to promote peace and unity.

He commended Governor Umar Namadi for the many successes recorded by his administration in few months from inauguration as the executive governor of the state.



## NGO Trains 120 Teachers On SGBV Prevention In Zamfara

By; **A D A M MUHAMMAD, Gusau**

**A** Zamfara-based Non Governmental Organization (NGO), Voluntary Aid Initiative (VAI) has sensitized 120 teachers on the fight against Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Zamfara State.

The Executive Director of the NGO, Mr. Musa Umar stated this while fielding questions from newsmen in Gusau.

According to him, the sensitization was conducted in collaboration with the UKAid funded NGO and International Alert respectively.

He said a total of 120 teachers from public and Islamic schools from four communities of Tsafe, Birmin-Magaji, Bilbis and Nasarawar-Godal were reached.

His words, "The activity is aimed at sensitizing the school teachers on SGBV prevention and how they can champion campaigns against SGBV in the community".

He pointed out that part of the outcome of the sensitization, the participants have expressed commitment to take the campaign by utilizing networks and platforms in their respective communities.

## LG Polls: 18 Registered Parties Ready To Participate In Oyo - OYSIEC Chairman

*\*Targets 70 per cent registered voters' participation*

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

**O**yo State Independent Electoral Commission (OYSIEC), Chairman, Chief Isiaka Olagunju, (SAN) has said no fewer than 18 registered political parties are interested in participating in the April 2024 local government elections in the state.

Featuring on a live radio programme in Ibadan on Sunday, the OYSIEC Chairman declared that the commission is targeting achieving 70 per cent registered voters' participation in the next local government councils' election.

According to Chief Olagunju (SAN), with the preparedness of the 18 political parties in the election, OYSIEC on its part is ready to conduct the election come April next year.

"18 registered political parties in the State have shown interest in

participating in the forthcoming election. We did our best during the local government council elections conducted in 2021; election is a process and there is room for improvement", he said.

The OYSIEC Chairman added, "Things are improving; recently, the commission observed primaries of some political parties, this was different from the past; the process went peacefully and successfully"

Chief Olagunju maintained that OYSIEC is targeting towards achieving 70 per cent registered voters' participation in the next Local Government Councils' Election.

The OYSIEC Chairman lauded political parties in the state for handling their primaries peacefully, adding, "This is the spirit I want all the political parties and electorates to take to the election so that the election can be peaceful and credible".

## Give Children With Disabilities Care, Understanding, Expert Tasks Parents

*\*Paralympic champion weds in grand-style in Ibadan*

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

**F**ounder of Treasure Down Syndrome And Persons With Special Needs Foundation, Mrs Abosede Oshin has advised parents having children living with disabilities to be patient, caring and understanding.

Mrs Oshin gave the charge in Ibadan at the weekend, while speaking at the wedding of a gold medalist winner at the 2010 Special Olympics; Samuel Adeyemi Oshin with his wife; Gbemisola Omoniyi,

She pointed out that rather than dumping the children with special needs, there is the need for parents of such children to show understanding and give them adequate care adding that many parents can achieve success in the upbringing of their special children.

Speaking further Mrs Oshin declared that her son's positive response to her caregiving has been a source of inspiration to her, to the extent that she studied more on his condition and established a foundation for children born with disabilities.

"When he was two years old, I put him in a school near my house. I told the proprietor that he is a special child and she told me not to worry, to let us bring him up first before he gets enrolled in a special school", she said. Mrs Oshin added, "That was how I started. He grew up there, learnt to sing rhymes and each morning when you see other people getting ready to go to school, he would be eager too. But when it got to a stage, I realized that he was not coping and I had to look for a special school for him".

"I took him to Down Syndrome Foundation,

Lagos where he spent about three to four years. There and then, he was taught how to do sporting activities and in 2010, he was opportune to win special Olympics and he went to represent Nigeria in Athens, Greece and came back with gold medal. That was the beginning of my success".

Mrs Oshin noted, "Along the line, I withdrew him from Lagos and that encouraged me to go and study more on down syndrome. I worked with a foundation like mine caring for people with down syndrome and at the end of the day, I officially set up mine in 2015."

Mrs Oshin stressed that she was full of appreciation to God for the successes achieved in the upbringing of her special child whom she "never thought anything good could come out of."

Speaking, the 26 year old

gold medalist Samuel Adeyemi Oshin expressed his happiness to be officially married to his wife, Gbemisola Omoniyi who he met in a church.

The Public Relations Officer of Community Chest Council; Comrade Ogunmodede Jafajo while speaking tasked government at the state and federal levels to do more on provision of educational facilities, employment and better living conditions for the special children.

Comrade Jafajo stressed that

Adeyemi and Gbemisola's wedding was a clear testament that the council's awareness and enlightenment efforts was not in vain, adding that government should run an all-inclusive administration which would accommodate people living with disabilities.



*The Paralympic Champion with his bride.*



The youth coalition during the press briefing yesterday.

## NSCDC, NIS Recruitment: Coalition Of Borno Youth Seek Zulum, NASS Intervention, Justice

■ Say those with godfathers shortchanged them

Maiduguri, said, "We are indigenes of Borno State that applied for recruitment into the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps NSCDC (2022) and Nigeria Immigration Service NIS (2023).

"After our application, we diligently followed every step of the process, we wrote the CBT examination and traveled from Maiduguri to Bauchi for physical screening and psychometric evaluation. But at last, our passion and dream to join the Civil Defence and Immigration Service was dashed, not because we lack the merit, but due to the unfair actions of some highly placed people.

"We, the poor youth of Borno, have no godfather to secure our rightful positions within these esteemed organizations. Instead, we were left disappointed and marginalized, Our dreams shattered without just cause. What hurts us the more is knowing fully is that we have fulfilled requirements applicants, undergone exams and screening exercise in

Maiduguri and Bauchi prospectively conducted by the two organisations on 18th May, 2023, 14th and 15th June 2023 respectively.

"But to our dismay after fulfilling every stages of requirements set forth by the authorities dedicating our time, energy and hard earned resources at this crucial period to ensure that we meet every criteria demanded of the NSCDC and NIS.

"We have undergone gruel tests, assessments, physical screenings, and evaluations, all with the hope of securing a future for ourselves and our families. But none of us about 450 applicants and 250 recruited candidates for the screening exercise by NSCDC and about 400 applicants and 315 recruited candidates for screening was employed.

"Rather those that did not write the exams in Maiduguri and undergo the screening exercise in Bauchi were seen employed by the organisations. Yet, despite our unwavering commitment and dedication, not a single

one of us out of (NSCDC 140/NIS 151) from Borno state was shortlisted for final documentation or employment.

"Our hope was replaced with despair. Our optimism crushed by the weight of this injustice. We cannot help but wonder, what more could we have done? What more did they want from us? Amidst this chaos, we find solace in the promises made by the Shehu of Borno State, HRH, Alhaji . Abubakar Ibn Garbai El-Kanemi who has assured us that he will personally intervene on this matter.

"We humbly express our gratitude to him for his willingness to stand in our corner, to fight for our rights, and to restore our faith in the system. However, our fight for justice does not end with the intervention of the Shehu of Borno.

"We are also drawing the attention of our Governor Babagana Umara Zulum, a man known for his dedication to the welfare of the people of Borno. We implore your Excellency to extend your helping hand to us, the poor youths

who have been Wronged by this recruitment process. Your intervention will bring about the change.

"We desperately need, the change that can restore hope, and the change that can pave the way for a brighter future for all. We are also appealing to His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to investigate this grave injustice that has been done to us, to ensure that those responsible are held accountable for their actions.

"In conclusion, we all stand united, Poor youths of Borno, to demand what is rightfully ours. We have undergone every process, fulfilled every requirement, and exhibited unwavering dedication. We deserve justice, and we will continue to fight until is served.

"We beseech you to rectify this situation, to provide opportunities for those who deserve them, and to restore the faith of he poor youths who face similar injustice in recruitment exercise. We wish to commend the National

## Kogi Guber: Assembly Speaker Wins Tiv Community Support For APC

\*Leads the group to a meeting with candidate Ododo

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

The Speaker of Kogi State House of Assembly, Rt Hon Aliyu Umar Yusuf has won the support of the Tiv Community in Kogi State for the All Progressives Congress (APC), by leading the leadership of the community to a meeting with the party's candidate in the November 11 gubernatorial election, Alhaji Ododo Usman Ahmed in Lokoja.

Speaking in an address during the meeting, the Speaker said his decision to present them to Ododo is as a result of the traditional title conferred on him by the body which translates to "The Bridge".

By the virtue of that position, the speaker said he is part of the Tiv people as one of their sons, hence the opportunity to give them directive as to their political decision during elections.

Rt Hon Yusuf stressed how the people demonstrated their resolve to back his candidature while contesting for the Assembly position by expending their own resources, including money and efforts to ensure he won his election. He used the occasion to promise the resolve of

the Tiv in Kogi State, numbering over 50,000 and spread across the 21 Local Government Areas of the state to work for the APC in the gubernatorial election.

While assuring Alhaji Ododo Ahmed Usman of their unalloyed support in the election, the Tiv traditional rulers and their representatives said their decision to support the APC was as a result of the excellent security situation which has enabled them to go about their farming activities and other business endeavors unmolested.

They eulogized Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello for his unmatched achievements in the areas of health, education, security architecture and human capital development in the past seven years.

In his response, Alhaji Ododo who expressed appreciation to the Tiv for their sincerity and valour, said their support for the New Direction administration in the past seven years was noticed, and assured them of continued improvement in security situation across the state when elected as the Executive Governor of Kogi State.

Ododo further assured them that he would continue in Governor Yahaya Bello's legacy of giving respect and recognition to all other ethnic groups resident in Kogi State when he assumes office next year.



"We, the poor youth of Borno, have no godfather to secure our rightful positions within these esteemed organizations. Instead, we were left disappointed and marginalized,



# Over 1m Individuals From 210,000 Households Will Benefit Kaduna Palliatives - Uba Sani

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

**K**aduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has assured residents of the state of the distribution of palliatives that will target 1,050,000 individuals, equivalent to about 210,000 households to ease the suffering and pains in the state.

The governor made this known at a press briefing with government house press crew on distribution of palliatives held in Kaduna yesterday.

"The full weight of the law will be visited on anyone who attempts to divert the palliatives meant for the people or tries to disrupt the exercise," he warned.

He said, "So far, the sum of two billion Naira has been released to the Kaduna State Government".

The governor commended the Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe who heads the committee which was inaugurated last June for a good job.

He said Kaduna State is extremely proactive and did not wait for the federal government to start intervention.

"We started the process that is why today I can say that Kaduna is leading," he added.

Governor Uba Sani assured the residents of the state that in the next few days by the grace of God, "we will start implementations of our palliatives," he assured.

According to him, "we are targeting about one million and fifty thousand in Kaduna State, and that translates to about 210,000 households.

He said, the Federal Government promised to give every state five billion Naira, which will serve as both grants and loans and as at today, two billion Naira has been given to Kaduna State.

He said, the two billion Naira is what they have been using at the moment to ensure that they come up with something quickly to support the poor, undeserved and vulnerable within the state, who have been suffering because of the removal of the fuel subsidy.

"When you look at the figure, the two billion, we decided that a committee headed by the deputy governor, all the trade union, market women, people with disability sat down together to work out modalities on how we will spend the two billion and the outcome of their deliberations is as follows:

"We have agreed and decided collectively with a support of all the trade union to buy 43 thousand bags of 50kg rice, which translates to one billion, nine hundred and thirty five million Naira, that is from the two billion given to us by the federal government, Kaduna



Governor Uba Sani

State Government will return back forty two per cent of the money because it is like a loan".

He said, Kaduna State Government is going to be transparent, "we decided to do so because I am also part of the labour movement, all we need is transparent and accountability.

"That is the only way we can now win the support and confidence of our people because these people sitting here representing various organisations and trade unions are people that are closer to downtrodden, that is the reason why we believe as government, we don't have the monopoly of wisdom.

"We have set up a committee at the local government level to ensure that all the various organisations, market women, trade union, small order farmers are involved in the distribution of this palliatives that is the only way everyone will benefits.

"The palliative funds for Kaduna State will be utilized in three Phases:

"The first phase (Short Term) will be devoted to distribution of food items to households.

"The 2nd Phase (Medium Term) will take care of transportation and assistance to small holder farmers, micro, small and medium enterprises, while the 3rd Phase (Long Term) will be devoted to the Resuscitation of

the Locomotive Train from Zaria to Kaduna, Sabon Tasha to Kafanchan, all in a bid to ease transportation for citizens.

"The 1st Phase of implementation, the distribution of palliatives in Kaduna Kaduna State will target 1,050,000 individuals (equivalent to about 210,000 Households).

"The families headed by people with disabilities, widows, and the elderly will be considered first. Other Poor and Vulnerable Households, Orphanages and Internally Displaced Persons Camps (where applicable) will also be given special attention.

"43,000 bags of 50kg rice will be procured for distribution.

"A committee at the LGA comprising of LGA staff, organized labour, representatives of the private sector, faith based, youth and women organizations would be constituted.

"The committee which would be headed by the chairman of the LGA and charged with responsibility for planning and distribution of palliatives at the LGA level, including identification of beneficiaries as stipulated.

"The distribution of the food items would be proportionate to the size of the population in each Local Government Area.

"A monitoring committee would

also be constituted for each LGA to guarantee transparency in the conduct of the exercise and to ensure that the intended beneficiaries are reached.

"The 2nd Phase of implementation, the Kaduna State Government will introduce subsidized road transportation on major routes with high number of commuters in Kaduna Metropolis, Zaria and Kafanchan.

"This would be after the procurement of buses by the State Government. A sub-committee comprising representatives of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN), Keke Napep Association and Kaduna Line has been mandated to work out modalities for implementation, including designated routes, operation times of the scheme, and number of buses needed.

"Procurement of fertilizer and its distribution to small holder farmers in the state.

"Provide financial support to Micro, Small and Medium Businesses. These micro, small and medium businesses are the backbone of the economy, especially the rural economy. Government will liaise with the various traders/market

associations through the Kaduna Markets Development and Management Company (KMDMC) and Kaduna Enterprise Development Agency (KADEDA) to draw up a list of these small-scale traders/enterprises.

"We shall make efforts to resuscitate the locomotive train from Zaria to Kaduna, and from Sabon Tasha to Kafanchan. The aim is to provide citizens with affordable means of transportation. To this end, the General Manager, Kaduna Line has been mandated to seek partnership with the Nigeria Railway Corporation through the Federal Ministry of Transport.

"We are committed to the effective implementation of measures lined up in the three phases. For the 1st Phase, the State Government has put all necessary machinery in place to ensure that the purchase and distribution of the palliatives is hitchfree.

"We shall also closely monitor the implementation. We call on our citizens to give maximum support and cooperation to the Implementation Committee to ensure a seamless exercise.

"The full weight of the law will be visited on anyone who attempts to divert the palliatives meant for the people or tries to disrupt the exercise."

# Jubilation In Kaduna As Tribunal Upholds Ekene As Winner Of Reps Election

*\*Court awards 500,000 damage against petitioner*

*\*Ekene dedicates win to constituents, says Its the people's win*

By; AUSTINE EMMANUEL,  
Kaduna

Supporters of Labour Party, (LP) stormed the streets in Kaduna State to celebrate the victory of Hon. Ekene Abubakar Adams, following the judgement that upheld his election as the duly elected Member representing Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency, in the February 25th general election.

The jubilation followed the dismissal of the suit filed by Hon.

Yakubu Barde of the People's Democratic Party, (PDP) demanding Ekene's sack over an alleged certificate forgery.

The National Election Tribunal sitting in Kaduna on Tuesday, dismissed the petition brought by Barde on the ground that it lacks merit.

Justice F.A. Fiberesima while delivering judgment on the case on Tuesday, leading a three-man panel that heard the petition, dismissed the case and awarded N500,000 damages to Ekene for

defamation of character by the petitioner.

According to her, forgery from the point of law is a criminal act, a very weighty allegation that must be proved beyond every reasonable doubt.

She noted that the tribunal was already in doubt because the petitioner could not prove the allegation on the ground that his claims lacks merit and therefore discountenance.

The judge further stressed that despite the fact the petitioner

tendered documents to support his claims, the respondent, Ekene Abubakar Adams also tendered his own document from the same schools and therefore the best way to had given the petitioner's claim an edge was to present an eye witness.

Speaking with Journalists shortly after the event, Ekene said "I feels normal. I was never agitated because I know the court will do the right thing. The victory is for the people and that is why you see celebration

ongoing everywhere.

"We have been up and doing and so we will continue to serve the people as we have promised. I therefore called on the aggrieved members to come and join hands with me so we can build our dear constituency together."

Reacting to the judgement, Counsel to the respondent, Muhammed M. Sani said the judgement was highly educative, adding that justice has prevailed at last.



# Osun APC Crisis Deepens, Aregbesola Launches Omoluabi Caucus

*\*Says "We are not faction. We are genuine foundation members of the party"*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The crisis rocking the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Osun State yesterday, took a new dimension as the immediate past Minister of Interior and former governor of the state, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola launched Omoluabi caucus of the party.

Speaking at the event, Ogbeni Aregbesola the launch of the Omoluabi Caucus is to renew their path in progressive politics as inherited from Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Chief Bola Ige, amongst other progressives who epitomize the Omoluabi ethos.

He maintained that the loss of APC in Osun State in the elections was as a result of the departure from the progressive ideals, but revealing that it will bounce back to its winning ways. "What we have come to do here today is to renew our commitment to the path of progressive ideology and politics as inherited from our great past heroes, beginning from Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Chief Michael Adekunle Ajasin, Chief Abraham Adesanya, Chief Bola Ige and others in the pantheon of progressive politics too numerous to mention", he said.

Ogbeni Aregbesola added, "Emerging from the ashes of the near annihilation of our party in the governorship election of 2022 and the general election earlier this year, we should rise and renew our strength and reclaim our place in the political firmament in Osun.

"We have been at this juncture before, after the 2003 election in which our party lost the stakes and was at its nadir in the state. At that point, like-minded progressives under the banner of Oranmiyan emerged to begin a movement that mobilized our members and the people of the state into a veritable electoral machine that won the 2007 governorship election which ushered an epoch-making two-term administration in the state and handed over to a successor from our party".

However, a statement by the former Minister's Media Adviser, Sola Fasura, stated that APC Omoluabi Caucus is not a faction of the APC but a union of like-minds in the state.

According to him, members of the Omoluabi caucus were drawn from each of the 332 wards in the state and were represented by five members from each of the local governments in the state.



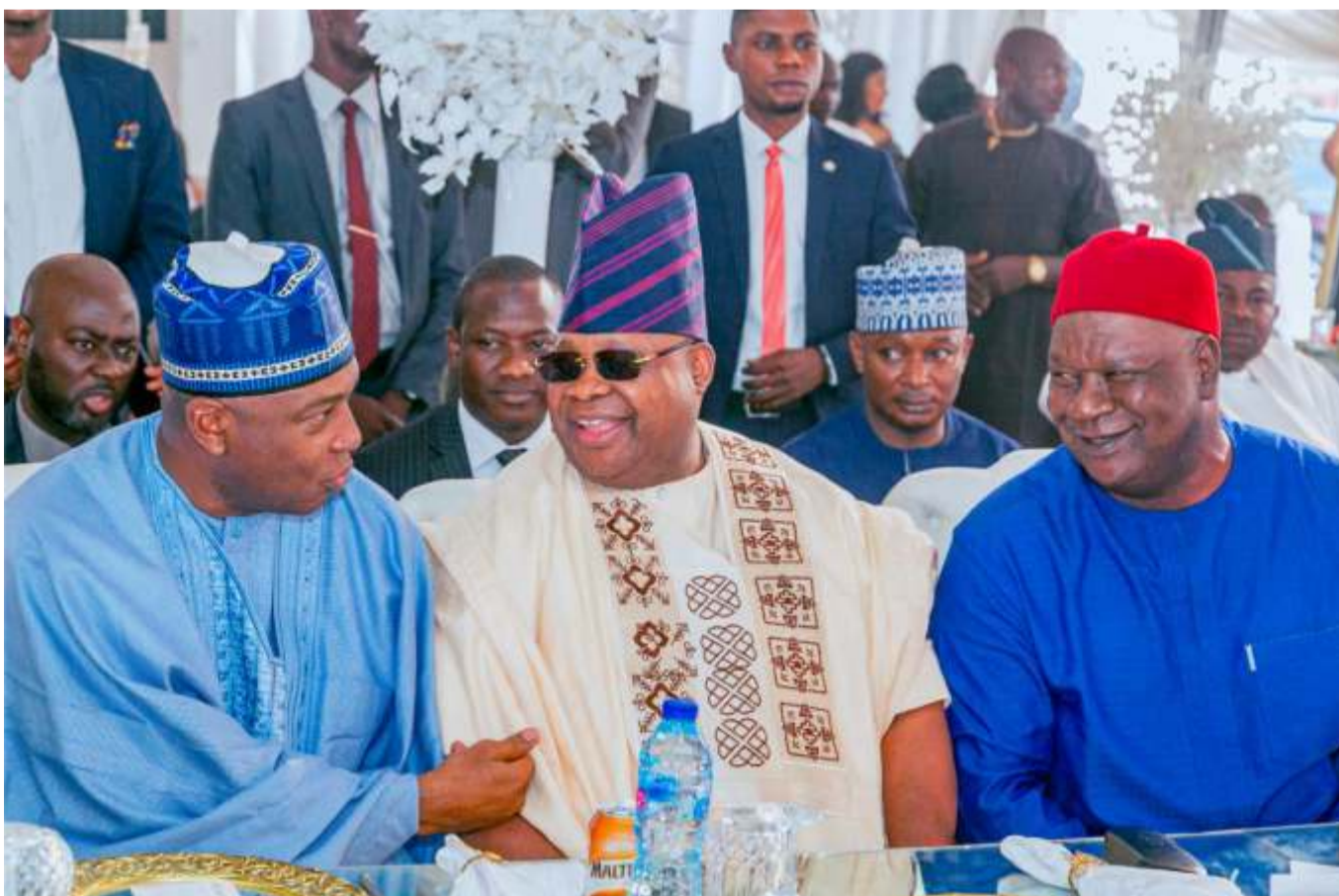
Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola at the launch.

"We are not a faction. We are the genuine foundation members of the party and we have no intention of abandoning the ship of the party as it navigates the most turbulent waters", he said. Fagbure added, "We are no sprinters, but long-distance runners and we will still be standing when all the fair-weatherers have gone.

"A political party is an

agglomeration of interests and tendencies. Reading well from the United States where we borrowed the presidential system, we can see that the Republican Party is made up of big businesses, nationalists, religious right, and others. The Democratic Party, on the other hand, is composed of welfarists, labor unions, ethnic and sexual minorities, and others.

Fagbure stressed, "They are together in the party because their interests are broadly similar and they believe the party is the right vehicle for them to realize their goals. Sometimes they compete and clash, but for the most part, they cooperate and form strong bonds to give their party victory in every election cycle. The party loses any time this bond is broken,"



From left: Former Senate President, Sen. Bukola Saraki; Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke and former Senate President, Sen. Pius Anyim @ the wedding ceremony of the former Deputy Senate President, Senator Ike Ekweremadu's son in Abuja. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

## Anthrax: Oyo Govt, FG Train 50 Surveillance Agents

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Barr. Olasunkanmi Olaleye has disclosed that the state government has trained about 50 disease surveillance agents on accurate reporting of animal diseases in the state.

Barrister Olaleye who stated this while declaring a 3 days training open in Ibadan, said the 50 disease surveillance agents were trained in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture.

The commissioner stressed that the training, is aimed at improving disease surveillance and swift response, adding, the epidemiology training was organised by the Regional Disease Surveillance Enhancement (REDISSE) Project in collaboration with Oyo State Government.

Barrister Olaleye pointed out that the programme will help in the prevention and control of animal diseases in the state and the nation at large.

Emphasizing that though Oyo State has not recorded any case of anthrax disease so far, the Commissioner said all hands must be on deck to prevent its outbreak as Oyo State

Government has put all machineries in place to prevent its outbreak.

"Oyo State Government under the leadership of Engr. Seyi Makinde has put every measures in place in preventing the animal disease -Anthrax", he said

The Commissioner added, "Some of the efforts put in place are mass media sensitization, on the spot assessment to abattoirs and livestock markets in the state to educate stakeholders on the outbreak of anthrax in the country"

Expressing gratitude on behalf of Engr Makinde to the Federal Government of Nigeria, the Commissioner enjoined the participants to be attentive and focus on the assignment before them, bearing in mind that they are ambassadors for the state and that knowledge acquired would go a long way in protecting animals and human lives from dangers of the epidemic.

The facilitator from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mrs. Ibukunoluwa Akinola, said the training of para-professional Veterinarians and Animal Health Workers in both Government and Private establishments in the state on how to report animal diseases is timely.

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

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

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

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

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

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

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

## Nigeria Will Remain United As One Entity - Akpabio

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

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

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

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

Barau Jibrin, is a sign of a united Nigeria.

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

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

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

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

*\*Seek release of their kinsmen corpses*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

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

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

According to the widows and the children, the corpses of the duo of Mr. Olalekan Adisa and Alfa Abdulfatahi were allegedly loaded at the back of the DSS hilux van and that on getting to Ado Ekiti, the hilux detoured into the town while buses of DSS carrying 13 "war criminals," including a lady, waited on the Abuja road. When the hilux van came back, the corpses of Mr Adisa and Alfa Abdulfatahi were no

longer there."

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

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

They are also seeking an order of the court awarding the sum of -N-250,000,000,000:00 (two hundred and fifty billion Naira) being exemplary and/or aggravated damages for breaching the Applicants' husband and/or father. MR. SAHEED OLALEKAN ADISA

(DECEASED)'s fundamental right by killing him in the course of illegal and/or unlawful invasion of Chief Sunday Adeyemo a.k.a Igboho Oosa's residence situate, lying and being at Igboho Villa, 1, Dalag Street, Off Soka Bus Stop Soka Area, Off Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Ibadan, between 1.00 am. and 3.00 am, of July, 2021.

"An order of this Honourable Court directing the Respondents to return all the items legally belonging to the Applicants' husband and/or father seized from the said house of Chief Sunday Adeyemo a.k.a Igboho Oosa, at Igboho Villa, 1, Dalag Street, Off Soka Bus Stop, Soka Area, Off Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Ibadan, by the Respondents to wit

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

The applicants are also seeking an order of the Court "directing the

Respondents to tender public apology in two (2) national dailies, to wit The Nigerian Tribune and Puncin newspapers, for breaching the fundamental human rights of the Applicant's deceased husband", and for such other and/or further equitable and /or legal reliefs as the Court may deem necessary in the circumstance of this application"

They stressed in the suit that at the hearing of this application the said Applicant or his Counsel on his behalf will use the Affidavits sworn to by the Applicant, MR. BASIR ARIYO and MR. OMIYALE and all the Exhibits therein referred

to  
103106/035787/033742  
New Nigerian recalls that on July 1, 2021, operatives of the Department of State Service invaded the house of Chief Sunday Adeyemo a.k.a Igboho Oosa at Soka, Sanyo Area, Ibadan during which properties worth over N500m were destroyed while Mr Olalekan Adisa that went with two police escorts to the place from Osogbo and the blind Chief Imam of the Estate, Alfa Yekinni Olatubosun Abdulfatahi, observing tahjud and or night vigil between 1.00 a.m and 3.00a.m met their untimely death.

L-R: Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani; Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr. Wale Edun; Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun; Deputy Governor of Ogun State, Engr. Noimot Salako-Oyedele and the Minister of State for the Environment, Dr. Kunle Salako at the reception organised by the state government in honour of the new ministers held at the Silverbird Galleria, Zone 4, Abuja. Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO



# It Is Our Responsibility To Maintain Power Supply Infrastructure, Kaduna Electric MD Asserts

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Managing Director/CEO of Kaduna Electric, Engr. Yusuf Usman Yahaya has expressed the readiness of the Company to collaborate with traditional institutions and local government authorities to address issues surrounding security of power supply infrastructure, metering, commercial performances of various communities, bill's payment challenges, reduction of down time and other sundry issues as the Company is being repositioned for effective service delivery.

Engr. Yahaya made the pledge yesterday in Zaria during an interactive session with electricity users from Zaria, Sabon Gari, Soba, Makarfi, Ikara, Kudan and Giwa local government councils, the areas that constitute Zaria Region of the company.

He also reaffirmed the commitment of the Company to continue to inter-face with its customers and other stakeholders alike in order to create better understanding and sustainable beneficial business relationship between the company and the customers.

"We attach high premium to feedback from our customers

and shall always welcome such feedbacks so that we should improve on what we are doing well and review or even change what is not working", he said.

Engr. Yusuf Yahaya called on electricity users in the Company's franchise to be alive to their responsibilities, as this is the only way Kaduna Electric will remain a participant in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Market.

"We cannot remain a participant in the Market nor provide you and your businesses with the much needed power if we continuously fail to pay for the electricity being supplied to us; we must discharge our

obligations to the market, which entails paying the generation and Transmission Companies for the energy generated and transmitted to us, if we want to remain a participant in the market", he asserted.

He also announced that the Company shall always make the needed investment to improve electricity services to the customer.

He however, cautioned that the company shall always give priority to areas and communities whose commercial performances are above average. In his contribution, the Representative of the Emir of Zazzau, the Barden Kerarriyan

Zazzau and the District Head of Bassawa, Arch. Haruna Abubakar Bamalli charged Kaduna Electric to explore ways of collaborating with traditional rulers and ensure adequate training for its personnel.

In their separate remarks, the Dan Barhin Zazzau and the District Head of Sabon Gari, Alhaji Ahmad Bashir Aminu and the Jarman Kudun Zazzau, the District Head of Waje, Alhaji Nuhu Aminu Bamalli commended Kaduna Electric and called for more constructive engagements with stakeholders. High point of the session was the question and answer session.



## Remains Of Pilot Of Air Force Jet That Crashed In Niger Laid To Rest In Zaria

**By: SANIALIYU, Zaria**  
The remains of Flight Lieutenant Ibrahim Adamu Abubakar, Pilot of the Nigerian Air Force MI-171 Jet that crashed in Niger State has been laid to rest. He was buried in Zaria, Kaduna State, after a prayer conducted at Haruna Danja Jumma'at mosque Tudun Wada, Zaria Today. The prayer was led by the Chief Imam of the mosque, Sheikh Muhammad Sani Gumi and it was attended by family members and hundreds of mourners from all walks of life. The family of the late pilot

had earlier performed a proxy funeral prayer (Salatul Gha'ib) for the deceased at Tudun Jukun, Zaria. In an interview with the elder brother of the deceased, Abubakar Adamu explained that the family had earlier performed a proxy funeral prayer in absentia for the deceased when they could not receive the corpse of their late brother who was a Pilot. "Such prayer in Islam is called Salatul Gha'ib and it is observed when the corpse of a deceased is not found. "Therefore, as relatives, we have a religious burden to perform the prayer with

or without the corpse," he said. Adamu said, "now that the corpse has been discovered, it is also mandatory on us to perform another funeral prayer for the deceased which is not out of place." He added that the family was in serious shock and grief but later became optimistic that the late pilot was blessed with Shahada that could fetch him Aljanna (heaven) in the hereafter as he died in the cause to liberate his people and the country as a whole. On her part, the mother of the late pilot, Hajiya A'ishatu Adams, said her

son was a "Hafiz" (one who memorized the Holy Qur'an) and was always calm and quite. "He was very gentle, generous and friendly as he was always guided by the doctrine of his religion. "Ibrahim was one of the 27th child of the family and was so loved by all due to his good character. "He often called me on phone while at work and asked me to pray for him and he never joked in seeking the blessings of his parents whenever he had the chance to called. "My prayer is to seek for Allah's mercy on him to repose his soul in Jannatul Firdausi."



## Wamakko Sponsors 600 Indigent Students To Local, Foreign Institutions Of Learning

**By: IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna**  
Former governor of Sokoto State, Senator Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko has sponsored 600 indigent students to various institutions of learning within and outside Nigeria. In the same vein, two separate sets of 30 and 22 students are currently studying at Al-Hikmah and Crown Hill Universities Ilorin, Kwara State, respectively. Wamakko who himself is an educationist, also shoulders the responsibilities of 17 additional students studying Computer Science at Dialogue Computer Institute Kaduna, Kaduna State as another 45 students under his sponsorship were pursuing

various degree programmes at the Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State. The development was contained in a statement issued at the weekend by Almustapha Abubakar Alkali, Ag. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Basic Education, Sokoto State. Alkali, a former Director of Administration in the office of Senator Wamakko said the unrivalled political leader in the state and a beacon of hope for the masses had also sponsored the first and second batches of 54 students were also sponsored for post graduate Degrees (Masters and PhDs) in various fields of studies at the Nigeria Defence Academy, Kaduna, Kaduna State. While 15 indigent students

were sponsored by the Senator for diploma programmes at the National Water Resources Institute Mando, Kaduna, Kaduna State. Also on the roll of those sponsored by Wamakko are, 80 students for NCE at BIGA College, Sokoto and other institutions of learning within and outside Nigeria. "All these giant strides of Senator Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko are part of his dreams to see the children of the less privileged in the society especially in Sokoto state competing favourably with their peers in other states of the country", Alkali pointed out. Wamakko, has for long been sponsoring many indigent children from the state and beyond just to equip them to

be more productive members in the society and as dependable drivers for a better Nigeria. Remarkably, Wamakko's demonstration of passion for education provoked his interest to initiate and establish one of the cheapest and first private universities located in Sokoto State "North West University, Sokoto" for knowledge, progress and excellence. The university had already commenced its academic calendar for various degree programs in science courses. The university is one of the cheapest institutions in terms of school fees and very accommodative in welcoming all decent, committed and prolific students.

## PDP Demands Meaningful Tuition Fees Review In Kaduna

**By: AMOS TAUNA & IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna**

The People's Democratic Party (PDP), Kaduna State Chapter, has called for a more meaningful review of the reduction in the tuition fees of the public tertiary institutions that will reflect the current economic hardship in the state.

Felix Hassan Hyat, PDP Kaduna State Chairman, in a statement in Kaduna yesterday, said, "The attention of the People's Democratic Party, PDP, Kaduna State has been drawn to the news of the reduction in the tuition fees of public tertiary institutions in the state by the executive governor, His Excellency, Sen. Uba Sani.

"While our party welcomes the development, which, by the way, is in partial fulfillment of one of the campaign promises of our candidate in the 2023 governorship election in the state, Hon. Isa Mohammed Ashiru and the party, we, nonetheless, call for a more meaningful review that will reflect the current economic hardship in the state."

According to the party, reducing a paltry 30% for students of the Kaduna State University, some of whom pay as high as 300,000 per session, compared to the 27,000 they used to pay before the coming of the APC is too insignificant, saying that it makes the tuition fee intervention a mere political gimmick to attract cheap popularity and a ploy to divert the attention of the people from the reality of the failure of Sen. Uba Sani to address the myriad of problems being faced by a vast majority of the people of the state. The action by the governor, according to the statement is a confirmation of the long stance that the APC, under Mal. Nasir Elrufai never meant well for the state and called on the present governor to go all the way to reverse other equally anti-people

policies of the el-Rufa'i years.

The party noted the concentration of appointments and projects within a certain zone or among adherents of the governor's religion, illegal sack of workers without the payment of their benefits and entitlements, forceful takeover of property of private citizens, the illegal sales of over 4,000 government assets, and the balkanization of the state's civil service, among others, if he means well for the people of the state.

The statement noted, "The PDP is still very surprised at why this policy somersault on the tuition fees is not preceded or accompanied by a public apology from the governor, having been part and parcel of the decision for the increase in the fees, its staunch defence during the campaigns, and most importantly, for the thousands who either could not enrol or dropped out of school on account of the increment. The PDP demands an immediate audit into the number of students affected in this regard and for them to be readmitted into their various schools and courses without any further delay."

The statement reiterated the party's commitment to restoring education as a universal right and not privilege by guaranteeing both the quality and access to education for all once the mandate is restored by the courts, assuring that the people that this will be done. There's simply no other way to go.

It expressed hope that the development is not a deliberate ploy to divert public attention from the 5 billion Naira palliative by the federal government, stressing that the PDP would follow up on the issue to ensure the judicious use of the resources such that no kobo is diverted to private pockets or that no area is shortchanged in the sharing of the palliatives as has been the case since 2015 under the APC.

## Uba Sani Announces Fees Reduction In Kaduna's Tertiary Institutions

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani has announced the downward review of current fees in state-owned tertiary institutions.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State, Muhammad Lawal Shehu on August 21, 2023, said the governor made this downward review known during a media parley with pressmen at the Government House, Kaduna on Monday 21st August 2023.

Under the new fees regime, the fees have been reviewed as follows;

"a) Kaduna State University - Current Fee: N150,000 - Reduction (%): 30% - New Fee: N105,000

b) Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic - Current Fee: N100,000 - Reduction (%): 50% - New Fee: N50,000

c) College of Education, Gidan Waya - Current Fee: N75,000 - Reduction (%): 50% - New Fee: N37,500

d) Shehu Idris College of Health Sciences & Technology, Makarfi HND Courses - Current Fee:

N100,000 - Reduction (%): 30% - New Fee: N70,000 ND Courses - Current Fee: N75,000 - Reduction (%): 30% - New Fee: N52,000

e) Kaduna State College of Nursing - Current Fee: N100,000 - Reduction (%): 30% - New Fee: N70,000," the statement said.

He revealed that the review was part of his commitment in keeping his campaign promises to the people of Kaduna.

"During the electioneering campaigns and on assumption of office on May 29, 2023, we made a solemn commitment to the citizens of Kaduna State to run a people-centred, all-inclusive administration that shall leave no one or any part of Kaduna State behind.

"In response to the public outcry over the current fees being charged by tertiary institutions in Kaduna State and its effect on school enrolment and retention, I directed Heads of Tertiary Institutions in conjunction with the Ministry of Education to obtain relevant information on the extant fees regime in state owned tertiary institutions." the Governor said.

## Oyo Govt Will Address Factors Hindering Water Production In State - Hon Adejo

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Government is determined to address all factors besetting water production in and across the state as enshrined in the Omituntun 2.0 mantra.

Chairman of the state Water Corporation, Hon. Elias Adejo said this at the weekend, during his tour of the corporation's facilities across the state.

Hon Adejo pointed out that as at present, the state government is working out modalities on how to improve its Water Supply Project, especially in the area of provision of adequate potable water.

He stressed that the state government is committed to the well-being of residents, hence its determination to address all factors besetting water production as enshrined in the Omituntun 2.0 mantra.

Hon Adejo maintained that all the moribund equipment of the Corporation would be

revamped in order to meet up with the present day need of potable water, adding

that in doing this, abandoned projects would be revisited and reviewed so as to maximize the purpose they were projected for and curb wastage of scarce resource. He declared that the tour is aimed at actualizing the rehabilitation, upgrading and expansion of the State's Water Supply Scheme to improve water supply infrastructure so as to meet the emerging water demand in the state.

Speaking on the perennial problem of epileptic power supply to the Corporation's formations across the state, the chairman assured that the issue would soon be a thing of the past as all hands are on deck to surmount it by the state government.

The chairman stressed that alternative power supply would be explored soon when the economic situation of the State improves.

## Obaseki Settles Benefits Of Ex Bendel Governor, Alli, 34 Yrs After Death

By; RALPH OKHIRIA, Benin City

The Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, has settled the benefits and gratuity of the former governor of Bendel State, Late Professor Ambrose Alli. This is coming 34 years after the demise of Alli.

Alli was the first Executive Governor of the former Bendel State (Now Edo and Delta states) between 1979 and 1983 under the then Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN). Born September 22, 1929, the renowned Medical Professor died on September 22, 1989.

Obaseki made this disclosure yesterday in Benin City on the occasion of the celebration of the award of the 'Most Pension Friendly Governor in Nigeria,' bestowed on him by the Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP).

Speaking on his commitment to the wellbeing of pensioners in the State by ensuring that their benefits are paid regularly, including outstanding pensions and gratuity, dating over 40 years, he revealed how the unpaid benefits of the former governor were settled last week by the state government.

According to Obaseki, "Last Saturday (August 19, 2023), the widow of

former Governor, late Prof. Ambrose Ali, turned 80 years in Birmingham, United Kingdom. He has made a lot of sacrifices for us as a State.

"We decided to celebrate with her and I asked one of the children what he thinks is an appropriate present for his mother. He said just do her the honour of paying my father's benefits while in office. Then I said, you mean Prof. Ali benefits are not paid.' He said yes. We went into the records, prepared the cheque and took it to her in England. This is to tell you where we are coming from. I'm glad we remembered him."

The governor was represented by his wife, Mrs. Betsy Obaseki, at the 80th birthday celebration of the late governor's widow, Chief Mrs. Rosemary Alli-Walker.

The Edo State First Lady recognised the enduring impact of Alli's tenure as governor, noting that the policies and programmes implemented during his leadership, notably in education, urban and rural development and healthcare have continued to shape Edo State's progress.

She said the former governor and his wife occupy a special place in the hearts of Edo people, resonating with the



Late Ambrose Alli

attendees, who had gathered to honour Chief Mrs. Alli-Walker.

Mrs. Obaseki also lauded her enduring commitment to values such as hard work, diligence, and forthrightness, adding that these values, which she upheld during her tenure as First Lady, continue to inspire the state's ongoing reforms across various sectors of the economy.

In her response to the felicitation, the celebrant expressed her gratitude to the First Lady for

travelling all the way from Nigeria to join in her celebration.

This is as she pledged to support free surgeries for children with cleft lips, an initiative named 'Operation Smile'.

Recall that Governor Godwin Obaseki had, in 2018, sought and obtained, a posthumous Presidential Pardon for late Governor Ambrose Alli; a request that was ratified by the Council of State in 2020.



Hon Adejo during the tour

## Fuel Subsidy: Katsina Transport Authority To Get 40 New Vehicles

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina Executive Council has approved the sum of six hundred million Naira for the purchase of forty vehicles to the State Transport Authority

(KTSTA). The measure is part of efforts to reduce difficulties facing people as a result of removal of subsidy on the petroleum product.

The state Commissioner of Works Housing and Transport Dr. Sani Magaji Ingawa disclosed this to

Journalists at the end of State Executive Council Meeting chaired by Governor Malam Dikko Umar Radda.

He said the buses would be used for inter and intra city service by the state transport authority.

Dr. Sani Ingawa remarked that some of the buses would be assigned to

convey pupils of primary and secondary schools as well as students of tertiary institutions.

He however, revealed that passengers to patronize the buses would pay less as transport fees from and to the various destinations within and outside the state capital.



## Katsina Govt Approves Over N7bn To Fight Insecurity

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Government has approved the sum of seven Billion, eight hundred and thirteen Million, four hundred and twenty three thousand, five hundred and sixty naira eighty three Kobo for the procurement of security equipments to address banditry and other criminalities in the state.

The state Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Dr. Nasiru Ma'azu Danmusa disclosed this while briefing journalists during

a courtesy visit to Katsina State Police Command and Headquarters of 17 Brigade of the Nigerian Army in Katsina metropolis.

Speaking separately during the visits, the Commissioner said the purpose of the visits is to seek for synergy and collaboration on how to improve security of lives and property in the state.

He noted that the State Government under Malam Dikko Umar Radda has shown readiness of tackling insecurity in the state.

He said the huge amount of money of over seven

billion naira was approved to reposition security structure in the state.

The Commissioner identified some of the security challenges being faced in the state to include kidnapping, cattle rustling, and farmers-hedsmen clashes among others.

Dr. Nasiru Mu'azu noted that with the cooperation of all the Security personnel's in the state, the problem would soon be overcome.

Responding separately, the Commissioner of Police (CP) Aliyu Ahmad Musa and the Brigadier-General Oluremi Ayobami

of the seventeen-brigades expressed their readiness to join hands with the Ministry in fighting Insecurity in the state.

According to them, officers and men of the two Security Agencies are ready to make Katsina State a peaceful place to live by all.

Those on the commissioner's entourage included, permanent secretary of the ministry, Barrister Nasiru Almu Danmusa and the Special Adviser Community Watch, Yusuf Ibrahim Safana, among others.

## Adelabu Will Make Power Reliable, Cornerstone For Economic Growth In Nigeria - Group

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Adelabu Support Group on Sunday, declared that Chief Adebayo Adelabu as the Minister of Power, will make the nation's power sector a reliable cornerstone for economic growth.

Adelabu Support Group expressed this in a statement to congratulate the former Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Deputy Governor on his appointment as the Minister of Power.

The statement jointly signed by the group's Coordinator, Mr Olatosho Akinrinola and Publicity Secretary, Mr Oke Are Aina, expressed confidence in Chief Adelabu's capability to make the power sector a reliable cornerstone for economic growth.

The group comprising of the 2023 Oyo State House of Assembly candidates on the platform of the Accord Party, asked Nigerians to look forward to a brighter future where blackouts become a thing of the past and power becomes a reliable cornerstone for economic growth.

"We are confident in Adelabu's dedication, loyalty, and ability to deliver as Minister of Power. The nation can look forward to a brighter future where blackouts become a thing of the past and power becomes a reliable cornerstone for economic growth," it said

The group added, "His forward-thinking strategies will surely address critical issues such as energy access, infrastructure development, and renewable energy adoption".

"President Tinubu's astute decision in appointing Adelabu underscores his commitment to nurturing exceptional talent and fostering strategic leadership within his administration,"

Expressing gratitude to President Bola Tinubu for appointing Chief Adelabu, the group applauded the President for his consistent ability to identify talents, adding, Adelabu would bring his wealth of experience, proven track records and understanding of economic dynamics to bear on his new role in the energy sector.

While stressing that Chief Adelabu's remarkable ability to navigate complex challenges and his dedication to driving sustainable energy solutions would reshape the landscape of power generation as well as distribution, the group assured Nigerians that Adelabu's tenure would usher an era of innovation, efficiency, and progress, the group

The group also commended President Tinubu for considering Adelabu's dedication to public service as well as unwavering pursuit of excellence toward achieving his vision of a more robust and self-reliant energy sector.

"As Chief Adelabu assumes his new role, we, his people, citizens, and industry stakeholders alike, are filled with optimism. Yes, by His grace, his leadership will lead to a power sector that not only meets the needs of today, but also paves the way for sustainable and prosperous tomorrow,"

The group said that Adelabu's appointment was a testament to the government's commitment to progress and incredible capacity of our nation's leaders.

"With Adelabu, Nigeria is poised to embark on a transformative journey toward an electrifying future. President Bola Tinubu's visionary leadership is duly acknowledged for making this bold step towards a brighter and more empowered Nigeria,"



## Four Inmates Regains Freedom In Ogun As NNPP Chieftain Ajadi Intervenes

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

**A** Chieftain of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in Ogun state, Olufemi Ajadi has extended a helping hand to four individuals incarcerated at the Ibara Correctional Centre in Abeokuta.

The released four convicts who were eligible for bail are identified as Damilola Opebi, Oyebolu Shina, Dare Lawal, and Oluwasegun Ayobami.

The NNPP gubernatorial candidate in Ogun State in the 2023 general elections emphasized "I am not an advocate for criminal and illegal activities but I believe that the penalties for the less criminal offenders could be paid for after the wrongdoers have sobered and promised to

desist from such crimes". Reacting to the controversy generated by Ambassador Ajadi gesture, his lead legal team, Barrister Isaac Izunya, in a statement on Sunday emphasized that the NNPP Chieftain is committed to criminal justice reform and a fairer legal system.

Barrister Izunya asserted that this gesture was an embodiment of Ambassador Ajadi's vision for a more just and compassionate society, irrespective of political considerations, saying, "the bailing of the four convicts by Olufemi Ajadi has undoubtedly added a new dimension to the political landscape in Ogun State".

Speaking with journalists after their release on Friday 18 August 2023,

Damilola Opebi, who is a skilled generator repairer, said he found himself behind bars for an unexpected reason, buying a stolen phone, adding, "I want to engage myself now in a monthly paying job so that I will be a sponsor to my musical talent."

Oyebolu Shina, a fashion designer, who works as a receiving clerk in a supermarket in Ota, said his time there led to incarceration due to missing goods, saying, "I was jailed because some goods under my watch got missing; I wish Olufemi Ajadi a successful outcome in all his endeavors for paying for my fine," he said.

Dare Lawal, a motorcycle rider who stole someone else's house rooftop to sell and raise money to repair his dilapidated motorcycle

in his comments said, "I have been to jail, and Ajadi has paid my fine to be released. I promise Nigerians that I won't engage in nefarious activities anymore. May Almighty God bless Olufemi Ajadi for his kind gesture for humanity."

Oluwasegun Ayobami, a truck driver, found himself ensnared by circumstances when he stood as a guarantor for his friend, Muse, who absconded with a motorcycle meant to be paid for on instalments. Ayobami said he was arrested on July 10, 2023, and sentenced to two-year imprisonment, adding that Ajadi's kind gesture has reversed the jail term, adding, "Jail is real! Government is real, and I want my people to desist from uncivilized and ungodly activities."

## Guber: NRM Candidate, Okwara Tours Chinese Industrial Hubs, Says New Imo Possible

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

**T**he National Rescue Movement (NRM) Governorship Candidate in the forthcoming Imo State Gubernatorial election has said that his vision is to build a viable and peaceful state that works for the good of all.

Speaking after a meeting with Chinese manufacturers in Guangdong in China, Dr Lawrence Cole Okwara said a new prosperous, industrialized and peaceful Imo is possible, adding that he is on a rescue mission.

Dr. Okwara is the CEO of Twelve Global Consult Ltd, a China based company with branches in Nigeria.

As a business mogul, Okwara epitomizes the resilience and doggedness of the Nigerian youths, he believes that given the opportunity to govern Imo State, he will expunge leadership deficit, poverty, violence and other vices that have left the state in the doldrums.

Dr. Okwara who is on a week business tour of China, revealed that he has visited four major Chinese manufacturing hubs, signed major contract deals which will bring investors to Imo State in major critical areas such as farming, fishery and small scale firms.

Dr. Okwara said he wants to stimulate manufacturing in Imo as well as revive the agriculture sector. He also promised that employment opportunities await indigenes of the state soon. The NRM candidate added that his agenda for Imo State speaks to the fundamental issues that bother the people and the state.

He promised to address security, peaceful coexistence and to ensure the prompt payment of salaries, pensions and gratuity of people in the state.

Top on the list of his priorities are, improved healthcare delivery, and

educational development. The business mogul further added that he is committed to agricultural revolution, Industrialization of the state, development of sports, infrastructural development, youth, and women development as well.

The gubernatorial candidate also added that he is interested in local government and judicial autonomy.

The CEO of Twelve Global consult Ltd China, took the political landscape of imo by storm when he announced his intention to contest the governorship polls, major stakeholders have continued to pay solidarity visits to his Imo country home, whilst pledging support

The front runner in the gubernatorial election who is still in China, spoke on his mission.

"As you can see, I was in Guangdong to discourse the possibility of setting companies that invest in modern textiles and clothes, next I shall visit Shenzhen and Donguam to woo investors in other sectors of Imo," he explained.

On what he has for the people of Imo, Okwara said, "I have been in the business of human capital development in Imo State. This time, I shall take it further by expanding the scope.

"A new Imo where hunger, poverty, violence and unemployment are nonexistent is possible.

"A new state where the government provides basic necessities for citizens in the state is possible, when we win in November, we shall be the servants of Imolites, we shall be the listeners and doers of what our people want.

Dr. Lawrence Cole Okwara, a former professional footballer who spent 30 years in South Africa as a sports administrator, is also prepared in transforming Imo State sports with his vast experience in sports management.



The freed inmates

## Police Arrest AA Ex-National Chairman Over Alleged Forgery, Impersonation

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

**T**he police in the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Abuja have arrested the former National Chairman of Action Alliance (AA), Kenneth Udeze for alleged forgery and impersonation.

Our correspondent gathered that Udeze is at the moment, cooling his heels in the gulag at the Force Criminal Investigation Department

(FCID), Area 10, Abuja. It was learnt that Udeze alleged that the new National Chairman of the party, Adegunle Rufai Omo-Aje bribed some directors of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to facilitate the upload of his (Omo-Aje's) name on the commission's website.

A chieftain of the party said, "The onus is on him (Udeze) now to prove the allegation against the

authentic National Chairman of our great party, Hon. Adegunle Rufai Omo-Aje, to the effect that he bribed some INEC directors in dollars before Hon. Adegunle Rufai Omo-Aje was uploaded on the Commission's website as the National Chairman of the party.

"Udeze is also expected to tell the police how he got a High Court Order 48 designed to commit the INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu to

prison for deleting his name as the National Chairman of the party.

Meanwhile, INEC has written to the Police, confirming Hon. Adegunle Rufai Omo-Aje as the authentic National Chairman of Action Alliance.

It was also gathered that Udeze obstructed the National leadership of the Inter Party Advisory Council, IPAC, meeting with the Vice President Shettima Kassim.



# Uba Sani Administration: The Sustain Agenda For Newly Sworn In Commissioners And Appointees

By; Amb ISHAQ MSANI

As the administration approaches its first 100 days in office, the newly inaugurated commissioners as members of the state executive council and various appointees have reinstated the realization of the Uba Sani Sustain manifesto with an unprecedented commitment to the full implementation of the Kaduna State's progress continuity agenda which is centered on Safety and Security, Upgrade of Infrastructure, Strengthening institutions, Trade and Investment, Agriculture, Investment in Human Capital and Nurturing Citizens Engagement.

Interestingly, Governor Uba Sani has of no doubt, rolled out an inclusive principle of governance which is necessary on all appointees to abide with, towards the effective public service delivery of the Sustain agenda and are expected to provide a solid foundation for a more sustainable Kaduna State. No doubt that, the current administration envisions a public service system with qualified and motivated workforce who must be efficient in delivering exceptional public service for citizen welfare and socio-economic growth.

And to achieve the 7-point agenda, dedicated public service, with skilled personnels who are committed to the public good became imperative to sustain the growth and development of the greater Kaduna.

Indisputably, proven track records, skills and competences, as well as dedication and commitment to the service of the good people of Kaduna State could be seen as a major milestone in the journey of the current administration in view of the fact that those who made it to the cabinet were considered based on merit. The journey requires the combine effort of both technocrats and politicians needed to prioritise good governance, accountability, transparency and inclusiveness.

Also, as the necessary permutation and combination is been done, the social contract between Governor Uba Sani and the populace lies on the Seven-point agenda of which as the State Chief Executive officer had re-emphasised the details of his governance agenda through the well articulated Sustain manifesto.

Consequently, in reaffirming the relentless commitment of Governor Uba Sani to the well-being of the good people of Kaduna state, it is also crucial that the new commissioners and appointees onboard need to adopt an all-inclusive approach to the mandate reposed on them and by extension must build a spirit of teamwork, collaboration and see everybody as important; prioritize innovative solutions most importantly in bringing succor to the bunch of problems faced by the poor and vulnerable as the bedrock of their respective approach.

Accordingly, as we continue to loud the steps taken so far such as the youth and women inclusion drive, the Qatar mega-economic city to accommodate 500,000 poor and vulnerables intervention, Google partnership to train 5,000 women in tech-skills, signing of critical bills into law and executive orders among several

developments recorded.

Top on the agenda is boosting the state economy by business partnering and support for business class is necessary as Kaduna faces twin setbacks of poverty and unemployment. Going by the 2019 edition of the Nigerian Living Standards Survey (NLSS), the official measure of poverty in the country compiled by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), with Kaduna recording (43.5 per cent) and the United Nation's Global Multidimensional Poverty Index maintained that, 44% of the population in Kaduna are in extreme poverty. That is, for every 100 people living in Kaduna, 44 people do not have access to health, education and essential living resources like water, housing, and food.

The State has a combined rate of 73% for unemployment and underemployment, ranking second in Nigeria behind Imo State. That means only 27 people are fully employed out of every 100 living in the State. Although, Nigeria's double-dip economic downturn and global security and economic crisis has contributed to making the country maintain its poverty capital status for the second successive year. However, the State has also been wrestling with insecurity amidst the present subsidy removal and worsening inflation like many other states.

To change the narrative, deepening the state economy through incentives and an enabling environment for the business class is necessary, and as such; Governor Mal Uba Sani is doing just that and committed to doing more. Here, the class covers the Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) and the market operators across gender. The current leadership must introduce policies that will increase the state GDP through prosperity of the business community. In return, a booming state economy will employ more job seekers and enhance tax revenues to bridge the infrastructure deficit in line with the sustain manifesto.

Subsequently, the good people of Kaduna state are looking into the sustainability mantra for enhanced workers' welfare, salaries, gratuities, and pensions. This is because there is close link between formal and informal workforce in Kaduna State. When state workers are well treated, the informal sector booms as Kaduna is for now almost a civil service state.

So in the journey ahead it is expected that the state's MDAs policy framework need to be mindful of the likely impact on workers, both within and out of public service. Policies and programmes should be workers' friendly.

Moreover, in a period of economic uncertainties and as the governor admonished to cutting down on cost of governance and ostentatious lifestyle; our new commissioners and appointees in Kaduna need to utilize money serving the people through homegrown infrastructure policies. Kaduna state has achieved multi-billion-naira capital flight in the last 8 years through de-localisation.

This implies the government patronizing local suppliers and contractors. State fund thus ought to revolves within the local economy, deepening state growth and ensuring local economy expansion. Infrastructure gaps can be addressed



Gov Uba Sani

Amb ISHAQ MSANI

through local affordable options. Part of localisation should be through direct labour policy, this reduces cost of projects, ensures standard monitoring, creates local jobs and empower local business class.

The current-crop set of public actors of the state executive council therefore must avoid exporting contracts and services outside the state except where there is no local alternative. We must not repeat the shortcomings of the past which were responsible for the present precarious state as both state and non-state actors maintained.

In the light of the foregoing, People-focused social policy through skill-based education, affordable health care, state security, and social security support: Kaduna was in the past a victim of fanciful policy designs which neglected the people and relegated their interests to the background.

The administration must run a people-centric government. Have it in minds that the principal goal of government is the welfare of the people. So there must be insurance for continuous reforms in education, health, women and youth sectors that positively impact on the people. As politicians, it makes sense for leaders to genuinely serve the people. The people voted for this government constitutionally as governments are set up for the welfare of the citizenry.

Furthermore, in the short run; Agro-based Industrialisation for wealth and job creation for youths and women be prioritized, Kaduna is a state blessed with multiple resources as a traditionally agricultural state. Part of the states's focus on Industrialisation efforts should be agriculturally based.

In addition to other sectors such as fiscal management, solid minerals, Housing/urban and social development, environmental sustainability, creating industrial parks, boost agriculture processing zones alongside the free trade zones. The target should be the development of value chains of agricultural products to access local and international markets. This will energize and engage our women and youth and transform Kaduna from its present civil service status to self-employment and food security.

Hence, it is expected that all appointees

need to uphold the basic principles of responsiveness in Governance as all conduct injurious to the welfare of the public should be avoided and remain of the people, by the people and for the people at all times to the yearning and aspiration of the citizenry.

Honesty and integrity in public service by been above board to reinforce public trust through Prudence in Governance especially in times of the current national economic emergency, most notably the subsidy removal of petrol that continue to generate pressure on all sectors of the economy which can be achieved by adopting measures that reduces cost of projects and services as reiterated by the Governor.

The era of achieving much with little resources is now. This much that the Uba Sani administration upholds.

Moreover, the current state executive council must also enhance Innovation in Governance, united team work, Bureaucratic harmony, respect for Due Process /Rule of Law which can all be achieved through careful implementation of problem-solving ideas within the framework of the seven point agenda amidst multiple governance question and financial constraints. Synergy and collaboration with a common goal to make a difference in the lives of the good people of Kaduna state. Leadership is about due process and rule of law and as such no cutting corners and compromises transparency and accountability.

Therefore, while lauding the partnership for development among the three arms of government, the appointees must dance to the tune of the Governor in continuous advocacy and sustenance of the close relationship among the executive, legislative and executive arms of government to achieve greater milestone of the sustain manifesto.

Finally, it is important to congratulate all the newly appointed commissioners and appointees as they pilot the affairs of their respective portfolios and pray that the Uba Sani administration succeeds.

*Amb Ishaq MSani, a university lecturer, professional construction manager and advocate for good governance and accountability writes from Kaduna and can be reached via shaksonn@gmail.com.*

# Understanding Difficulties of Take Off

By Jibrin Ibrahim

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

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

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

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

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

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

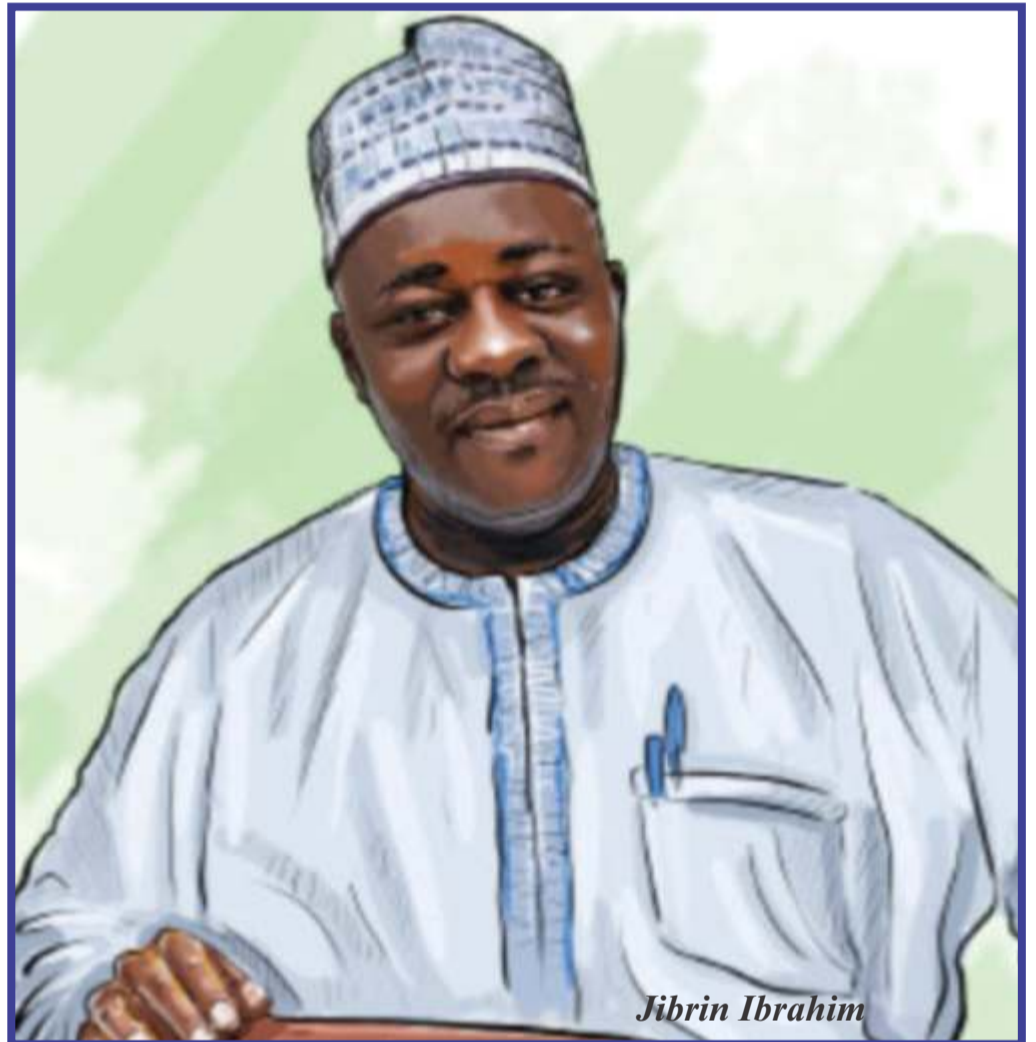
He thought it presented him to Nigerians as a man of resolve and action.

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

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

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

“The free floating of the naira was just as disastrous. The value of the naira, contrary to predictions the Tinubu team made, continued to decline rapidly and almost reached the fatidic level of one dollar to one thousand naira. In a panic move, they resurrected the Buhari/Emefiele policy package of using dollars we don't have to support the naira.”



Jibrin Ibrahim

On Wednesday, the names of the 45-member cabinet, which is expected to rise further, was released. Serious questions had been posed since the names were released by the Senate some time ago. The bulk of the team is composed of run-of-the-mill politicians, about 80% of whom are under investigation for massive acts of corruption. Most of them have failed miserably in the previous governance function and about eleven of them are former governors with nothing to show for their stewardships. In essence, most of

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

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

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

# When The American Hawk Decides To Devour The Nigerien Chick

By Owei Lakemfa

**T**HE threat of the mighty United States of America (USA) on Tuesday, August 7, 2023 to invade little Niger Republic is not for its love of democracy, Nigeriens or Africans. It is basically in the nature of hawks to circle the sky looking for prey, especially chicks.

There were American and French troops in Niger before the coup because it is in the nature of black vultures, not only to target and kill small live animals, but also to have the patience to wait and devour carcasses.

If the USA were opposed to colonialism, it would not continue to colonise Puerto Rico for 125 years now after seizing that country from colonial Spain on October 18, 1898. With America illegally occupying their homeland, Puerto Ricans are not allowed any voting representation in the American Federal Government. As I write, where African Americans, American Indians and migrants can vote in midterm or American presidential elections, Puerto Ricans have no such right.

So, the July 26 military coup in Niger Republic is a pretext. The USA Acting Deputy Secretary, Victoria Nuland, in threatening to invade Niger, declared in the usual American arrogant manner: "So we'll be watching the situation, but we understand our legal responsibilities and I explained those very clearly to the guys (the new Nigerien leaders) who were responsible for this and that it is not our desire to go there, but they may push us to that point, and we asked them to be prudent in that regard and to hear our offer to try to work with them to solve this diplomatically and return to constitutional order."

When the USA brags it has "legal responsibilities", I ask: under what law, convention or agreement? Does it intend to engineer another bogus United Nations Resolution under which, along with its Western allies, they destroyed Iraq, turning it into a basket case? Does it intend as it did with the birds of prey of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to invade Niger as it did Libya under Ghadaffi, turning one of the richest and most promising African countries into another basket case?

The Western actions in Libya were so destructive that it resulted in the free flow of arms and terrorists into West Africa. They so dislocated Libya that, today, a dozen years later, that country remains a failed state with rival governments in Tripoli, Tobruk, Sirte and Benghazi where the Libyan-

American 'Field Marshall' Khalifa Haftar holds sway.

If the USA were truly opposed to coups, then it won't be a supporter of the coup plotter in Chad, General Mehmet Deby or his older coup plotter in Egypt, General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. No! If the USA were for democracy and against coups, it would not have overthrown democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh of Iran in 1953 and imposed a monarch, Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, in his place. The Americans would not have overthrown elected Presidents Jacobo Arbenz of Guatemala in 1954 and Salvador Allende on September 11, 1973. If the American establishment were for elected leaders, it would not have teamed up with Belgium and the United Kingdom to overthrow newly elected Congo Democratic Republic Prime Minister, Patrice Lumumba, in January 1961, who they subsequently captured and executed on January 17, 1961.

If the USA claims it is supporting Ukraine because it believes every country should have a right to sovereignty, why does it want to invade Niger; that it has no right to sovereignty? If in deed the USA were for human rights, freedom or democracy, it would not have been the greatest supporter of apartheid South Africa. It would not have designated African freedom fighters like Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo and Joe Slovo as terrorists. It is to the eternal shame of the USA that despite Nelson Mandela spending 27 years in apartheid prison, leading South Africa to freedom and serving as the first democratically elected President of his country, America continued to officially designate him a terrorist!

In fact, it was not until July 2008 President George W. Bush signed a bill into law removing Mandela and other African National Congress (ANC) leaders from the list of persons the USA categorised as people who engaged in "terrorist or criminal activities."

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occupying their homeland, Puerto Ricans are not allowed any voting representation in the American Federal Government. As I write, where African Americans, American Indians and migrants can vote in midterm or American presidential elections, Puerto Ricans have no such right.

If the USA were law-abiding, it would not, like bandits, have seized by force, Mexican territories, including New Mexico, California, Nevada, Utah and parts of Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma. If it were peace-loving, it would not have invaded Mexico 10 times and Southern American countries over 70 times! The countries so invaded include Haiti from 1915 to 1934, Guatemala in 1954, Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961, Dominican Republic in 1965 and Grenada in 1983.

The Americans invaded Nicaragua so many times that I am not sure either side continued counting. This includes the USA occupation of that country from 1912 to 1933 and its 1980 and 1984 invasions. The USA's rape of Nicaragua was so routine and criminal that even a private American physician and lawyer called William Walker raised a private army in 1855 to invade Nicaragua. In July 1856, Walker declared himself President of Nicaragua and his illegal regime was recognised by USA under President Franklin Pierce as the legitimate government of Nicaragua! Given the US backing of his terrorist regime, Walker re-introduced slave trade and threatened the re-colonisation of some Central American countries.

The USA's threat of invading Niger is not in the interest of the African people. An African saying advises that we should first chase away the hawk before

reverting to the chick. Let us first protect Niger from vultures before using diplomacy to address the coup question. The USA did not call its citizen to order; it was a coalition of Latin American countries led by Costa Rica that defeated the Walker mercenaries and forced him to resign as Nicaraguan President on May 1, 1857.

When the Vietnamese defeated the French colonialists in the historic Battle of Dien Bien Phu which raged from March 13 to May 7, 1954, and declared independence, the USA was enraged. It thought it was a bad precedence for a Third World people to roundly defeat a Western power. It was a battle in which the Vietnamese lost over 3,000 men and the French lost over 8,000 men with 10,300 soldiers taken prisoners. The US, in March 1965, invaded Vietnam to reverse the Vietnamese independence and allegedly, to stop the country going socialist.

The USA invaded Afghanistan in 2001 following the 9/11 attack, and was forced into a disgraceful and disorganised withdrawal in August 2021 which the Washington Post of August 10, 2022 headlined, "Two weeks of chaos: A timeline of the US pull out of Afghanistan."

If the USA claims it is supporting Ukraine because it believes every country should have a right to sovereignty, why does it want to invade Niger; that it has no right to sovereignty? The USA's threat of invading Niger is not in the interest of the African people. An African saying advises that we should first chase away the hawk before reverting to the chick. Let us first protect Niger from vultures before using diplomacy to address the coup question.

# Conversion Of HND To Degree Catastrophic For Nigeria

By; MOHAMMED  
A D A M U  
ABUBAKAR

There is nothing good for Nigerian education in the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE)'s Higher National Diploma (HND) conversion to degree programme.

With the current unemployment figures in Nigeria, if all polytechnic graduates convert their HND to degree, then where is the hope of NBTE in promoting skills?

It doesn't sound well for NBTE to be a pioneer of degree programme as a board established to promote polytechnic programmes. This shows a failed mission of NBTE upon its responsibilities.

For many years, the present Executive Secretary of NBTE was calling for creation of more polytechnic than universities in the country, but the present initiative of HND conversion to degree has derailed the NBTE's focus.

Polytechnic are known for skills production, polytechnic produce entrepreneurs and apprentice, ready for jobs. Also, polytechnic produce technologists to handle practical teachings.

Then what does it means when all technologists chose to convert their certificates to degree? The idea of NBTE needs a second look.

While the programme will benefit an international school as an affiliated programme, it simply means a call from NBTE to

government to convert all polytechnic to universities. To make it clear, polytechnic and universities are not the same. The two schools have different purposes of establishment, just like parents and students have the right to choose from any of the two.

To save polytechnic from collapse, students unions and academic unions of polytechnic notify NBTE the danger upon it's interest. HND conversion to degree shows more weaker effect of HND and could lead to the falling of polytechnic in Nigeria, with NBTE being a promoter of

degree programmes rather than its product.

Conversion of HND for degree will significantly cause set back for polytechnic from the side of government and students. Also, where will the fate of Sub-Saharan African Apprenticeship and Stakeholders Network (SASASNET) lie if polytechnic graduates are motivated to convert their HND just for opportunities?

Just like colleges of education, polytechnic are different from universities and NBTE should be different from NUC because some years back, NBTE promised

to employ HND graduates as lecturers, if done, polytechnic will only heads to stones.

The blueprint of polytechnic will be disorganized because university graduates lack the needed skills to handle practicals in the polytechnic, while skill is very important than anything in polytechnic, it is a misplaced priority for the university graduates to handle the skill aspect.

However, the Executive Secretary of NBTE has brought many good programmes for Nigeria's progress, but the HND conversion programme to degree could never be good

for Nigerian polytechnic, government and the staff of polytechnic, and it is not too late for polytechnic unions and government to intervene and save them from falling.

To many people, polytechnic has been in existence for long, producing academic sound individuals who are contributing greatly and are doing well in their chosen careers.

NBTE should focus on producing skilled technologists manpower that can compete globally.

The very essence of polytechnic education sector must not be forgotten by NBTE, hence, Professor Idris Bugaje knows it too well that, if Nigeria is truly in a hurry for industrial revolution, then polytechnic education must be given the needed attention.

China gives more attention to technical education than theory upon theories. In 2019, amidst COVID-19, Chinese

government converted so many universities.

The future of the world is hands -on job, what can you do with your hands, and this is where polytechnic graduates come to mind due to their practical oriented programmes.

To so many people, this move by NBTE for the HND conversion to BSC is complete aberration of the very essence of polytechnic education.

*Mohammed Adamu Abubakar sent in this piece from FCT Abuja*



## SWAN President Visits National Secretariat, Hails Sirawoo

The President of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Isaiah Kemje Benjamin on Tuesday August 22, visited the National Secretariat of the association located within the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja. This was contained in a statement signed by his media Aide, Okpani Jacob

Onjewu Dickson During the visit, he was shown round the three suites that houses the national secretariat of the association. When he was ushered into his office by Secretary General of the Association, Ikenna Okonkwo who is based in Abuja, he praised his predecessor, Sir Honour Sirawoo for his foresight

in securing the office premises. "I am impressed by the standard of the office and the furnishing that was put in place by the ex president, Sir Honour Sirawoo," he said. Mr. Benjamin said that the befitting secretariat would be used to promote sports in the country, through strategic partnership with corporate organisations

and public spirited individuals. A former Nigerian football player now based in Austria, Anthony Ifeanyi Ibeh was one of the visitors to the SWAN Secretariat, where he interacted with the executive on ground. He commended SWAN for doing a good job in promoting sports in Nigeria.



L-R: SWAN Secretary General, Ikenna Okonkwo and President, Isaiah Kemje Benjamin meeting at the SWAN National Secretariat Abuja yesterday.

## Women Leaders Set To Protest Against Akpabio, Demand His Resignation Or Sack

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON Some Women Leaders across the Niger Delta region and beyond, under the aegis of Niger Delta Women League (NDWL), have demanded immediate resignation of the Senate President, Godswill Akpabio or be sacked.

The women also vowed to take a massive protest to the National Assembly on the September 26, if their demand is not met.

In a statement signed by the national president of the group, Hon. Sheila Abiye Tamuno, she lamented the prevailing economic hardship foisted on the common man, by an indiscretion fuel subsidy removal, without necessary measures on ground to cushion the adverse ripples effects, adding that "Akpabio's unguarded statements comes wielding the gavel to seal a celebration of an elite 10th Senate over

the sufferings of the masses." Others who signed the statement include: Ajemina Gobo, Rivers State Co-ordinator, Madam Eureal Allagoa, Bayelsa State Co-ordinator, Elizabeth Moses Bassey, Cross Rivers State, Coordinator, Eucharika Ezidimma Ewurum, Imo State Co-ordinator, Madam Isesele Francisca Ofure, Edo State Co-ordinator, Madam Unwana Ibanga, Akwa Ibom State Co-ordinator, Madam Okubakere Ominisan, Ondo State Co-ordinator, Madam Happy Otojareri, Delta State Co-ordinator, Madam Amarachi Lydia Clairebelle Ijezie, Abia State Co-ordinator and Amb. Ojineme Enakheme, FCT Coordinator.

The women said Akpabio does not understand the seriousness of the legislative business of the Senate of the Federal Republic Of Nigeria, hence he has elected to joke with the fate over

three hundred million Nigerians.

"It is sufficiently clear that from his infamous "Let the poor breathe" misplaced joke to "token has been sent to your bank accounts to enable you enjoy your vacation" Akpabio has inconsiderately and injuriously slammed the gavel on the head of every Nigerian. We are bleeding from his actions and he needs to leave before he kills us all.

"We call on H.E (Sen) Godswill Akpabio to honourably resign his position as President Of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and drop the gavel with immediate effect.

"We call on the Distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic Of Nigeria, to stand up for the masses, band together in defense of democracy and vote Akpabio out should he not agree to toe, the path of honour by resigning his office.

## Nimrod, Ahmed Musa, Others For Legendary Awards 2023

By ; PETER NOSAKHARE, Kaduna

In recognition of their contributions to sports development, Sports Legendary Awards has selected some well-meaning Nigerians for awards this year.

Explaining the motive behind the awards, the President of the organization, Solomon Omonokhua said, "the saying that every good turn deserves another," is why these individuals have been specially selected for the awards because of their immersed contributions to the development of their sports continue to bring glory to the country.

"Sports will discourage criminality and take our esteemed youths out of harms-way. It is like creating jobs for our youths."

The likes of Ahmed Musa of the Super Eagles, he said, became a house-hold name because of his exploits in football and he was discovered by someone who saw his potentials.

Sports, Omonokhua stressed, has brought fame to the country, "we have three or four U-17 trophies in treasure box, three African Cup of Nations trophies, our girls Tobi Amusan has the world fastest time in 110 metres Hurdles (World Record), the Onyalis and Falilats have all put the country in the map of world great sportsmen and women. Our girls at the just concluded Women's World Cup did well."

Some selected awardees for the event billed to hold on September 23, 2023 at Hotel 17 (Seventeen), Kaduna include, Sen. Kashim Shettima (Vice President of Nigeria), Aisha Falode, President Nigeria Women Football League, Ahmed Musa, former Captain of the Super Eagles and Hon. Ekene Adams, House Committee Chairman on Sports, Federal House of Representatives.

Others are Hon. Tajudeen Abass, Speaker, House of Representatives, Engr. Musa Nimrod, President Nigeria Volleyball Federation, Hon. Gbenga Elegbeleye and Sen. Uba Sani, Governor of Kaduna State amongst others.

Omonokhua stated that the awards organization started in 2014 and Mohammed Babangida was among the first recipient.



Nimrod

# Kaduna ADC Chairman Commends Gov Uba Sani Over School Fees Reduction

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

The Chairman of African Democratic Congress (ADC) in Kaduna State, Hon. Ahmed Tijjani Mustapha has commended the Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani for his foresight over the downward review of all the state-owned tertiary institutions' fees. This was contained in a statement signed by the state ADC Chairman yesterday and made available to newsmen in Kaduna.

Similarly, Hon. Ahmed Tijjani Mustapha described the gesture of Governor Sani's determination to provide access to free and qualitative education for every child in Kaduna State from primary to secondary school as laudable.

He noted with utmost excitement

that the approval for downward review of tuition fees by Governor Sani is a positive response to the public outcry over hike in fees being charged by the state tertiary institutions and its spillover effects on school enrolment and retention.

He said this hindsight shows the governor's capacity to keep to his campaign promises as "a promise made and promise kept."

He further charged the governor to keep up the good work. The ADC chairman stated that Governor Sani's initiative and policy on education are not only people-oriented but friendly as well as good gesture worthy of emulation by all and sundry across party lines.

According to him, It would be recalled that Governor Sani of the All Progressive Congress

(APC) approved the downward review of school fees for all state-owned tertiary institutions by 30 and 50 percent.

Hon. Tijjani added that, the Governor had during the briefing announced reduction in tuition fees in all the state-owned tertiary institutions including Kaduna State University, Nuhu Bamali Polytechnic, College of Education Gidan Waya, Shehu Idris College of Health Sciences and Technology, Makarfi respectively.

However, Governor Sani said the downward review aligns with the administration's commitment to offer palliatives to cushion the effect of general rising cost of living in the polity, especially in the wake of recent petroleum subsidy removal in Nigeria, among other reasons.



Kaduna ADC Chairman

# Association Of Nigerian Tenants Applauds New Minister's Commitment To Affordable Housing

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Association of Nigerian Tenants (ANT) has extended its warmest congratulations to the newly appointed Minister of Housing, Prof. Ahmed Dangiwa on assuming this crucial role within the Nigerian new government. The association also commended government's decision in selecting a seasoned individual to lead the housing sector, and expresses optimism in the positive impact that Dangiwa will bring to the nation's housing landscape.

A statement by the association, signed by its National President, Ambassador. Dr. Edward Olutoke it says that as an organization that champions the rights and interests of tenants across the country, it acknowledges the significance of this critical area in the lives of Nigerian citizens, particularly the poor and vulnerable segments of society.

According to him, ANTs emphasizes the pivotal role that affordable housing plays in fostering economic stability, social inclusion, and overall national development, saying; that in light of this, they look forward to the Minister's strategic vision and innovative policies



Minister of Housing

aimed at ensuring that every Nigerian, regardless of socio-economic status, has access to safe, decent, and affordable housing options.

"We commend the Minister's foresight in recognizing the importance of cooperative housing initiatives, which

hold the potential to create sustainable and community-driven solutions.

"Such endeavours not only enhances the living conditions of residents but also contribute to the harmonious development of neighborhoods and communities at large," it said.

The statement further said that the association is ready to collaborate with the Ministry of Housing under Dangiwa's leadership, offering insights, expertise, and support towards the realization of a housing sector that is equitable, efficient, and responsive to the needs of the people.

"As he embarks on this vital journey, we are confident that his wealth of experience and dedication will drive positive changes

that will reverberate across the country. ANTs assures the Minister of our unwavering commitment to promoting dialogue, fostering understanding, and advocating for policies that prioritize the well-being of tenants and homeowners alike.

ANTs congratulated Prof. Dangiwa once again and eagerly awaits the transformation that his tenure promises to bring to the housing sector.

The Association of Nigerian Tenants (ANTs) is a leading advocacy group dedicated to championing the rights and interests of tenants across Nigeria. With a commitment to promoting affordable housing, fostering tenant-landlord harmony, and advancing policy reforms, ANTs strives to create positive change within the housing sector and contribute to the socio-economic development of the nation.

The association recently launched its flagship programme, Operation Don't Die A Tenant with 60k Solution, a home ownership scheme that can make anybody own a decent and comfortable home or any other properties with as little as sixty thousand Naira (N60,000)