

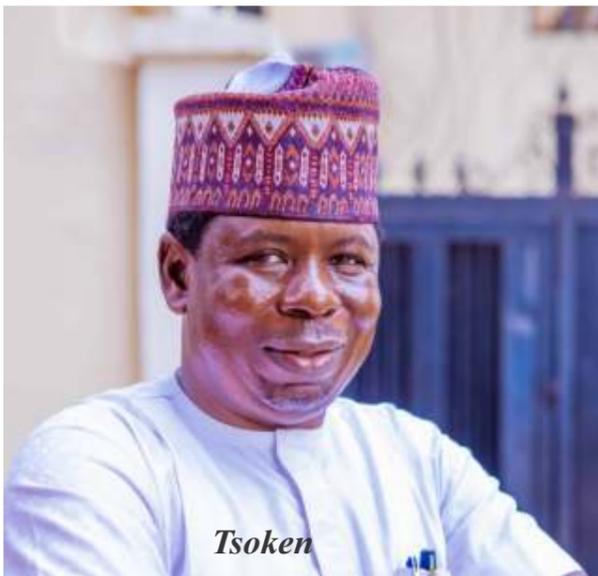
NYG: Go For Gold, Uba Sani Tells Team Kaduna

*Promises reward for outstanding athletes

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Alleged Missing Of Genitals: Okada Riders Embark On Strike In Kogi

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Tsoken

Allegations Against SGF Over 2027 A Blackmail -APC-IGG

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25 CSOs Warn Kogi SDP Candidate Against Wild Allegations, Ethnic Profiling

■ Predict outcome of off-season guber polls in three states

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

A coalition of 25 civil society organisations (CSOs) have called on security agencies to caution political parties against activities that could plunge states into serious crisis, ahead of the off-season governorship

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elections in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi states.

The Civil Society Organisations, in a communique issued after a three-day election preview on the three states, specifically singled out the Social Democratic Party's slant of activities in Kogi State as an example of what security agencies



The Civil Society Organisations, while presenting the communique issued after a three-day election preview on the three states, yesterday.

Police Raises Alarm Over Illegal Central Motor Registry Platform **PAGE 9**

Ebonyi Governor Advocates Teaching Pupils In South East In Igbo Language **PAGE 2**

Atiku To Supreme Court: PEPC's Judgment Flawed

*Points out non-recognition of 'Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation'
*Says justices exhibited bias through uncomplimentary remarks

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Dangote Group Adds Over \$20bn Worth 3 New Business Potfolios - Aliko Dangote

*Says it will also generate about \$16bn in foreign exchange for the country, combined 250,000 jobs **PAGE 2**

Don't be politically biased in fighting corruption, Accountant tasks Tinubu



Mr. Ishola Moses Abiodun

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

A member of the Anti-corruption Team Committee of Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN), Mr. Ishola Moses Abiodun has tasked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu not be politically biased in dealing with corruption cases in the country.

He made the disclosure during an interview with Newsmen at the 28th Annual National Conference of Association of National Accountant of Nigeria (ANAN) held in Abuja yesterday.

Mr. Abiodun who was also the Chairman of ANAN Kwara state chapter said "I can see that the crop of personalities and technocrats that President Tinubu is working with now i am confident he will not disappoint Nigerians."

"The President should not be politically biased about this issue of fighting corruption because just like the former president said if we don't kill corruption, corruption will kill us. Therefore, he needs to eradicate corruption totally in the corridor of the government.

The Expert also applauded President Tinubu for the removal of the fuel subsidy in the country arguing that he has blocked the cabals who are siphoning the country funds through fuel subsidy.

He said "though the with the removal of fuel subsidy there is hardship

on Nigerians but It will be better in the nearest future. My grouses with the subsidy removal is that the government should have subsidized education, health, Power supply, foods and Transport for the masses before the removal.

"Our people are dying of hunger and it's not easy in the country today talking about the hike in transportation, even if you're earning good salary today the minimum wage cannot satisfy the basic needs of a family.

Speaking on the theme of the Programme: 'The Accountancy Profession and the Changing Dynamics of the Ecosystem' Mr. Abiodun summoned that as Professional body we need to play crucial roles to be transparent in rendering services.

He said "as Accountants if we're upright in our offices almost half of the problems in the country will be solved because no money can come out in public offices without the Accountants approving it."

"We're preaching integrity, sincerity to our members by not assisting politicians to siphon funds in the government."

The Former ANAN Chairman admonished Nigerians to shun ethnicity and religious divides, discrimination of Region among other vices but see ourselves as one Nationality pursuing the same interest to achieve peace and unity for the growth of the country.

Dangote Group Adds Over \$20bn Worth 3 New Business Potfolios -Aliko Dangote

*Says it will also generate about \$16bn in foreign exchange for the country, combined 250,000 jobs

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The President of Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote has disclosed that his Group added three new business portfolios worth over \$20billion in refinery, petrochemical and fertiliser in the quest to meet the peoples' need through massive job creation.

Aliko Dangote made this known while speaking at the induction of a new batch of Graduate Trainees in its Graduate Trainee programme.

He stressed that the investments will also generate about \$16 billion in foreign exchange for the country and a combined 250,000 jobs to help in reducing joblessness among the youths.

According to him, Dangote Group continuous investments in critical sectors of the economy to create employment and promote decent jobs is irrevocable,

saying, Dangote businesses transited from being a commodity trading company to manufacturing in the quest to contribute to the industrial development of the country thus repositioning Nigeria in the African industrial landscape.

He pointed out that the mission of the group is to touch the peoples' lives by providing their basic needs and that this could only be fulfilled through manufacturing of the goods that could meet the people's needs hence the massive investments in various sectors of the economy.

Stressing that manufacturing to meet the people's needs comes with employment creation, he said manufacturing is one of the potent ways of lifting the people from poverty through creation of gainful employment which has led the institution of the graduate trainee programme of

which they are beneficiaries.

He highlighted the core values of the Dangote organisation as Customer Service, Entrepreneurship, Excellence and Leadership and urged the new trainees to dream big and be passionate about their job.

Addressing the trainees, The Group Managing Director of Dangote Industries Limited, Kunle Alake said Dangote Group is passionate about its vision and mission and told the trainees to show the right attitude to work when deployed so as to contribute to the continuous growth of the company while also having a fulfilled career.

He then tasked them to make the best use of the opportunity offered them by being selected among hundreds that applied for the training and be diligent in whatever they are doing The Dangote Industries Limited, Group Chief Human Resources Officer,

Nglan Niat in her presentation charged the trainees to consider themselves lucky to have scaled through screening process and come out successfully, describing their selection as a big opportunity as they have variety of Business Units to choose from when ready for deployment.

Nglan Niat maintained that the training was put in place to have a ready supply of manpower and talent, adding that the Dangote Group human resource vision is to "attract and retain talents through an excellent employee experience that enables sustainable growth for Dangote Group and its stakeholders.

"By applying, you have made the right decision in your career journey, working in Dangote is more than just a career, it is meaningful work which improves the lives of millions of people. You must have the right attitude and skills"

Ebonyi Governor Advocates Teaching Pupils In South East In Igbo Language



By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru of Ebonyi State has advocated the use of Igbo dialect in teaching children and wards in public and private schools in the South East Zone.

Speaking through his

Chief of Staff, Professor Emmanuel Echiegu on Tuesday, Governor Nwifuru said apart from helping the teachers to properly drive home their teachings, the method would help save the dialects from going into extinction.

The governor who was

addressing the leadership of Ohaneze Ndigbo, Ebonyi State Chapter, led by Dr. Peter Mbam, charged the group to brace up in promotion of the cherished Igbo customs and traditions through their daily programmes and activities.

The governor, while assuring that his administration will continue to assist the organization where necessary, appealed to them to continue to advise Ndigbo on the need to embrace peace at all times.

Alleged Missing Of Genitals: Okada Riders Embark On Strike In Kogi.

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The commercial motorcycle operators commonly called Okada, in Kogi State capital, Lokoja yesterday, embarked on strike as they alleged that passengers accuse them of being responsible for their missing genital organs in the cause of transacting business with them.

Their displeasure with the unscrupulous passengers was made known by their state Chairman, Malam Umar Muhammed who

vented their anger while interacting with newsmen in Lokoja yesterday.

He said that the image of Okada operators in downtown Lokoja has been smeared by poverty stricken passengers who cannot afford to pay the transport fares charged by his members due to the economic hardship only to check criminally cause them of the crime.

According to him, several innocent Okada riders have been attacked by some of these fraudulent passengers who were unable to pay for their

fares as they resort to branding them as responsible for their missing organs of production.

He said that passengers carried by the Okada riders labeled them of mysteriously harvesting their manhood after the transaction has been done and the passengers have no means of fulfilling their own part of the bargain leading to name calling and beating.

"Some of the passengers when they don't have money to pay, they raise

alarm that their manhood is missing so that they will not pay and instead of them to take the issue to the police they take laws into their own hand and beat up the Okada commercial rider, only for the people to say that there manhood has returned back to their body", he said.

He therefore, called on the security agents and the state government to look into the issue with the aim of avoiding any problem that could lead to state of anarchy.



AGRA/NAERLS Kaduna Consortium Launches Zaria Maize Model Processing Centre

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Unguwar Alkali Zaria Maize Model Processing Centre has been launched by the AGRA Country Director, Dr. Kayinde Makinde in a grand style.

Speaking at the launching on Wednesday in Zaria City, he said that it is a milestone achievement by AGRA/NAERLS Kaduna Consortium Projects.

He encouraged the women group to make use of the center accordingly and maintain it properly.

According to him, the center is aimed at empowering women to have easy way of sustaining their livelihood.

In his remarks, the Director National Agricultural Extension Research and Liason Services (NAERLS), Prof. Emmanuel Ikani congratulated the beneficiaries for being the lucky one to have such project from the AGRA/NAERLS Kaduna Consortium Projects.

Represented by Deputy Director of institute, Professor Sani Yusuf said, the institute will continue to partner with women groups for more engagement.

Prof. Ikani warned the beneficiaries to imbibe the spirit of maintenance culture to enjoy the benefits for a very long time.

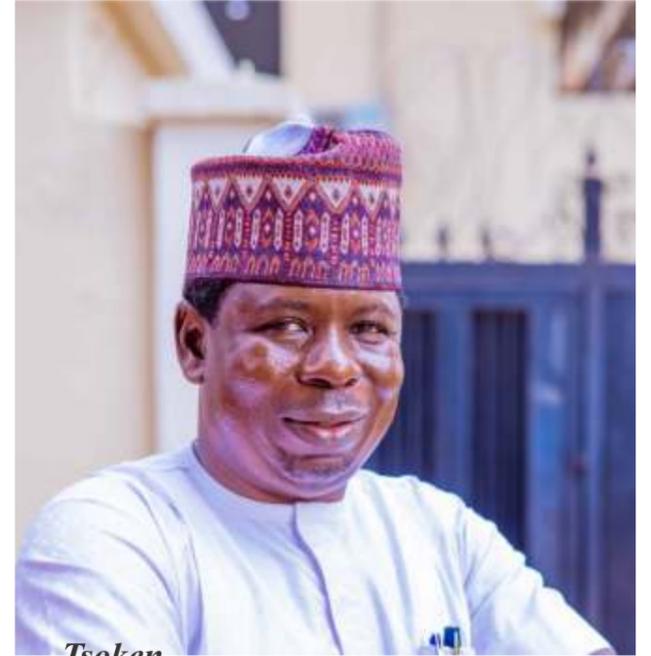
Earlier in her remarks, the AGRA/NAERLS Kaduna Consortium Project Officer, Dr. Esther Ibrahim expressed

excitement over the launching of the center.

Dr. Ibrahim appealed to women who are the beneficiaries, to make sure they remain a united group to maintain the sustainability of the center.

After the launching, the team proceeded to visit IITA, Premier Seed demonstration site and Kauran Juli Ware House Receipt and Aggregation Centre.

Allegations Against SGF Over 2027 A Blackmail -APC-IGG



Token

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

APC Initiative For Good Governance has condemned an allegation levelled against the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Dr. George Akume who has been the epitome of good governance and peaceful coexistence of Nigeria irrespective of tribe, religion or region.

Speaking to our correspondent in Abuja, the national president of the APC Initiative For Good Governance, (APC-IGG), Ambassador Musa Mohammed Token, said that the false allegations of the so called Benue Progressive Forum is inimical and contrary to the rule of natural justice.

He added that the

allegations is actually made by mischief makers to tarnish the good name and reputation of the SGF who is known for his credibility and 100% loyalty to President Asiawaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and who has given his full strength to the democratic progress in Nigeria without bias.

Ambassador Tsoken faulted the forum for alleging that Dr. Akume is warming up to contest for the presidency come 2027 which is not his character as one of the most disciplined and loyal to his Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his administration.

He opined that SGF Akume is a very respected nationalist, who is also a patriotic leader per excellence.

Uba Sani Thanks Tinubu For Appointing Kaduna Citizens Into Key Positions

By; FUNMI AdERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani on Tuesday, on behalf of the government and people of Kaduna State, expressed profound gratitude to the President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR and the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON for graciously appointing four worthy citizens of Kaduna State into various positions:

Those appointed are, Muhammad Sani Abdullahi Dattijo (Deputy

Governor, CBN), Hakeem Baba Ahmed (Special Adviser, Political), Rukaiya el-Rufai (Special Adviser, NEC & Climate Change), and Banta Bala Bantex (PA, Special Projects).

"All the appointments are well deserved. They have the requisite skills and competences to add value to Mr. President's Administration and meet the expectations of the Nigerian people.

"Once more, our deep appreciation to Mr. President and Mr. Vice President," Governor Sani said.

Atiku To Supreme Court: PEPC's Judgment Flawed

*Points out non-recognition of 'Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation'
*Says justices exhibited bias through uncomplimentary remarks

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Amongst the grounds upon which the candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in the last presidential election, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, is seeking an overturn of the judgment of the Presidential Election Petition Court is its failure to take into cognisance the "Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation" regarding the failure of INEC to conduct the election in accordance with its own guidelines and the Electoral Act, 2022.

The doctrine of Legitimate Expectation was first developed in English law as a ground of judicial review in administrative law to protect a procedural or substantive interest when a public authority rescinds from a representation made to a person. In Nigeria, the doctrine of legitimate expectation demands that a public authority shall respect and apply its stated position or sustained practice in exercising its powers on members of the public.

However, Atiku in his Notice of Appeal dated September 18, and filed by his lead counsel, Chief Chris Uche, SAN, submitted that the failure of the tribunal to apply the said doctrine is enough ground for the apex court to set aside the entire decision of the lower court.

Specifically in ground seven of his Notice of Appeal, the former Vice President submitted that, "the lower Court erred in Law when it failed to nullify the presidential election held on February 25, 2023 on the ground of noncompliance with the Electoral Act 2022, when by evidence before the Court, the 1st Respondent (INEC) conducted the election based on very grave and gross misrepresentation contrary to the principles of the Electoral Act 2022, based on the "doctrine of legitimate expectation".

While pointing out that the Electoral Act 2022, made the use of Bi-modal Verification Accreditation System (BVAS) and INEC's Results Viewing (IReV) portals mandatory in the conduct of the 2023 general elections, adding that, INEC through its Chairman, Professor Yakubu Mahmood, publicly gave guarantees, undertakings, clear and unambiguous representations to candidates and political parties, that polling

units results were mandatorily required to be electronically transmitted or transferred directly by the Presiding Officers, he argued that, "there was no evidence before the lower Court that the 1st Respondent altered its aforesaid Guidelines and Regulations to remove the said requirement of electronic transmission of the results of the election directly from the polling units to the 1st Respondent's Collation System".

It is the submission of Atiku that, INEC "conducted the said Presidential Election based on the gross misrepresentation to the Appellants and the general voting public that the Presiding Officers were going to electronically transmit the results of the said election directly from the polling units to the 1st Respondent's Collation System.

He added that, "Contrary to the above unambiguous representations, undertakings and guarantees, the 1st Respondent neither deployed the electronic transmission of election results nor the electronic collation system in the said election, sabotaging the raison d'etre for the enactment of the new Electoral Act 2022 and the introduction of the technological innovations.

"Rather than hold the 1st Respondent (INEC) as a public institution accountable to the representations that it made pursuant to its statutory and constitutional duties which created legitimate expectation on the part of the Appellant's, the lower court wrongly exonerated the 1st Respondent of any responsibility by holding that the use of the technological innovations to guarantee transparency was not mandatory".

It was the appellant's further position that the February 25 poll was "conducted based on very grave and gross misrepresentation and was therefore oppressive to the Appellants and thus not free and fair, and not in accordance with the principles of the Electoral Act 2022, and not protected by the presumption of regularity, as well as the preamble and the fundamental objectives and directive principles of State Policy of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) adopted by the lower court.

"The grave misrepresentation

negated the legal presumption of official regularity in favour of the 1st Respondent.

Besides, Atiku told the apex court that INEC as a public institution is not above the law, and not entitled to breach its own regulations with impunity, after clear and unambiguous representations upon which parties have placed reliance and entitled to legitimate expectation.

"The said election ought to have been nullified by reason of the said gross misrepresentation by a public institution based upon the "doctrine of legitimate expectation" as applied by the Supreme Court as a policy Court..."

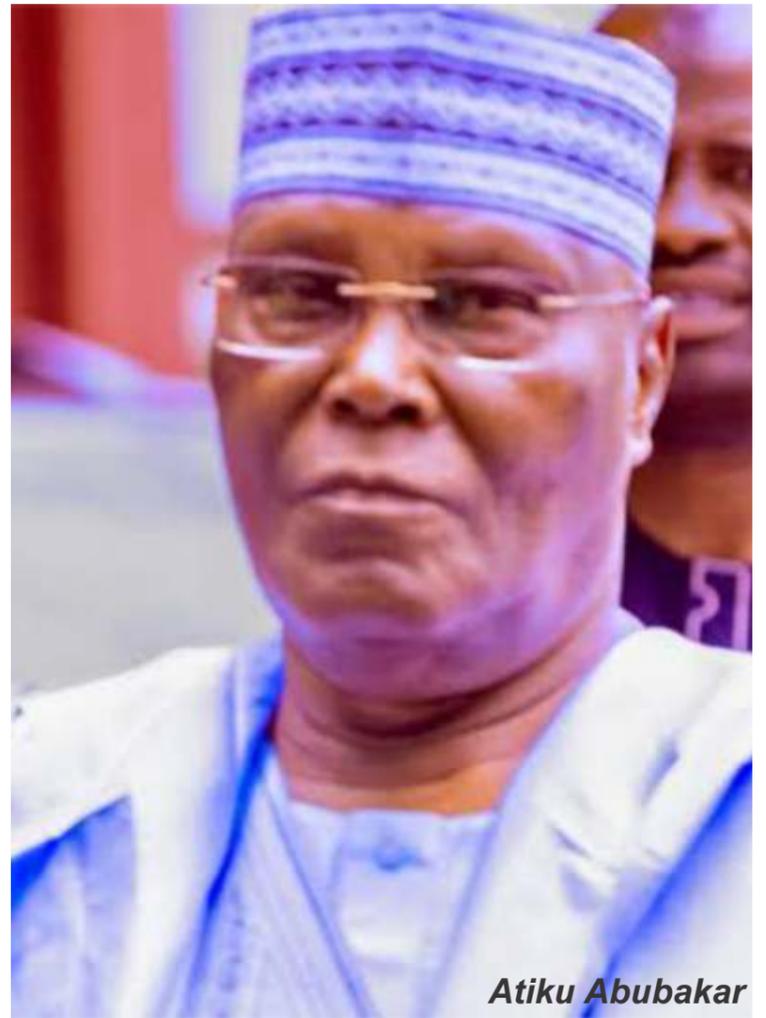
Accusing the tribunal of bias, the appellants stated in grounds 34 that the "lower Court erred in law in its use of disparaging words against the Appellants in its judgment evincing bias against the Appellants as Petitioners and thereby violating their right to fair hearing and occasioning grave miscarriage of justice.

The justices in their verdicts, while discountenancing the arguments and contentions of the Appellants used expressions such as 'ludicrous' (page 721 of the judgment), 'clever by half' (page 557 of the judgment), 'dishonourable practice' (page 507 of the judgment), 'smuggle' (page 557), 'fallacious' (page 721 of the judgment); 'foul play' (page 560 of the judgment), 'cross the line of misconception' (page 644 of the judgment); 'collect evidence from the market' (page 765 of the judgment); 'those who are not used to reading preambles' (page 726 of the judgment); 'hollowness in the argument of the Petitioners' (page 727 of the judgment); etc.

It is the position of the appellants that the choice of words and expressions by the lower court shows the lower Court's contempt and disdain for the Appellants.

"The lower court failed to use civil, modest, moderate, and temperate language that is befitting of the exalted position of the court in line with the Revised Code for Judicial Officers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, promulgated by the National Judicial Council.

"The words against the Appellants in the judgment evince a disposition in the mind of the lower court that was far from objective, which approach



Atiku Abubakar

demonstrated bias and infringement to the Appellants' right to fair hearing.

"The Appellants were entitled to approach the Court for the ventilation of their grievances, which court was set up as the Presidential Election Petition Court, solely to receive petitions arising from the presidential election.

"The right to present an election petition in respect of a presidential election is a right granted by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and the Electoral Act 2022, which right the Appellants merely exercised.

"The use of the said words and expressions substantially affected the lower court's consideration of the Appellants' case, peremptorily striking out their witness statements on oath, their exhibits, their pleadings, and discountenancing the evidence of their witnesses, and thus occasioned a grave miscarriage of justice", the appellants submitted.

Recall that the five-member panel of the tribunal had on September 6 upheld the declaration of Tinubu as the winner of the February 25 presidential election.

The panel in a unanimous

decision held that Atiku, as well as other petitioners against the February 25 presidential election, were unable to substantiate their allegations against the poll conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Specifically, the panel led by Justice Haruna Tsammani in their judgments held that, the documentary and oral evidences presented before them could not prove claims of irregularities, corrupt practices, non-compliance amongst other claims for which Atiku had asked the court to void Tinubu's election.

Dissatisfied, Atiku claiming that the lower tribunal erred in law in affirming the outcome of the February 25 poll, has amongst others asked the Supreme Court to set aside the entire decision of the tribunal.

Atiku, in addition, prayed the apex court to after voiding Tinubu's election, declare him as the authentic winner of the poll.

Atiku, who came second in the poll, is claiming that he and not Tinubu actually won the majority of the lawful votes cast at the election, but the electoral umpire, however, manipulated the process in favour of Tinubu.

Mohbad: Police Vows To Unravel Cause Of Death, Sets Up Investigation Cmttee

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Lagos State Police Command has vowed not to leave any stone unturned in unraveling the cause of the death of a talented hip-hop artiste Ilerioluwa Oladimeji Aloba popularly known as mohbad, who died Tuesday last week.

The cause of his death has remained unknown as different accounts of circumstances surrounding the demise.

Consequently, the Inspector General of Police Kayode Egbetokun has directed the Lagos State Commissioner of Police Idowu Owohunwa to set into the matter to unravel the cause of his death.

Determined to unearth the cause of death, Owohunwa has begun the Investigation with the setting up of a 13- man Investigation committee.

Addressing the media on Monday while constituting the committee, the Commissioner of Police, Idowu Owohunwa acknowledged that the death of the musician has elicited loud responses and controversies,

adding that everything possible within the ambit of the law will be done to unravel the cause of the death.

He hinted that the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the IGP have shown commitment and support for the matter.

Owohunwa therefore called on bloggers and social media handlers to desist from posting whatever information at the custody that can assist in the cause of Investigation on the social media, but to the committee.

The Police Commissioner assured that all piece of information will be harnessed and filtered, just as he called on the general public to volunteer information to aid a speedy unraveling of the circumstances leading to the death of the 27-year-old singer.

He said all allegations, insinuations and comments including videos on social media would be investigated, while adoption the best practices on homicide matter.

The 13-man investigative panel of seasoned detectives, headed by the Assistant Commissioner



CP Owohunwa and family members of the late artiste

of Police in charge of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) ACP Saheed Kazeem has two weeks to submit its report.

The panel is made of four subcommittees, which include homicide, forensic, detectives and legal.

In attendance at the inauguration

ceremony were the father, grandmother and Aunt of the deceased artiste.

2023 International Day: Practicalise Peace, GPFN Country Director Urges Nigerians

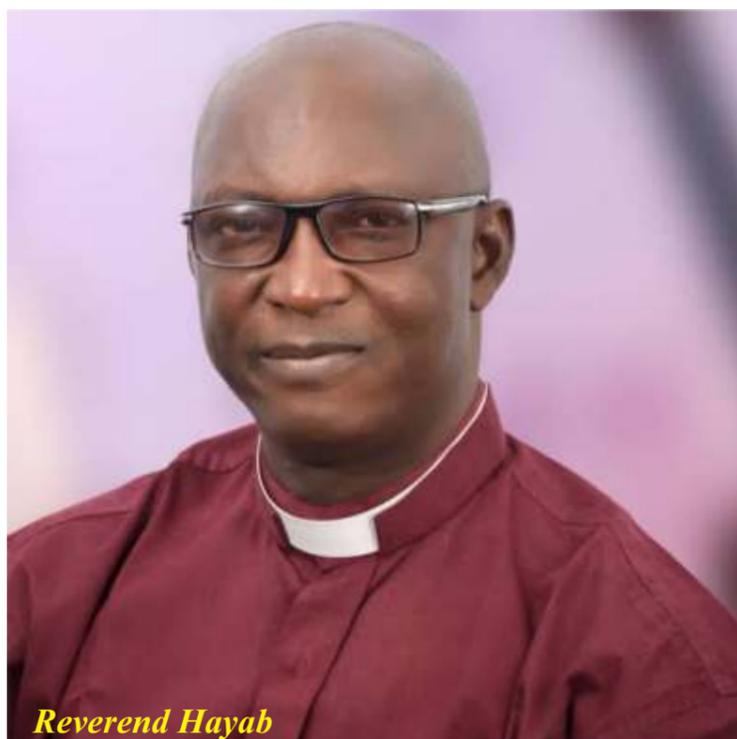
*Kaduna PDP Chairman demands inclusiveness in appointments, provision of infrastructure

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Country Director, Global Peace Foundation Nigeria, Rev John Joseph Hayab has said that the 2023 International Day of Peace should be seen as a time to practically work for peace in the country, rather than talking about it.

He said, "I must boldly say that so much has been said about the need for all stakeholders and the people of Nigeria to embrace peace. It is now time to manifest the sincerity of our various conversations as a government, religious leaders, traditional rulers, and people by practically working for peace rather than just talking about it."

Speaking yesterday in Kaduna on this year's international day for peace on the theme: "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the Global Goals", he lamented that conflict continued to threaten the oneness of humanity and continue to make the realization



Reverend Hayab

of a more peaceful world seemingly unattainable.

He believes that the socio-economic development of every

human society hinges on peace and stability, saying that it depends on the humans in that society that behooves on all to

seek and work for peace much more than they desire and yearn for growth and development.

He stated that the International Day of Peace has been devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace within and among all nations and peoples, stressing that the day is marked to promote and maintain peace among all people irrespective of color, ethnicity, or religion and 24 hours of global ceasefire and non-violence for groups in active combat.

The Country Director said that the clarion call is for all humans to understand that every little action for peace, both in the open and in the secret, counts and must all be opened to working together to find solutions to problems and challenges of peace, by thinking, asking, and learning what each can do individually and collectively to make the family, community, state, nation, and the world peaceful.

"For us at Global Peace Foundation Nigeria (GPFN), it is either peace or nothing, so we continue to wage peace through the umbrella of One Family under God. Today, like always, we advocate that we look at man based on humanity before the differences in religion, ethnicity, tribe, and region," he stressed.

The Kaduna State chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Felix Hassan Hyat, called on leaders to practicalise the constitution of the country by ensuring inclusiveness in appointments and the provision of infrastructure in order to carry all along for the maintenance of peace in the country.

Prof Tukur Abdulkadir, Dean Students Affairs, Kaduna State University noted that Kaduna State has had its share in conflicts and called on inclusiveness and equality for all to be carried along and ensure peaceful coexistence in the society.

Oluremi Tinubu An Outstanding Leader At 63, FCT Minister Of state Praises First Lady

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

The Minister Of State for the FCT, Dr Mariya Mamoud said First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu leadership shines bright and is daily impacting the lives of Nigerians. In her birthday message to the first lady who clocks 63, the Minister of state, Prayed God that, "May this new chapter bring you good health, happiness and continued success in your endeavors to make Nigeria a better Place".

She commended the First Lady for her dedication to

the country. In her words "Your years of service and commitment to improving the lives of Nigerians particularly women and children is worth celebrating.

Dr Mariya Mamoud said based the First Lady's impactful leadership, Nigerians look forward to "the positive impact you will continue to mark on our beloved country as we moved to renew the hope of our People"

The minister wished Senatpr Oluremi Tinubu "a fantastic birthday and a future filled with prosperity and joy



Senator Remi Tinubu



FCT Minister of State

Inland Dry Ports Crucial Facilitators Of Trade, Commerce -Comptroller Katsina Customs

By; SULAIMAN
AHMED MISAU,
Katsina

Comptroller of Katsina Area Command of the Nigeria Customs Service, Mohammed Abubakar Umar has observed that, Inland dry ports are crucial facilitators of trade and commerce which serves as pivotal hubs for regional economic development.

Comptroller Abubakar Umar noted that, the Inland Drug Ports are not only attracting investments but also create job opportunities and foster industrial growth adding that, "Businesses can leverage these dry ports to expand their reach, thereby boosting production, sales, and revenue generation."

Comptroller Umar who was speaking at the Funtua Inland Dry Ports sensitization programme organized by Shippers Council of Nigeria said the Funtua Inland Dry Ports, when operated efficiently, would unlock the economic potential of Nigeria and enable seamless trade with landlocked neighboring countries such as Niger and Chad Republics.

"These ports will grant importers and exporters from our nation's hinterland, particularly the Northwest region, access to shipping and port services without the need to be physically present at

seaports," Comptroller Mohammed Abubakar Umar emphasized.

Furthermore, he said the Dry Ports would enable Nigeria to harness the benefits of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and promote economic integration while curbing smuggling activities within the region.

He explained that, the Nigeria Customs Service, being a pivotal player in the nation's economy with primary responsibility of facilitating trade, has implemented numerous processes and procedures, including fiscal policy adjustments, rules of origin, and modernization initiatives, aimed at simplifying trade procedures.

Comptroller of Customs, Mohammed Abubakar Umar assured that, "We are fully committed to providing top-notch service to all our dry ports and stakeholders within the region."

He said "Now, let's delve into the critical role of Customs in the operation of dry ports. Customs officers are entrusted with a range of responsibilities, including: processing Customs declarations, inspecting goods, assessing Customs duties and taxes, collecting Customs revenue, enforcing Customs laws and regulations ensuring security."

However, he disclosed that, Customs officers also collaborate closely with other stakeholders and sister agencies like the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON), the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to combat smuggling, uphold standards, and combat illegal activities at dry ports.

He announced that, under the visionary leadership of the acting Comptroller General of Customs, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, Nigeria Customs Service has been committed to working hand-in-hand with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the advantages offered by these inland dry ports in terms of improved trade, economic growth, and employment opportunities are fully realized by everyone.

Comptroller Abubakar Umar said with the recent enactment of the Nigeria Customs Service Act in 2023, the business community and stakeholders should expect more fruitful collaboration with their service, leading to positive growth in the Nation's economy.

In recent times, he said the Nigeria Customs Service has taken significant steps in pursuit of its trade

facilitation mission, which include the automation of trade procedures as highlighted by the recent launch of the Advanced Ruling system and the transition from Fast Track 2.0 to the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) system.

The AEO system, Comptroller Mohammed Abubakar Umar said, is a globally recognized programme introduced by the World Customs Organization (WCO) to secure and expedite global trade.

Comptroller Abubakar Umar who appreciated the Government of Katsina State under Governor Dikko Umaru Radda and people of the State for providing the enabling environment that birth to the project.

He thanked the Nigeria Shippers Council for organizing the sensitization programme that would go a long way in enlightening all stakeholders.

He reiterated the need for collective efforts to make the Funtua dry ports a resounding success story for the country.

"We can unlock the immense potential that lies behind these gates paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for all," the Comptroller of the Katsina Area Command, Mohammed Abubakar Umar said.

North West: There's Need For Unity For APC To Remain Relevant -National Vice Chairman

By Amos Tauna, Kaduna

The new National vice chairman of the All Progressive Congress (APC) North West, Garba Datti Muhammad has said that for the party to retain its dominance and political relevance in the region, it must unite.

He made the observation during his inaugural meeting with zonal executive officers at the party's zonal secretariat in Kaduna.

Malam Musa Mailafiya Mada, the zonal Publicity Secretary of the APC, in a statement on Wednesday, said that the zonal chairman stressed the need for unity and harmony in the zone to step up the party's fortunes in the region in the future.

According to him, "The

zone must remain committed to ensuring its status does not erode politically. I, however, acknowledges the importance of the North West zone to the political development of the country."

He pledged to use his vast experience and connections to bolster unity and cohesion among members of the party in the geopolitical zone, assuring that the party's national chairman, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, was equally committed to ensuring that the APC succeeded in the region.

The new National vice chairman of the party was sworn in on Friday, August 25, 2023, following the resignation of Salihu Mohammed Lukman, on July 26, 2023.

Oyo APC Remains Unsung Hero Of February Presidential election - Chairman

***Says PDP laying claims to hard-earned victory at the February 25 polls**

BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Hon Isaac Omodewu on Tuesday, said that Oyo APC remains an unsung hero of the February Presidential election.

Hon Omodewu who raised the alarm while receiving the party's National Chairman, Dr Abdullahi Ganduje into the state party secretariat in Ibadan said Oyo APC "got little support but we delivered beyond expectations".

The Oyo APC Chairman pointed out that it was unfortunate that the same people set of people unleashing terror on APC during the election "are now the one laying claim to our hard-earned victory at the February 25 poll.

"We must inform you that Oyo APC remains an unsung hero because we got little support but we delivered beyond expectations. In spite of the fact we had no sitting governor in Oyo, electioneering was quite challenging as we had to face a lot of hostilities from the PDP government in the state as sponsored thugs attacked our members on many occasions", he said.

Hon Omodewu added, "The same PDP hoodlums did not

spare all our campaign facilities including billboards, vehicles, buildings among others which they attacked and destroyed at will. All these attacks were documented and reported but unfortunately, the same people behind the attacks are now the one laying claim to our hard-earned victory at the February 25 poll.

"We have our records and we are using this medium to make a passionate appeal to your Office to launch a probe into the whole matter with a view to establishing the truth. As it stands today, we are not getting fair treatment but we remain hopeful that things would change for the better".

The Oyo APC Chairman while commending Dr Ganduje for his roles in ensuring the emergence of President Bola Tinubu, said "We are not unmindful of the fact that you and other like-minded Progressive Governors of northern extraction stood your ground and ensured that all attempts to throw the party into avoidable crisis were nipped in the bud.

"You did not allow anything to compromise your sense of fairness, equity and justice as you fully supported power shift to the south and with this, you



elevated your status as one of the best patriots which Nigeria has ever produced. Today, our own Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR is the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and we congratulate you for the heroic role which you played for this feat to be achieved.

"For record purpose, we did not only win all the three available senatorial seats and nine out of the the fourteen House of Representatives seats, we wrapped it up with a massive

449,884 votes for our presidential candidate only for us to be victims over night".

He stressed further, "However, we are not ready to lose focus as a progressive family. We intensify efforts to reconcile all our former members who left in the wake of the last general election and we shall not leave any stone unturned to achieve our goal of a stronger, better and more virile Oyo APC very soon". Speaking, the party's National Chairman Dr Abdullahi Ganduje

tasked APC members in Oyo state to promote unity among the party in order to form the next government in the state.

"I thank you all. We are here for some official engagements. We cannot visit Ibadan without visiting our state headquarters. We thank you for voting for our President, Senators, House of Representatives members and House of Assembly members. But, we want you to be united so that the government of Oyo State will be in your hands".

Datti Muhammad Holds Maiden Meeting As Northwest APC Vice Chairman

***Vows to retain party's status as dominant political platform**

By: USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

The new National Chairman of the North West wing of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Hon. Garba Datti Muhammad held his maiden meeting with the Zonal Executive Officers at the party's Zonal Secretariat in Kaduna on Tuesday.

In the statement signed by the Zonal Publicity Secretary; North West, Malam Musa Mailafiya Mada, Datti Muhammad appealed for cooperation of the Zonal Executive Officers for the success of the task ahead.

Datti Muhammad, a former lawmaker vowed to retain his party's status as the dominant political platform in the zone, just as he promised to harness his wealth of experience to restrengthen unity and cohesion



among the party faithfuls in the geopolitical zone.

This, according to a statement made available to newsmen in Kaduna on Tuesday, he also stated that Northwest is the most important zone in the country.

The party's zonal Vice Chairman opined that success can only be achieved if the party remains actively united by exploring grey areas beyond the electioneering processes.

He reiterated his commitment and that of the National Chairman, Dr.

Abdullahi Umar Ganduje towards ensuring that the party maintains full time operations.

It would be recalled that Hon. Garba Datti Muhammad was sworn in by the National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress in August 2023, following the resignation of the former National Vice Chairman Salihu Lukman on the 26th of July, 2023.

Meanwhile, at the first official meeting, the Zonal Legal Adviser Barr. Bashir Ussaini Dutse, Zonal Organizing Secretary Hon. Salisu Uba Tsafe, Zonal Publicity Secretary Malam Musa Mailafiya Mada, Zonal Leader of People With Disability Hon. Lawal Muhammad Na Rogo and Zonal Youths Leader Hon. Abdulhamid Umar Mohammed were all present.

Kogi Assembly Speaker Tasks Members On Effective Utilisation Of State's Resources

*Inaugurates Special Standing C'ttee on Public Accounts

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

The Speaker of Kogi State House of Assembly, Rt Honourable Aliyu Umar Yusuf has charged members

of the Assembly to ensure they work closely with the Executive Arm of Government to ensure the resources of the state work for its citizens.

This was made known in a

statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker, Yabagi Mohammed and made available to pressmen.

According to the statement, the speaker made the address while inaugurating the House Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

The Speaker enjoined the legislators to ensure a good working relationship with

all departments and agencies under the purview of the committee, adding that it was only a hitch free working relationship that would engender growth and development of the state.

Speaking, the chairman of the Committee, Hon Alhassan Zakariya Otokiti clarified that several sections of the constitution empower the

Auditor General to audit public accounts and all offices and courts of the state and submit its reports to the House of Assembly.

He said through the report, the Public Accounts Committee performs a type of legislative oversight by conducting investigation on the audited accounts among other responsibilities.



Tinubu's Support Boosting Nigerian Army's Constitutional Responsibilities - COAS

**Says Army determined to resolve security challenges in Nigeria favourably with shortest possible time*

By: **BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan**
Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt Gen Taoheed Lagbaja on Wednesday, said President Bola Tinubu continuous strategic direction and unflinching support for the Nigerian Army's boosting its constitutional responsibilities.

The COAS made this known at the Nigerian Army Civil - Military Cooperation Media Chat for 3rd quarter 2023, themed, "Leveraging Media to Enhance Nigeria's Internal Security Operations" held at Tiger Officers' Mess, Agodi, Ibadan.

Lt General Lagbaja who was represented by the General Officer Commanding, (GOC), 2 Division of Nigeria Army, Major General Bamidele Alabi said the support has enabled the Nigerian Army to carry out its constitutional responsibilities.

"Let me seize this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR for his continuous strategic direction and unflinching support to the Nigerian Army which has enabled us to carry out our constitutional responsibilities", he said.

Lt General Lagbaja added, "I want to re-assure the nation of the unalloyed loyalty of the officers and soldiers of the Nigerian Army to the President

and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria".

According to the Chief of Army Staff, the Nigerian Army is determined to ensure that the security challenges facing the country are resolved favourably with the shortest possible time and that towards ensuring this, the Nigerian Army under his leadership has emplaced robust strategies across all lines of operations towards realizing this.

He stressed that the Nigerian Army has continued to train and equip its forces to carry out kinetic operations in compliance with the approved rules of engagement and code of conduct for various theatres, within and outside the country.

Emphasizing that the security environment in Nigeria has drastically evolved such that the Nigerian Army is deployed to combat terrorists, insurgents and other criminals in all part of the country, the Chief of Army Staff said "the successful conduct of these operations require the support and efforts of the people."

In this regards, the Nigerian Army under my leadership has emplaced robust strategies across all lines of operations to ensure that the security challenges in the Country are resolved favourably with the shortest possible time", he said. The COAS added, "Hence, the country requires a healthy

Military - Media relationship to create a positive perception that would sustain popular support to the Army's counter terrorism operations and other operations being conducted to secure the country and protect innocent citizens. The media remains a key partner in our non-kinetic line of operation for the security of the country".

Speaking, the Chief of Civil - Military Affairs, Major General Nosakhare Ugbo disclosed that the Nigerian Army has "continually emplaced measures to strengthen the civil-military relationship in Nigeria.

Major General Ugbo stressed further that the Army "has achieved this through enhanced civil-military cooperation activities, effective liaison, visits to relevant stakeholders, advocacy and mediation as well as seminars. In addition, the Army conducts workshops and conferences with different strata of the Nigerian society.

"Within the Nigerian Army, deliberate efforts have been institutionalized to enhance professionalism among troops towards achieving our

constitutionals responsibilities", he said.

Major General Ugbo added, "These include enhanced training of personnel, sensitization and

equipping to ensure that our troops remain resolute in the discharge of their duties within the ambit of the laws of armed conflicts, and in tandem with best practices."



Major General Bamidele Alabi, the GOC, 2 Div, Nigeria Army speaking on Wednesday.

Police Raises Alarm Over Illegal Central Motor Registry Platform

By: **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

The Nigeria Police Force has raised an alarm over the existence of an illegal Central Motor Registry (CMR) platform, warning that the illegality will not be tolerated.

Tagged "VReg", the NPF claimed that the platform allegedly operated by a private company engaged in performing NPF CMR duties.

Warning that the practice must cease immediately, the NPF posited that there is no legislative framework guiding the establishment of such platform.

Addressing a press conference in Lagos yesterday on the development, the Force Public Relations Officer ACPOlumuyiwa Adejobi posited that the Police is the only legally recognised agency to operate the CMR.

While going memory lane, Adejobi said



IGP Egbetokun

the Police CMR has a rich history spanning over six decades, having been established in 1958 with a fundamental mission to combat vehicle-related crimes and bolster national security.

He pointed out that the CMR platform has been rejigged following a surge in vehicle related offenses, which include car theft, snatching, kidnapping, carjacking, hit-and-run incidents, largely attributed to the use of unregistered vehicles, tinted windows, among other factors, which posed significant challenges across the country.

His words, "It is imperative to address certain issues in motor vehicle administration. The Nigeria Police Force's Central Motor Registry (CMR) is a dedicated platform entrusted with specific functions that cannot be carried out by any other entity outside our

institution.

"We have recently received intelligence regarding the existence of a platform called "VReg," allegedly operated by a private company engaged in performing NPF CMR duties.

"We want to emphasize that this practice must cease immediately, as there is no legislative framework guiding such establishment.

"We wish to clarify that motor vehicle registration and licensing are within the purview of the Nigeria Police Force as our role is to acquire essential vehicle data for our repository, vital for national security.

"The cooperation of all stakeholders in facilitating digital integration to access and validate motor vehicle data is of paramount importance in the interest of national security."

25 CSOs Warn Kogi SDP Candidate Against Wild Allegations, Ethnic Profiling

■ Predict outcome of off-season guber polls in three states

must caution stakeholders against.

According to them, the wild allegations and ethnic profiling which have become the hallmark of the SDP's campaign in Kogi State, "are capable of compromising the peace and security of the electorate, officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission, election observers and other candidates in the state."

The CSOs said they came to this conclusion after painstakingly monitoring campaign strategies of various political parties participating in the November 11 gubernatorial elections in Kogi, Bayelsa and Imo states.

They pointed out that it was necessary to nip these activities in the bud to forestall possible security breaches and utterances that may provoke ethnic disaffection and electoral violence during the off-season polls.

The communique was signed by the Director of Research and Data Analysis of the coalition, Dr. Jaiyeola Isiaka, and jointly presented to the media, in Abuja on Thursday.

"The State's Police Commissioner recently had reason to caution the same SDP candidate as published by many media platforms not to drag him into the politics of the wild allegations he has been making which have the potential to overheat the state prior to the election," the coalition said.

On how Bayelsa and Imo States have been faring since their campaign activities began, the communique said, "In Bayelsa State, the signs of security concerns are already surfacing but not so serious. The tone of campaign language between the two leading candidates of the APC and PDP is becoming more accusatory and volatile. Security

agencies must monitor the supporters of both leading candidates of APC and PDP in order to forestall any serious breakdown of law and order before, during and in the immediate aftermath of the election. Possibility and rate of violence is 35%.

"Imo State: This is the state that security agencies must pay serious attention to because of the seemingly worsening

security situation in the state. The activities of the unknown gunmen are not helping matters at all.

"Security agencies must up their game in Imo state because it is a major flashpoint in this particular off-cycle governorship election.

Just yesterday (Tuesday), eight security operatives - soldiers and policemen were ambushed in the state, and allegedly killed and set

ablaze. The possibility and rate of security challenges are projected to be 55% or more."

The groups, while revealing their projections on voter turnout in these states said 35 to 40 per cent would come out to vote in Bayelsa, 20 to 25 per cent in Imo, while about 50 per cent turnout was expected in Kogi.

On the election outcomes, the communique read, "The following projections are based

strictly on delegates' reports and research carried out by Coalition of Civil Society Organisations involved in this effort and are totally nonpartisan.

"Bayelsa State: The incumbent Governor seems popular in the state and, judging by the reports of the Bayelsa State delegates at this preview, the election is a straight action between the candidates of the APC who is a former Governor of the state and the incumbent who is flying the flag of the PDP.

The results are projected as follows: APC: 30% of the total votes to be cast; PDP: 40% of the total votes to be cast; Others: 30%.

"Imo State: The incumbent who is the candidate of the APC is a strong contender in this election. The influence of incumbency, among other things, are likely to work in his favour, all other things being equal. However, opposition Parties in the state are gathering significant momentum, especially the Labour Party.

"Our projections are as follows based on independent reports by organizations based in the state - APC: 35% of the total votes to be cast; PDP, 25%; and LP, 30%.

"Kogi State: Based on the reports of the Kogi State delegates at this conference and our research, the upcoming

election in the state will be keenly contested among the candidates of the ruling APC, the SDP and the PDP.

"Our projections are as follows on the basis of independent reports by organizations based in Kogi State: Accord, 15% of estimated votes; APC, 45% of the total estimated votes; PDP, 10%; SDP, 15%, others, 15%."



The Civil Society Organisations, while presenting the communique issued after a three-day election preview on the three states, yesterday.

Kaduna Dep Gov Convenes Crucial Meeting On Primary Healthcare

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

In continuing efforts to bolster healthcare services in Kaduna State, the Deputy Governor, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe yesterday, chaired a crucial meeting of the Kaduna State Task Force on Primary Health Care System Strengthening and Polio Eradication

Initiative.

The meeting, held inside the Deputy Governor's Council Chambers at Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, brought together key stakeholders including the Commissioner of Health, Umma Ahmed, management staff of the Ministry of Health and State Primary Health Care

Board, heads of health agencies, and representatives of health partners.

The meeting did a comprehensive review of immunization exercises and ongoing efforts to enhance healthcare services in Kaduna State.

Emphasizing the importance of

immunization, the deputy governor urged Local Government chairmen to demonstrate unwavering commitment towards providing reputable immunization services, ensuring that all children receive protection against preventable diseases.



Robbery: Police Neutralizes 2 Suspects, Arrests Others In Akwa Ibom

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Two suspected armed robbers have been killed by Police in Akwa Ibom State, others arrested while armed, ammunition and stolen items were recovered from them. The Police Public Relations Officers (PPRO), Akwa Ibom Command, SP Odiko Macdon disclosed this in a press release made available to journalists in Uyo yesterday. Macdon stated that the police recorded the success when operatives of Quick Intervention Unit of the Command responded to a distress call by residents of Udoette by School Road, UNIUYO by Ikpa road area, Ikot Udoro and environs in Uyo during attacks on them by the robbers on Tuesday. "Operatives of Quick Intervention Unit of the Command proceeded to the scene, the hoodlums on sighting the Police, engaged them in a gun duel. In the ensuing milieu, two of the notorious robbers were fatally injured, while one Godswill Ntieno Isaac was arrested.

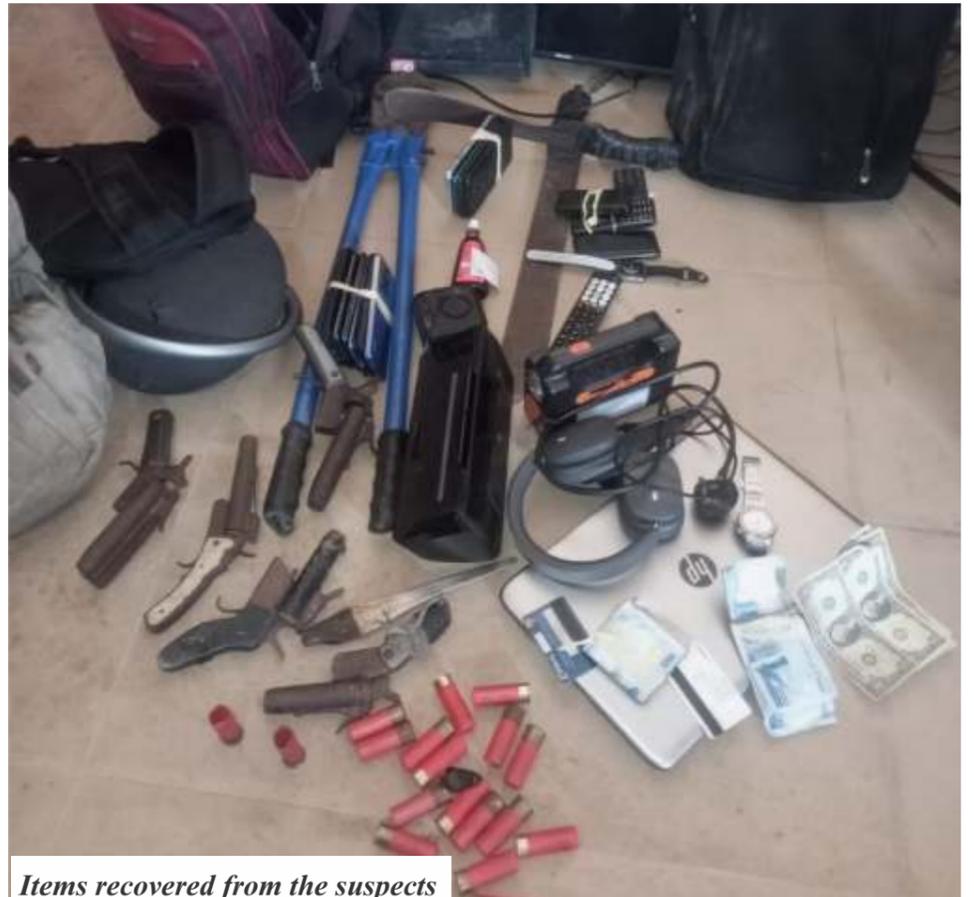
"4 Locally made Pistols, 15 Live Cartridges, 2 Expanded Cartridges, 1 Big Iron Cutter, 2 Machetes, 1 Dagger, 2 Plasma TV, 1 Woofer MP3, 1 HP Computer Lapto, 10 Android Phones, 5 Smaller Phones, N15,700 Naira cash, and 8 Dollars were recovered from them" Macdon stated.

According to SP Macdon, one Mkpokana Uti Ekeno of Ekpenbo Community in Esit Eket LGA who specializes in breaking into People's Houses on Sundays while Residents have gone to worship was arrested earlier by Operatives of Esit Eket Division in collaboration with the Youths of the area.

The suspect, PPRO explained had confessed to many crimes including the strangulation to death of one Happiness Emmanuel Uma of same community on the 28/8/2023.

Also, Operatives of the Anti-Kidnapping Squad of the Command have arrested one Gospel Effiong a.k.a Python, Solomon Okon, a.k.a Eblem (Gang 001) for robbery and rape. During interrogation, suspects

confessed to be a robbery gang responsible for robbing unsuspecting commuters in Tricycles and Mini Buses in Uyo and environs. A search led to the recovery of arms and stolen items including Tricycle with Reg. No. NGD-375-WZ. The Commissioner of Police, CP Olateyo Durosini, Police image maker stated has warned criminal elements domiciled or operating in the state to desist from crime or leave the state



Items recovered from the suspects

immediately.

He added that the Command remained resolute in its

determination to rid the state of criminal elements.

NatureNews launches NatureFacts to fact-check misinformation on environment

Africa's leading nature publication, NatureNews has launched a fact-checking platform, NatureFacts, to combat trending misinformation on environment and climate change. Speaking at the launch event in Abuja on Thursday, National Coordinator of Nigeria Fact-checkers Coalition (NFC), Opeyemi Kehinde said NatureFacts is a great initiative at this period when the world is faced with the challenge of misinformation around the environment.

He said NatureFacts fact-checking platform will play a critical role in combating the pervasive incidents of misinformation and disinformation which are being exacerbated by digital disruption.

Mr. Kehinde congratulated the management of NatureNews for its constant innovation, adding that NatureFacts is a unique platform for accessing truthful information.

He urged the NatureFacts team to uphold the core principles of fact-checking such as transparency of sources, balance, open correction policies, funding disclosure, and maintaining up-to-date data.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Fact-check Editor of The Cable News, Mr. Lanre Olagunju, said environmental fact-checking is an exciting niche at a time the global conversation is around climate change.

He emphasised the need for the media to fact-check suspicious contents so as to provide the public

with truthful information on all issues.

Mr. Olagunju who stressed that fact-checking goes beyond news contents alone added that NatureFacts should extend its reach to cover the contents of advertisement on products and services.

Earlier in his opening remarks, the CEO/Editor-in-Chief of NatureNews, Mr. Aliu Akoshile said the launch of NatureFacts

commemorates the third anniversary of NatureNews newspaper.

He said the groundbreaking fact-checking platform signifies a remarkable step in the NatureNews' advocacy against misinformation within its thematic focus on environment and climate change.

Mr. Akoshile said NatureFacts is committed to ensuring that the public is served with accurate and truthful contents to counter the

dysfunctional use of social media and Artificial Intelligence.

Recounting NatureNews' three-year journey, Mr. Akoshile expressed delight at the indelible strides being recorded by the newspaper leading to its rating as Africa's No. 1 nature publication.

He said the company has created a robust structure for NatureFacts to ensure the fact-checking keeps pace with the growing cases of misinformation and disinformation

on environmental issues around the world.

In his remarks, the Managing Director of NatureNews, Mr. Rasheed Yusuf said the NatureFacts team is eager to learn and collaborate with the fact-checking community to advance the organization's mission.

He reiterated that all lovers of the environment will find the new platform very exciting as it will throw light on some popular misgivings around the ecosystem and human habitat.

Also speaking at the launch, the Chief Operating Officer of NatureNews, Mr. Pius Alabi emphasised that the motivation for setting up NatureFacts was the alarming prevalence of misinformation and disinformation on climate change and the environment.

He expressed NatureNews' commitment to joining forces with Nigeria Fact-checkers Coalition to tackle the menace of disinformation through truthful information based on fact-checking.

The Assistant Editor and Head of NatureFacts, Daniel Adaji explained how distorted information about nature can harm both humans and animals.

He expressed the hope that NatureFact will become a leader in environmental fact-checking not only in Nigeria but across Africa.

The event which attracted fact-check leaders was also graced by Blessing Otohobi of FactCheckHub.



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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

International Day 2023: Allamin Foundation, OSIWA Commend Zulum 's Commitment To Peace Building

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development in collaboration with the generous support of Open Society West Africa (OSIWA has commended Governor Babagana Umara Zulum and Borno State Government for their unwavering commitment and determination to returning peace, transform Borno, and provide sustainable livelihood support to the displaced persons and victims of the insurgency. This was expressed yesterday to commemorate the 2023 international Day of Peace with a theme, "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals," at Hajiya Manga Memorial Hall Maiduguri.

The Executive Director, Allamin Foundation, Hajiya Hamsatu Allamin said, "this year's theme according to the United Nations, "is a call to action the recognizes our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace.

"This therefore, underscores the imperative of collective efforts to achieve lasting peace in regions such as ours - the North-East Nigeria, and Borno State in particular, currently being affected and impacted by the over thirteen years Boko Haram insurgency.

"For over 13 years, the people of Borno State have endured the devastating impact of the insurgency, which left a trail of destruction in its wake, affecting countless lives, livelihoods, properties, and social bonds.

"In the years the Allamin Foundation with its nine Social Networks of Victims and Survivors tagged "Jire Dole"(Kanuri- Truth/Justice is a must for peace) and Members of our @SheBuildsPeace Forum of Women FBOS, supported by its partners such as (Open Society Foundations/OSIWA and International Civil Society Action Network..

"Others include, Global Fund for Women Amnesty International, Trust Africa, and recently the UK Aide/ Foreign Common Development Office who come out annually to amplify victims voices, give them visibility and present their demands.

The Executive Director explained further that this year, peace and development networks have been expanded further with our Network of CSOS on Transitional Justice and Reconciliation (NETJUN), our Media Forum on TJ and Reconciliation, our Communitary Advocates on TJ and Reconciliation, and our

Community Dialogue Forums on Reintegration and Reconciliation.

"We have come out with a difference today - not to cry and blame, but to appreciate and celebrate our Governments and Leaders, Security Agencies, members of the Nigeria including the extremists (who have surrendered) and my fellows who have shifted base as victims to be prime movers on the wheels of development to the lingering crisis.

She noted also that Borno State Government introduced the king " Borno Model," a comprehensive approach encompassing government, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, Reconciliation and Reintegration

"This visionary strategy paved the way for the mass exodus and of over 100,000 individuals previously associated with Non-State c oups (NSAGS) and ushered in a relative era of peace in the State and other North-Eastern region of Nigeria," Hamsatu said.

Hajiya Allamin however commended the unwavering commitment and any leadership of Borno State Governor, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, and the state wide proactive efforts that have been instrumental in curtailing the conflict and tating the state's path towards peace and stability.

She maintained that successes achieved so far would not have been possible without the Licated efforts of various state security actors as well as the volunteers, particularly the Nigerian Military under the leadership of the then Theatre Commander Major General Christopher Musa who has now been elevated as the Chief of Defense Staff.

" We had witnessed a transformative approach to the war against in the Operation Hadin Kai Theatre, a boost in the Civil - Military Relations, and a omplete transformation of Giwa Barracks from the "notorious House of Horror.

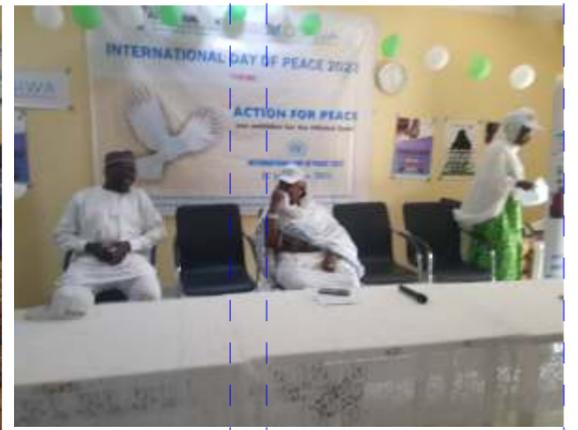
"Nigerian Military we salute you with our community volunteers, for your resilience, unwavering dedication and sacrifices have contributed to the gradually return of peace in Borno State.

"We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the peace-loving people of Borno State, who have demonstrated their willingness to put aside the past, reconcile with one another, and embrace transitional justice as a means to foster healing and reconciliation, while persevering with patience.

"Our gratitude also goes to the

repentant individuals who have chosen the path of surrender, opting for rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Their courageous decisions are fundamental to rebuilding communities and ensuring a peaceful future for Borno State.

"We support the Government of Borno State, our security Agencies and committed, for together, we can build a brighter, more peaceful future state and work towards achieving the #GlobalGoals for a better world" Hamsatu said.



100 Days Of Uncommon Leadership And Interventions At The Red Chamber: The Akpabio Model

By: JACKSON UDOM

Frank, assertive but unassuming, President of the 10th Senate, Godswill Obot Akpabio, has always cut the figure of a determined and purpose-driven leader wherever the mantle of leadership falls on him since his burst into the political limelight in Akwa Ibom State as Commissioner in charge of three different ministries in 2002.

It was that emblematic assertiveness and affable disposition that made most Nigerians celebrate his emergence as the President of the Senate in a keenly-contested election on June 13, 2023, with majority of the people concluding that the emergence of the two-term Senator would be a great blessing to the National Assembly, the Presidency of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Nigeria as a whole.

One hundred eventful days down the line, that conclusion about the Akpabio Senate Presidency has not only been justified, it has also proved unassailable, with several decisive and nationalistic steps taken by the National Assembly lending credence to the absolute confidence reposed in Senator Akpabio, first by his party, the All Progressives Congress (APC) and then by his colleagues and Nigerians.

Akpabio's very first day in office, seemed to have reechoed the words of the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong, who said his landing on the moon on July 20, 1969, was one small step for a man but one giant leap for mankind.

His emergence on the 13th of June, 2023 as the President of the 10th Senate was seen as a great step for the All Progressives Congress (APC), but a giant stride for Nigeria, the turf where Akpabio has remained a shining star and leading light for over 16 years.

Having served as commissioner for six years in three key ministries, as governor for two terms, Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party Governors' Forum, (PDPGF), Senate Minority Leader as a first timer and later Minister Niger Delta Affairs before his eventful re-election as Senator in March 2023, after he had stepped down as presidential aspirant to support the aspiration of now President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Akpabio has bestridden the Nigerian landscape as a political colossus and made great marks on its sands of time.

The vast experiences acquired in all these offices would bring a whole lot of good to the National Assembly, the Federal Government and Nigerians in general and this was the main reason his aspiration for the office of the President of the 10th Senate got the endorsements of the Presidency, the leadership of the APC and the 63 Senators who ensured that 'Godswill' was done on June 13 and they were not wrong going by the actions and achievements of the Akpabio Senate Presidency in the last 100 days.

In the aftermath of the election of the Senate leadership, Senator Akpabio brought his wealth of experience to bear on the constitution of Senate Committees



Senate President Akpabio

and the appointments of Committee chairmen such that the usual ruckus often associated with the exercise in previous National Assembly sessions was unheard of.

In Godswill Akpabio, the Senate has had a sturdy leader, who is providing leadership by patiently coordinating the different tendencies within the Red Chamber by ensuring stability and it is exciting that this is just the beginning.

It is therefore not a surprise when Senator Basheer Lado, Convener of the APC Non-Serving Senators, commended Akpabio for his exemplary disposition in the composition of Senate Committees, stating that "the strategic composition reflects a remarkable display of leadership, inclusivity, and commitment to the overall progress and welfare of our great nation."

Even Akpabio's major challenger for the office of the President of the Senate, Abdulaziz Yari, noticed that selfless leadership traits in Akpabio, when he publicly described him as a selfless leader, when he dropped the gavel against the wish of the leadership of the Senate on the Senator Adams Oshiomhole face off with some Senators.

The Akpabio-led Senate had also displayed a rare disposition of nationalism quite early into the Akpabio Senate Presidency when it was confronted with a looming challenge occasioned by the removal of fuel subsidy by the President and the threat of a mass protest by the Nigeria Labour Congress and Trade Union Congress.

Represented by Senate Chief Whip, Ali Ndume, the Senate leadership was unequivocal about its commitment to ensuring that the system continues to run

smoothly and that the interest of workers and the generality of Nigerians are respected by the Executive arm.

In what would go into the history books as one of the most impactful interventions that thawed the ice of the Federal Government-Labour Union face-off, the Senate had asked for Seven days to wade into the crisis and in those Seven days, the warring parties were, indeed, able to reach a compromise and avert what would have been the mother of all protests.

The Senate under Akpabio, apart from intervening in the NLC, TUC and FG industrial face off, it also played a major role in bringing to an end the strike and planned public protest by the members of Nigeria Association of Resident Doctors (NARD). In the same vein, Senate moved vehemently against the planned increment of electricity tariff by DISCOS in the wake of the removal of fuel subsidy, through a well endorsed motion which saw to the stoppage of the tariff increase.

It is also interesting to note how the Senate President oversaw a seamless and smooth screening and confirmation of ministers, who will work with President Tinubu to bring about the Renewed Hope Agenda promised Nigerians. Unlike previous screenings, where thoroughness and excellence were sacrificed on the altar of partisanship, Senator Akpabio ensured that he guided the Senate to offer qualitative screening while not hurting party loyalty and other democratically-lawful tendencies associated with such screenings.

When it was time for confirmation, the Senate leadership demonstrated an uncharacteristic courage in ensuring that the screening was not a mere academic exercise, as it also went ahead to turn

down some nominations based on findings from the screening exercise. In the end, only 45 of the 48 nominations sent by the president were confirmed by the Senate. That is the kind of courage for which Akpabio has been renowned over the years.

Everywhere he had been, Akpabio's penchant for etching his name in gold and emblazoning his excellent leadership identity on the hearts of the people has become a major credential that makes those who believe in him insist on him as the go-to man whenever tough leadership decisions are to be made.

Never one to shy away from taking initiatives in the interest of his people, what the former Governor of Akwa Ibom State started by redefining governance in Akwa Ibom and setting a major template for governors in terms of infrastructure development and people-centric leadership has become an identity that weathers all storms.

Also emblematic for the President of the Senate is his

burning desire to make Nigeria work. Even when he had to take personal risks, as was the case when he was the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs and he had to visit Tompolo in the creeks, to broker peace in the interest of the nation, Akpabio has remained the shining example of courageous leadership.

While campaigning to occupy his current position, he had promised Nigerians that the National Assembly under his watch would work for Nigeria and Nigerians and would rubber stamp anything that would be in the interest of the generality of Nigerians. His disposition and handling of the affairs of the Senate in the last 100 days has shown that he is not in anyway prepared to deviate from that solemn pledge to Nigerians.

As the President Tinubu administration goes on, the Presidency and, indeed, Nigerians can look forward to a stable, purposeful Senate that will work hard on its own end of the bargain to ensure the success of the Renewed Hope mandate of the President.

But there is something else they should look forward to; they should expect a courageous Senate leadership, one that will put the Executive arm on "its toes" in the overall interest of the Nation.

In Akpabio, Nigerians have a fearless leader, who will put his feet down when need be for the common good of the Nation; an uncommon leader, who will achieve uncommon feats as President of the 10th Senate.

His first 100 days in office have proven that much.

Udom is Special Assistant on Media to the President of the Senate

De -Lads Promotion Out To Help Boxers Achieve Potentials - Alade

By Ayo Ojedokun Lagos

Renowned boxing promoter Alhaji Wasiu Waheed Alade said that his promotion outfit, De-Lads Boxing Promotion will continue to help

both amateur and professional fighters achieve their full potentials in the pugilist game.

Alhaji Alade who on Sunday at the Teslim Balogun Stadium, Lagos held the Season

4 of his professional boxing promotion/Season 5 of his outfit's amateur fights, said that his decision to be organising both amateur and professional boxing simultaneously, is to encourage boxers at all levels, noting that the decision has made him the promoter to beat in the country.

"At De-Lads Boxing Promotion, we give equal opportunities to both amateur and professional fighters and it has really helped in the development of the game.

"Prior to our coming on board, we discovered that many boxers don't fight at the amateur level before joining the paid ranks which does not help their game.

"There is no denying the fact that as an amateur, you must have learnt the rudiments of the game and be prepared physically, mentally and psychologically before becoming a professional and that's why we promote the two together", he explained.

He further stated that though, he has put in so much into the project, he's happy the decision has helped boost amateur boxers in the country as two female boxers discovered by his outfit were among the pugilists

that went for the just concluded Olympic qualifiers in Senegal, just as he said he's looking forward to corporate organisations to compliment his efforts.

"Right now, we've not really made any profit but am happy that two of my female boxers were part of the Olympic qualifiers in Senegal and I hope corporate organisations will appreciate what we're doing and give us their support to grow the game and enable boxers smile to the banks with bigger purse", he stressed.

Collaborating him, the company's Chief Business Development Manager, Afolabi Adegboyega said they're not only out to produce champions for the country in boxing in the nearest future but to ensure that fighters are adequately enumerated.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of Nigeria Boxing Board of Control (NBB of C), Remi Aboderin has appreciated what Alhaji Alade has done in boxing since joining the promotion club.

According to him, his passion for the sports is unparalleled and with promoters like him, professional boxing will continue to grow in Nigeria.

"Alhaji Alade is too passionate about the game and we at the (NBB of C) are happy to sanction his fights because we need people who are passionate about the game like him to be involved in the business of boxing promotion", he concluded.



Gov Makinde School Sports Competition Reaches Quarter-final Stage

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Executive Secretary, Oyo State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Mr Jacob Dairo on Wednesday, said the board has kicked off the quarter-final stage of the Governor Seyi Makinde Basic Education School Sports Competition in the eight educational zones of the state from September 19 to 29, 2023.

Mr Dairo who disclosed that this is the maiden edition of the competition and that the board, with the support of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), kick-started the competition among schools in June 2023.

He stressed that the competition, which features athletics, soccer, handball and table tennis, was played in group stages, across the educational zones, namely Ibarapa, Iseyin, Oyo, Ogbomoso, Saki, Irepo, Ibadan

main and less city zones.

Maintaining that the third-place, semi-final, and finals of the competition will be played in Ibadan after the ongoing elimination stage, he said the finals, where the winner would represent the state in the national competition, would be held at the refurbished Lekan Salami Sports Complex, Adamasingba, on September 29th, 2023.

According to Mr. Dairo the basic school pupils participating are in high enthusiasm and have exhibited brilliant performances and that all the public basic schools in the state enrolled and are taking part in the four selected games.

"We gladly inform our parents and dear stakeholders that our basic school sports has been scheduled to commence on September 19, 2023. With the huge support we have received from the Federal Government

and the Governor Seyi Makinde led administration, we believe it will be a successful event," he said.

Mr Dairo added, "We started with an elimination stage across the educational zones, namely Oyo, Ibarapa Ogbomoso, Iseyin, Saki, Irepo, Ibadan less city and Ibadan main city".

"Afterwards, we will play the final of the competition on September 29, where a winner who will represent Oyo State in the Nationals will emerge".

Thanking Governor Seyi Makinde for approving the reintroduction of school sports in the state after over a decade and the tremendous support he had given the basic education sub-sector, Mr Dairo also thanked UBEC and the schools service department for putting up a satisfactory and impressive preparation so far.



Gov Makinde

MTN Nigeria Named Exclusive Telecommunications Partner For NPFL Live Matches



L-R: Tobe Okigbo, Chief Corporate Services Officer (CCSO) MTN; Basil Kabbani, Chairman Propel Sports Africa Ltd; Hassan Jaber, Chief Operating Officer (COO) MTN; Edward Simons, President Propel Sports Africa Ltd and Victor Okobi, In-Country Director, Propel Sports Africa Ltd.

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Following the recent announcement of the Joint Venture between the Nigeria Premier League (NPFL) Ltd, GTI and Propel Sports Africa to stream Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) games live, Propel Sports has announced that it has entered a deal with MTN Nigeria for the exclusive broadcast of the games on mobile devices on the MTN Network.

The streaming will cover eight live games each weekend, which will translate to over 300 games per season.

Basil Kabbani, Chairman of Propel Sports Africa stated: "The engagement with the team at MTN has been amazing, from

the Digital VAS, to the Marketing and Commercial team, their approach has been consistently professional, and their enthusiasm for the NPFL content has been infectious.

From the very start of our negotiations, we knew MTN was the right partner to give our great content, the platform it deserves." The deal, concluded by Propel Sports Africa President, Edward Simons and MTN Chief Operating Officer Hassan Jaber, will include in-and-post-game highlights delivered in real time to MTN subscribers through the NPFL Live OTT platform. Propel Sports Africa's in-Country Director Victor Okobi commented, "I cannot think of a better network

than MTN to showcase the best of Nigerian soccer on NPFL-Live". "We are excited about this opportunity to deliver entertaining content to our subscribers. It is a testament to our commitment to sports development in Nigeria.

We know Nigerians love football and we are glad to partner with Propel Sports Africa and GTI to deliver Nigerian Premier League matches in high definition to our customers. We are confident that this partnership will transform the reception and appreciation of the Nigeria Premier Football League," said Hassan Jaber, Chief Operating Officer, MTN Nigeria. Commenting for GTI, the Group Managing Director,

Abubakar Lawal stated: "This is the testimonial of the journey of the NPFL to the global space. The partnership is very good for the football ecosystem of Nigeria as we strive to deploy technology and efficient solutions to create value for all the stakeholders and other prospective partners of the league.

Commenting for NPFL, the Chairman Hon. Gbenga Elegbeleye, stated: "The Nigeria Premier Football League is excited about the partnership potentials to elevate the league's visibility and engagement.

"We are thrilled to welcome MTN as our exclusive telecommunications partner. Their expertise and commitment to innovation align seamlessly

with our vision for the league.

"With MTN's support, we look forward to not only reaching a wider audience but also enhancing the overall experience for our dedicated fans. This groundbreaking collaboration marks a significant milestone in the realms of sports and technology, promising an elevated viewing experience for football enthusiasts across the nation.

"The partnership underscores a shared commitment to bringing the excitement of football closer to the hearts of millions of Nigerians. The partnership will also redefine how football is experienced, engaging fans in every goal, tackle and victory with unparalleled clarity and convenience.

Jema'a LGA Wins ActionAid/GPD Cup In Kaduna

By: EMMANUELAGBO, Kaduna

Takau Football Club, in Jema'a Local Government Area (LGA) Kaduna State, surprised their counterparts, Turunku of Igabi LGA, after handing them a surprise 4-0 spanking in the final game of peace cup, organized by Actionaid Nigeria in partnership with Global Peace Development (GPD) for Strengthening Approach Against Radicalization to Violent Extremism, (SARVE III) funded by Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, (GCERF).

The game was to commemorate the September 21, 2023 International Day Of Peace, with the final at the popular Murtala Square, Kaduna on Tuesday.

Alex Yohanna placed Takau FC ahead of their opponents following his first and second goals at 22nd and 38th minutes of the first half, while Captain Richard Samuel who claimed his team was motivated to play well, while seeing the cup, alongside Sunday Joshua sealed the game with a goal each at 57th and 72nd minutes of the second half.

Speaking with Journalists shortly after the game, Coach Ashiru Bala of Turunku, said, they came prepared but met another different tactics.

Ashiru noted that in every game there must be a winner, adding that "to qualify for final is not easy. The team has done their best but luck was not on their side to win the trophy. Meanwhile, we have been able to identify some of our errors and therefore we will go back to our drawing board and see how we can correct those mistakes."

In his remarks, the Executive Director, Global Peace Development, (GPD) Mr. Esike Ebruke, said the essence of the event is to bring actions to the peace building process in Kaduna state, even as the theme of the 2023 Int'l Day of Peace is tagged "actions for peace: our ambition for the #GlobalGoals."

Esike stressed that "we want to look at the

interaction of young men in sport to be able to do act of community-social cohesion and resilience and so the match have been on all these while and we are here for the final today.

"The essence of the event is to bring action to the peace building process in Kaduna state, even as the theme of the 2023 Int'l Day of Peace is tagged "Action For Peace, we have other lines of activities coming up like the Cultural Peace Fiesta on the deal day, where communities will come with their attires and use them to showcase elements that can promote social cohesion and get the people connected to one another in the spirit of oneness." He said.

Remarking also, the Project Officer, SARVE III, Actionaid Nigeria, Cornelius Shija said "we are running a three year project in Kaduna state in six Local Government Areas, (LGAs) on preventing violent extremism. We are trying to see how we can actually reduce and prevent violence in Kaduna state and by extension the Northwest region of Nigeria.

"The spread is between the three geopolitical zones of Kaduna state. The North, South and the Central zone. In the North, we have Kudan, Zaria, in Kaduna Central we have Igabi and Chikun while in the Southern zone, we have Jema'a and Kachia.

"From the start of the project we found out like other researchers that sport is one of the tools we can use to catch the youth. So in our plan for the int'l peace day which is every 21st of September we thought it wise to get something that can unite the people hence we are talking about peace. The finalists are from two different communities and it's a way of showing the spirit of sportsmanship."

Top dignitaries, including football coaches, applauded GPD and Actionaid Nigeria, following their ' efforts' at ensuring peace thrives in Kaduna State.



NYG: Go For Gold, Uba Sani Tells Team Kaduna

*Promises reward for outstanding athletes

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**
Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has tasked athletes and officials representing the state at the 7th National Youth Games (NYG). Governor Sani gave the charge

on Thursday, while addressing Team Kaduna athletes and officials ahead of their departure for the 2023 NYG, billed for Asaba, the Delta State capital. The governor, represented by the Commissioner of Sports Development, Professor Ben Gugong, said that the athletes do

not have a reason not to excel. "We are believing that as you go to Asaba, you will win gold medals in your respective events. " I am speaking on behalf of the governor, who has promised to reward those that win medals, as well as hosting the entire team on a reception on your triumphant

return from the National Youth Games," he said. Speaking earlier, Director of Sports Kaduna State, Yakubu Ibrahim told the athletes that the best is expected of them, following the welfare provided by the state. Shortly after, kits, including branded track suits, canvass,

caps and other items were presented to all athletes and officials on the contingent. It would be recalled that Kaduna State at the North West Zonal Eliminations, dominated, hence claiming most of the tickets, swelling its number of athletes billed for the NYG to almost 300.



Photo: **BASHIR DOLLARS**

Lagos Police Arrests 3 Over Murder Of Ogun Senator's Aide, Recovers 3 Firearms, Ammunition, Army Wears

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The police in Lagos have eventually arrested the suspected fleeing killers of late Sani Adeniyi, a personal assistant to Senator Solomon Olamilekan, representing Ogun West Senatorial District of Ogun State.

Three firearms which include one Brownie pistol with three rounds of live ammunition, one Beretta pistol with three rounds of live ammunition, one locally made cut-to-size pistol with six live cartridges, six expended cartridges, military camouflage vest, military jungle hat, military holster, jungle boots and one Red Honda CRV with reg no EKY 276 JD, also hijacked from a yet to be identified victim were recovered from them.

The suspects, identified as Fred Azeez Okunnu 43, Lucky Idudu Micheal, 33 and Adedigba Segun, 26, were said to have been apprehended after weeks of long painstaking, diligent and discreet intelligence and investigative sets of actions.

The Commissioner of Police Lagos State Police Command Idowu Owohunwa, made the disclosure while parading the suspects Monday at the Command headquarters in Ikeja, GRA.

His words, "Operatives of the Lagos State Police Command have arrested three notorious suspects behind the dastardly murder of Mr Adeniyi Sanni which occurred between 1am

and 2am on August 5, 2023 robbery.

"The arrest of the suspects one Fred Azeez Okunnu 'm' aged 43, Lucky Idudu Micheal 'm' aged 33 and Adedigba Segun 'm' aged 26 follows weeks-long painstaking, diligent and discreet intelligence and investigative sets of actions.

"Items recovered from the suspects are one Brownie pistol with 3 rounds of live ammunitions, one Beretta pistol with 3 rounds of live ammunition, one locally made cut-to-size pistol with 6 live cartridges, six expended cartridges, military gear (military camouflage vest, military jungle hat, military holster, jungle boots), and one Red Honda CRV with reg no EKY 276 JD, also hijacked from a yet to be identified victim".

While shielding light on the activities of the notorious gang, Owohunwa said, "Investigation revealed that this gang which is being armed by one Alhaji (based in Benin Republic) specializes in robbing motorists of their unregistered vehicles. The gang have been successful in five previous operations".

On its modus operandi, he said, "Their modus operandi includes stationing one gang member some meters from Berger bus stop to spot unregistered vehicles.

"The spotter then calls his gang members who are dressed in military fatigue and stationed



The suspects

somewhere around Berger bus stop to inform them of the approaching vehicle. Once they stop their victim, they request for the vehicle custom papers, as they would need to clear security and customs checks.

"In this incident, after seeing the papers, they insisted on taking their victim to their base. Once they entered the vehicle, it dawned on Mr Sanni that they were robbers.

"He called out for help, which made the robbers shoot him thrice and further stabbed him.

"They dropped his corpse by the

roadside and drove to Kuto, Abeokuta where they cleaned up the blood stains in the rear seats of the vehicle and later same night proceeded with the vehicle to the border town of Chikunda in Kwara State where the criminal receiver took delivery of the car".

On why they put on military wears, the Police Commissioner explained that the suspects adopted the use of military fatigue to beat checkpoints.

Owohunwa also hinted that further investigation has revealed that the said Alhaji has

other cells operating across the country.

On efforts to arrest the said Alhaji, Owohunwa said, "Being a transnational crime, the Command is involving the Interpol for the apprehension of this criminal receiver and financier".

It would be recalled that Adeniyi was gruesomely murdered by some gun men suspected to be soldiers of the Nigeria Army on 5th August, 2023 along Ojudu Berger area of Lagos at about 1.00am.



Retired, District Head of Kuraye, Alhaji Abubakar Abdullahi Ahmadu

Katsina Govt Approves Of District Head Of Kuraye's Retirement

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Government has approved the recommendation of Katsina Emirate Council for the retirement of Sarkin Kurayen

Katsina, District head of Kuraye in Charanchi Local Government Area, Alhaji Abubakar Abdullahi Ahmadu with an immediate effect.

This was made known in a statement by Director Press, Office of Secretary to the

Government of the State, Aliyu Abdullahi Yar'adua.

It said, "this is sequel to the petition received by government and subsequent investigation by the Katsina Emirate Council in which the

District Head was found to have presided over a marriage contract without required Medical Certificate as provided by law and moreso, one of the parties is HIV positive."