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NLC Planned Strike: Northern CSOs Give Reasons For Pulling Out

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Less than 24 hours today's planned nationwide strike and mass protest by Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), 16 Northern based Civil Society Groups (CSOs) under aegis of Coalition of Arewa Civil Society Organisations have pulled out on grounds that the indefinite strike action will damage the fragile economy and cause more hardship to the

ordinary citizens.

The NLC had given the federal government a seven-day ultimatum with threats of a nationwide strike scheduled to commence on Wednesday, August 2, 2023 and directed all its affiliates and Civil Society Groups across 36 states of the federation to mobilisation workers and Nigerians for a long-lasting strike should the government fail to meet its demands.

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Scene of a helicopter crash at Oba Akran in Lagos yesterday, August 1, 2023. Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO

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Ezeship: 4 Traditional Rulers Receive Staff Of Office In Ebonyi

By; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The Governor of Ebonyi State, Rt. Hon. Francis Nwifuru has presented staff of office to four traditional rulers in Ebonyi State.

The governor charged the traditional rulers to discharge their duties without bias in order to win the confidence of their subjects.

Governor Nwifuru gave the charge while presenting certificates of recognition to four traditional rulers at the Government House, Ochoudo Centenary City,

Abakaliki.

The newly recognized Traditional Rulers include, Eze Augustine Mbam of Ndebora Ezza-Inyimegu Community in Izzi Local Government Area, Eze Chinedu Nwankwo of Ogboji Ezzagu Community in Ishielu Local Government Area, Eze Boniface Nwoba-Nwangbu of Izzi Unuphu Community in Abakaliki Local Government Area and Eze Ewa Orji of Edda Local Government Area.

The governor congratulated them on their election by their subjects and urged them to

be good ambassadors of Government within their areas of coverage.

"It is my honour to welcome you to this event, one of the most important functions I have performed in my administration

"I am very much happy working with all of you because you have taken the responsibility of maintaining peace in your Communities even before the formal recognition

"Please do not take your subjects for granted, be more focused and dedicated, at the end of the day, you will not be disappointed, do not take

bribe from your subjects because you will not have the boldness to say the truth."

Governor Nwifuru commended the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters Chief Uchenna Igwe for facilitating the issuance of Staff of Office to the Traditional Rulers.

On-behalf of the the four traditional rulers, Eze Augustine Mbam appreciated the governor for the honour done them and pledged to hold on to their charge in the administration of their kingdoms.

Ogbomoso Biomedical Research Hub Partners Foreign Body In Advancing Ground-breaking Innovations

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Head, Microbiology Department, Adeleke University, Ede Osun State, Dr. Oladipo Kolawole has disclosed that Helix Biogen Institute, a biomedical research hub in Ogbomoso, Oyo State, has entered into partnership with an international collaborator, ANESVAD Foundation.

Dr. Kolawole in a statement, said the partnership is to find solutions, among other things, to the rising challenges in the scientific world and that the institute was dedicated to advancing ground-breaking innovations in both healthcare and biotech sectors

He stressed that the collaboration would provide a huge boost to Ogbomoso's developing startup environment, the state and the country as a whole", adding, "This noteworthy development illustrates both Ogbomoso's rise as a centre for biomedical innovation and entrepreneurship as well as the enormous potential of the local startup scene"

Dr. Kolawole pointed out that due to the constant pursuit of greatness by the researchers, the institute was being noticed by the international collaborators and investors who are interested in the biomedical progress of ongoing projects at the institute.

He maintained that the institute had previous record of COVID-19 candidates vaccine already enlisted by World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with Precious Cornerstone

University, Ibadan, Adeleke University, Ede and Trinity Immuno-efficient Laboratory, Ogbomoso, among others.

Expressing optimism that the partnership between the Institute and ANESVAD Foundation would be mutually beneficial, he said "This international contribution will enable Helix Biogen Institute to further up its biomedical research and development operations on point-of care diagnostic kits development toward Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), which has economically impacted the under developed countries"

Dr. Kolawole stated, "The relationship with ANESVAD Foundation will make it easier to recruit top individuals and expand cutting-edge laboratory capabilities, thereby contributing to the economic growth of Ogbomoso, Oyo State and Nigeria as whole. As a result, the hub will be able to accelerate meaningful partnerships with top universities and related stakeholders to further its creative solutions. Ogbomoso is already firmly established as a thriving biomedical innovation hub, ready to draw more interest and funding."

He maintained that the Institute was in a good position to take advantage of the knowledge and contacts of its foreign investors and collaborators as it begins this new chapter.

"The hub is well-positioned to succeed even more by cultivating solid relationships and embracing a collaborative attitude.



Uba Sani Appoints Salisu Isah, Abdullahi Muhammad Ibrahim As Sole Administrator, Birnin Gwari LGA, Chairman Fiscal Responsibility Commission

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Governor of Kaduna State, His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani has approved the appointments of Hon. Salisu Isah and Abdullahi Muhammad Ibrahim as Sole Administrator, Birnin Gwari Local Government and Chairman Fiscal Responsibility Commission, respectively. The appointment of Honourable Isah, which takes immediate effect, is in accordance with Section 22(5) of a Law to Substitute the Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission Law, No.2 of 2018 which gives the Governor the power to appoint an Administrator for the local government when it has become impracticable to conduct election to fill the vacancy thereby created.

A statement from Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Muhammad Lawal Shehu

on July 31, 2023, said Hon. Salisu Isah is a seasoned educationist, administrator and grassroots politician with decades of service to the people of Birnin Gwari LGA and Kaduna State.

He served as member, Kaduna State House of Assembly (Magajin Gari Constituency 2015 - 2023) and Councillor, Magajin Gari 11 Ward, Birnin Gwari Local Government, Kaduna State from 2012 - 2014. He worked at Miftahul Ulumul Islamiya Birnin Gwari Education Authority, Birnin Gwari.

He was Treasurer and later Chairman, Amalgamation of Motorcyclist Rider and Ownership Association of Nigeria (ACOMORAN).

Born in Birnin Gwari in 1979, Hon. Salisu Isah attended the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria where he obtained a Bachelors Degree and Masters Degree in

Education.

The newly appointed Chairman, Fiscal Responsibility Commission, Abdullahi Muhammad Ibrahim is the immediate past Sole administrator of Birnin Gwari LGA.

An experienced professional and public servant, he is expected to bring his wealth of experience as an administrator in fashioning and implementing effective strategies for the revitalization of the Fiscal Responsibility Commission.

The governor urged the new Sole Administrator, Birnin Gwari LGA to use his wealth of experience and skills to reposition and stabilize the troubled Local Government.

He further wished the Sole Administrator Birnin Gwari LGA and the Chairman Fiscal Responsibility Commission, God's guidance in their new assignments.



Honourable Salisu Isa

Kadpoly Mass Comm Alumni Congratulates New Nigerian Editor, Others Over Recent Appointments

Kadpoly Mass Communication Alumni Association (KAMASSCAA), has congratulated the Online Editor of New Nigerian Newspapers, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, over his recent appointment as the media Aide to the President of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN).

This was contained in a statement signed by the Coordinator of KAMASSCAA, Comrade Sharifudeen Ibrahim Muhammad (Dan Jarida) ANIPR ANIM AIIPS, dated Saturday July 29, 2023, in which other of its members who were recently appointed, were also congratulated.

"We, the Council and entire members of Kadpoly Mass Communication Alumni Association (KAMASSCAA), extend our warmest congratulations to the following individuals on their well-deserved appointments: Malam Musa Abdullahi Krishi - Special Adviser on Media & Publicity to The Speaker, Federal House of Representatives.

"Samuel Aruwan - Mayor/Administrator, Kaduna Capital Territory Authority (KCTA), Kaduna, Malam Nura Adamu (Mada), Special Adviser on Broadcast to The Speaker, Federal House of Representatives.

"Jacob Onjenwu Dickson, Media Aid to the SWAN President and Malam Ismail Mudashir, Special

Adviser on Media and Publicity to The Deputy Senate President," it said. KAMASSCAA said that the appointments come as no surprise, given their exemplary track records from their school days and extensive experience in Public Relations and Journalism practice, as well as commitment to the development of their respective states and Nigeria as a whole.

"As you embark on this new journey of stewardship, which undoubtedly entails sacrifices and challenges, we have faith in your ability to project your Principals and Government positively through various local, State, National, and International media platforms.

"Furthermore, we acknowledge your recent recognition as outstanding ambassadors of Kaduna Polytechnic during the inaugural Kadpoly Mass Communication Alumni Association (KAMASSCAA) Lecture and Award Ceremony at Hamdala Hotel in Kaduna," it added.

KAMASSCAA therefore, charged each of them to continue being exemplary representatives of their Alma Mater and to carry out their new responsibilities in accordance with professional ethics.

"Accept our highest regards and best wishes. Once again, congratulations!" The statement said.

Fuel Subsidy: Network of Peace Journalists Sues For Peaceful Protest Today

By: USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

In anticipation of the scheduled protest by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) against the removal of fuel subsidy in the country on August 2, 2023, the Network of Peace Journalists (NPJ) under community initiative to promote peace (CIPP) has issued a formal call for a peaceful and orderly demonstration.

The NPJ team leader, Ibrahim Yakubu, on Monday, conveyed the statement to newsmen in Kaduna, emphasizing the significance of maintaining peaceful

conduct during the protest. He brought attention to the fact that the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) issued a seven-day ultimatum to the President Bola Tinubu administration, demanding a reversal of all "anti-poor" policies, including the recent hike in the price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), commonly known as petrol.

Yakubu further urged the federal government and the Nigeria Labour Congress to engage in a constructive and substantive dialogue to address the hardships faced by the masses

resulting from the recent fuel price increase.

He said, "the surge in fuel costs has led to an unfortunate situation where many motorists are forced to abandon their vehicles due to the exorbitant petroleum prices in the country, aggravating the challenges faced by the people.

"It is evident that the labour union has threatened to organize a nationwide protest from Wednesday, August 2, 2023, should the Federal Government fail to take necessary actions in response to their demands. "In light of the potential for disruptions, the NPJ

advises the protest organizers to exercise vigilance and refrain from involving thugs and hoodlums in the demonstration, ensuring that the event maintains its peaceful nature and stays true to its purpose." Says Ibrahim, NPJ Team Leader

Similarly, the Network of Peace Journalists calls for a peaceful protest to be held across all 36 states of Nigeria, while simultaneously urging the government to open channels for constructive dialogue to find a viable resolution to the prevailing situation.



Members of NPJ

Imo Police Neutralises One, Apprehends 3 In Gun Due, Recovers Firearms, Cartridges, Stolen Items

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

In line with the unwavering commitment to continue to provide a secured security atmosphere for the law abiding residents, police operatives in Imo state have busted an armed robbery syndicate, apprehending three suspects.

Assorted arms and cartridges which include two pump action guns, four locally made pistol, eight rounds of live cartridges and one expanded cartridges were reportedly recovered from the suspects.

A white Hilux operational vehicle with reg.no BRR 586 XA, which plate number was covered with a black cloth, jewries valued at millions of naira, two military under polo, two special forces t-shirts, face Mask and bags containing other stolen items were also recovered from them.

The Spokesperson Imo State Police Command ASP Henry Okoye made the disclosure at a parade on Saturday 29th July 2023 on behalf

of the Commissioner of Police Mohammed Ahmed Barde,

Okoye, in a release made available to journalists titled, "ARREST OF THREE NOTORIOUS ARMED ROBBERY SYNDICATE, RECOVERY OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION", said "Today, 29TH July, 2023 Imo Police Command has once again nabbed three (3) notorious armed robbery syndicate and recovered arms, ammunition and other stolen items from the hoodlums.

"In a swift follow-up to a distress call received from a civic-minded resident of the State that on the 29TH of July, 2023 at about 1300hrs, hoodlums numbering about seven, armed with sophisticated weapons came with a white Hilux covered plate number and were robbing a Jewelry shop situated at Ikeneagbu in Imo State.

"On the receipt of this information, the Commissioner of Police, CP Mohammed Ahmed Barde, psc(+), promptly mobilized the

Command's Tactical team and personally led the operatives to the scene.

"On sighting police operatives, the hoodlums opened fire but were overwhelmed by the dexterity showcased by the gallant operatives who professionally maneuvered into vintage position and return fire which forced the hoodlums to succumb to their superior fire power.

"In the gun duel that ensued, one of the hoodlum was neutralized, two were arrested while others escaped with various degrees of gunshot injuries.

"On search the suspects and the scene the following items were recovered

1. Two(2) pump action guns,
2. Four (4) locally made pistol
3. Eight (8) rounds of live cartridges, one (1) expanded cartridges
4. The white helix used for the operation with reg.no BRR 586 XA i.e. after removing the black cloth used in covering the plate number

5. Jewries valued millions of naira

6. Two military under polo

7. Two special forces t-shirts

8. Face Mask

9. Bags containing other stolen items were recovered.

"Due to the swift response, non of the shop owners or customers were hurt. Manhunt is intensified to arrest other fleeing suspects and the manufacturers of the locally made pistols. The duo suspect will be investigated thoroughly and arraigned in court upon completion of a discreet investigation by the Command's Tactical Team. While the body of neutralizes suspect will be deposited at the morgue.

"While commending the operatives for a job well-done, the Commissioner of Police urged them to sustain the tempo in the ongoing crusade against all forms of crime and criminality in the state.

Ebonyi: Over 1,200 Victims Of Flood Disaster Receive NEMA Relief Materials

By; M K P U M A
ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has distributed over 1,200 relief materials to flood victims in various affected communities in Ebonyi State. Flagging off the relief materials at old Government House Abakaliki, the wife of the governor, Mrs Ukamaka Maudlin Nwifuru urged the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the materials as Ebonyi State Government is ever ready to support them and ensure that they are accommodated in all the programmes and policies of government for their overall wellbeing. She also commended NEMA for prompt response to alleviate the

plights of the flood victims in the state.

The relief materials distributed range from bags of rice, beans, garri, bedsheets, among others. In an interview with some of the beneficiaries, Mrs Nwankwo Agness and Florence Ugochi all applauded the efforts of NEMA in the distribution of the relief materials, saying that they lost all their farms and houses as a result of flooding that took place few years ago. The National Emergency Management Agency is an agency in Nigeria. The agency focuses on disaster management in all parts of the country. The agency was established in 1999, and functions to formulate policies relating to disaster management in Nigeria as well as alleviating the plights of victims.



Non Remittance Of Deductions: Protesting Workers Again Shut Oyo Govt Secretariat

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

In continuation of protest over non remittance of deductions from their arrears and cooperative contributions, civil servants and pensioners in Oyo State yesterday, blocked the main entrance to the state government Secretariat in Ibadan. The protesting workers under the auspices of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC) and Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP) shut the entry and exit gates of the Oyo State Secretariat. On arrival at the main entrance to the secretariat, the labour leaders parked their cars to block the gates, as well ensured that workers are not going into the State Secretariat to resume work. Unlike the situation on Monday, some of the protesting workers were sighted within the secretariat monitoring compliance of

workers with the action.

It was learnt that during the said monitoring, some of the workers found in their offices were allegedly beaten, while others were locked up in their offices.

The protesting workers were said to have vowed to continue locking the main entrance to the Oyo State Government Secretariat until Gov Seyi Makinde is ready to meet with their leaders on their demands.

All efforts by the Executive Assistant to Governor Makinde on Security, Mr Sunday Odukoya at pleading with the protesting workers failed as labour leaders on ground insisted on meeting with the governor on their demands.

The protesting workers accused Gov Makinde of not being bothered by their plights by not coming out to personally talk to the protesting workers or their leaders.

Don't Resell Family Land, Olubadan Warns Mogajis, Baales

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

The Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lekan Balogun on Monday, tasked newly appointed Mogajis and Baales in Ibadanland not to oppress their people by reselling or reclaiming the family land already sold or gifted to people by their forebears.

Oba Balogun gave the task while conferring the new titles of Mogaji and Baale at the Aliiwo palace, Agodi, Ibadan.

He maintained that the Mogajis and the Baales should use their respective new positions to assist their communities towards making the larger Ibadan metropolis more conducive for the inhabitants.

According to the Olubadan, the new Mogajis and Baales should realise that the new titles did not confer on them the authority and power to revisit sold or gifted land for whatever reason, but to use their respective positions for the betterment of the people.

Speaking at the installation, the Ekerin Olubadan, Oba Hamidu Ajibade advised the new Mogajis and Baales on



Oba Lekan Balogun at the installation of Mogajis and Baale

behalf of the Olubadan to see their appointment as a means to assist the Olubadan to make their respective compounds and communities better.

"You owe it a duty to all to intervene in anything that can improve the living conditions of your people. If there's anybody that needs assistance in any form, your new position has conferred on you the responsibility of being their haven of refuge and our progenitors will always be there for you", he said.

Oba Ajibade added, "Whatever you need to

meet up with all these challenges will be provided for you. Olubadan's desire is for peace at all times and there's no price that's too much for you to pay to key into this mantra".

At the ceremony, Engr. Oseni Morufu Babalola, Olufemi Ayodeji Ige, Timothy Adewumi Adesina and Prof. Musa Abiodun Aibinu were appointed Mogajis of Alaadorin, Yemetu, Ogirilogun, Ita-Baale Ogboriefon, Jakin Olukade, Elekuro and Aibinu Omo, Oranyan area.

Also, Adedayo Akinola Sanda, Alhaji Mutiu Olugboyega Badmus and Prof. Abiodun Gbolagade became Mogajis of Alegongo, (Beyerunka), Apadi, (Oja'ba) and Lato (Oke-Labo) families respectively, Raifu Gbadeyanka, Dr. Gbadebo Odebode, Muideen Rafiu Badmus, Olatilewa Olufemi, Abraham Ademola Asare Owo and Mufutau Arasi Ogunwale were appointed as Baales of Jenriyin, Eniosa Igbo-Oloyin, Oyagaga, Ogaara Odugun, Ayetoro and Jaarija villages respectively.

Katsina Gov Orders Each LGA To Distribute 36,100 Bags Of Maize To Cushion Hardship

By; SULAIMAN
AHMED MISAU,
Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has directed the 34 local government councils in the state to procure thirty-six thousand, one hundred (36,100) bags of maize for citizens

to cushion the hardship induced by the removal of fuel subsidy and increase in the pump price of petrol. "Katsina State Government has ordered the purchase of grains for immediate distribution to citizens of the state," Chief Press Secretary to Governor Dikko Umaru Radda, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed said in a statement he issued to journalists in Katsina, pointing out that, the 36,100 bags of the maize would be distributed to

residents of their respective local government areas free of charge.

Mohammed Kaula said Governor Dikko Radda announced this in his office, while receiving the followers and executives of the opposition New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) from the three Senatorial Zones of the State, who were led by Senator Abdu Yandoma.

Mohammed Kaula said the ex-NNPP members and Senator Abdu Umar Yandoma quit their former party and joined the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC.

He said Governor Umaru Radda, while welcoming the new APC members, said Katsina Government would also order extra consignments of rice, maize and fertilizer from the Federal Government

for distribution to people and farmers in the State.

Governor Radda said his administration is determined to better the lot of Katsina masses, and solicited for the support of all and sundry towards fulfilling his campaign promises.

He assured the decampers that they would be carried along in the scheme of things by the ruling APC government in the State.

Consequently, Governor Radda directed the 34 Katsina local governments' party chairmen in the state to work hand in hand with the NNPP defectors.

The State APC Chairman, Alhaji Sani Aliyu Daura, assured that the ex-NNPP supporters would be treated equally with other card-carrying members of the ruling party.

On his part, the former

State Chairman of the NNPP, Alhaji Sani Liti Yan Kwani, who was once the Majority Leader of the State House of Assembly, said their resolve to dump their opposition party for the APC, was necessitated by the inspiring leadership Governor Radda is already offering to citizens of Katsina.

Alhaji Liti Yan kwani urged Governor Dikko Umaru Radda to revive the economic zone in the State, so as to attract more business partners and outlets.

While speaking, Senator Abdu Umar Yandoma maintained that their ex-NNPP supporters were not enticed to join the ruling party in the State.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda presented APC membership cards to the former NNPP officials and

Quality Assurance: Kebbi SUBEB, UBEC Flag Off Training Of 100 Personnel

By; **ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna**

Kebbi State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) in collaboration with Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) on Monday commenced training of 100 Quality Assurance Officers in its bid to improve quality of teachers in State.

Chief Press Secretary to the State Governor, Ahmed Idris, in a statement, quoted the Acting Executive Chairman, SUBEB, Alhaji Hassan Umar as saying that the move is to key into quality assurance scheme towards ensuring quality in its basic education system. The training according to him is the third phase of five-day capacity building workshop for the State and Local Government Quality Assurance Officers in Kebbi.

Umar said education was about input-output process, adding that quality assurance aimed at reviewing the input, including all the provision made into education sector and evaluate the output that comes out which covered quality of teaching and learning processes.

"The quality of teaching and learning process will now determine the quality of outcome which also refers to the achievements and standards of the learners we have. Therefore, we want to commend UBEC for spareheading this training.

"I also wish to commend my principal, His Excellency, Dr Nasir Idris for approving this meeting to hold in Kebbi State. The governor is posed to ensure that Kebbi achieve the SDG goals of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of life-long opportunity for all.

"And the first step to achieve that, is to ensure that the quality of education is standardised especially at the basic level, as such, I have zeal for this training," he noted.

The statement further said the acting executive chairman encouraged the participants to be attentive as those who excel would be chosen to be among the SUBEB Quality Assurance Officers, while those who

fell would be transferred to other departments.

"We must ensure your quality first of all, before we allow you to evaluate the quality of schools and schools leadership," he assured.

According to the statement, the Executive Secretary, UBEC, Dr Hamid Bobboyi observed that being among the states to hold the third level training was an indication that Kebbi and its people had demonstrated strong political will towards providing a conducive environment for teaching and learning to thrive.

Bobboyi, who was represented by Dr Iliyasu Hussain, said it was the third level and the last in the training circle approved by the commission, adding that in the next circle, they intend to have another set of quality assurance officers that would undergo similar process, three consecutive trainings.

He said it was the intention of UBEC management that at the end of "this intensive training, participants will come out more skilful and more knowledgeable to discharge their duties effectively, because quality learner outcomes are the intended and expected effects of the education system."

He reminded the participants that both the state and federal governments had invested so much financial resources towards strengthening the capacity of monitoring officers in the basic education sector.

Earlier, the Director, Quality Assurance, UBEC, Malam Mansir Idris said the development of any nation was linked to the quality of education it provided to its citizenry over time. The statement added.

The Director, represented by Malam Dauda Umar, observed that both the Commission and the Board count on "your expertise and wealth of experience gained in this series of training to accomplish the tasks ahead in order to bring about effective changes leading to whole school improvement and entrenchment of effective quality assurance system in the states."

Hajj 2023: CSO Lauds Stakeholders, Calls For Review, Early Preparations For 2024

By; **JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano**

As the Hajj 2023 comes to an end for Nigerian pilgrims, the Independent Hajj Reporters (IHR), a civil society organisation that monitors and reports Hajj and Umrah activities, has called for a quick review of this year's Hajj operations with a view to taking proactive measures that will ensure a smooth 2024 Hajj.

This call was contained in a statement signed by the National Coordinator of IHR, Malam Ibrahim Muhammed, and made available to newsmen in Abuja on Tuesday.

The statement said, "We

acknowledge the efforts and support jointly extended to the cause of 2023 Hajj exercise by the Nigerian Hajj Stakeholders, especially the apex Hajj regulatory body – the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), States Muslim Pilgrims Boards and Agencies, appointed Hajj Carriers, security agencies, para-military establishments, NGOs and volunteers, in making 2023 Hajj a relative success."

The CSO added that it equally noted the efforts of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, his Vice, Kashim Shettima, and other diplomatic officials

towards the success of 2023 Hajj.

"We equally commend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its commitment towards the welfare of guests of AlRahman.

"Transporting about 95,000 Nigerians to another country and returning them back safely is not an easy task. At the same time, housing over 2.5 million pilgrims from 163 Hajj participating countries for over a period of two months by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an extraordinary achievement.

"In the same vein, airlifting 72,189 pilgrims from a single airport in 28 days by five Hajj carriers

is a great effort and we commend all those involved in this feat". the group said.

IHR however advised that the challenges of poor services experienced in 2023 Hajj must be reviewed and addressed with a view to avoiding similar unfair experiences. "The only way to avoid the challenges encountered, particularly in Mashaer, is to quickly and logically begin preparations for 2024 Hajj in line with the newly released Calendar of events by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. "Sentiments and self-interest should take a back seat in the planning of 2024 Hajj," the statement said.



In Ebonyi Over 1,200 Victims Of Flood Disaster Receive NEMA Relief Materials, Story on Page 4

Criminals Disguising As Commuters To Snatch Vehicles In Nasarawa

By; **SAMSON YAKI, Lafia**

The Nasarawa State Police Command has said that criminals are now disguising as passengers to snatch vehicles from unsuspecting motorists in the state.

A statement issued by the state's Police Public

Relations Officer, DSP Ramhan Nansel, warned road users to avoid picking up passengers by the roadside.

"The Nasarawa State Police Command wishes to inform members of the public that it has uncovered a technique criminals now use to dispossess unsuspecting

owners of their vehicles.

"The criminals usually disguise as passengers to stop vehicles plying Lafia-Abuja/Akwanga –Keffi routes and thereafter, dispossess them of the same vehicle," the statement reads.

Nansel said the Commissioner of Police in the state, Maiyaki Baba,

urged members of the public to always go to approved motor parks to board commercial vehicles.

The police commissioner asked residents to be security conscious, adding that the command is working to ensure that the criminals are arrested.



Some participants at the seminar

NLC Planned Strike: Northern CSOs Give Reasons For Pulling Out

Earlier, NLC in a statement signed by its National President, Joe Ajaero, accused the Tinubu-led Federal Government of failing to meet up with the demands it presented to it following the removal of the subsidy on petrol

"But after critical study of the disadvantages and overall consequences on the masses, we decided to pull out immediately and asked the labour unions and federal government to rather embrace dialogue." The CSOs said.

The decision to pull out contained in a statement jointly signed by Chairman and Secretary

of the Arewa Coalition, Comrade Ibraheem Suleman Dogo and Comrade Friday Luka Dalung was basically because, the planned strike action is not the best way to resolve problems emerging from current harsh economic conditions caused by the removal of fuel subsidy.

Adding that the strike would also cripple the country as movement would be severely curtailed with markets, schools and healthcare facilities forced to shut down.

The statement further reads, "We can't afford to go back to the days, when

the federal government use monies meant for development of public infrastructure; education, health care and jobs for payment of subsidy to rich marketers.

"We can't also continue to feed smugglers and act as 'Father Christmas' to neighbouring countries.

"It is for these reasons we recommend for dialogue and more robust discussion on the matters arising from fuel subsidy removal.

"It would be recalled that President Tinubu, while addressing Nigerians on June 12 Democracy Day commemoration, said he came to the decision in order to free the country's

resources from the stranglehold of unpatriotic elements.

"We expect the labour unions and relevant stakeholders to look beyond the harsh Policies now and consider the future of a sustainable economy that will bring about overall development across all sphere of life.

"However, between now and tomorrow, Wednesday, August 2, we urge the Federal Government to invite representatives of the organised labour in an effort to stop the nationwide strike called by the Nigeria Labour Congress."

Clubkonnnect Determined To Improve Livelihood Of Nigerians - GM

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The General Manager of Clubkonnnect, Mr. Joseph Oyebanji has hinted that the outfit is determined to improve the livelihood of Nigerians

Mr Oyebanji dropped this hint while speaking at skills acquisition and empowerment seminar organized and sponsored by Clubkonnnect Nigeria held at NUJ Hall, Broadcasting Corporation of Oyo State (BCOS), Ibadan.

He stressed in view of this, there is the need for youths and adults in the country to embrace introduction of another streams of income by Clubkonnnect

According to him, "with the level of growing inflation rate and cost of living in Nigeria, a single source of income is not enough to sustain any usual standard of living again"

Mr Oyebanji pointed out that Clubkonnnect is an organization with keen interest in improving the livelihood of Nigerians with training in skills such as "Printing Recharge Cards from Your Phone without Any Software Installation" regardless of their status and strata in the society

At the training, participants were also enlightened on how to earn commissions through Dstv, Gotv and Startimes subscriptions as well as on how to become a vendor of IBEDC Prepaid Meter Energy Recharge tokens and earn commissions from same.

The Clubkonnnect Marketing and Media

Manager, Mr Abayomi Balogun while said Clubkonnnect "is a brand that gives optimum value for money to Nigerians on Airtime and Data Recharge of MTN, Glo, Airtel and 9mobile from the Clubkonnnect App and v i a www.clubkonnnect.com.

The Lead Strategy Consultant of Clubkonnnect, Mr. Johnson Babatunde in his remarks said it's high time we all started enjoying the irresistible offers on data bundles, airtime and other products that are available on the Clubkonnnect App, adding, 1GB data for just N140 is only possible on the Clubkonnnect platform in Nigeria.

Mr Babatunde advised participants at the seminar not to forget the opportunities brought to them by Clubkonnnect, citing that embracing it would better their lives and accelerate their spur for financial independence and prosperity

One of the participants, identified as Bola expressed her excitement over the simplicity of printing recharge cards directly from her smartphone, she was delighted to learn about the income opportunities that are available through Dstv and other service providers subscriptions. The training was aimed to equip participants with valuable knowledge on how to achieve financial independence through Clubkonnnect and it is titled becoming a boss of yourself.



Senate To Utomi: We Will Not Mock Masses

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Senate on Sunday, described as misplaced, a comment credited to a chieftain of the Labour Party, Professor Pat Utomi, over the decision of the Senate to stop the planned increase of electricity tariffs which would further increase the suffering of the masses.

This was contained in a statement issued by the Chairman, Media and Publicity Committee of the Senate, Yemi Adaramodu.

According to the statement, "the Senate is alarmed at the insidious misinterpretation enunciated by some political surrealists, who always leave the causes of their troubles to look for unnecessary scapegoats". "The personal tirades and character assaults hauled at the Senate President by Professor Pat Utomi, are

misdirected and uncalled for. Insinuating that the President of the Senate, His Excellency, Godswill Akpabio, was mocking the Nigerian masses with the phrase 'LET THE POOR BREATHE, is dressing falsehood and mischief in an undesirable garment", it said.

The statement added, "The Senate is an Assembly of Distinguished men and women, who are sent by the Nigerian public to the Hallowed Chamber to represent their interests. The public-interest motion to halt an increase in the electricity tariff for Nigerians is one of such instances that tests the Senatorial responsiveness of Distinguished members of the 10th Senate.

"With the fire of the fuel subsidy removal still smouldering, the Senate opined that any increase in electricity tariff would be suffocating and that whoever is desirous in

doing so should allow the poor; all Nigerians to breathe'.

The statement stressed, "The Senate President compassionately, hit the gavel with a stoic warning that any such attempts would be obnoxious, ludicrous and could only seize oxygen from the reach of the masses", adding, "Despite this open display of patriotism and sensitivity, some politicians and turncoats feel they could turn the omnipotent actuality on its head to gain their lost momentum.

"The Senate didn't and would not mock the masses, without who, there would be no Nigerian Senate. Who, digging into an extreme partisanship to impugn on the image of the Senate and particularly the personality of the Senate President, is quite unfortunate and an exhibition of political

superficialism, irreverent and opprobrious outburst.

"We believe that whoever is in the court to pursue a self-awarded electoral victory should not labour to assume that running expletives on the Senate and its leadership is the needed elixir to infuse legal blood into the dry veins of their case.

According to the statement, "The 10th Senate, under the leadership of Senate President Godswill Akpabio, has passed many life support resolutions in its short span, including the misinterpreted Senate's No to Increase in Electricity Tariff, adding, "We thus advise political rolling stones and pretenders not to play politics with the lives of Nigerians and allow the National Assembly to join hands with other arms of government to pull out Nigeria from economic morass and make life more abundant for us all".

Fintiri Goes Tough, Says Return Your Loot Or Face Wrath Of Law

**To commence searching of houses*



Gov Umaru Fintiri

By TINA PHINEAS, YOLA

Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State has issued a stern warning to the hoodlums that looted government and private facilities on Sunday to return their loot on or before 12noon on Tuesday to the nearest Police Stations or face the wrath of the law.

The governor who gave the warning in a special broadcast to the people of Adamawa, explained that after the expiration of the deadline, he will sign an Executive Order to commence house-to-house search.

"Part of the provisions of the order is a sanction that will attract withdrawal of C of O and if necessary, demolition of every house that harbour any of the stolen property".

Fintiri urged law abiding citizens to cooperate with the security agencies to ensure this is enforced to the later.

"I am calling on parents to handover their deviant wards and the stolen goods to the security agencies or equally face the wraths of the law," he said.

The Governor maintained that the attack on Government warehouse is a criminal activity that must be condemned by all of us.

"The perpetrators of this heinous activity and their accomplice would certainly be dealt with as

criminals.

There indeed cannot be any situation that would justifiably warrant this level of aberrant resort to brigandage.

Fellow citizens, we have a State to govern and it is a serious business.

"Our responsibility is to all Adamawa citizens across the entire 21 Local Government Areas of the State.

"We must collectively, cooperate to deal with these hoodlums who have found it convenient to break into our warehouses and loot at their own convenience.

If we don't do this today, chances are that their next destination would be our homes and businesses.

"As a government, we are conscious of our primary responsibility of providing the right security to the lives and properties of the State and the Citizens", the governor stated.

Fintiri disclosed that so far, about 90 suspects caught in the act have been arrested, investigations are still ongoing.

He promised to deal decisively with anyone who aided and abetted the looting of government facility.

While apologizing for inconveniences caused by the curfew regimes, Fintiri reassure the people of Adamawa of government's commitment to the protection of lives and property.

Adelabu Deserves Ministerial Appointment - Ex ALGON Chair

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Former Chairman of Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON) in Oyo State, Prince Ayodeji Abass-Aleshinloye has declared that Chief Adebayo Adelabu deserves his appointment as Minister designate from Oyo State.

Prince Aleshinloye in a statement personally signed by him on Monday, said, "having demonstrated core attributes of integrity, exemplary character, selfless service as a renowned technocrat and popular democrat in his national assignment and political duties", it was glaring that he deserved the appointment.

Prince Aleshinloye emphasized that Chief Adelabu's immeasurable contributions to the growth and development of CBN, where he worked as the deputy governor for

four years remains indelible have shown that he is worthy of the appointment.

"It did not come to us as a surprise that Agbaakin Parakoyi of Ibadanland, Chief Adelabu, made the ministerial list considering his exceptional public track record and personal contributions to the development of Ibadan land and Oyo State in general", he said.

The former ALGON Chairman added, "President Tinubu has proven by nominating Adelabu that he is truly a brilliant strategic head hunter of quality team of skillful performers for development who does not consider petty pedestrian politicking or blackmail when there is serious business of government at hand".

"There is no doubt in my mind that this ministerial



Adelabu

nomination from the President will encourage Adelabu, a former governorship candidate in

Oyo state, to do more for the good people of Oyo State in particular and Nigerians in general".

Tinubu Ministerial Nominees List Disappointing - NNPP Chieftain

**Says list is recycling of old politicians*

By: **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

New Nigeria's People's Party, (NNPP), Chieftain in Ogun State, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Monday, described names of Ministerial nominees by President Tinubu as a disappointment to Nigerians.

Ambassador Ajadi who said this in a statement made available to journalists in Ibadan, lamented that the names of ministerial nominees was nothing but, "recycling of old politicians"

He stressed that Nigerians are expecting young and energetic Nigerians as Ministers and not the recycling of old politicians as new Ministers under President Tinubu

"We are expecting young and energetic Nigerians as Ministers. The recycling of old politicians in Tinubu's cabinet is a disappointment. Nigerians at this time needed committed, highly resourceful youths, not recycling of old and bemused politicians, most of whom did nothing tangible in the states they ruled for eight years", he said.

Ambassador Ajadi added, "President Tinubu is getting it wrong with the calibre of people he has picked to work with. Most of the Ministerial nominees have been in government since 1999. Nigeria needs young people with fresh ideas and enough energy and mental resources because the country is presently in a precarious situation"

On fuel subsidy removal,

the NNPP Chieftain said President Tinubu ought to have planned well and put in place palliative measures before removing subsidy on petroleum products and that he should immediately provide succour to Nigerians who have been suffering untold hardship as a result of his removal of subsidy on petroleum products.

Emphasizing that President Tinubu should let the welfare of Nigerians be his priority, Ambassador Ajadi frowned at what he called the dilly-dallying posture of the present administration over palliatives. Adding that Nigerians are going through excruciating pain and they deserve immediate succour

"First of all, you can no longer delay the palliatives because your policies are biting hard on ordinary Nigerians. There is the need for the President to increase civil servant salaries and when that is done, he should not forget the pensioners. I suggest N200,000 Minimum wage for workers to cushion the effects of the removed subsidy. Acceding to N200,000 minimum wage will show that President Tinubu is a democrat who cares for the welfare of the citizens he is governing".

The NNPP gubernatorial candidate in Ogun State during the last general election pointed out that President Tinubu ought to have planned well and put in place palliative measures before removing subsidy on petroleum products.

Fuel Subsidy Removal: Don't Take Nigerians For Granted Again On August 2, SPN Tells NLC, TUC

**Urges unions leadership to remain resolute on demands for total reversal of petrol price*

By: **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The Socialist Party of Nigeria (SPN) on Sunday, cautioned the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) against taking Nigerians for granted once again by calling off the planned August 2 action over removal of subsidy on Petrol.

SPN in a statement signed by its Acting National Chairperson, Comrade Abiodun Bamigboye and National Secretary, Comrade Chinedu Bosah charged the NLC and the TUC leadership to remain resolute on its demands for a total reversal of the price of petrol and to end all anti-poor policies.

In the statement, SPN declared that as far as it was concerned, the said presidential palliative steering committee "is a mere distraction and a ploy by the Federal Government to continue to hold the labour down from building a mass resistance".

"As far as we are concerned, the so called presidential palliative steering committee is a mere distraction and a ploy

by the Federal Government to continue to hold the labour down from building a mass resistance against its continuous economic attacks on mass of the Nigeria working people", it said

The party added, "Above all, we urge the leadership of the NLC and TUC not to take the Nigerian working people for granted once again by calling off the planned action before it takes off or wins any real concession. Rather, labour must take the August 2nd action as first among several activities needed to build a nationwide mass resistance to rescue the long suffering working masses of Nigeria".

"It is in the light of this, we call on the leadership of both NLC and TUC to remain resolute on its demands for a total reversal of the price of petrol and to end all anti-poor policies. We also call on the labour leaderships to discontinue their participation in the palliative presidential steering Committee".

According to SPN, "In principle, the labour's continuous participation in the presidential steering Committee on subsidy

palliative absolutely contradicts the demand for a total reversal to the old price of petrol stated in the notice of mass action earlier issued by the leadership of NLC to the Federal government".

"It also raises a huge doubt over the labour readiness and seriousness for its declared August 2nd mass action. There is also a need to initiate and convene a joint meeting of representatives of workers, students, youths, socialist organisations and radical political parties at the national, state down to the community level."

SPN emphasized that this "should be with a view to setting up democratically-constituted action committees that will be responsible for effective mobilisation and co-ordination of the planned mass action at all levels", saying, "For us in the SPN, a 48hour general strike should be considered as the next step after the August 2 nationwide Mass action!"

"The attention of the Socialist Party of Nigeria (SPN) has been drawn to media reports of the

walkout staged by the leadership of both the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) from the meeting of the presidential steering Committee on petrol subsidy removal palliatives. This was said to be occasioned by the absence of the key government representatives like the Chief of Staff (CoS) to the President among others in the meeting of the presidential steering Committee on subsidy removal palliatives meant to hold on the 28th July, 2023 at the Aso rock.

"The basis for the walkout is valid and labour leadership was correct to say that it suggests that the government is not ready and serious about the palliatives. However, we hold that, contrary to their argument it is the labour leadership themselves who are being deceived by the government, not the mass of the Nigerian working people. Therefore, we fault the decision of the labour leadership to attend the so called steering committee in the first instance.

Ondo: Our Abductors Collected N2.2m, Cooked Rice, Cigarettes, 'Fearless' Before Releasing Us, Victims Reveal

By: **ADEBOYE ADO, Akure**

Following the release of five workers kidnapped by unknown gunmen four days ago along Ogbagi-Ikare road in Ondo State, the victims have narrated their gruesome experience.

Mr. Sedu Jimoh (62) Onmyni Oloche (34), a staff, driver and food vendor whose name was not revealed, were kidnapped and whisked away by the daredevil gunmen on Friday night.

The victims who are staff of an electricity firm working on Federal Government power project in Ikare-Akoko in the Akoko North East Local Government Area of the State, were released after their captors reportedly collected a lump

sum of N2.2m.

According to the victims, the kidnappers who starved them for four days in the bush, also collected cooked rice, cigarettes two packs of energy drink and meat before they could regain their freedom.

Speaking on behalf of others on Monday, Mr. Jimoh who is the site supervisor, told our correspondent that the kidnappers whom he described as heartless, had subjected them to excruciating pains.

Narrating the nerve-racking ordeal, Jimoh said "our abductors resembled Fulanis and they usually pretend as if they are rearing cows whenever they hear strange voice"

"They usually tie our hands



Some of the victims

every night before we sleep. Initially they demanded for N50 million but we paid N2.2 million as ransom before they could released us.

"They also collected cooked rice, cigarettes, two cartoons of Fearless and meat. Two others are in the hospital because they were tortured by the kidnappers." The victims however,

appealed to the government to beef up security in the country.

A community leader from Ikare-Akoko, Alhaji Sule Olaniyi, called on government and security agencies to always protect contractors handling projects, while urging residents to report strange faces marauding the area.



Tinubu (left) with Ajadi

Information Commissioner Seeks Media Support In Marketing Governor Eno's ARISE Agenda

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Commissioner for Information in Akwa Ibom State, Comrade Ini Ememobong has appealed to journalists in the state to assist the ministry in marketing the ARISE Agenda of Governor Umo Eno as government moved to implementation.

At a meeting with Correspondents in Uyo, the state capital, Comrade Ememobong said that ARISE Agenda, a thoroughly grafted agenda with action points and aspirations of Governor Umo Eno, has become a social contract between the government and the governed.

He tasked journalists to interrogate and fully understand the ARISE Agenda, Governor's economic blueprint in order to fully understand and key into the implementation processes as it unfolds. The Information Boss stated that interrogating the contents of ARISE Agenda to know what it stands for by journalists has become necessary so that they can use it to hold the government to account.

He said that, the administration would therefore, look forward to the media support through agenda setting, feed forward and feedbacks devoid of malice and sentiment.

His words "People in representative capacity interrogated the document and now accept this document as the working document of this administration. Therefore the transitioning between being the private document, the political party agenda to an economic blueprint of government is why I am here.

"And very simply, the government should be judged by this. This has become a social contract and if you read the agenda, you will discover that it is a thoroughly grafted agenda with points and with action points, aspirations clearly listed.

"So the marketing of this agenda is the duty of the Ministry of Information, but the interrogation of this agenda is the duty of the press and you are well positioned to Interrogate.

"You need to know what it stands for, what it represents, what it promises, so that you can use it to hold the government to account.

Ememobong who promised to avail himself for interrogation on issues across the agenda of the administration further explains:

"So the Arise Agenda stands for Agric revolution, rural development, Infrastructure, security, economic and education. Then you see a lot of drop downs. There are 18 focal areas that are drawn from these five aspirations.

"Agric revolution, environmental management, rural development and youth empowerment, Infrastructure Maintenance and advancement, security management, quality educational and health sector management, economic, industrial and social advancement". He said The commissioner regretted that vandalism has continued to frustrate government effort to develop some rural communities, and tasked the media to consistently advocate for community ownership on projects located in across the state.





COMMUNITY FOCUS

Gudau-Jola Road: Community Members Cry Out To Kano State Govt.

By: JABIRUAHASSAN, Kano.

The people of Gudau Jola community, a town in Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area have sent an SOS to kano State Government to intervene by fixing a portion of the highway which has been in a state of disrepair.

Our correspondent went on a tour of the 2.5 km long highway which serves as connecting channel to vehicles conveying goods and persons from Dungurawa to

Gudau Jola Town, reported that users of the road classified as major and secondary find it difficult plying it, especially during the rainy season.

The road is important due to the strategic roles it plays in connecting various villagers in and around the axis.

Whenever the rainy season becomes more intense, the people of Gudau Jola and other villages surrounding the area are cut off completely from all parts of the state, while others seek for alternative routes for

vehicular movements.

Spokesperson of the community, Alhaji Muazu Wanzan Gudau Jola lamented the deplorable condition of the highway, saying socioeconomic activities had been grounded, affecting the fortunes of the people.

He added that the people of Gudau Jola, Yar Gudau, Zaura, Kirya, Kyauta Ruga, Dan Amar and some part of Masha villages use the road for decades which needs government intervention.

He however commended the new administration in the State for the determination of Governor Kabiru Yusuf to positively impact lives of people in the State.

He expressed optimism that Governor Yusuf would not hesitate to put smiles on the faces of people of the community by putting the road in good serviceable condition.



APC Nat'l Chair: Solution Is In Boss To Take Party To Next Level - Dr Abdallah *Calls on President Tinubu, party chieftains to give Ex-SGF the party's national office



Boss Mustapha

By; TOM GARBA, Yola
The All Progressives Congress (APC) is seen as the democratic and connecting rod for Nigeria's economic vibrancy and development, but a big internal squabble messing up the party is to the detriment of all Nigerians. In the light of this, a passionate call was made to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the party's critical minds, and chieftains, to put sentiments apart and shop for a good man who is vast, with the requisite experience of party politics to take APC to the next level of leadership in the interest of the nation. An APC-card carrying member and passionate believer of the party's manifesto, Dr. Yakubu Abdalla critically analyzed the underlying factors that are causing the party to drift out of unity and concluded that the party is yet to get a good man to pilot its affairs. Dr. Abdallah who is a UK-based Critical Infrastructure

Management Consultant in an interview with this medium, said the underlying factors always threatening the party, leading to crisis are multi-faceted in nature and it takes people with no sentiments to understand the need for urgent intervention the party desires by getting the right for the job. He said a party man with less interest in personal gains and matured to handle the party's affairs by embracing everyone under the atmosphere of fairness, is capable of taking APC to a permanent position of leading the country at all costs. Dr. Abdallah who is a product of Cambridge, a UK university, and in tandem with the politics of Nigeria, said APC has all it takes to remain the only national party in Nigeria for leadership, if Tinubu will consider the immediate past Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Barrister Boss Mustapha OFR, to be called in as the national chairman.

According to him, Boss Mustapha has all it takes to unite the party in the interest of everyone, especially those within the party as bonafide members. Dr Abdallah who is the CEO/MD of Guildhall Global Services (London) Ltd and its branch in Nigeria waxing strong, extolled Mustapha to be a selfless Nigerian and his interest of the party at heart, which is what will be of paramount importance. "Our party must get it right this time around, Tinubu should be magnanimous to those with the zest to support him well in his crave for development for the nation at the party level. His guiding wisdom in shopping for the right Man for party leadership should be void of personal interest for whatever reasons. "Considering how Mustapha worked with President Muhammadu Buhari in the SGF office, it is certain to say that he will equally succeed in the office of the APC

headquarters as its National Chairman "My passionate appeal to President Tinubu and APC critical minds is to give Mustapha a trial by calling on him to lead the party, my interest in all this is the person that will change the negative narrative of our dear party and I think I'm seeing that in Boss Mustapha. "We need a man like Mustapha who is well educated in party politics, he has been there and earned all the experience to take us as a party to a constant light of national leadership," Abdullah said The APC die-hard gave assurances of having permanent peace in APC because the solution to all the crisis is laying fallow on Boss Mustapha. "I think it is wisdom to tap from the untapped wealth of party politics of Boss Mustapha, Mr. President Sir, for the love I have for my party give him the national office to Chair, I believe all issues will be well resolved that will lead to national development. " He added

Zazzau Emirate Reshuffles, Appoints Another As District Head Of Basawa Resigns

By SANIALIYU, Zaria
Sequel to the resignation of Madakin Zazzau, Alhaji Muhammad Munnir Ja'afaru from the District Headship of Basawa in a letter dated July 29, 2023, to the emirate, the Emir of Zazzau, His Highness, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli has approved the appointment of Architect Haruna Abubakar Bamalli Barde Kerrariyyan Zazzau, District Head of Zangon Aya as the new District Head of Basawa. A statement signed by Abdullahi Aliyu Kwarbai,

Media and Publicity Officer Zazzau Emirate, said the emir also approved the appointment of Wamban Doko, Alhaji Ibrahim Sani Zubairu as the new District Head of Rigacikun, while the incumbent District Head of Rigacikun, Bajimin Kudun Zazzau, Alhaji Abdurashid Sani has been moved to Zangon Aya as the new District Head. According to the statement, all appointments and movements of the District Heads are with immediate effect.



Alh. Ibrahim Sani Zubairu, Wamban Doko, new District Head of Rigacikun.



Arc. Haruna Abubakar Bamalli, Barde Kerarriyan Zazzau, new District Head of Basawa

Fuel Subsidy: Zulum Targets 1.8m Persons In New Phase Of Palliatives, Shares Food To 400 Resettlement Houses

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has flagged off a fresh phase of palliatives which is targeting about 300,000 households with about six persons per household to reach one million and eight hundred thousand persons in need.

Zulum launched the distribution yesterday at Muna IDPs camp in Jere Local Government Area.

The governor explained that Borno started the initial distribution of palliatives about one month ago, while scaling up the exercise to key into presidential food emergency declaration.

“President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has recently declared an emergency on food security across the country. In compliance with the declaration and to complement federal government's efforts to alleviate the suffering caused by fuel subsidy removal, we have since rolled out a palliative distribution initiative targeting 300,000 households”, Zulum said.

He also noted that the initial distribution of palliative was conducted in Gwoza and three communities in Kukawa LGA which include Baga, Cross Kauwa and Doron Baga.

The governor added that the initiative is aimed at reducing the

hardship occasioned by the fuel subsidy removal for the average of 300,000 most vulnerable families.

Under the initiative, each eligible beneficiary received N5,000 cash, a bag of rice, a bag of beans and one wrapper (for women).

Zulum emphasized that his administration will prioritize the welfare of the people and ensure that all measures are put in place to alleviate the hardship faced by citizens.

The governor urged citizens to give maximum support to the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, stating that the hardship resulting from the fuel subsidy removal is temporary.

“I want to urge the people of

Borno State to support the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. I want you to understand that subsidy is not sustainable, we understand that people will feel the impact adversely at the initial stage, but in the long run, it will be beneficial to all of us”, Zulum said.

Meanwhile, Governor Zulum on Tuesday distributed 400 houses to vulnerable IDPs from five communities displaced by Boko Haram insurgents.

The communities are Maibukarti, Jibrinti, Mainari Shuwa, Mainari Kanuri and Tilori.

The 400 houses are sited at a resettlement estate constructed

by Borno State Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement.

During a brief ceremony, Governor Zulum also shared resettlement packages to the 400 households allotted the houses.

Each household got rice, maize grain, mats, wrapper and cash support.

Borno State has been at the centre of insurgency for more than a decade, but with recent victories by the Nigerian Military, Borno State Government was able to return more than one million displaced persons to the newly built resettlement houses and reconstructed communities.



Fuel Subsidy: Zulum Targets 1.8m Persons In New Phase Of Palliatives, Shares Food To 400 Resettlement Houses



FIRS: Tax, The Untaxed And The Taxables

By; SALISU NA'INNA DAMBATTA

It is common truth that no country on earth, including Nigeria, is able to tax all the taxables, or even bring all the untaxed into the tax net. Tax registers everywhere rarely contain all the untaxed as required by the tax laws.

Even though the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) which last tax year (2022) celebrated a record N10.1 trillion tax collection for the federation, the country wants it to generate more than that amount of money in 2023.

It is a positively achievable ambition by the top tax man, Muhammadu Nami, who turbo-charged the tax gathering machinery to haul that N10.1 trillion despite low oil revenue and targeted tax waivers and holidays granted to encourage higher economic activities in some sectors. In 2022, over ₦1.8 trillion was granted in tax waivers and incentives. If this had been collected by the FIRS in tax revenue, the agency would have raked in almost N12 trillion in 2022.

As at the half of 2023, the FIRS had raked in over N5.5 trillion. Two interesting facts make this tax revenue collection remarkable. One, it is the highest tax revenue collection made in the first six months of any fiscal year. And in June of 2023 alone, N1.6 trillion was raked in—the highest tax revenue collection made in a single month in Nigeria's history.

While ₦10.1 trillion is phenomenal by any standards, a doubling of this can be achieved by the FIRS and State Revenue Services if they can successfully tax the untaxed and bring in the taxables. A consultant's report submitted to the former Minister of Finance, Mrs. Kemi Adeosun identified and listed about a thousand taxable activities that could yield huge revenue for Nigeria that were yet untaxed.

For instance, the countless iron mongers in cities, towns and villages all over the country, who forge beautiful doors, windows, security and ornamental railings, are



definitely untaxed. The National Bureau of Statistics reported that in the third and fourth quarters of 2021 iron, steel and metals worth N837 billion were imported to Nigeria. Road-side informal iron-mongers who turn a significant portion of those products into useful items do not pay tax on their production activities.

The furniture industry in Nigeria has been transformed beyond imagination. So also the entertainment sector. Both are probably untaxed, or minimally taxed. The two sub-sectors can be taxed appropriately to boost Federal government revenue.

Hewers of wood, lumberers and drawers of water are depleting our forests, turning Savannah to sahelian bushes, rain forests into derived Savannah, just to produce charcoal for energy and timber for construction and furniture, without being taxed. Taxing

them heavily enough can discourage the destruction of the country's flora, and consequently, fauna, and the whole environment.

Another way in which huge tax revenue is lost is through dodging withholding tax by landlords who own rental properties such as residential, business premises and even undeveloped plots let out to mechanics and other artisans.

Huge number of warehouses let out at profitable rates are mostly untaxed, especially those which are located in the outskirts of major cities: Lagos, Abuja, Kaduna, Port Harcourt, Kano, Ibadan, Warri, Onitsha and even Owerri, among others.

The "unrecorded and unmonitored" economy, reportedly constituted a huge 57.7 per cent of the country's total economy in 2022. It thrives and enriches its operators, but deprives the national treasury of a fraction

of its treasures through the payment of taxes or fees and levies.

"The size of Nigeria's informal (shadow) economy is estimated to be 57.7% which represents approximately \$1,164 billion (over a trillion USD) at GDP PPP," a report based on Quarterly Informal Economy Survey (QIES) by World Economics, London, indicates.

The \$1,164 billion shadow economy in 2022 alone, is just a shadow below nine times the cost of the Kano-Maradi and Kano-Dutse Gadawur dual track railway lines under construction. Nigeria borrowed \$1.9 billion to finance the project. Collecting just ten per cent of \$1,164 billion would have almost covered the price of the project. That lost tax revenue derivable from the shadow economy could have been utilised in massive rural electrification projects to power micro and

small businesses that contribute to economic growth in rural areas.

It is perhaps in its bid to tax the untaxed that the FIRS recently entered a partnership with the Market Traders Association of Nigeria (MATAN), where the FIRS would educate members of MATAN on tax payments and cooperate with them to charge and remit Value Added Tax (VAT) in the course of their businesses. This masterstroke partnership may hold the key to untapping the volume of taxes hitherto uncollected from country's trillion-dollar worth informal sector.

More of these kinds of partnerships need to be seen between tax authorities and organized unions in the business place if the FIRS and its colleagues in the State Internal Revenue Services must tax the untaxed taxables.

Salisu Na'inna Dambatta is a retired federal Director of Information.

Buratai Foundation Gifts N250,000 To Zamfara Pilgrim For Returning \$80,000 Found In Saudi Arabia



By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The TY Buratai Humanitarian Foundation, on Sunday, gifted N250,000 to a Zamfara pilgrim, Hajiya Aisha Nahuche, who found and returned \$80,000 equivalent to over N84 million, to authority while at Holy Land. The foundation also honoured her with certificate as an 'Ambassador of Honesty.' In his speech, the chairman of the foundation, Hon. Ibrahim Danfulani at the Zamfara State Hajj Commission, Gusau, the state capital, said what Hajiya Nahuche did, was an act of honesty. He said the act has not only restored faith in humanity, but has also inspired other Muslims to strive for a better world.

According to him, the foundation was established in order to emulate the humanitarian efforts of the former Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai, a grand patrol of the foundation, who gave his entire life in service to the nation. "This foundation was established in order to emulate the humanitarian efforts of the former Chief of Army Staff His Excellency Amb (Lt Gen) Tukur Yusufu Buratai CFR, Garkuwan Keffi, Kauran Gusau who gave his entire life to his nation". Danfulani said. He further explained that the foundation is exceptional in helping the underprivileged, orphans, and widows, and also contributes to help people get stronger in a variety of fields by

appreciating their efforts. "We have the privilege of recognizing a lady who displayed exceptional character and moral courage. In a world where greed and dishonesty often prevail, she stood tall and made a decision that would inspire us all," he added. "This remarkable lady found a substantial sum of money worth over eighty thousand dollars that did not belong to her and instead of succumbing to the temptation that many would face, she chose the path of righteousness," he said. After finding the money, Hajiya Aisha Muhammad does not hesitate to return the money to Zamfara State Hajj Commission, headed by Amiru Hajj 2023 Alhaji Musa Mallaha Talban Gusau, from where the money

was later returned to the relevant authorities in Saudi Arabia, where it rightfully belonged. "Her act of integrity and selflessness serves as a shining example for all of us. It reminds us of the importance of doing what is right, even when nobody is watching. It teaches us that honesty is not just a virtue, but a powerful force that can inspire change and restore faith in humanity". Danfulani added. He maintained that the foundation has strived to make a difference in the lives of individuals and communities, and it is individuals like our honored guest who truly embody the spirit of the entire members of the foundation. Danfulani called on Nigerians to be inspired to cultivate honesty

and integrity in our daily lives, and to make choices that positively impact those around us. The foundation also honoured the Chairman Zamfara State Hajj Commission 2023 pilgrimage Committee and also Amirul Hajj, Alh Musa Mallaha Talban Gusau with ambassadorial recognition. According to him, the state Hajj Commission demonstrated sincerity and honesty by having the choice to remain silent while still returning the enormous sum of money to the Saudi authority. In a vote of thanks, the State Committee of 2023 Hajj exercise, also the Amirul Hajj, Alh. Nusa Mallaha, thanked the foundation for the gesture and recognition to Hajiya Aisha Muhammad Yanguru Nahuche.



Dangiwa: A Round Peg In Round Hole

By: ADAMUS LADAN

The Nigeria's red Chamber has on, Monday began the screening of the 28 ministerial nominees proposed to it by President Bola Tinubu.

Spokesperson of the Senate, Sen. Adeyemi Adaramodu (APC-Ekiti), disclosed this while addressing newsmen after the list of the nominees was read in the upper chamber last Thursday.

Adaramodu said that although the Senate was not supposed to sit Mondays, but because of the importance attached to this national assignment.

He assured that the screening would be thorough because the lawmakers were very much aware of the high expectations of those who would assist President Bola Tinubu in fulfillment of his mandate and the constitution.

"The Senate is going to examine the character, personality, the experiences, the background of every nominee and we believe at the end of it, Nigerians will not be disappointed.

Dangiwa a nominee from Katsina State One of the nominees however is, Arc. Ahmed Musa Dangiwa, the current Secretary to the Government of Katsina state (SGS). Until his appointment as the SGS about two months ago, Arc. Dangiwa held the position of Director General of the APC campaign council in Katsina State. A position he discharged responsibly which led the party to victory.

He took the party to victory despite the prevailing security and socio-economic challenges in the state. He puts greater efforts for the electorates to shamed the naysayers who predicted doom for the party and the nation.

He did ensure that, APC became a better party with people like him around despite his lost at the primary election.

He was among the aspirants who ran in the APC governorship primary election in Katsina State, in May 2022. Hence, his decision not only to stay in the party, but join hands with the winner, Dr. Dikko Umar Radda for the success of the party in the 2023 general elections.

It's instructive to note that Arc Dangiwa's contributions to the development of politics knows no bound as he had previously midwived CPC and APC as caretaker chairman at the various times of their formations in Katsina state. He had also contested for House of Representatives and Senatorial seats between 2003 and 2011.

DG APC Katsina State campaign council However, Arc Dangiwa

accepted to lead the APC campaign in Katsina State as Director General on 31st October 2022, based on his principle which according to him, was, "to stand with the poor, the unemployed, the elderly, the displaced population and those who cannot go to their farms, the helpless and the vulnerable, that needed us more than ever this time."

He did not only take that position with every sense of responsibility, but discharged it to the best of his ability for the party, the candidates, Katsina State and above all, the country.

Through his campaign council, he brought to the party, a sense of discipline and professionalism.

Thus, as promised, he led a modern, compassionate and democratic campaign approach that was accountable where every resource earmarked was deployed for the intended purpose.

He mobilised the campaign team to work with sense of unity, humility and modesty, which culminated into realising the objective of winning the 2023 elections.

The team spirit he built ensured every member viewed the APC candidature as not for the candidates alone, but every member of the party and even those non APC voters who genuinely love Katsina State and Nigeria.

Dangiwa did not limit his task to internal affairs of the campaign, but also liaised with external parsons, groups and parties, where he built positive relationships with potential partners who at the long run contributed in many ways to the party's successes.

Owing to the circumstance of limited financial resources, the APC campaign found itself in Katsina State, Arc. Dangiwa subscribed to the idea of fundraising dinner, which was held at the prestigious Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, On Wednesday, December 1, 2022.

This epoch making occasion, became a huge success and thus gave the financial muscles needed for the campaign to prosper.

However, that was not to say that the journey was smooth and devoid of hiccups. But even when such situations occurred, Arc. Dangiwa worked hard and surmounted them.

For instance, the fiscal policy somersault introduced by the Federal government particularly the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on the eve of the general elections, presented a herculean task for the campaign team. To restore the confidence of the



Architect Ahmed Musa Dangiwa

people on the party as well as its candidates, he skillfully deployed his decades mastery in the art of voter mobilisation to bring those values that got the APC candidates elected.

Through education, sensitisation and engagements, he presented Dikko Umar Radda as well as Bola Ahmed Tinubu on what they stood for, correctly and appropriately.

He equally deployed tactical mobilization that helped transmit the principles and values of conciliation which in the long run, promoted post-election peace building in Katsina State where the APC undertook one of the most peaceful campaigns in history.

If not for the Danmarke incident where APC team was attacked without any provocation by a section of the opposition, the campaign did not record a single incident of unpleasant circumstance throughout its state wide tour.

The campaign train was able to crisscross all the 361 wards of the 34 local government areas of the state, including the front line locations where banditry had become order of the day.

Arc. Dangiwa's campaign plan ensured that the state gubernatorial candidate and his entourage spent nights in most of the local government areas, where consultations were held with the locals, a move which the residents saw as spectacular.

The tour had achieved its effectiveness as it became a reference point of a modern mass movement akin to the period of late Malam Aminu Kano or the Buhari Organization.

To realise the objective of smooth sailing at the polls, Arc. Dangiwa made tremendous efforts at extending the hand of fellowship to aggrieved members of the party who were still agitated to taking adverse decisions, following the outcome of the party primaries and other concerns.

He personally led a team that resulted to not only the return of "defectors" but received decampes as well as persuaded those sitting on the fence to fully participate in the campaign.

The fruits of all these painstaking efforts became visible at the end of the 2023 general elections in Katsina State.

After the 25th February, 2023 national elections Katsina State was able to give president Tinubu 482,283 votes which also gave him the needed votes that immensely contributed to the victory of the party at the long run.

According to results declared by INEC for Gubernatorial election held on March 18th, 2023, APC candidate, Dr. Dikko Umar Radda polled 859,892 to emerge as the winner of the election.

The Peoples Democratic Party candidate, Yakubu Danmarke, polled 486,260, while Nura

Khalid of the New Nigeria Peoples Party polled 8,263 to become distant second and third runners respectively.

The party also secured all the three Senatorial seats and nine out of sixteen House of Representatives seats.

Following his remarkable performance during campaign and elections Dangiwa later led Katsina State transition council as co-chairman. He anchored the seamless transition ever witnessed in the state.

Even after that, Arc. Dangiwa demonstrated uncommon patriotism when he accepted to serve as the SGS. Mallam Dikko Radda revealed this when he said "we pleaded with him to accept to serve the state in this capacity, and he did so in spite of his pedigree being a former Managing Director of the nation's premier mortgage institution, the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN)."

His stints as the SGS in less than two months, saw tremendous turn around of public institutions and the art of governance in Katsina State. He engineered and drove public service reforms, where justice, equity and professionalism and financial discipline are now brought to the fore.

Stint at FMBN

As he stepped into FMBN, Arc. Dangiwa observed that regulatory weakness and uncertainties stifled potential

Students Demand Resignation Of Fed Poly Ekowe Rector, Issue Ultimatum

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Association of Polytechnic Students (NAPS) has demanded the immediate resignation of the Rector of Federal Polytechnic Ekowe, over what they described as "a total show of shame".

NAPS expressed this at a press briefing in Kaduna yesterday, where they issued a seven-day ultimatum for his ouster.

"We strongly demand the immediate replacement of Dr Agbabiaka Lukman Adegoke within 7 days from the date of this publication, for a more competent hand to take over in a bid to forestall peaceful co-existence, growth and development of Federal Polytechnic Ekowe, Bayelsa State, failure to comply shall in no doubt attract the wrath of the aggrieved Nigeria Polytechnic students at the expiration of the ultimatum," they demanded.

Reading the text of the briefing titled, "Honorably Resign Now Or Risk Massive Shutdown, You Have Failed The Polytechnic Community", National Vice President of NAPS, Comrade Ridwan Opeyemi said that Dr. Adegoke verbally bullied the association while they were trying to intervene following complaints from some quarters.

"It is no longer a news that the administrative rascality of Dr Agbabiaka Lukman Adegoke (Rector, Federal Polytechnic Ekowe) is worrisome, disheartening, demeaning, unwarranted and a total show of shame, as a matter of fact, it has never been this bad until the assumption of the unruly and

inexperienced Agbabiaka.

"Couple of months ago, upon receiving different complaints from both students, staff and community, the leadership of National Association of Polytechnic Students (NAPS) decided to reach out to the Polytechnic management both officially and via phone calls but all proved abortive.

"Dr. Agbabiaka haven known the capacity of the Students National body stylishly avoided their visit and practically tried to paralyze /silent all existing unions on campus, Dr Agbabiaka Lukman Adegoke verbally bullied the National Vice President of the second largest student movement in Africa (NAPS) via phone conversation in a defeated bid to further weaken the students voice," NAPS said.

They explained that Federal Polytechnic Ekowe was one of the most peaceful campuses where staff, students and communities co-exist without religious, tribal or political sentiments.

"The security was topnotch, there was mutual relationship between students and staff as well as staff and management until the assumption of another Laurence Gbagbo of Coit de voir in the person of Dr. Agbabiaka Lukman Adegoke

"The Polytechnic staff have suffered a huge set back under the leadership of Dr. Agbabiaka who openly victimizes staff and students.

"Some members of the polytechnic staff have been meted with series of threats, intimidation and unwarranted disciplinary actions by the management for discharging their lawfully assigned

duties, our parents who are staff of Federal Polytechnic Ekowe and colleagues who are students of same institution can tell better, instead of encouragement, our parents are rather rubbished and victimized without providing the enabling working environment.

"The leadership of NAPS carried out her discreet investigation so as to ascertain why Dr. agbabiaka has been so insulting to everyone, ranging from governing council member, academic staffs and students of the said institution, sadly what was found was not only shocking but surprising," they alleged.

NAPS further said, "Because of his sinister agenda, he failed to submit the resignation letters of two council member which was addressed to him, as this was against sections 84 (12) of the Electoral act. From our own findings, we are meant to understand that these two source played a keyroles of Dr. Agbabiaka's emergence as the Rector of the institution, and that was the reason the Rector failed to submit the resignation letter submitted by duo to appropriate channel.

"As we speak, Federal Polytechnic Ekowe is under lock and keys for months, ASUP is on strike and students are seriously agitated, the hope of Nigeria students is left hanging for no reason.

"The Rector traveled out of the country without minister's approval to Kenya as the President of Fishery Association of Nigeria, which the travel does not represent part of his duties as the Rector of Federal Polytechnic," they narrated.

They further alleged that he revoked CBT

center contract from the contractor over the non-compliance of the contractor to give bribe as requested by Dr. Agbabiaka.

"Immediately after the contractor threatened to sue the management to court, Dr. Agbabiaka quickly reawarded the contract to the same identity but with different establishment nomeclature.

"Likewise, we are meant to understand that Dr. Agbabiaka has been showing a negligent attitude towards the development of the said institution, failed to reside in the institution official resident, instead he turned Abuja to his first state of resident. No any medication in school clinic, not even paracetamol, talkless of students having access to medical facilities.

"Our parents (Staff) spend a large portion of their salaries going to work on campus every day with little or no imprest, extremely poor power supply on campus, untidy and porous working environment, while most management staff including the Rector work from the comfort of their homes and liaison office.

"It is pertinent we remind the Federal Government and general public that these acts of Dr Agbabiaka Lukman Adegoke is capable of turning the Polytechnic community to a battle ground thereby undermining the peace and tranquility enjoyed by the institution and environs, the students are totally restive while the staff are extremely agitated, students can no longer endure the bad learning environment, dilapidated structures, truncated and staggering academic calendar among others," they pointed out.

Dangiwa: A Round Peg In Round Hole

local and foreign investments in the sector, leading to inflated housing price, speculative activities and unscrupulous behaviours of real estate developers.

He noted that there were about 17 million housing units' deficits in the country, resulting to the problems of homelessness, overcrowding and growth of slumps and urban squalor in most cities.

The problem according to him, was compounded when government assistance programmes to housing sector was largely uncoordinated, fragmented, inefficient, lopsided and unfair.

To this end, he set his vision for the sector focusing on a completely deregulated housing capable of attracting large and long term local and foreign investments needed to promote a vibrant, competitive, innovative and sustainable housing market. Therefore, working with the National Assembly, he developed a legislative

instrument that provided solid foundation for housing financing and land use reform, which set the market to be primarily driven by private sector and private-partnership (PPP) with government acting as a facilitator, regulator and enabler. The legislation also ensured the protection of the interests of existing and prospective homeowners, communities and all Nigerians with respect home ownership.

Partnering with private investors, NGOs, CSOs and development partners among others, Arc. Dangiwa developed and executed a 'Housing Sector Change Agenda' which served as guiding compass in the housing reform programme.

Every enrollee knew that refund was a nightmare, but within his five-year tenure at FMBN, he increased National Housing Fund (NHF) Refund to N50 billion from mere N10.8 billion about five times more than what bank was able to pay since its establishment 25 years before

then. On disbursement, the bank under his leadership, released N163billion in just five years against N152 billion disbursed in 25 years.

He rose the housing units to over 33,000 from 20,435.

To make housing available and affordable to Nigerians, Arc. Dangiwa reduced the equity requirements from 10 to 0%, and 40 to 10% on loans of N5 million and below as well as N5 million and above respectively.

"When we resumed in April 2017, We met only N42billion. That's an increase of about N78billion in just 5 years." Dangiwa tweeted at his handle recently.

Apart from that, he led the creation of micro finance loan which is now being given to individuals, especially to renovate their houses."

The result was, the creation of millions of jobs through numerous housing projects throughout Nigeria.

On human capital, Arc Dangiwa absorbed 276 casual workers

some of whom were graduates, but denied permanent employment by the previous leadership.

These are just a few from the revolutionary policies and programmes he initiated while at FBMN.

Education/professional career Professionally, the 60 year old Dangiwa from Kankia, Katsina State was well equipped with education and career development needed to take him to wherever he needs to be.

He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in architecture as well as MBA all from Ahmadu Bello university Zaria. He is also an Alumnus of the prestigious Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, United state.

Dangiwa started his career with TRIAD Associates before moving on to become the manager partner of AM Design Consults, a company that provides consulting services for architectural and real estate development.

An expert in the field of mortgage financing, Dangiwa gained experience at Sahel Mortgage Finance Limited,, where he ascended from property manager to head of credit control, and to manager of the mortgage banking division.

Conclusion

As the Senate embarks on the screening exercise, it is expected that, the Red Chamber will receive a personality with passion for democracy and development that has for more than three decades contributed to the progress and growth of Nigeria not only in the field of politics. He had put so much in the real estate, banking, development of infrastructure, and management fields in both the private and governmental sectors.

Arc. Ahmed Musa Dangiwa is happily married with children and loves traveling, intellectual engagements, and photography. Adamu S Ladan writes from Sardauna Estate, Katsina City, Katsina State

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

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Width	25.4 (CM)	Width	-	10 (Inches)

POLITICAL RATE

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

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2	Per 1000 Copies (1 Page)	28,000.00	2,100.00	30,100.00
3	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine 2-8 Pages)	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
4	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine above 8 pages)	80,000.00	6,000.00	86,000.00

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2	Loss of Documents	2" x 2 Cols	4,400.00	330.00	4,730.00
3	Change of Name	Per Box	2,000.00	-	2,000.00

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

After Darkness Comes The Glorious Dawn: Full Text Of President Bola Tinubu's Address To Nigerians On Socio-economic Challenges

My fellow citizens,

I want to talk to you about our economy. It is important that you understand the reasons for the policy measures I have taken to combat the serious economic challenges this nation has long faced.

2. I am not going to talk in difficult terms by dwelling on economic jargon and concepts. I will speak in plain, clear language so that you know where I stand. More importantly, so that you see and hopefully will share my vision regarding the journey to a better, more productive economy for our beloved country.

3. For several years, I have consistently maintained the position that the fuel subsidy had to go. This once beneficial measure had outlived its usefulness. The subsidy cost us trillions of Naira yearly. Such a vast sum of money would have been better spent on public transportation, healthcare, schools, housing and even national security. Instead, it was being funnelled into the deep pockets and lavish bank accounts of a select group of individuals.

4. This group had amassed so much wealth and power that they became a serious threat to the fairness of our economy and the integrity of our democratic governance. To be blunt, Nigeria could never become the society it was intended to be as long as such small, powerful yet unelected groups hold enormous influence over our political economy and the institutions that govern it.

5. The whims of the few should never hold dominant sway over the hopes and aspirations of the many. If we are to be a democracy, the people and not the power of money must be sovereign.

6. The preceding administration saw this looming danger as well. Indeed, it made no provision in the 2023 Appropriations for subsidy after June this year. Removal of this once helpful device that had transformed into a millstone around the



country's neck had become inevitable.

7. Also, the multiple exchange rate system that had been established became nothing but a highway of currency speculation. It diverted money that should have been used to create jobs, build factories and businesses for millions of people. Our national wealth was doled on favourable terms to a handful of people who have been made filthy rich simply by moving money

from one hand to another. This too was extremely unfair.

8. It also compounded the threat that the illicit and mass accumulation of money posed to the future of our democratic system and its economy.

9. I had promised to reform the economy for the long-term good by fighting the major imbalances that had plagued our economy. Ending the subsidy and the preferential exchange rate system were key to this fight. This fight is

to define the fate and future of our nation. Much is in the balance.

10. Thus, the defects in our economy immensely profited a tiny elite, the elite of the elite you might call them. As we moved to fight the flaws in the economy, the people who grow rich from them, predictably, will fight back through every means necessary.

11. Our economy is going through a tough patch and you

are being hurt by it. The cost of fuel has gone up. Food and other prices have followed it. Households and businesses struggle. Things seem anxious and uncertain. I understand the hardship you face. I wish there were other ways. But there is not. If there were, I would have taken that route as I came here to help not hurt the people and nation that I love.

12. What I can offer in the immediate is to reduce the burden our current economic situation has imposed on all of us, most especially on businesses, the working class and the most vulnerable among us.

13. Already, the Federal Government is working closely with states and local governments to implement interventions that will cushion the pains of our people across socio-economic brackets.

“Our economy is going through a tough patch and you are being hurt by it. The cost of fuel has gone up. Food and other prices have followed it. Households and businesses struggle. Things seem anxious and uncertain. I understand the hardship you face. I wish there were other ways. But there is not. If there were, I would have taken that route as I came here to help not hurt the people and nation that I love.”

Coup in Niger: Not Again

By Jibrin Ibrahim

THE Wednesday coup in Niger finally succeeded at midnight with soldiers announcing on national TV the dissolution of the Constitution, Parliament and Government. Sigh... This makes it the sixth country in the West Africa region to experience a coup since August 2020. Adding Chad makes it the seventh.

“The problem with France's ruthless neo-colonial control of its African colonies is the lack of any redeeming features. It's a long litany of narratives about removing and often killing successive presidents who have sought to liberate their countries from the neo-colonial stranglehold and replacing them with puppets. France would not even allow their neo-colonies pretend to be independent by running their national currencies and public treasuries. Key ministries would often be run directly by French technocrats.”

Early on Wednesday morning, it had been reported that President Mohammed Bazoum had been held in the presidential palace by his own presidential guard. It appeared the guard then had to negotiate with the regular army while shooting in the air to keep anti coup protesters at bay.

President Bola Tinubu sent a strong message to the putschists warning them that West Africa was no longer willing to tolerate coups. He also consulted with President Patrice Talon of Benin Republic who is acting as mediator with the military. The US, France, UN, ECOWAS and African Union also condemned the coup calling for a return to status quo.

The coup might be much more about the new battle for geopolitical control of world politics than about Niger and democracy per se. The tradition of French (and Western) political control of Francophone Africa has been under bombardment in the last three years. The French army has been thrown out of Mali and Burkina Faso and have moved into Niger and of course Chad as the last stronghold of France's neo-colonial military presence in the zone.

Meanwhile, public opinion has turned very strongly against France in the Sahel. The people of Niger have been demonstrating, demanding for the expulsion of the French forces but both former President Mahamadou Issoufou and the current Bazoum have remained resolutely with France, against the trend of popular opinion. The military in Niger would be aware about the possible temporary legitimacy they could get by sending France out of Niger. In that sense, the coup was always on the cards. There is no surprise therefore to hear from the coup plotters that a plane load of French paratroopers arrived in Niamey yesterday morning in spite of the announced border closure but have been contained in the airport.

“If the geopolitics of others is taking over our region, it's partly because we have been allowing our democracy to rot from within. Indeed, in West Africa, the desire

for tenure elongation is increasingly marked among incumbent presidents and democratic alternation of power is an increasingly distant prospect in many countries, thus erasing the democratic norms and standards as prescribed by the Supplementary Protocol and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.”

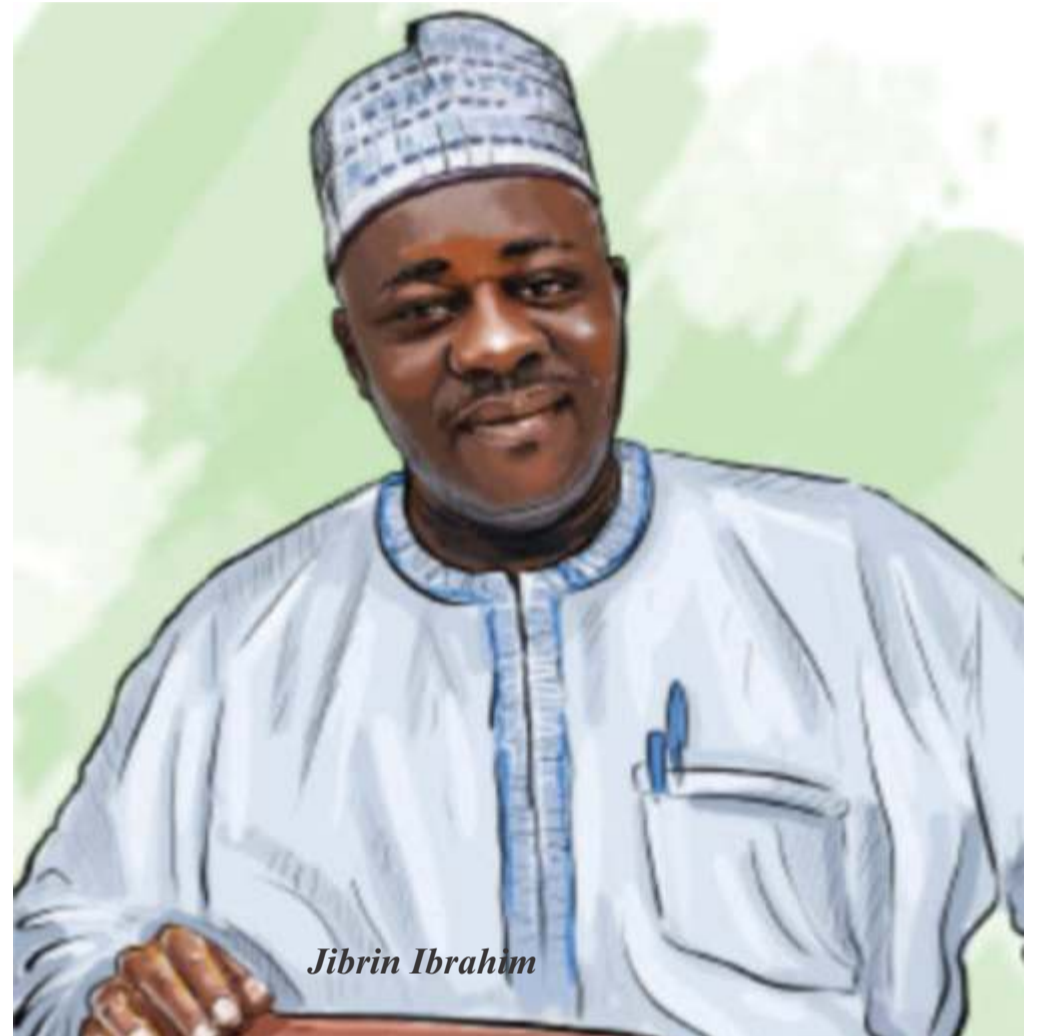
The problem with France's ruthless neo-colonial control of its African colonies is the lack of any redeeming features. It's a long litany of narratives about removing and often killing successive presidents who have sought to liberate their countries from the neo-colonial stranglehold and replacing them with puppets. France would not even allow their neo-colonies pretend to be independent by running their national currencies and public treasuries. Key ministries would often be run directly by French technocrats.

Then Russia came in from the cold and realised that with minimal propaganda efforts and a use of a few social media influencers, they could turn the tide of public opinion against France and dangle Wagner as a viable mercenary force that could do exactly what a new anti-French leadership wants. The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

The geo-politics of the Russia-Ukraine war and the battle between the old regressive hegemonists – the United States and its allies and the emerging hegemonists – Russia, China and their allies is being fought out in West Africa and therein lies the challenge: Africa must learn to play its own strategic game rather than play second fiddle to the game of thrones of the others.

Yesterday, a number of citizens of ECOWAS, drawn from civil society organisations, the private sector, political parties, unions, religious and lay movements, women and youth associations met in Abuja to review the overall state of affairs in the ECOWAS Region and the prospects of realisation of the collective vision of democracy and integration for “an ECOWAS of peoples”.

The forum noted that after the wave of democratisation of the 1990s that raised a lot of hope, the West African region is undergoing democratic regression with an erosion of individual and collective freedoms in a context of growing instability in relation to recurrent socio-political crises and violent extremism. The forum called upon ECOWAS to carry out reforms, including the reform of its Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance to save the democratic gains made in the 1990s and



Jibrin Ibrahim

put a stop to growing instability.

“As we head towards its 50th anniversary, it is time for ECOWAS to make the decision that term limits must be enshrined in golden letters in the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol and imposed on all, including gerontocrats who want to rule for ever.”

If the geopolitics of others is taking over our region, it's partly because we have been allowing our democracy to rot from within. Indeed, in West Africa, the desire for tenure elongation is increasingly marked among incumbent presidents and democratic alternation of power is an increasingly distant prospect in many countries, thus erasing the democratic norms and standards as prescribed by the Supplementary Protocol and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Although 80% of the peoples of the region are opposed to the confiscation of political power by third termers; in Togo the President is currently exercising his 4th term in power and preparing for a fifth term next year – 25 years in power by the end of his fifth term. In Côte d'Ivoire, 81-year-old President Alasane Ouattara is exercising his 3rd term and will achieve 15

years as the head of state. In Guinea, it required a coup d'état to disrupt the regime of the 85-year-old Alpha Conde during his 3rd term. In Senegal, the President has just given up his third term bid after massive mobilisation against him. Let us not forget that the rigging of elections precipitated the Malian coup while third term was the reason for the coup in Guinea. When the political class debases democracy, they open doors for coup plotters.

West Africa must close its doors to the three coups – military takeover, constitutional coups for third term and electoral coup based on massive electoral fraud. The democratic culture of periodic alternation at the head of States promotes accountability and better management of public finances. In 2015 and 2022, ECOWAS had almost succeeded in the reform to make the principle of two-term limit an intangible rule of governance. Each time, the process was stopped by a few Heads of State with anti-democratic agendas – those of Togo and Gambia in 2015 and Togo, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal in 2022. As we head towards its 50th anniversary, it is time for ECOWAS to make the decision that term limits must be enshrined in golden letters in the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol and imposed on all, including gerontocrats who want to rule for ever.

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.

“The US, France, UN, ECOWAS and African Union also condemned the coup calling for a return to status quo.”

The Coup In Niger And The Moncada Barracks Attack

By Owei Lakemfa

EXACTLY 70 years separate the July 26, 1953 suicidal attack on Moncada Barracks by Cuban youths who wanted to remove the military from power, and this Wednesday's coup in Niger Republic which removed elected President Mohamed Bazoum and restored military rule.

The coup plotters, styling themselves as the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Country, said in a speech by Air Force Colonel Major Amadou Abdramane that their treasonable move "is as a result of the continuing degradation of the security situation, the bad economic and social governance".

Coups succeed in Africa mainly because the people are alienated from the state and their leaders who are guarded by Praetorian guards. So, all that is required, is for these guards to conspire, arrest the President, and a coup is on. That was what happened to Guinean President Alpha Conde in 2020 after he imposed himself for a third term. That is what happened this week to President Bazoum whose presidential guards put him under arrest.

Indeed, Niger, like many other African countries, is a paradox. It is one of the poorest countries in the world with 41 per cent of its 20 million people living on less than a dollar. It depends a lot on aid. Nigeria, under former President Muhammadu Buhari in 2022, provided it with N1.4 billion worth of vehicles to run government and also took loans to build railway from Nigeria into Maradi in Niger Republic. Yet, it is rich in minerals such as oil, silver, salt, gold, gypsum, coal, tin, iron ore, phosphates and uranium. Indeed, it has the fifth largest uranium deposits in the world. Its primary problem, like that of many African countries, is that its wealth is controlled by foreign companies and countries.

Although bodies like the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, and countries such as Nigeria, Benin, the United States of America and France have condemned the coup, the plotters are consolidating. In any case, who knows the backers of the coup?

In the case of Cuba, six years after their first attempt, the youths led by colourful historical figures like Fidel Castro, Camilo Cienfuegos, Haydee Santamaria and Ernesto Che Guevara not only removed the military from power, but also disbanded it. In its place, flowered a new military loyal to the Cuban people. Since then, nobody has dared to organise a military coup in that country.

In all these, the populace who are

continuously pushed into extreme poverty by the programmes and policies of the government in power, hardly see the need to sacrifice their lives in defence of such governments. This is in contrast with the situation in Cuba since 1959 where anybody that dares to organise a coup, knows it has the populace to contend with as there would be massive resistance in the streets. I had concluded that a military coup is virtually impossible in Cuba when I visited the island as a young journalist in 1986.

In contrast, within two decades of saying farewell to coups in Africa, they have simply multiplied. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi who styles himself a Field Marshall, executed a brutal coup on July 3, 2013, murdered scores of Egyptians, allowed elected President Mohammed Morsi to die in prison due to lack of medical care and turned the country into a huge prison where the rule of law is not respected. Tragically, Sisi who also became Chairman of the African Union, is the toast of so-called advanced countries.

In Sudan, the military led by General Fattah al-Burhan in April 2019, imposed itself on a popular uprising. It then aligned itself with the rogue elements of the murderous Sudanese Arab Janjaweed militia, now renamed the Rapid Support Forces, to soak the country in the blood of its patriots. On April 15, 2023 the Sudanese military and the Janjaweed turned their weapons on each other, drenching the entire country in blood. Within three months of this senseless conflict, the Sudanese coup plotters have killed over 2,000, displaced 2.2 million people from their homes, forced about 550,000 into exile and with some 25 million people in desperate need of basic needs like food.

There have also been coups in Mali and Burkina Faso while there have been strenuous efforts not to classify the April 20, 2021 coup in Chad by General Mahamat Deby, as a coup. There is also the Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara imposing himself in October 2020 on the country through an unconstitutional third term and declaring himself re-elected with 95.31 per cent of the votes. What is this if not a coup?

Coups succeed in Africa mainly because



the people are alienated from the state and their leaders who are guarded by Praetorian guards. So, all that is required, is for these guards to conspire, arrest the President, and a coup is on. That was what happened to Guinean President Alpha Conde in 2020 after he imposed himself for a third term. That is what happened this week to President Bazoum whose presidential guards put him under arrest. I discovered that military service for Cubans from age 18 was routine, especially after high school or tertiary training. Even now, under its National Defence Act No. 75, Cubans routinely go for two-three-year military training. So, in a country where virtually every adult you meet has military training, which soldiers would be crazy enough to want to carry out a coup?

In all these, the populace who are continuously pushed into extreme poverty by the programmes and policies of the government in power, hardly see the need to sacrifice their lives in defence of such governments.

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The first morning I went out in the streets, I came across columns of people in army uniform cleaning the gutters and emptying drains. I asked my Cuban friend who these people were and he confirmed they were serving soldiers. Later, I came across building sites and the builders were soldiers.

I asked my friend why soldiers were so deployed, and he answered that since the

country was not at war, what else would the soldiers be doing? How will they earn their pay? I reflected that back home in Nigeria, the soldiers simply report at their offices, do some parade and go home. In the evenings when I went out, the Cuban government had bands in the streets with free beer and the people dancing. There were soldiers drenched in sweat drinking and dancing with no difference whatsoever from the rest of the populace, who back in Nigeria, are called 'bloody civilians'.

I discovered that military service for Cubans from age 18 was routine, especially after high school or tertiary training. Even now, under its National Defence Act No. 75, Cubans routinely go for two-three-year military training. So, in a country where virtually every adult you meet has military training, which soldiers would be crazy enough to want to carry out a coup? This is beside the fact that unlike nearly all the armies in Africa, the Cuban army is pro-people and not neo-colonial. There is also the fact that the loyalty of the Cuban military to the elected government of the country, can be taken for granted.

This Wednesday evening, the Cuban Charge D' Affairs, Pavel Bauza on behalf of new Ambassador Miriam Morales Palmero, filled in guests on the effects of the July 26 uprising and how Cubans despite over six decades of US sanctions and blockade, have built a country that cares for all its citizens. A country that provides one of the best healthcare systems in the world for all its citizens; in which the right to work and education are guaranteed and literacy is almost 100 per cent. As he spoke, I reflected that the antidote against coups, is the people.

Niger Vs Nigeria: The Looming Shadow Of A Military Coup On Democracy

By; **Amb ALIYU BINABBAS**
Introduction:

In the wake of Niger's recent military coup, neighboring Nigeria finds itself at a critical juncture, where the butterfly effect of such an event could cast a dark shadow on its own democracy.

As President Bola Tinubu's leadership remains unstable amid the awaited outcome of the tribunal, the nation faces a moment of truth, grappling with the resurgence of military coups that seem to be coming back into fashion.

The potential consequences are profound, and if care is not taken, Nigeria could once again become a pariah state. It is a time of reflection, where the irony of a previously oppressed leader now perceived as an oppressor, raises concerns about the future of democracy and the need for leadership to prioritize peace over personal interests.

The Haunting Shadow of a Military Coup:

The military coup in Niger, which took place few two days ago, has left Nigeria's democracy on edge. The proximity of these two African nations and their interconnected histories make the events in Niger impossible to ignore in Nigeria. The specter of military intervention, raises questions about the fragility of democracy in the region and its susceptibility to external influences.

President Tinubu's Unstable Leadership:

As President Tinubu's leadership hangs in the balance, while awaiting the outcome of the tribunal, the nation faces uncertainty. The lack of stability at the top, further compounds the anxieties of Nigerians, who yearn for a strong and resolute leader. With military coups making a resurgence in the region, the need for steadfast and transparent governance becomes more critical than ever before.

The Irony of the Previously Oppressed:

President Tinubu's past as a political exile, fleeing from an authoritarian government, now comes full circle as he faces criticism for his handling of dissidents and opposition figures. The irony of a once-oppressed leader becoming an oppressor raises concerns about the state of Nigeria's democracy and the erosion of its core principles.

A Chance for a Respected Elder Statesman:

For posterity and the future of

Nigeria, President Tinubu must carefully consider his next steps. Accepting the outcome of the electoral tribunal and gracefully stepping down if it doesn't favour him, would afford him the opportunity to become a respected elder statesman. By putting peace and the nation's interests above personal ambitions, he can end his political career on a high note, leaving a positive legacy for generations to come.

Avoiding the Collapse of Nigeria:

The looming threat of a military coup and the potential erosion of democracy should serve as a wake-up call for all Nigerians. It is time for unity and collective action, where citizens must rise above political divisions and prioritize the preservation of their democratic rights.

Conclusion:

As the events in Niger cast a dark shadow on Nigeria's democracy, it is a moment of reckoning for the nation. President Tinubu's leadership remains uncertain, and the resurgence of military coups raises alarm bells for the future. It is imperative for President Tinubu to prioritize peace over personal interests and become a respected elder statesman, safeguarding Nigeria's democracy for generations to come. Only through unity and collective action, can Nigeria avert collapse and reclaim its rightful place as a beacon of democracy in Africa. The time for action is now, and the future of the nation lies in the hands of its people.

The recent events in Niger serve as haunting reminder of the fragility of democracy and the potential consequences that could befall our beloved nation. The butterfly effect of this neighboring coup could send shockwaves through our democratic foundations, threatening to unravel the progress made over the years.

In the midst of this turmoil, President Tinubu's leadership hangs by a thread, caught in the crossfire of the electoral tribunal. The nation holds its breath, hoping for a resolution that will bring stability and clarity. Yet, the resurgence of military coups in the region sends shivers down our spines, conjuring memories of a dark past, when democracy was suffocated under the heavy boot of authoritarian rule.

The irony of it all is heart-wrenching. President Tinubu, once a victim of oppression, now stands accused of turning his



Amb. Aliyu Bin Abbas

back on the very principles he once fought for. The betrayal of trust and the abuse of power leave a bitter taste in the mouths of those who once looked up to him as a symbol of hope and change.

Now, more than ever, Nigeria needs a leader who will rise above personal interests and prioritize the welfare of the nation. It is a chance for President Tinubu to show true statesmanship, to put the people's needs before his own ambitions, and to lead with integrity and compassion.

As we stand at this critical juncture, the fate of Nigeria hangs in the balance. The echoes of history warn us of the perils that lie ahead if we do not take heed. The resurgence of military coups is a grim reminder that our democracy is fragile, and we must defend it with all our might.

For the sake of our children, and their children after them, we must stand united and resolute. We cannot let Nigeria become a pariah state once again, isolated and scorned by the international community. Our ancestors fought for our freedom, and we must honour their sacrifice by preserving and protecting the democratic ideals they held dear. President Tinubu, this is your moment to write your legacy in the annals of Nigerian history. Embrace the path of peace and reconciliation, and let your actions speak louder than words. Step down gracefully if the tribunal's outcome demands it, and become a beacon of hope and wisdom for the nation.

Together, we can rise above the dark shadows that threaten to engulf us. Let us reject the path of violence and embrace the path

of dialogue and understanding. Only by working together, hand in hand, can we build a Nigeria that is resilient, united, and free from the chains of oppression.

The time for action is now, and our future is in our hands. Let us stand firm against any threat to our democracy, for together, as one, we are invincible. Let the world see that Nigeria is a nation of strength, love, and courage, where the voices of the people will always prevail.

May we emerge from this tumultuous period stronger, wiser, and more united than ever before. Let our collective resolve be a shining light, guiding us towards a future of prosperity, justice, and freedom for all.

Amb ALIYU BINABBAS is the President National Youth Alliance

Final Of 'Above 50' Football Tournament Holds Saturday

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The final of the ongoing 'Above 50' Football Championship will hold on Saturday August, 5, 2023 at the Legacy Pitch of the National Stadium Surulere Lagos.

According to the fixtures released by the Local Organising Committee of the championship, the final which will hold from 11am to 3pm, will see 'Team Ajegunle' trading tackles against Team Abeokuta' in what promises to be a cracker considering the performance of the two teams at the

preliminary stage of the competition put together for senior citizens of the country. The finals will be preceded by the third place match between 'Team Surulere' and 'Team Alimosho' at the same venue.

Meanwhile, sponsor/initiator of the championship, Ambassador Edward Olutoke has expressed joy at the level of attendance and the number of ex-internationals and former national team players that are participating in the tournament.

He explained that the idea behind the competition was to enable old players

network, exercise themselves and show the young ones that they can still play football.

Olutoke who is the President of Ikeja Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture promised that the championship will be sustained just as he commended the players and officials for the discipline displayed during the preliminaries urging them to replicate it in the final.

In his own remarks Chairman of the LOC, Dr. Rafiu OLadipo expressed joy that

there was no reported case of injury pledging that his committee will ensure fair play at the final.

Results of the final preliminary matches played on Sunday indicates that Ajegunle defeated Ikeja by a lone goal while Itire-Ikate and Abeokuta' played a goalless draw with Surulere defeating Badagry by 2-0.

Winner of the tournament will go home with a giant trophy and N5 million while the first and second runners-up will get N2 million and N1 million respectively.

FIFA Women's World Cup 2023: Nigeria Reach Round Of 16, May Face England



By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

A 0-0 draw with the 'Girls in Green' at Brisbane's Lang Park on Monday, coupled with Australia's 4-0 demolition of Olympic champions Canada in Melbourne, shot Nigeria to the Round of 16 of the ongoing 9th FIFA Women's World Cup finals in Down Under.

Asisat Oshoala, who scored Nigeria's third and winning goal against the Aussies at the same venue on Thursday, paving the way for Nigeria's passage to the knock-out rounds, missed a glorious opportunity in the 14th minute, but the Falcons were never really threatened in a largely cagey affair watched by over 24,000 spectators.

The feat means Nigeria is the first African country to have reached the World Cup knockout rounds in two successive finals, and have also done so, as a record of their own, without



losing a game in the group phase.

Needing only a point from the game to reach the Round of 16, the Falcons took things easy, playing with caution against an Irish team that needed to salvage some pride after two losses and with a ticket back home on their palms.

There was little to choose between both teams. Nigeria escaped when Chiamaka Nnadozie punched the ball

onto the crossbar from a corner kick by the Irish in the 9th minute, and the opponents also escaped when goalie Courtney Brosnan punched onto the bar and to safety a firm header by Uchenna Kanu off a cross by Toni Payne in the 52nd minute.

The scoreless encounter, alongside Australia's win, meant the Matildas emerged first in Group B and will play the second-placed team in Group D,

while the Super Falcons finished as runners-up and will confront the top team in Group D, most likely to be England. The Group D final log will be decided on Tuesday evening.

It also means that the Falcons will remain in Brisbane, to welcome the top team in Group D, while Australia's Matildas will fly to Sydney for their own game. The match will hold on Monday, 7th August.

New NIGERIAN

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Rt Hon Salisu Isah: History Making Appointment For Birnin Gwari - Foundation

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The appointment of Hon. Salisu as the Sole Administrator of Birnin Gwari Local Government Area (LGA), is one of the wisest decisions and strategic signal of the Government of His Excellency, Senator Malam Uba Sani.

This was expressed in a statement signed by the Chairman Birnin Gwari Educational Foundation, Youth Development & Political Research, Abubakar Abdull, made available to our correspondent yesterday. "Decisively, the appointment did not come as a surprise, as he has fulfilled all political, social, strategic and security commitments as required by the laws of the land and that of humanity. "In retrospect, Rt. Hon. Salisu Isah and in a manner of speaking for his exceptional track record

and grassroots political trajectory which he is known for, is loved by all progressive thinkers that are associated with His Excellency Senator Malam Uba Sani the Governor of Kaduna State, by all standard of logical reasoning, one cannot by pass an excellent human like Hon. Salisu for any other person in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area," the statement said. It explained that apart from being a political foot soldier and muscle brawler, he is equally a strategic thinker and a loyalist to Senator Uba Sani and his strategic political wing.

"His appointment to Birnin - Gwari would not only create a viable platform for social engagement, security networking and economic progress, but will generate effective opportunities for the people to access the benefits of Malam Uba Sani's policies to Birnin



Honourable Salisu Isah

Gwari," it added.

The statement added, "In a rare demonstration of appreciation, the people of Birnin Gwari both young and old, male and female, all trooped out in jubilation as one of their own was appointed as sole

administrator.

"Rightly so, in every bodies lips, the tone that come out is always that of Hon. Salisu Isah and the wish of successful leadership of Malam Uba Sani respectively".

Gombe Governor Announces Further Subsidy On Fertilizer; Takes Other Measures To Alleviate Economic Impact Of Fuel Subsidy Removal, Boosts Food Production

*Fertilizer pegged at N15,000 per bag

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has further subsidized the price of fertiliser being sold to farmers to N15,000 per bag against the initial price of Nineteen Thousand Naira to alleviate the biting effects of the removal of fuel subsidy and its consequential economic impact.

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

This development is also in line with the advisory from

the National Economic Council (NEC), which urged states to design independent responses to the subsidy removal, and also as come up with strategies to help boost food production in the State.

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, who announced the new measure on behalf of Governor Inuwa Yahaya, said all State owned fertilizer selling points/agents across the 11 local government areas are to immediately comply with this directive, adding that the sales and distribution committee should strictly sell to farmers only as a palliative. Recall that Governor Inuwa

had on June 19, 2023 flagged off the sales of fertilizer and other farm inputs in Gombe State with 166 Truck-loads of the commodity at the subsidised rate of Nineteen Thousand Naira (N19,000) per bag as against the market price of Twenty Six Thousand Naira (N26,000).

He had also inaugurated a committee to ensure seamless sales and distribution of the fertilizer in the 114 wards across the 11 Local Government Areas of the State to ensure that the commodity reached the common farmers.

The Governor also recently set up a committee which went round all the LGA's and distributed food stuff to the most vulnerable among

the residents – the bottom poor – as his personal support to bring succour to them, while the government puts machinery in motion to embark on a full scale palliative distribution.

In the area of public transport, Governor Inuwa had earlier directed the state-owned transport company, the Gombe Line, to put measures in place to ensure that residents are able to travel without much financial burden.

The company has continued to maintain a functional fleet providing subsidized and effective transport services to cushion the effects of fuel subsidy removal, and also ensure comfort and safety of passengers.

FIFA Women's World Cup 2023: Nigeria Reach Round Of 16, May Face England

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Credible Candidates, C² Endorses Ganduje For APC National Chairman

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

A Group known as Credible candidate, (C²) has endorsed the immediate past Governor of Kano state, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje for the position of national chairman of the ruling All Progressive Congress, (APC) following the resignation of Adamu.

The Grand Patron of Credible candidates, Hon. Dr. Danburam Abubakar Nuhu, made the endorsement alongside other executives of the forum yesterday, said Ganduje has all it takes to take the party to its desired destination considering his past and unremitting sacrifices for the party.

Dr. Abubakar, who was Former APC Member House of Representatives, Kano Municipal, said Ganduje's track record as Deputy and two term governor of Kano state is equal to none and should be given every necessary support as a national asset to drive the affairs of the party.

He said, "we took the decision because Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, who was a two-term governor of Kano State,

has contributed to the building of the party as a Chieftain before and during the 2023 general elections.

"Dr Ganduje toured almost all the states of the federation, which saw the emergence of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as president of Nigeria and therefore we cannot shy away from the fact that he is most qualified for the job." He said.

In the same vein, the national Coordinator, Credible Candidate, Jamilu Auwalu Adamu, said competence must be considered in the new leadership structure for the sake of optimal performance at all levels.

Jamilu noted that the record of Ganduje's transformation as two teams governor of Kano state is evident for all to see, adding that the APC Chieftain has turned Kano to one of the largest economic hub not only in Nigeria but in Africa at large.

He urged all relevant stakeholders within the party to adopt Ganduje as it's next chairman both for idea generation and on the ground of his wealth of experiences.



Ganduje