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"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

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One Hundred Days After Buhari

*Buhari has done his part and left, history will judge him fairly

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Senate To NLC: There Is No N100m For Each Legislator Anywhere

■ Says allegation strange, ludicrous unthinkable



By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Senate yesterday, described the allegation by the leadership of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), of a purported allocation of N100 million to its members as strange, ludicrous and unthinkable.

Senate in a statement from the office of the Chairman, Senate Committee on Media and Publicity, Yemi Adaramodu, berated the NLC leadership for resolving into what he called lies and falsehood against the National Assembly

"What do these negative

characters want to gain from their lies and falsehood against the National Assembly? This is strange to us, very ludicrous and unthinkable," he said.

Senator Adaramodu added, "There is no 100m for a legislator anywhere. From which budget is this coming from? How, where and when? This is another satanic ploy of a miserable gang of media and political dark angels, to bring the Nigerian parliament into disrepute and pitch the legislators against the Nigerian public.

"We believe that the public is aware that popular democracy is an anathema to some unpatriotic

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*Principal, teachers, parents lament bitterly

10th Assembly: We Won't Tolerate Any Plot To Unseat Speaker Abbas, Arewa Group Warns

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

A Northern Political Pressure Group known as, Arewa Development and Democratic Agenda, has warned against any attempts to unseat the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Tajjudeen Abbas in the 10th National Assembly. The group accused Imo State Governor, Hope Uzodinma and the current Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Nkeiruka Onyejeocha for hatching the plot.

According to the group, the Minister who was recently declared winner of the Isuikwato-Imunneochi Federal Constituency by National Assembly Election Petitions Tribunal in Umuahia, is the brain behind the plot of trying to remove the Speaker.

The Northern group said they are evaluating the alleged plot which they warned, would not augur well with the nation's polity if allowed to sail through.

The National President of the group, Yusuf Maigari while addressing a press conference yesterday in Kaduna, also fingered the Imo State Governor, Hope

Uzodinma of being the brain behind the nefarious plot.

Consequently, they called on President Bola Tinubu to as matter of urgency relief the Minister of State for Labour and Employment, of her job from the Federal Executive Council.

He said, "The Arewa Development and Democratic Agenda (ADDA) has been watching with perplexity the development in the polity, in which a serving Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in the person of the Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Nkeiruka Onyejeocha, is plotting to unseat the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Honourable Tajjudeen Abbas.

"We have taken time to evaluate this plot of the southeast geo-political zone to unseat our son, Tajjudeen Abbas, as the speaker of the House and to replace our Prince of the Zaria Kingdom with a woman who is already a minister.

"We find it shocking that the Minister never thought of hatching this plot until the National Assembly Election Petitions Tribunal in Umuahia, Abia

State, declared her winner of the February 25 election for the Isuikwato-Imunneochi Federal Constituency.

"It is shocking because she has not given a thought to how her machinations would unsettle the harmonious manner in which the leadership of the country was equitably zoned to give fairness to all stakeholders.

"Nkeiruka Onyejeocha's desire, which reeks of an entitlement mentality, has taken the negativity of selfishness too far and we are now at a stage where we can no longer remain indifferent given the speed with which the plot by the South-East has unfolded in recent days.

"We are watching but let the southeast remember that we contributed more to the emergence of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at a time when they were busy pursuing a separatist agenda and sustaining their diliance with the Labour Party while heating the polity up.

"Let our southeast stakeholders remember that we, the Arewa, have the largest bloc in the parliament and any attempt to disgrace our son will be met with a

corresponding response."

He added, "We have also heard that Governor Hope Uzodinma of Imo state is behind this plot and propping up the Minister to return to the House of Representatives because of his aspiration to be president or vice president.

"This latest onslaught against Arewa's interest in the legislature is part of Governor Uzodinma's positioning of his cronies to hijack strategic national offices to prepare the ground for his supposed 2027 presidential bid.

"We are also aware that the same Governor Hope Uzodinma has a fallback plan of using a former Member of the House, who also ran for Speakership like Nkiruka in the 9th Assembly to short-change the North. The North, Arewa, will reject Governor Hope Uzodinma and Nkiruka Onyejeocha.

"Our response to Governor Hope Uzodinma, who feels he is smarter than the rest of us but has yet to show any vote from the southeast under his leadership, will come at the right time. We shall respond to him in proper measure."

Senate To NLC: There Is No N100m For Each Legislator Anywhere

*Says allegation strange, ludicrous unthinkable

political mercenaries, hence their systemic blackmail of the parliament, which undoubtedly is the soul of democracy and sovereignty".

The Chairman, Senate Committee on Media and Publicity stressed, "we urge the public and especially, the Nigerian workers, to disregard these unscrupulous pontiffs. The legislators, who are chosen among the masses of the people, shall certainly be with the people and eternally for the people".

"The National Assembly shall not hesitate, henceforth to take constitutional and legal actions against these

irreverent merchants of rumours and ill wills against Legislators. The National Assembly should not be taken as a political scapegoat".

Senator Adaramodu maintained "We don't expect anything less from the NLC leadership, we only opined that they would place national interest above partisan nihilistic outbursts. If the congress wishes to serve as the conscience of Nigerian workers, it must purge itself of catalytic political voyages that can truncate our democracy. We believe that Nigerians see this new unscrupulous advocacy as a comedy to entertain only the unsuspecting,"

We Will Ensure Speedy Completion Of Ibadan Dry Port, Oyo Govt

*To enter partnership with NSC

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oy o S t a t e Government on Wednesday, expressed readiness to ensure speedy completion of the Ibadan Inland Dry Port project.

The state Commissioner for Trades, Investment, Industry and Cooperatives, Hon. Ademola Ojo made this known while receiving into his office, the management of the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), Southwest Zone led by Mr. Moses Fadipe.

According to the Commissioner, towards this, the present Oyo State government will enter into partnership with the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) for the

speedy completion of the project.

"Oyo State Government is really interested in the completion of the project. We are assuring you of the support and cooperation of the ministry and more importantly, personally eager to see the first cargo being lifted from the dry port", he said.

Hon Ojo pointed out that his Ministry will work assiduously to find solutions to anything that may hamper the project and give maximum support for the completion of the project.

He emphasized that the project when completed will boost the state's economy, and that the project is very important to the present administration in Oyo State.



NIS Role Pivotal In \$14bn Dollars Indian Investment In Nigeria - Compt James

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) has a vital role to play in the success of the \$14bn Dollars Indian Investment pledges in the country, the Comptroller of Immigration Rivers State Command CIS James Sunday has said.

Justifying the importance of the role of the agency towards the successful implementation of the investment, James posited that it will serve as the first gate keeper for the issuance of visas and permits both for entry and residence and taking up employments in various sectors of the economy, monitoring of expatriate quota grants, business permits and most importantly strategic visas such as business visa for high net worth investors. He added that the agency will also issue visa on arrival for ease of travels for business owners, shareholders and new investors in the spirit of ease of doing business, making Nigeria a most preferred destination for business, hospitality, tourism and other related economic drives.

His words, "It is no longer news that a multi-billion Dollars Indian companies investment pledges has been secured by Nigeria.

"It is pertinent we take a critical look at the vital roles of the Nigeria Immigration Service.

" Unlike in the past,

Mr. President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his team of experts have laid the Political and Economic platform to get the Indian Investors to commit to \$14bn Dollars Pledge in diverse economic activities,.

"What does this hold for a critical players such as the Nigeria Immigration Service, an agency saddled with the Control of Entry and Departure into the Country and out of it.

"The NIS will serve as the first gate keeper for the issuance of Visas and Permits both for entry and residence and taking up employments in various sectors of the economy, monitoring of expatriate Quota grants, Business Permits and most importantly Strategic visas such as Business Visa for High Net worth Investors, Visa on Arrival for ease of travels for Business Owners, Shareholders and New Investors in the spirit of Ease of Doing Business, making Nigeria a most Preferred Destination for Business , Hospitality, Tourism and other related economic drives".

In a statement signed by him, made available to New Nigerian Newspaper, the Rivers State NIS Comptroller, who tagged the economic drive as "Tinubunomics", counseled that the Economic drivers must guide against the pitfalls of over dependency on foreign interventions and fundings to making a value addition for our

local products and raw materials to convert waste to wealth, and enforce laws on Mining, Explorations and Land allocation for Industrial Developments.

"This all important Nigeria's Economic Drive, which I will acronym as "Tinubunomics", will need the full cooperation of game players like the Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria ports Authority, NIMASA, NNPC Ltd, Aviation Industry players, Ports Health, NIPC, NEXIM Bank, Other Commercial and Industrial Banks and the enabling Laws of the Country Governing Investment, Agreements, MOUs, Incorporation etc.

"The Country is over ripe for diversity of Investments and the ground is fertile.

" The Economic drivers must guide against the pitfalls of over dependency on foreign interventions and fundings to making a value addition for our local products and raw materials to convert waste to wealth, and enforce laws on Mining, Explorations and Land allocation for Industrial Developments.

" The Ministries, the Departments and Agencies must, directly or indirectly, relate to the Economic Drive of the country and must be made to contribute their quota by actionable plans, deliberate and



Comp Sunday James

conscious implementation of government policies within time frame, eliminating time wastages, bottlenecks, overbearing cost of doing business in Nigeria that has resulted in many investors moving to Ghana and other African Countries from Nigeria to invest elsewhere while closing down in Nigeria or selling off their shares.

"The Nigeria Immigration Service have a critical role to play in encouraging investors

and Investment drives by being flexible, highly professional, digitally oriented, business conscious and focused on improved services to Champion the Ease of Doing Business in the areas of Entry and Departure, Issuance of all categories of Visas and Permits, Monitoring of Expatriate Quota grants, Business Permits and other vital Immigration Services with respect to Investment and Business Climate in Nigeria".

Removal Of Oil Subsidy Affects School Resumption In Ebonyi *Principal, teachers, parents lament bitterly

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The removal of oil subsidy has affected the resumption of school in Ebonyi State as the turnout of students is very poor, with school principal, teachers and parents lamenting bitterly.

In a visit to Government Technical College, Abakaliki High school Presco, some students were seen cleaning the school environment in order to prepare for their lectures, while most of their teachers came out, getting ready for the new academic session.

Speaking with the Principal of Government Technical College , Abakaliki, Rev. Fr. Godfrey Ozogebe, he lamented bitterly over the removal of oil subsidy, saying that it has really increased the low turnout of students in the school.

Fr. Ozogebe, noted that parents are not finding it easy to pay for their children's

school fees and means of transportation has also brought untold hardship, stating that more students would have come back but many couldn't as a result of the prevailing challenges.

Ozogebe further alleged that after the removal of oil subsidy, over 70 billion Naira was given to lawmakers at the National Assembly, while people are passing through hell to provide three square meals for their children and even to send them to school is becoming difficult. He therefore, called on government to take urgent action to alleviate poverty in Nigeria, before it gets out of control.

"There is a big difference in the turn up of students today. The turn up is very low because of hardship. People are not finding it easy; parents are finding it difficult to pay their children's school fees and transportation issues. We have a very low turnout because of hardship. They are

ready to come back, but the wherewithal is not there. They can't just come back without anything, it is a challenge we are facing. The number would have been more than this, if not for the hardship.

"Today is just cleaning, tomorrow we start teaching. I want to encourage parents to try as much as they can to start paying gradually. Since the removal of oil subsidy, you can testify that things are no more the same. Everything is very costly and I want to encourage parents to continue to do their best.

"Those of them in high offices should know that people are suffering. They should come here and see what people are passing through. It is untold hardship. As a principal, I know how people are suffering to train their children. Government should do something quickly, otherwise, things will get worse.

On her part, Mrs Ele Charity called on

government to take urgent steps to address the economic hardship as it has affected many parents and children, saying that even the quality of education is gradually going down because of the removal of oil subsidy.

"We have resumed school today, but many children didn't come to school because of current situation of our economy. It really affected school resumption because many students don't have money to transport themselves to school. Many parents are finding it difficult to feed their children, talk more of bringing them to school. Government should do everything possible to come to our rescue," she said.

An SS 2 student, Okechukwu Valentine from Government Technical College said he would have come back with more school materials, but could not do so because of the current economic situation of the country.

Borno Education Commissioner Urges State Varsity To Build On Standards, Promises More Interventions

By ; SADIQ ABUBAKAR Maiduguri

The Borno State Commissioner of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Engr. Lawan Abba Wakilbe on Wednesday, visited the Borno State University (BOSU) and urged the school authorities to maintain standard of education. He also promised to ensure more educational interventions are provided in the varsity to enable the school continue to build in the existing standards and improve where necessary, while sustaining others.

Wakilbe was received by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umar Kyari Sandabe and the management of the university who took him round some facilities of the university. The commissioner commended the management of the university and urged them to build on existing standards, while promising to channel more government interventions to the university. Wakilbe was accompanied by the Director of Higher Education, Fatima Alh Baba, Director of Quality Assurance, Abdullahi Hassan Kabura, among others.



Kaduna Govt Promoting Gender Equality, Women Empowerment - Dep Gov

By; FUNMI ADERINTO,
Kaduna

The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe has said that the state is firmly committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in all aspects of its development agenda.

Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe stated this at the Private Sector Forum on Gender Responsive Supply Chains in Kaduna State, organized by the UN Women in collaboration with African Development Bank (AfDB) and Zamani Foundation.

According to the Deputy Governor, the administration of Senator Uba Sani believes that empowering women is not only a matter of right, but also a good economic strategy that can boost growth, reduce poverty, and enhance social cohesion.

"Our administration led by Governor Uba Sani shares the same belief with UN Women, African Development Bank and Zamani Foundation that gender responsive procurement can have a positive effect in the value chain through inclusive sourcing and supplier diversity," Dr Balarabe said.

Kaduna Deputy Governor said the private sector forum which focused on Gender Responsive Supply Chains, which is part of UN Women programme on Women Economic Empowerment Through Affirmative Procurement in West Africa, supports women economic empowerment through policy reforms, public sector institutional strengthening, and capacity building of women-owned/women-led businesses to access procurement opportunities in some countries in West Africa including Nigeria.

She affirmed the continued support of the state government in promoting women empowerment through policies, programmes, legislations, and other activities that

would ensure that women's lots are improved.

She added that on October 28, 2022, Kaduna State Government, in collaboration with UN Women and the Norwegian Government, inaugurated three programmes aimed at increasing support for gender equality and women empowerment in the state.

"The programmes focused on women, peace, and security; advancement of women's participation in politics and affirmative procurement in Nigeria; and the HeForShe campaign in the state.

"I want to reiterate the remark I made that day thus: "If we want to make progress as a country, we must liberate half of our population, which consists of women, from being undermined, underutilized and de-humanized."

"That is why we are very interested in the AfDB-UN Women programme titled, "Women Economic Empowerment through Affirmative Procurement in West Africa". We believe that this programme can make significant difference in the lives of many women entrepreneurs and workers in Kaduna State and beyond," she said.

The Deputy Governor assured UN Women and all bodies involved in championing the projects of Kaduna State Government's readiness to work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure effective implementation and impact of the programme.

She called on women business owners in the state to register with the Kaduna State Public Procurement Authority as the agency implementing the project in the state.

Earlier, Director General, Kaduna State Public Procurement Authority, Engineer Sanusi Aminu Yero said the agency has drafted a policy framework for the state and is carrying out sensitization to relevant stakeholders across the state for the smooth implementation of the Affirmative Procurement Reform in Kaduna State.



Governor Uba Sani Appoints 19 New Permanent Secretaries, Retains 7

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Governor of Kaduna State, His Excellency Senator Uba Sani has approved the appointment of 19 new Permanent Secretaries and retained seven out of the existing ones.

According to a statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State, Muhammad Lawal Shehu on September 12, 2023, the new permanent secretaries and their ministries of deployment are as follows:

1. Mukhtar Abdullahi - Ministry of Sports Development
2. Dorcas Inti Benjamin Iliya - Ministry of Human Services & Social Development
3. Jummai C. Bako - Establishment, Office of the Head of Service
4. Jummai A. Danazumi Esq. - Solicitor-General (SG), Ministry of Justice
5. Rabiun Yunusa - Ministry of Housing & Urban Development
6. Ibrahim Sanusi - Local Government Service Board
7. Mansur Salanke Esq. - General Services (GS), Office of the Secretary to the State Government
8. Aishatu Abubakar Sadiq - Ministry of Health
9. Abdu Na Abdu Ashiru -



Ministry of Public Works & Infrastructure

10. Shehu Usman Salihu -

Civil Service Commission

11. Habib A. Lawal -

Ministry of Finance

12. Suwaiba Shehu

Ibrahim - Teachers Service Board

13. Dr. Mahmud Lawal -

Ministry for Local

Government Affairs

14. Linda Asabat Yakubu -

Ministry of Environment

& Natural Resources

15. Ramatu MB Tukur -

Kaduna Capital Territory

(KCT)

16. Mohammed

Hayatuddeen - Zaria

Metropolitan Authority

(ZMA)

17. Augustine Godwin

Alex - Kafanchan

Municipal Authority

(KMA)

18. Felicia Indoka Makama - Governor's Office

19. Al-Amin Murtala

Dabo - Governor's Office

Additionally, the seven

retained permanent

secretaries and their

ministries of deployment

are as follows:

1. Nuhu Isiyaku Buzun -

Cabinet and Political

Affairs (CPA), Office of

the Secretary to the State

Government

2. Dr. Haliru Musa Soba -

Ministry of Education

3. Dr. Yusuf Saleh -

Ministry of Business,

Innovation & Technology

4. Abubakar Abba Umar -

Ministry of Agriculture

5. Nasiru A. Banki - Public

Service Office (PSO)

Office of the Head of

Service

6. Kabiru M. Mainasibi -

Ministry of Internal

Security & Home Affairs

7. Bashir Muhammad, mni

- Planning & Budget

Commission

Governor Sani urged the

newly appointed and

retained permanent

secretaries to discharge

their responsibilities with

diligence, dedication,

integrity and fairness.

The governor further

expressed profound

gratitude and appreciation

to all the out-going

Permanent Secretaries for

their immeasurable

contributions to the

development of Kaduna

State and wished them

success in their future

endeavours.

TELA Maize Project Conducts Farmers Field Day At Giwa LGA

*IAR urges Nigerian farmers to embrace modern technology

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Executive Director, Institute For Agricultural Research (IAR) Prof Muhammad Faguji Ishiyaku has called on Nigerians to embrace modern agricultural technology to improve livelihood and disregard calls from people who do not have knowledge of science and genetic engineering.

Prof. Faguji Ishiyaku who made the call at the Farmers Field Day held at Kakangi Village in Giwa Local Government Area during the "Seeing is Believing" tour of the TELA Maize hybrids evaluated for resistance to stem borers and fall armyworm.

He said, "Those people unnecessarily discourage farmers from accessing the benefits accruing from such technology."

The director stressed that, the institute in its 100 years of existence, has continuously churned out research results and technology relevant to Nigeria's climate, which produces positive results. Professor Faguji Ishiyaku urged Nigerians to be

enlightened on the benefits of adopting technologies developed and released for the common good of Nigerian farmers.

In his remarks, the Principal Investigator of the project, Professor Rabiun Adamu said the demonstration farm is for farmers across to see and judge the quality of the maize for them to adopt it.

Professor Rabiun Adamu added that, there are 150 demonstration farms across the country all for farmers to see and access it yield.

He pointed out that five demonstration farms have taken place in Kakangi Village four farms are TELA Maize seeds, while one demonstration farm is the farmers seed and they received the same process and treatment.

The Principal Investigator said, with this success, by next year, Nigerian farmers will use Tela Maize in their farms for better yield.

Also speaking, the Maize Farmers Association Chairman Kaduna State, Alh. Kabiru Salihu assured the institute that they will use Tela Maize in the next farming season.

Climate Change: Dangote Steps Up Efforts To Mitigate Green House Gas Emission

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Dangote Group Branding and Communication Officer, Mr. Anthony Chiejina has disclosed that Dangote Group has deployed cutting-edge technology and other measures to mitigate emission of Green House Gas (GHG), and its impacts, in all its subsidiaries. Mr Chiejina in a statement on Tuesday, said that Dangote Group as part of its contribution to the campaign for reduction of GHG, has embarked on enlightenment to sensitize workers and host communities on the impact of climate change and environmental sustainability.

According to Mr Chiejina this is "to mitigate gaseous emissions from our production process, our new plants are designed to be resource and energy efficient"

adding that Dangote Group has invested much in modern equipment such as analyzers, opacimeters, and other continuous emissions monitoring systems used to measure greenhouse gas emissions in real time.

He noted that the company's climate goals extend beyond just reduction of emissions but also to protecting and regenerating the environment, through land reclamation and tree planting", saying, Only recently, the company organized a workshop for journalists in the North-Central and South-West geopolitical zones in the country to sensitize them on the imperatives of reporting climate change and the environment".

The statement stressed that the Plant Director, DCP Obajana J.V Gungune while speaking disclosed that the company has

put in place state-of-the-art facilities to mitigate climate change concerns, saying, " we need the environment more than it needs us. Hence the need to sustain the environment", Head, Suitability, Dangote Cement Plc, Dr. Igazeuma Okoroba told newsmen at Obajana that the company has fully engrained environmental sustainability and Climate Change concerns in all its operations.

Also, the statement quoted the Head of Sustainability, Dangote Cement Plc Obajana Plant, Dr. Eseosa Ighile, as saying that several innovative strategies have been introduced to cut emission of Green House Gas (GHG).

Dr. Ighile stressed that in line with the company's commitment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 12, alternative

fuels (AF) were adopted to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, adding,

"The AF project aims to achieve a thermal substitution rate of 25% in all plants by 2025. We are working towards installing AF feeding systems in all our operation lines by 2024."

"The resources utilized for fuels currently at the DCP Obajana include tyre chips, waste oils, and agricultural waste such as palm kernel shells and rice husks. We are also undergoing technical studies on the use of refuse-derived fuels (RDF) as a fuel source. Between January and July 2023, we've consumed over 34,800 metric tonnes of alternative fuel materials for our operations," she said

According to her, " so far, the company's climate action activities include: monitoring of

water, waste, and GHG emissions, creation of a decarbonisation working group, and following the guidelines of both local and international organizations.

On his part, the Head, Technical Training, Dangote Academy Adedeji Adewale said Dangote Cement Plc uses electrostatic prostetor to trap dust and recycle into the system, adding that the Dangote Academy plants thousands of trees every year.

Mr Adewale maintained that only recently the Dangote Academy planted economic trees which include mangoes, soursop, dates and orange trees among others saying tree planting has the potency to protect the climate, regenerate the environment and improve the health condition of inhabitants.

Appoint Ambassador Tsoken As Minister, MSDG Urges President Tinubu

By: JABIRUA. HASSAN, Kano

Movement For The Support And Protection Of Democracy And Good Governance (MSDG) has called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to appoint the national president All Progressives Congress (APC) Initiative for good governance (APC-IGG) Ambassador Musa Mohammed Tsoken into his cabinet as minister.

In a statement signed and issued to newsmen by the organisation's chairman, Dauda Mohammed Ali, MSDG said that Ambassador Musa Tsoken is eligible to be appointed as minister following his contributions and commitment towards the success of All Progressives Congress during the 2023 general elections in which the party emerged victorious in majority of the positions, including presidency.

"We are certain that APC-IGG has played a significant role towards the success of the ruling party where it climbed to the top and is holding majority of elective positions, with wide margin in all the 36 states and FCT, which is a clear indication that when Ambassador Tsoken is given a key position, we are certain that Nigeria

would also be great," the statement added.

Alhaji Dada Mohammed Ali stressed that among the APC support groups that contributed, APC-IGG's role remains recognized by the party leadership, stakeholders, states chapters as well as local and wards executive, that is why MSDG resolved to call on all those who have a say in Tinubu administration to support his reward as a minister.

In his response through his personal assistant on Media and Publicity, Ambassador Musa Mohammed Tsoken said that supporting APC is a task that is important to all well meaning citizens of Nigeria because the party is working selflessly to bring more progress to the nation on economy, security, education, healthcare and agriculture among other things.

Ambassador Tsoken commended the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume for being more straight forward about the unity and peaceful coexistence of Nigeria and for being very generous in discharging his duties effectively and for the success of Tinubu administration with optimum results.



Ambassador Musa Tsoken

Ebonyi Deputy Speaker Enjoins Constituents To Embrace Peace

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The Deputy Speaker of Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Hon Chinedu Onah has reiterated the importance of peace to the development of any given society.

He made the clarification at Abarigwe Secondary School, Umuogudoshia in Ngbo where three villages, namely Abarigwe, Ndiaguobu and Osege organized a reception in his honour.

Hon. Onah maintained that the modest achievements recorded in the area is through peaceful coexistence, adding that the present administration under Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru is poised to achieving more for the people under his people's charter of needs.

The deputy chief lawmaker used the opportunity to extol the governor, whom he said has settled down instantly to put smiles on the faces of Ebonyi people.

The lawmaker equally commended the Speaker of the Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Hon. Moses Ije Odunwa for accelerating the passage of bills and the Ohaukwu Local Government Chairman for the peace attained in Ohaukwu.

He said that he knew he cannot satisfy everybody, but with God's guidance and grace, he will do his best for the constituency.

Earlier, the chairman of the occasion, Prince Uche Ali Ega commended the deputy speaker for his able representation, adding that the reception is aimed at showing thier appreciation and to pledge their continued loyalty to him.

In his words, the chairman of Ohaukwu Local Government Council, Prince Ikechukwu Odono showered praises on the lawmaker, adding that his representation has provided more opportunities for his constituents and implored him to continue in his quest to develop

his people.

The chairman of the reception planning committee, Patrick Oge said the unparalleled representation of Onah in the first term paved the way for the second and that his charisma in the House led to his exalted position as the Deputy Speaker and for these, the three villages deemed it necessary to honour him as the words says "give honour to whom it is due".

The occasion witnessed the commendation of Mr Ikechukwu Ekeh, a film producer, whose work will be displayed in Canada soon.

Dignitaries at the occasion included, Prof John Ekeh, Commissioner for Power and Energy, Hon Peter Ogeali, Special Assistant to the Governor on Youths Mobilization, Eze Paul Ituma, SA to Governor on Internal Security, Ohaukwu Local Government, Tobias Ogbonna, Leader of Ohaukwu Legislative Council, Hon Utu John, Deputy Chief of Staff Ebonyi State

House of Assembly, Ede Samuel, as well as ministers of God, and political stalwart.

Transport Minister Commissions Container Conveyance By Train From Apapa Seaport To Ibadan

The maiden carriage of containers by train from Apapa Seaport in Lagos to Ibadan in Oyo State took place on Tuesday, following the commissioning of the project at the seaport by the Minister of Transportation, Senator Sa'idu Ahmed Alkali.

The movement of containers by train from the seaport was designed to achieve the decongestion of Apapa port and all flyovers in Lagos State that have container trucks littering them.

Immediately after the inauguration, the transportation minister said that movement of freight containers by train to Ibadan will begin with only one rail line, while additional two rail lines will be constructed later.

"The ministry is going to liaise with the Nigerian Customs

Service to remove their building so that we lay the two remaining lines up to the end of the seaport and that will enable the train to turn inside the port so that they will get out of the port to Ibadan respectively," Alkali said.

He disclosed that there will be three trips in a day, stressing: "So when you multiply thirty by three we have up to 90 containers per day. As it's now, by the time we fix the remaining two lines which means you have three times three times three, so in a day, we will be able to decongest Apapa port with 270 containers."

The Managing Director of Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC), Engr. Fidet Okhria, while making remarks during the commissioning declared, "30 wagons have been loaded for taking off today. That's why we are here today to give privilege to the minister to commission this day the freight movement from APTM Terminal.

"We have facility to move four trips; we have to start with three per day."

54th Birthday: Gov Dikko Radda Diligently Serving Katsina People - Aide

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Malam Dikko Umaru Radda as he marked a momentous milestone to celebrate his 54th birthday, is diligently serving the people of Katsina State, Director General (DG) Media to the Governor, Malam Maiwada Dammallam has said.

Malam Dammallam said, "this unwavering commitment to moving Katsina state forward has been a beacon of hope and progress for the entire region."

The DG Media who felicitated Governor Radda on his 54th birthday, expressed his heartfelt wishes for the governor's leadership style through a visionary approach of building the future agenda of the state.

"His dedication to progress has translated into tangible improvements in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and various

developmental projects throughout the state," Dammallam noted.

He explained that, under the stewardship of the Governor insecurity issues that plagued the state has been tackled effectively, adding that, the State would soon become a safer and more secured place for its residents.

Malam Dammallam emphasized that, "As Katsina State celebrates the 54th birthday of Governor Dikko Umaru Radda, we applaud his exceptional leadership and tireless dedication to the development and security of our great state."

"His legacy of progress and prosperity will continue to shape the future of Katsina for generations to come," Maiwada Dammallam reiterated.

He said Governor Dikko Umaru Radda has left an indelible mark by construction and renovation of schools along with the training and recruitment of skilled educators, pointing out

that, the healthcare sector has also witnessed substantial improvements with modern healthcare facilities established across the state.

The Director General Media stressed that, Governor Radda's commitment to infrastructure development was evident in the numerous projects that have transformed Katsina state.

He said roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure have been constructed or rehabilitated, connecting communities and fostering economic growth.

"These investments have not only improved transportation but have also attracted investment and created employment opportunities," Maiwada Dammallam said.

On agriculture and economic diversification, he said Katsina State was on a trajectory towards becoming a hub for agriculture and commerce in the region.



Gov Radda



UI VC To New Students: No Excuse Not To Make Good Grades

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Vice-Chancellor of University of Ibadan, Professor Kayode Adebawale on Tuesday, said newly admitted students of the Institution have no excuse not to read and make good grades.

Speaking at the matriculation ceremony for the newly admitted students of the institution, the Vice Chancellor disclosed that 3,792 students were cleared for the 2022/2023 matriculation ceremony spread across various faculties in the University.

Represented by the Institution Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Professor Aderonke Mojisola Baiyeroju, the Vice Chancellor declared that the "university is a place of freedom, but the freedom is guided by rules".

Tasking the students to manage their newfound freedom responsibly while in the university, Professor

Adebawale stressed that the university is a place of freedom, where nobody wakes students up in the morning to attend classes.

"You have no excuse not to read and make good grades. As earlier stated, the university is a place of freedom, but it is freedom guided by rules. There are established rules guiding engagements in the university," he said.

Professor Adebawale added, "You are expected to find what the rules are and do your utmost best to keep the rules and remain on the right side of the law."

"For those who will run foul of the law, the Students Disciplinary Committee is the organ of the university through which they will be proceeded and sanctioned if found guilty of any misconduct".

While emphasizing that there are established rules guiding engagements in the University, the Vice Chancellor urged them to find

out the rules and do their utmost to keep the rules and remain on the right side of the law, adding that most of the students probably for the first time in their lives are having absolute freedom.

The Vice-Chancellor also charged the students to receive all rounded training from the University by making use of sporting facilities, joining registered clubs, participating actively in student unionism, and practising their religion without impinging on the rights of others.

Professor Adebawale while advising the students to take advantage of the enormous digital and non-digital resources of the Central Library, faculty libraries, and the functional reading rooms in the halls of residence, admonished the new students that whatever they make out of the University and what they turn out to be in life are both functions of how they manage their freedom.

My Late Father Deserves To be Honoured - Olayinka Segelu

***Commemorates late dad 16yrs memorial anniversary**

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

A Germany-based Nigerian politician and businessman, Hon. Olayinka Oladimeji Segelu has pleaded with the Oyo State Government to honour his late father, Hon. Olusegun Moses Akintola Oladimeji Segelu.

In a statement to commemorate the 16th memorial anniversary of the late politician, the Germany based Nigerian politician on behalf of the Oladimeji Segelu family, said it is unfortunate that Oyo State Government is yet to honour his late father, Hon. Olusegun Oladimeji Segelu, according to Hon Olayinka, "with the significant role played by his late father in the political firmament of Oyo State, he deserves to be posthumously honoured", saying, his father, who was gruesomely murdered 16 years ago (September 14, 2007), contributed in no small measure to the political growth and democratic advancement of Oyo State and Nigeria in general. "I humbly request that my father's name should be engraved in the minds of the people. Segelu Bus Stop is known from the 1970s till date and Segelu Area is a well-known area. I hereby request for the New Ife Road from under the bridge

going to Gbagi be named after my father as Segelu Express Road", he said.

Hon Olayinka added, "In the alternative, the newly constructed ultramodern motor park in Iwo-road, Ibadan should be named after him to etch his name in the hearts of the good people of the state. Interestingly, my father was the first private motor park operator in the entire city of Ibadan, with his Segelu Transport Service adjacent to his hotel, along Ife-road, Ibadan. His transport service company could boast of about ten brand new Peugeot 505 cars in his pool at the time.

"I plead with Governor Seyi Makinde to consider the humble request which I am conveying to him on behalf of the family. Our father's name must not be allowed to be wiped away. He fought for his people all his life. He started at the grassroots serving as a Councilor in Lagelu Local Government between 1988 and 1989. He was Chairman, National Republican Convention (NRC) Lagelu Local Government from 1990 to 1992. He was Oyo State Coordinator for Alhaji Bamanga Tukur Presidential Campaign Organisation in 1992"

He noted further, "He became the



leader of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Oyo State from 1998 till his life was tragically cut short via a politically orchestrated assassination in 2007. He was elected as the State Chairman of the PDP in Oyo State 1999 to 2001 and appointed Board Chairman, National Productivity Centre, Abuja from 2001 to 2004. Elected Member, House of Representatives,

National Assembly, Abuja 2007 and was assassinated in his constituency office on September 14, 2007. Governor Seyi Makinde was then the candidate of Oyo South Senatorial District under ANPP. "I am sure he must have heard about my father's good deeds before he was killed. I made it a clear statement to the governor during one of my meetings with

him that I deserve all the needed political support and assistance from him if not for my personal input in politics, but for my father's sake and the manner he was taken away from us.

Hon Olayinka maintained, "I remember vividly the words of the then sitting governor, HE Late Governor Adebayo Alao-Akala when my father, Chief Hon. (Dr.) Olusegun Moses Akintola Oladimeji Segelu was gruesomely killed. Knowing that the gruesome murder of my dad was politically motivated, the late Alao-Akala had, as quoted in the Nation of September 19, 2007, said that 'Politicians should talk to themselves. This is politics of bitterness. If it were to be in another camp, they would be shouting Adedibu/Akala. These are people who never identified with our camp. We know them but God will definitely expose them.' Olayinka Segelu, an erstwhile Personal Assistant (PA) to ex-Speaker Dimeji Bankole, took after his late father in politics.

He contested to secure the ticket of PDP for House of Representatives in 2015 and 2023 to no avail.

Katsina Governor Flags-off Construction Of 75 Schools

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has flagged - off the construction of 75 secondary schools and disbursed one hundred (100) million Naira each to another fifteen selected secondary schools in the state under the World Bank assisted - Adolescent Girls Initiative Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) project in collaboration with the state government.

The governor made the disbursement during an official

foundation-laying ceremony at the Koda/Dambuna Secondary School in Charanci Local Government Area of the state.

Governor Radda in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed expressed his administration's commitment to ensuring that all the schools are situated within a five-kilometer radius of their respective catchment communities for ease of access.

The project according to Dikko Radda, represents the first phase of a grand plan to establish one hundred and fifty new schools across the state.

Governor Dikko Radda emphasized the importance of addressing educational needs at the grassroots level, hoping that the allocated funds would be used judiciously for their intended purposes.

Katsina State Coordinator of the AGILE, Project, Dr. Mustapha Shehu Kofar Sauri disclosed that the schools would encompass both junior and senior sections, featuring twelve classrooms, laboratories, a multipurpose hall, staff rooms, toilets, and the principal's office in the senior section, while the junior section would consist of ten classrooms,

toilets, and an administrative block.

In a similar development, according to Mohammed Kaula the governor also laid the foundation for the second special model school for gifted children in Jikamshi, Musawa Local Government Area.

He said the initiative aligns with the governor's campaign promises and aims to provide talented children with access to quality education from the grassroots.

A member of the State House of Assembly representing Musawa Local Government, Alhaji Lawal

Yaro lauded the efforts of the governor and highlighted its potential to enhance access to quality education.

Alhaji Lawal Yaro expressed gratitude to Governor Dikko Umaru Radda for selecting Jikamshi for the school.

Meanwhile, Governor Dikko Radda has directed for comprehensive inquiry into the encroachment on lands belonging to public schools across the state.

The move, Mohammed Kaula said, seeks to prevent illegal construction of structures within school premises.

Delta Police Arrests Gun Runner With 4 Firearms Concealed In Motorbike, Rescues 4 Kidnapped Victims

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Police operatives in Delta State have bust a ring of gun runners in the state, recovering four locally made cut-to-size guns.

The firearms, which were concealed under the seat of a red QLINK Motorcycle, marked JRT178VH, were reportedly recovered by operatives attached to Orerokpe Division in collaboration with Aragba vigilantes of Aragba community. Similarly, four kidnapped victims, whose captors have demanded N10 million from their family were rescued without the payment of the ransom.

Our correspondent gathered that the owner of the firearms, identified as Sunday Yerakpo, 36, was nabbed by the crack team during a stop and search operation at Aragba junction along Sapele Aghalokpe Road, in Okpe council area of the state. On the rescued kidnapped victims, they were said to be residents Orerokpe community, kidnapped while on transit along Abraka-Eku expressway by Orerokpe Bridge, Okpe LGA.

The Delta State Police Public Relations Officer DSP Bright Edafe who made the disclosure in a release made available to journalists on Wednesday.

It reads, "On 12/9/2023 at about 4.00pm, acting on information of the kidnap incident reported at Orerokpe Division on

11/9/2023, at about 0400hrs of four persons (names withheld) all residents of orerokpe while on transit along Abraka-Eku expressway by Orerokpe Bridge, Okpe LGA and that the kidnapers were demanding Ten Million Naira {#10,000,000.00} ransom.

"The DPO Orerokpe Division CSP Paul Oboware in a swift response led a team of Policemen, with the active support of troops of the Nigerian Army, and members of Oreorokpe community vigilantes, trailed the kidnapers into the adjoining bushes using technically generated intelligence.

"They combed the bushes relentlessly putting pressure on the kidnapers who on sighting the rescue team hastily abandoned the victims and took to their heels. Consequently, all the kidnapped victims were rescued and taken to the hospital where they were treated, discharged, and have since been reunited with their families. Efforts to arrest the fleeing suspects are ongoing.

"In line with the mandate of the Commissioner of Police Delta State CP Wale Abass PSC, to fight crime and curb the prevalent excesses of criminals in the State, the DPO Orerokpe division deployed Crack squad of the Division to embark on a proactive and crime preventing policing within his area of responsibility.



The suspect

"This Crack Team in a combined effort with the Aragba vigilantes, initiated an intensive stop and search operation at Aragba Junction along Sapele Aghalokpe Road Okpe LGA, where they accosted one Sunday Yerakpo in possession of four new locally-made cut-to-size guns. The 35-year-old male suspect who hails from

Orhuwhorun in Odu LGA, had concealed the four new locally fabricated cut-to-size gun under the seat of his red QLINK Motorcycle (REG NO JRT178VH).

"The suspect was immediately arrested and preliminary investigation revealed that he deals in gun running and that one of his accomplices known as Ose

Ogboyen 'm' sent him to deliver the arms to a client popularly known as "Saputu". Efforts to arrest the said Ose Ogboyen and Saputu are ongoing.

"On 09/09/2023 at about 1630hrs operatives of Ogulagha Police post under Burutu LGA, led by the district officer (DO) in collaboration with local members of the Nigeria hunters in the community, forest security service, acting on credible information stormed No. 8 Palace road ogulagha where one prince Diegbegha 'm' aged 25yrs, a native of Ogulagha community was apprehended. When a search was conducted at his residence, one Makarov pistol with an empty magazine was recovered. During interrogation, the suspect stated that he bought the gun for Two Hundred Thousand Naira (200,000) from one Oshimili (now late) in the year 2018 at Ozoro. The suspect and Exhibit are in custody and investigation is ongoing.

"The Commissioner of Police Delta State, CP Wale Abass assures the public that his pledge to preserve the peace in the state remains his utmost priority and that credible information that will aid in crime fighting can be passed to the command through the Police Public Relation Office, the Area Commanders, and DPOs while assuring that their identities will be treated with utmost confidentiality".

Contractor Apologizes To Akande-Sadipe Over False Allegation

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The contractor handling Olomi-Ayegun-Olojuoro-Ijebu Igbo road, Messrs. DC Engr. Limited has apologized for the false claims laid against the lawmaker representing Oluyole Federal Constituency, Hon. Tolulope Akande-Sadipe.

This was gathered from a video obtained from the Ad-hoc Committee public hearing, held on Wednesday, in Abuja, where the Managing Director, DC Engineering Ltd., Engr. Ayoola Oladeji issued an apology, admitting false allegations against the lawmaker.

Engr. Oladeji, during the hearing, publicly admitted that the allegations made against Hon. Akande-Sadipe were unfounded and solely driven by a desire



Hon Tolulope Akande-Sadipe

to secure the continuation of their contract.

During a session, Engr. Oladeji expressed deep regret and acknowledged that his previous stance on the matter was being misguided and that DC Engineering Limited had subcontracted the Olomi Olajouro Road (commonly referred to as the Ijebu-Igbo Ita Ibadan Road) to another contractor, a move that had not received approval from the Ministry of Works.

Engr. Oladeji's public apology and candid admissions has shed light on the intricacies surrounding the Olomi Olojuoro

Road project and that this revelation has undoubtedly shed further light on the status of the project.

Initially scheduled for completion within two years, the construction project has extended into its fifth year. Despite receiving a full payment of 1.4 billion Naira as mobilization fee from the Ministry, the project has faced ongoing delays and insufficient progress with another 500 million Naira paid to DC recently.

It would be recalled that, during one of the sessions conveyed by the Ad-hoc Committee DC Engineering accused the Federal Government and Rep. Akande-Sadipe of inflating the contract sum of the road rehabilitation project in her constituency.

Political Party Not Sole Proprietorship, Partnership Business - NNPP Chieftain, Ajadi

*Commends INEC's condemnation of few claiming ownership of political parties

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Achieftain of the New Nigeria People's Party, (NNPP), Comrade Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Wednesday, declared that a political party is not a sole proprietorship or a partnership business.

The NNPP Chieftain in a statement made available to newsmen, commended the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC) over its recent condemnation of few people claiming to own a political party purely because they are founding members.

He stressed that political parties are owned by members and that there is no single owner of a political party and that in a political party, all members are equal and that mostly, there are no founders and no joiners.

The NNPP gubernatorial candidate in Ogun State in the March 18 elections, emphasized that INEC has hit the nail on the head by saying that few people cannot run a party and that a party cannot function without people at the grassroots.

"This should be an eye opener to those who are claiming to be the owners of our party, the NNPP. INEC has spoken genuinely that some briefcase politicians claim

to be owners of parties, but that political parties are owned by the people", he said.

The NNPP Chieftain added, "Those who are claiming the right of ownership in our party should know the end has come for their Shenanigans. Parties are owned by the people and not individuals.

"A political party is not a sole proprietorship or a partnership business. It is owned by all members irrespective of when they enter the parties. Parties are vehicles for elections and elections are won through the people".

New Nigerian recalls that INEC acting Director, Department of Election and Party Monitoring, Hajiya Hauwa Habib said at a programme themed, 'Validation Session: Needs assessment of political parties in Nigeria' organised by The Kukah Centre and funded by the Europe Union, that to register a political party, the proponents must have a membership of 24 people from 24 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

"The Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer continue to dominate everything about the political party. In their constitutions, they assign duties and schedules to every executive member. The



Financial Secretary, Welfare Secretary, and Publicity Secretary are not allowed to perform their duties once the party is registered".

Hajiya Habib stressed, "in the long run, when it is a year or two towards election, you find the secretary and the chairman

struggling on who owns the party. Thereabout, you find factionalisation, they give us problems during elections, rush to the courts, and the courts are not helping matters.

"They think that membership of a political party in Nigeria is a joke. It is through the political

parties that governance and government are given to citizens. How do you think a political party with 24 people running the party can perform without a presence at the local level during elections?" She queried.

Ajadi

IAR Begins 100 Years Anniversary With Tree Planting

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Institute For Agricultural Research (IAR) has begun its 100 years anniversary celebration with tree planting in the institute. Speaking at the tree planting ceremony at the institute, the Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Professor Kabiru Bala said that the issues of climate change is

real and becoming a reality.

He said the tree planting by IAR is timely and called on all ABU staff to join in planting at least 10 trees in their homes to avoid being victims of climate change.

The Vice Chancellor who made it clear of his delight with the agricultural complex for its many research works, directed that such should be made available to public for

development, which will attract people that will put them to use.

Bala also made it clear that there is a sharp contrast between ABU and Samaru area, where some streets have no single trees, despite many university staff reside in Samaru.

Earlier in his remarks, the Executive Director Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR), Professor Muhammad Faguji

Ishiyaku said the institute has made tremendous achievements in the area of agricultural development in Nigeria.

He said tree planting is an opening activity of the 100 years anniversary celebration lined up by the institute.

Ishiyaku said it is worthy for those survived to witness the occasion, not that they were

present in 1922 to help in the institute celebrate its achievement through this years. Seedlings planted include, tamarin, arabian gum, paw paw, mango among other seedlings. Also seedlings were distributed to members of staff and those of the agricultural complex of the university.

OAU Adjusts Students Fees

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

Authorities of the **O b a f e m i A w o l o w o** University, Ile-Ife, Osun State on Wednesday, announced adjustment in the fees to be paid by students of the institution. The institution in a statement by the Public Relations Officer of the university, Abiodun

Olarewaju listed that those in the Faculties of Arts, Law and Humanities as the 'freshers' are to pay N151,200 while returning students of the same faculties will pay N89,200.

According to the statement, those in the Faculties of Technology and Science, the new students are to pay N163,200 and the returning

students of the same faculties are to pay N101,200.

It stressed that in addition, "the new students being admitted into the Faculties in the College of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Pharmacy are to pay N190,200 (new students) and N128,200 (returning students) respectively.

The statement maintained

that "The decision was taken by the Senate of the University at its emergency meeting on Tuesday, 12th September, 2023".

"The management, therefore, wishes the students resounding success in their academic programmes. The above adjustable fees are just for an academic session."

Independence Of Legislature Will Ensure Proper Checks, Balances - Ebonyi Governor

By; **M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki**

Governor Francis Nwifuru of Ebonyi State has advocated genuine independence of the legislature to ensure proper checks and balances in the country.

Governor Nwifuru made the call when he received members of House of Representatives adhoc Committee on non-remittance of National Housing Fund who paid him a courtesy visit on Tuesday.

The committee which has commenced probe into alleged non-remittance of the National Housing Funds (NHF), is headed by Hon. Dachung Bagos with the mandate to investigate non-remittance and utilisation of the fund from 2011 to date.

Governor Nwifuru, a former two-term Speaker of Ebonyi State House of Assembly, observed that independence of the three arms of government, especially the legislature, would help build virile Institutions for effective governance in the country.

"I am much delighted with what the Speaker is doing right now, by reactivating what had long been forgotten. It is now left for the leadership of the National Assembly to call a spade a spade and do the needful. Equip your leadership, give them strength, give them immunity and they will protect you."

Governor Nwifuru also

decried a situation where Housing Estates sited in the State have remained uncompleted for years and even those completed are allocated to non-civil servants, saying it runs foul of the actual essence of the fund.

"I thank God for Mr. President today, I thank the leadership of the National Assembly today who gave you the opportunity to come down and see things for yourself.

"I am urging you, go there, do a good recommendation and let us get it right.

"I am not ready to borrow one Naira from the bank, the one I get from the Federal Government and Internally Generated Revenue is enough for me to develop my people.

He urged members of the committee to do thorough investigation without bias and ensure that anybody found culpable will made to face the law

Earlier, the Chairman of the House Representatives adhoc Committee on National Housing Fund, Dachung Bagos said they were in the state to oversight ongoing housing estates projects and to sensitize government on the need to ensure proper remittance of housing fund by civil servants.

He told the governor that members of the committee have visited the sites and commended the state government for their cooperation to the committee.



Ambassador-at-Large to the African Region, International Human Rights Commission, Dr. Malami Shehu Ma'aji, MFR (right) with Minister of State, Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, Barrister, Muhammed Bello Goronyo during the Ambassador's working visit to the minister at his office, in Abuja. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

APC-IGG Welcomes Tinubu From Foreign Trip *Assures it would be a blessing to Nigeria

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

The National President All Progressives Congress (APC) Initiative For Good Governance (APC-IGG) Ambassador Musa Mohammed Tsoken assured that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's recent trip would become profitable to Nigeria and its citizens in the near

future.

He disclosed this in an interview with our correspondent, where he opined that Nigeria is getting more and excellent recognition in every sector, because the present administration is making every effort to make the country great.

Ambassador Musa Mohammed Tsoken announced that, "we are

certain that our president is always prepared to connect our fatherland to the global progress and with what we are witnessing, Nigeria is now back on track of development. Our initiative, APC-IGG is also following the president's footsteps in order to promote good governance through various programmes," he

added.

Ambassador Tsoken said that, "on behalf of the national executive officers, zonal coordinators, states and local government leaders of our great initiative, I welcome Mr. President and his entourage back home from their trip, and we are of the opinion that the journey would be our pride soon," he concluded.



Governor Nwifuru

One Hundred Days After Buhari

*Buhari has done his part and left, history will judge him fairly

By: GARBASHEHU

This week, President Muhammadu Buhari clocked 100 days away from office after completing two terms of four years each as President of Nigeria.

He chose to stay in Daura to be far away from Abuja in order not to distract the new APC administration and in the hope also that the distance will make it possible for him to have a good rest and to care for his farm which had not received as much attention as it needed while he was away.

He goes to the farm four days of the week and is upbeat about how well the crops and his animals are now doing. He gets a good measure of rest but the visits have not abated. To manage the numbers, he has a weekly program drawn for him as they did while he was in the Villa.

Visitors are scheduled on the program but there are so many people who just start their motor bikes and cars to head out to Daura to him in the belief that he has the time to receive all visitors.

Among his many "special guests" are party faithful, grassroots groups, farmers, artisans, artists, praise singers, nurses and doctors, religious leaders, community leaders and several other professionals. Not left out are those who benefited from the administration, one way or another.

The other day, he was musing the decision to remove fuel subsidy by the Tinubu administration, saying he had hoped that it would lessen the pressure on him by constraining the large number of people who pick up their transport and head to Daura to see him from all parts of the country, but that he had noted that instead of them coming one by one, his friends, including the poor and the marginalized now group themselves, share costs to hire buses to come to see and talk to him.

So while it is the case that some in the country were happy that he was no longer in office, there are some, even more that continue to cherish and admire him.

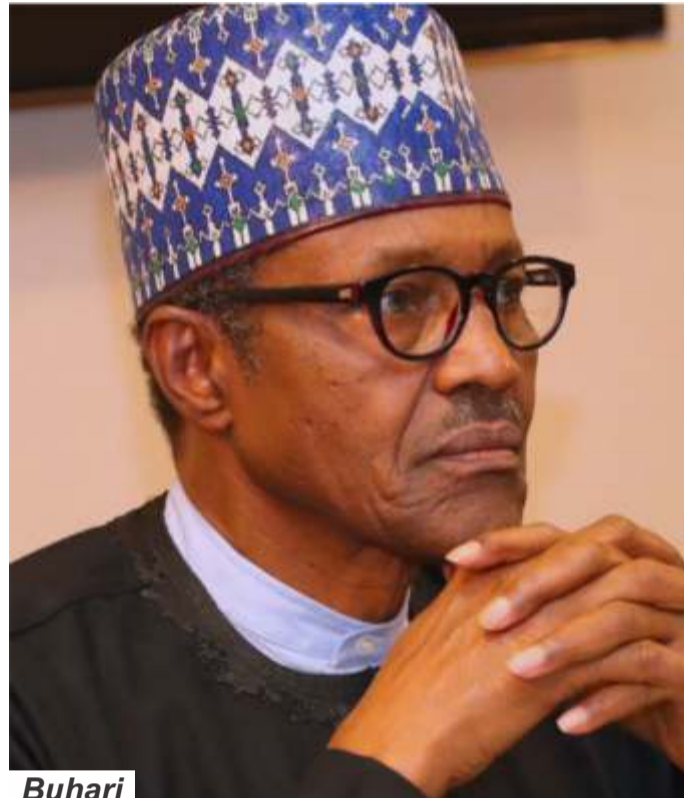
In the eight years he led the country, Muhammadu Buhari had taken many decisions and as is human, one or two may have been wrong. But no one, not even critics, can question his intentions when those decisions were taken.

There has not been a single area that has not been touched by the Buhari government, with massive, positive changes in the eight years he held fort.

In the normative functions of our governments, an administration takes four to five major decisions in four years and they rush to the public square to celebrate themselves. Looking at the records he left, the Buhari government has taken hundreds of major decisions in the eight years it was in office, and yet you hear nothing but criticism upon criticism.

The promise of tackling corruption and establishing a strong democracy was a prime factor in the rise to power by Muhammadu Buhari and the All Progressives Congress party in 2015.

On coming to office, the administration directed all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to close their accounts with deposit money banks to fully operationalize the Treasury Single Account. TSA was launched in 2012 but left on the drawing boards. More than 17,000 bank accounts were closed and an



Buhari

average of four billion Naira in monthly bank charges was saved. Government revenue, it was found out, was being banked in personal accounts and signatories were, in some instances, big men and women who had retired from service.

This was closely followed with the institution of the Integrated Personnel and Payroll System, IPPS to cover all MDAs in spite of great opposition by the armed forces and the universities. Ghost workers in excess of 50,000 were flushed out and savings in hundreds of billions made.

The last administration established "project lighthouse," a financial data integration engine that helped to identify unpaid debts put at more than five trillion Naira, out of which a good part has been recovered. It subscribed to the Open Government Partnership, OGP in 2016, instituted the Whistleblower mechanism which has been legislated into law, fast-tracked Identity Management taking registered entries to well above 100 million from just about 20-25 in 2015, boosted assets recovery at home and abroad with enhanced laws that ensured transparency in the management of the funds and generally increased the latitude of power and authority of anti corruption agencies and the office of the Auditor General of the Federation.

Throughout these eight years, no bribery allegations against the person of Muhammadu Buhari were ever made.

One of the of the greatest achievements of the Buhari government has been that it diversified the economy. The administration achieved self-sufficiency in rice, and financed millions of small farmers of 23 different commodities, an effort that helped to boost the export of agricultural commodities.

In addition to programs such as the Anchor Borrower Scheme, the Buhari government launched the Presidential Fertiliser Initiative, following the success of which Nigeria has become a net exporter of certain variants of fertilizer; it set up Special-Agro Processing Zones, resurrected the National Agricultural Land Development Authority, NALDA, set up the National Young Farmers Scheme,

Agriculture for Food and Jobs Program and the National Livestock Transformation Program, NLTP among others.

The NLTP was the administration's effective response to herder-farmer clashes which spiked a few years back, that have substantially been curbed. The Buhari government launched programs to streamline 46 million vulnerable people into the country's development process, men and women who were otherwise deprived of it as the nation progressed and in way, helping thereby to increase their faith in democracy. Two million poor and vulnerable households received N10,000 bimonthly stipend per month; 10

million school children received a meal a day which has boosted school enrollment and following presidential approvals, so many schemes- Nigeria's Micro Pension Scheme, Survival Fund, National Youth Investment Fund, National Special Public Works Program, COVID-19 Targeted Credit Facility, Survival Fund, Nigeria Investment and Growth Fund, the Development Bank (created in 2017) and the enhancement of the Bank of Industry just to cite a few have all come into play to make life better for the citizens as part of the massive changes in the economy.

The Covid-19 pandemic was brought under control due to the relentless leadership of President Buhari. In fact, the country was among the top few that came out with strong economic activities after the pandemic. It has happened due to the farsightedness of the President and the effective leadership of the efforts by the former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha.

Today Boko Haram terrorism has almost been quashed. There has been a massive improvement in health infrastructure, a significant and new education policy has been framed, and even a policy against open defecation has been formulated and is taking hold in many states.

No one should be angry at some revisionist characters whose only focus is the delegitimization of significant Buhari legacies. They refuse to acknowledge that bomb explosions, suicide bomb incidents and all that stopped when President Buhari stepped in. The National Security office was ruthless in denying End User Certificates, EUCs to those bringing in Urea fertilizer. They impounded shipments of fertilizer for over 5 years to freeze the bomb-making industry controlled by terrorists thereby helping to bring these atrocities to a standstill. The so-called critics don't want to acknowledge the great job done by the nation's intelligence agencies in diminishing the IPOB, its affiliates and other secessionist movements. The National Intelligence Agency, NIA single-handedly worked with our neighbors, especially Niger Republic in bringing down illegal small arms and

light weapons importation into Nigerian territory by 78%. This agency carried out extensive work on the blocking of the insurgent Cameroonian Ambazonian network's infiltration into Nigeria. Our security and intelligence operatives were virtually awake 24/7 and the President was well aware at all times on the evolving situations.

Buhari's critics don't want to acknowledge how General Marwa's arrival on the scene completely paralyzed the activities of big time drug syndicates. What General Marwa did in just one year has not been achieved in our National history. Even the Senator Hadi Sirika that they want to smear has improved aviation security beyond any of his predecessors. His efforts are acknowledged by international organizations including the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO and by many other countries. Where were they when he was keeping awake at night to ensure that the Abuja runway was repaired in record time? Or working to fully execute the modernization of terminal buildings in Lagos, Abuja, Kano, Enugu (plus runway) and Port Harcourt?

It's no mean achievement that the Nigerian aviation sector made the world's second fastest recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. The critics don't want to acknowledge that maritime security experienced such a turn around when Admiral Gambo came on board. In less than one year, the International Maritime Bureau was singing the Nigerian Navy's praises for normalizing the dire security situation in the Gulf of Guinea, GoG. Their reports clearly stated that for the first time in 27 years, the GoG had become the safest maritime environment.

There has not been a single area that has not been touched by the Buhari government. We have seen massive positive changes in the last eight years but as they say, the one who is pretending to be asleep is harder to wake up than the one who is actually sleeping.

Bullies who attacked governments and "something dropped" will continue to antagonize Buhari borne of anger from lost opportunities. A certain Buhari "critic" who served a Military Governor in one of the Northern States, even his underwear was bought from government coffers. When they came in they freed thieves, robbers and receivers of stolen goods and even gave them a working capital!

Within a few weeks, crime returned to Kaduna, and yes, the other places and he has the effrontery to speak as he did. This society has no use for such squalid nonsense!!

How many of these people do you think were happy when President Buhari said "no more free money"?

Buhari said money in National Security Agencies is for security. Lazy men and women who can't work cannot just walk in and walk out of that place with bags stuffed with money in a free-for-all. These ones have nothing to teach anyone. President Tinubu, a wise politician will equally see through their masquerade.

Muhammadu has done his part and left. History will judge him, and fairly I think. Garba Shehu was former Presidential Spokesman

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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.
- The management of New Nigerian Newspapers Limited reserves the right to reject an advert or any publication in any of its titles where such materials are considered distasteful for public exposure or libelous.

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

The Cursed Continent: Thoughts On African Leadership

By Dan Agbese

Thus, did it happen that Africa, perhaps the luckiest continent in the world with unbelievable natural resource endowments, and a population of 1,466,649,930, accounting for 17.89 per cent of the world population, is the wretched of the earth. It is a beggar continent, dependent on handouts from the other continents for the survival of its 54 nations and their increasingly impoverished people.

Each African leader is God-sent. This gives each man the right to believe that, having arrived with the divine halo, he is indispensable to his country. The country is, because he is. You are not hearing it from me for the first time that this continues to lead to what has been termed sit-tight leaders on the continent – men who refuse to obey the constitutional limits imposed on their office. It does not matter whether they wear khaki or agbada. Power is as sweet to the one as to the other.

This is a continent of contrasts and contradictions. It is suffering from the curse of the African big man. The curse of the African big man is composed of three lethal afflictions, each of which, were the continent a ship, could sink it. The first is the affliction of entitlement. African nations are still tribal and religious nation states within nation states. African countries are atomistic societies in permanent conflict with themselves and whose politics is characterised by competitions among the tribal and religious nation states for political benefits and the locus of political power at various points in the chequered history of each nation state.

This handicaps African nations in seeking for competent political leaders at national and sub-national levels. It is not who can but whose entitlement it is. This, as you should know, has a profound deleterious effect on the continent and its people. Adherence to the entitlement tradition tends to produce a variety of ambitious men (and they are usually men) with various degrees of total unreadiness for leadership in each country. In general terms, the result is the imposition of incompetent men who can only provide mediocre leadership on a country that requires informed and competent leaders able to distinguish between motion and

movement. This must be why many countries on the continent tend to mistake their rise and fall as evidence of their movement. In Nigeria, we call this moving the nation forward.

The second is the affliction of indispensability. Each African leader is God-sent. This gives each man the right to believe that, having arrived with the divine halo, he is indispensable to his country. The country is, because he is. You are not hearing it from me for the first time that this continues to lead to what has been termed sit-tight leaders on the continent – men who refuse to obey the constitutional limits imposed on their office. It does not matter whether they wear khaki or agbada. Power is as sweet to the one as to the other.

Their first step is to remove the term limit, the legal constraint against the full flowering of sitting tight and refusing to go when the time is up. A two-term limit is expanded to three terms and thence to no term limits. In the event that death, the great spoiler of fun and enjoyment of power at the highest level, forces a term limit of its own for an African big man, he anoints his son as his successor. An indispensable man breeds indispensable sons and daughters to keep power in the family. Through this process, not unknown to millions of us, political power is domiciled in particular families.

President Omar Bongo of Gabon was not the first African big man to walk down that path but his son is a current example of what could go wrong with power hoarding as the exclusive preserve of lucky families. He was called thither in 2009 and replaced himself as president with his son Ali. Three weeks ago, Ali won his election for a third term. But he was not destined to anoint his own son to succeed him.

The sum of the curse of the African big man on the continent presents us with a horrendous spectacle of a rich but poor continent and the arrogant squandering of riches by the few privileged men and families as they laugh at their wretched fellow country men and women. Thus, democracy is in retreat, the rule of law is trampled underfoot and the right of the people to have legitimate access to the wealth of their nations is under lock and key. When power and

the wealth of a nation are hoarded by a few, the many are deprived in the midst of plenty.

The soldiers in his country chafed at his manipulation of the presidential election to stay on for a third term. They pulled out their guns. Abandoned in the presidential palace, Ali became a perfect pathetic picture of a man deserted by power – forlorn, lonely and in dread of the fate that awaits him on the other side of the rainbow. All he could do was to call on his friends to go out and make noise. Noise-making has never restored a deposed president to power. I would not know how much noise people made but trust the Nigerians, they turned his pathetic cry for help into incredible dance steps.

Before Bongo, President Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo, shot his way into power and became president in 1967. When death came calling, as indeed it must, in 2005, he handed the presidential sash to his son, Faure Gnassingbe. Power in the country so far remains domiciled in the Eyadema household.

The third affliction is the ingrained venality of the African big man who finds politics as the sure path to instant wealth. This affliction makes him conflate the national wealth with his personal wealth. He appropriates the wealth of his nation and in a twist of African logic, the keeper of the national wealth becomes the owner of the national wealth. This tendency has hardened into culture and tradition and is best defined by this long word, corruption. It was once a detestable word not uttered in polite societies. Not anymore. In the ever-changing societal mores and morals, the word is the current sesame that automatically opens doors and carves new doors where none exists to wealth and power in all African countries. The African big man is his country. Nothing strange there. After all, we still recall that the late Charles de Gaulle once said he was France. But he was not a curse to his country.

African democracy is forever in search of democrats. The pretenders to the throne do no justice to democracy, the rule of law or respect for the rights of the people. There is a new scramble for Africa. The Americans and the Russians are establishing military bases in various parts of the continent. It

is not for our sake; it is for their sake in pursuit of carving the continent into continued spheres of influence. It is what happens when countries are in want of good and committed leaders.

On the average the African big man usually comes into office as a military strong man. He soon removes his military uniform and waves the ballot paper in our faces as converted but faux democrats. The sum of the curse of the African big man on the continent presents us with a horrendous spectacle of a rich but poor continent and the arrogant squandering of riches by the few privileged men and families as they laugh at their wretched fellow country men and women. Thus, democracy is in retreat, the rule of law is trampled underfoot and the right of the people to have legitimate access to the wealth of their nations is under lock and key. When power and the wealth of a nation are hoarded by a few, the many are deprived in the midst of plenty.

African democracy is forever in search of democrats. The pretenders to the throne do no justice to democracy, the rule of law or respect for the rights of the people. There is a new scramble for Africa. The Americans and the Russians are establishing military bases in various parts of the continent. It is not for our sake; it is for their sake in pursuit of carving the continent into continued spheres of influence. It is what happens when countries are in want of good and committed leaders.

You are not hearing it from me here that we have at least seven more or less fossilised men on the continent whose right to remain in power can only be questioned by the grim reaper. It is not difficult to see the damage their permanent hold on power and the wealth of their various countries has done to their own people. Take one instance out of the seven.

Can the curse of the African big man on the continent be removed and the continent freed? It is a good question. It should task



Dan Agbese

those who believe that the sum of the wealth of individuals in a country does not translate into the wealth of the nation. Our hope lies in functional democracy. But the same forces that have caged democracy make functional democracy impossible. Things ought to be better for Africa and the Africans.

President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea shot his uncle out of power and himself into power in 1979. He is the longest serving president on the continent. Equatorial Guinea is an oil producing country. It has a tiny population of 1.7 million people. With a per capita of \$26,000, it is the richest country in Africa. But 80 per cent of the people live on less than one US dollar a day. Talking of real poverty in the midst of plenty.

The president has domiciled political power as well as the wealth of the nation in his family. His son is the deputy president, primed to succeed him when death comes calling, obviously. Father and son are living in unbelievable opulence. We have come to a point where the impact of the African big man can be summed up in three short sentences: they come, they stay, they loot.

Can the curse of the African big man on the continent be removed and the continent freed? It is a good question. It should task those who believe that the sum of the wealth of individuals in a country does not translate into the wealth of the nation. Our hope lies in functional democracy. But the same forces that have caged democracy make functional democracy impossible. Things ought to be better for Africa and the Africans.

ochima495@gmail.com

Culled from National Record

Who is Dayo Israel? An insight

By: ISAAC ODEH

Dayo Israel (LLB (Hons), MA International Relations) is a renowned polymath; A season diplomat, social entrepreneur, in demand evangelist, TV personality, astute motivational speaker, advocate, Conference facilitator, High Performance Coach, young thought leader and has served as an advisor to various global leaders, business executive, politicians, young entrepreneur and sports professionals. He is also an internationally recognized personality with over 20 years of professional experience in international development having worked with organisations such as The United Nations, British Council, Save the Children UK, UNICEF, in various capacities and has appeared on countless television interviews, commercials, talk shows, radio programs, and was even selected by the United Nations to represent all the young delegates to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children on a special CNN Live Interview. He was specially invited by Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh to a private reception at Buckingham palace. He was also invited by the Obama Administration to the White House President's Forum for Young African Leaders in Washington DC and an Alumnus of the US State Department International Visitors Leadership Program that has produced over 400 Heads of Government globally.

Dayo now serves as the National Youth Leader of Nigeria's ruling party. However prior to this he served as Permanent Board Member of Lagos SUBEB.

Before venturing into the public sector, he served as Country Director for GLEEHD Foundation. Through his work at GLEEHD Foundation, Dayo helped drive trade and investment between Africa and the West (Europe and North America) through various activities including Trade Delegations, Business Roundtables, Investment Forums and Bilateral Meetings. Dayo also consults for Senior Executives and Government leaders in the areas of brand positioning and visibility strategy.

A London Met Graduate with a LLB (Hon's) Law and M.A International Relations from London Met, Dayo furthered his additional qualification at Harvard Business School, Cambridge Judge Business School, and is an Alumni of the Executive Development Program of the Wharton School. Dayo is a Doctoral Candidate, undergoing his Doctor of Business Administration program.

Prior to his role as Regional Director for Africa at GLEEHD Foundation, Dayo served as Special Assistant at the National Assembly of Nigeria, YTI Special Representative to the United Nations, and YGA Ambassador to the United Nations. At the United Nations, he was responsible for overseeing YTI/YGA's Interaction and relationship with the United Nations, Representing YTI/YGA at various UN Meetings and Functions and also leading various advocacies of the organisation, which led to various side events at the UN



Dayo Israel

DPI meetings in Bonn, Paris and New York coordinated by Dayo.

At the National Assembly of Nigeria (Office of Senator Omowore – now Chairman Senate Committee on Rules and Business), Dayo was responsible for Strategy Development, Project Design and Evaluation. He was also responsible for Creating and maintaining relationships with Strategic Global partners such as the World Bank, VSO, British Council and other International Organisations etc. Dayo was responsible for arranging the first official visit of the Former US Consul General – Jeffrey Hawkins and the US embassy delegation to the National Assembly of Nigeria – during which the delegation observed the sitting of the parliament and were acknowledged by Senate President David Mark.

His achievements at the National Assembly also included Fostering Trade and Investment Opportunities for his constituents and linking local businesses with international partners in Europe and North America with support from UK Trade and Investment; as well as Supporting his principal in his interactions with International Organisations, Diplomatic Community, and UN entities by working closely with liaison staff and senior officials of those entities. He developed new initiatives concerned with: community development, women empowerment, youth development, renewable and alternative energy, health care, and education, while building partnerships

with the funding, civic, and political communities. Dayo created international opportunities for his Youth Constituent through design, development and implementations international exchange programs

Dayo facilitates many high profile events and meetings to connect Emerging Leaders with stakeholders and senior executives providing opportunity for mentorship and networking for development and growth. Some of his programs have featured World Bank Vice Presidents, Former Prime Ministers, Former and Serving Presidents, Ambassadors and High Net worth Individual.

Dayo's TV show – Dayo Israel in Conversation with – airs on 3 TV stations in Nigeria and her Diaspora and brings to the public conversations that are transformative, informative and inspirational with an intention to inspire thoughts that lead to life affirming changes. The show features some of the most prominent and eminent leaders cross-sector including Presidents and Heads of Government, Politicians, Musicians, Sportsmen and women, Fashion Designers, Artists, Painters, Writers, Military Officers, and the ordinary unknown who do so much to help others in a very significant way. With discussions spanning Family, Faith, Finance, Politics, Science, Art, Business, Technology, Literature and Philosophy.

As a top ranked keynote speaker, author and television personality, Dayo Israel has risen to national prominence by delivering

high energy message and speeches which tells people how to shake off mediocrity, turn their potential into performance and live up to their greatness. It is a message Dayo has learned from his own life and one he is helping others apply to their lives.

He gets his message out to an international audience of millions through his various tours, inspirational conferences, seminars, motivational coaching, philanthropic work, TV show, Media appearances, audio programs, and Youth advocacy.

He co-launched the UNICEF State of the World Children's Report in 2003 alongside Carol Bellamy and Oscar Award Winner - Vanessa Redgrave CBE. A former student leader, Dayo was the First African to be elected a Student Council Chair at London Metropolitan University and served on the University's Academic Board with the Vice Chancellor, representing over 30,000 students on

the board. He was also a member of the research and development committee of the University with the Deputy Vice Chancellor during his Post Graduate days. He has met and addressed so many world leaders like HRM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, HRH Prince Andrew Duke of York, Dr. Nelson Mandela, Former Nigerian Head of State - General Yakubu Gowon, Former Nigerian President and current UN Envoy to Congo: Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President Goodluck Jonathan, Former Prime Minister Sir John Major, President Roberto Cavaco of Portugal, President Thabo Mbeki, President Jacob Zuma, EU Jose Manuel Barosso, Dr. Kofi Annan, Dr. Donald Kaberuka, Prime Minister Dlamini Absalom Themba, Queen Mubarak of Egypt, President Yahya Jameh, President Tejjan Kabbah, President John Kufor, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, Foreign Secretary William Hague, UN Scribe Ban Ki Moon and many other Heads of States and Presidents in Africa and Europe.

He attracts a lot of "positive" media attentions and has featured on CNN Q and A Live, Daystar Christian Broadcasting Network, Iranian Press TV, Nickelodeon, BBC Network Africa, Ben Television, OBE TV, BBC World Service, NTA Newline, and T.V Africa. He produces and presents the syndicated "Dayo Israel Show" across Europe and Africa. He has made headlines on various national newspapers such as Swazi Today, The Comet newspaper, The Punch newspaper, Tribune newspaper and The Nigerian Guardian

Losers, Winners And An Orphaned Nation

By Owei Lakemfa

NIGERIANS last week had no democratic choice but to have their ears on the Presidential Election Petitions Tribunal verdict. It was not that they hoped the result would assuage their hunger or reduce banditry which has made a steady inroad in the most protected city, Abuja.

Elections are not the issue; an unviable system is at the core. How can a huge country of 220 million people with hundreds of nationalities, cultures, languages and experiences have a single police "force"? How can such behemoth provide effective police services to the country? What effective police work can a policeman from Abeokuta carry out in Bulunkutu when he does not speak the local language, does not understand the people and their cultures and does not even know the names of streets in the area not to talk about finding his way?

They could as well have switched off their television sets as all networks for over half a day covered the verdict live. But for many, it was the fear of the verdict. No matter where it swung, it was the beginning of wisdom; the spectre of violence was all over.

The judiciary itself was on trial. All eyes were on it. Whatever verdict it gave, would not discharge or acquit it. It was guilty as charged and no allocutus would reduce the harshness of the sentence by the losing parties. How can it hope to be innocent when each of the three main candidates in the elections, at least by faith, believes he won the election?

I must commend the efforts of the justices who for over 12 hours, laboured through the verdict they had written, in a vain effort to plead innocent.

When the verdict was given, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar cried foul and headed to the Supreme Court which has the final human say. So did His Excellency Peter Obi who added he was on his way to the highest court to seek justice. In contrast, President Bola Tinubu in faraway India, broke into dances that reminded me of Queen Salawa Abeni's 'India Waka'.

Elections in an orphaned Nigeria are so contentious and fractious because that is what democracy has been reduced to: a winner takes all high stake in which the winner has so much powers that he is virtually the state.

Dr Kayode Fayemi, immediate past chairman of the Nigerian Governors Forum (NGF) had, on the eve of the verdict, questioned whether the current electoral system where only one winner amongst contending parties, emerges, is democratic. Speaking on Tuesday, September 6 at the 60th birthday and presentation of 21 books by heavyweight intellectual pugilist, Professor Udentia. O. Udentia, the former governor had made a case for proportional representation. Under this system, political parties in the elections get in government the percentage of electoral votes it secures.

Elections cannot cure over-bloated bureaucracy such as having two

chambers: a 109-member Senate and a 360-Member House of Representatives performing the same essential function of law-making. Rather than scrap the House and let the treasury breathe, the country is multiplying or splitting ministries and agencies.

At that forum, I posited that our system is basically the form rather than the content of democracy as it does not necessarily translate to dividends for the people nor development of the country. I said the democratisation of the country is far off because basically it lives on the lie that Nigeria is a federation while in practice it is a unitary system where whoever wins the election has control over the resources of the entire country. This is partly why the national elections are so contentious and highly fractious.

As what passes for debates and analysis of the election petition verdict went on, I reflected that in the First Republic when we ran a federal system, the leader of the majority party, Alhaji Ahmadu Bello, could elect to remain a regional premier rather than move to the centre to govern the country. This was partly because a lot of power and resources laid in the regions. In those days, the best brains could decide to stay in the regional service rather than being drained to the Federal Service.

As I write this, with the inauguration of President Bola Tinubu, some of the best brains in Lagos State and its environs are being drained to Abuja, a city with no major factories and whose major industry is resource-sharing.

Elections are not the issue; an unviable system is at the core. How can a huge country of 220 million people with hundreds of nationalities, cultures, languages and experiences have a single police "force"? How can such behemoth provide effective police services to the country? What effective police work can a policeman from Abeokuta carry out in



Bulunkutu when he does not speak the local language, does not understand the people and their cultures and does not even know the names of streets in the area not to talk about finding his way? What kind of security can such a policeman provide or what assistance or information can he get from the populace when in the first place he cannot even communicate with them? Such a policeman finds his environment strange and the populace he is supposed to serve, regard him as a stranger.

One way is to build an Afrocentric system that takes in our cultures and traditions and guarantees the sovereignty of the people. A way of ensuring such sovereignty and good governance is to have a parliament in which professional politicians will constitute no more than 30-40 per cent, while the balance would be representatives of mass organisations like those of market people, youths, trade unions, community-based organisations, farmers associations, professional bodies like those of doctors, lawyers, accountants and builders.

What kind of democracy is it when a man can sit in Abuja and site a school in Ugep, a place he has never been and knows nothing about? In the first place, he does not even know whether a school is the major priority of the people or water sanitation. What kind of dividends can a

democracy that does not consult the people deliver?

Elections cannot cure over-bloated bureaucracy such as having two chambers: a 109-member Senate and a 360-Member House of Representatives performing the same essential function of law-making. Rather than scrap the House and let the treasury breathe, the country is multiplying or splitting ministries and agencies.

The issue is not that democracy is not working, it is that we are not running one; all we have is civilian rule based on who can corner the most formal votes by any means possible. So, we need to evolve a democratic process that delivers the basic needs to the people. Just as the Americans and British essentially run two-party system that builds strong structures, the Cubans run a democracy which guarantees the populace the best possible healthcare and qualitative, free education for all, and the Chinese run a democracy that unfailingly feeds 1.412 billion people daily and has abolished extreme poverty, so should we also have a democracy that delivers.

One way is to build an Afrocentric system that takes in our cultures and traditions and guarantees the sovereignty of the people. A way of ensuring such sovereignty and good governance is to have a parliament in which professional politicians will constitute no more than 30-40 per cent, while the balance would be representatives of mass organisations like those of market people, youths, trade unions, community-based organisations, farmers associations, professional bodies like those of doctors, lawyers, accountants and builders.

The executive can also be tailored on a similar line of representation.

The judiciary can be democratised in such a way that almost all cases will be adjudicated at community, local and state government levels. For appeals, the states can be bunched into six or eight regions. These will be the highest courts except the Constitutional Court. In other words, the Federal High Courts, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court can be scrapped. The Court of Peoples Democracy shall rise!

Culled from National Record

"Elections are not the issue; an unviable system is at the core. How can a huge country of 220 million people with hundreds of nationalities, cultures, languages and experiences have a single police "force"?"



From left, Member Special Purpose Committee, NDLEA, Archbishop Peter Ogunmuyiwa, Assistant Commander General Narcotics, NDLEA, Mr. Isah Adoro, Chairman of the Occasion, Dr. Gbenga Olowo, Zonal Commander, Zone H. Dr. Segun Oke and Chairman, Sports Writers Association of Nigeria, (SWAN), Lagos State Chapter, Mrs. Olatutu Oladunni, at the maiden workshop/symposium advocacy against use of illicit substances drug abuse and doping 2024 Olympics, held in Lagos.



From left, Assistant Commander General Narcotics, NDLEA, Mr. Isah Adoro, Chairman of the Occasion, Dr. Gbenga Olowo, Chairman, Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Lagos State Chapter, Mrs. Olatutu Oladunni, Zonal Commander, Zone H. Dr. Segun Oke and Airport Commander, NDLEA, Mr. Usman Wada at the Maiden workshop/symposium advocacy against use of illicit substances drug abuse and doping 2024 ahead Olympics in Lagos.

National Youth Games: Sports Minister Receives State Directors of Sports



By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The leadership of the Forum of Directors of Sports of the 36 States of the federation, and that of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have paid a familiarization visit to the Minister of Sports Development, Senator John Owan Enoh, in his office and ahead of the 7th edition of the National Youth Games (NYG) in Asaba, capital of Delta State.

The top brass of the forum were led on the visit on Wednesday, by its Chairman and Director of Sports Ebonyi State, Mr. Utobo Emmanuel to the minister's office, located at Package A of the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja.

In his remarks on the occasion, Mr. Utobo Emmanuel said the essence of the visit was to officially felicitate with him on

his appointment as the Minister of Sports as well as to intimate him on the activities of the forum, whose members forms bulk of constituents that makes up the National Council on Sports, in Nigeria.

According to Mr. Emmanuel, "the forum of Directors of Sports, play a pivotal role in the development of sports in Nigeria through grassroots sports because all the athletes are nurtured from the state, before being turned over to the federations and national teams; as elite competitors".

He reiterated that sports are incomplete without collective planning and participation of the forum; hence their utmost desire is to work in synergy with the ministry, under the watch of Senator Enoh, by partnering with him, and complementing his vision and goals for the nation's

sports sector, at the states and zonal levels.

"While appreciating you [the honourable minister] for granting us audience; as leaders of the forum and Directors of Sports of our respective states; we appeal to you to see and accord our forum its rightful place, as a serious component for core decision-making, and policy think-tank that would help in repositioning sports development and policies, in the country"; Mr. Emmanuel posited.

The forum advised the new sports minister to canvass more support and the buy-in of state Chief executives, for more investments in the area of sports development at the grassroots, to complement the efforts of the federal government. This they said can be done if the States and zones are made more functional

with all year round activities.

In his response, the Honourable Minister specifically promised in strong terms, to grant all sports the attention they deserve, without bias, and intends to converge all stakeholders to a meeting of the Council of Sports in due course, to help in modifying and solidifying the nation's sports policy, to be at par with the world's best standards. Senator Enoh also revealed his intention to meet with the Governor's forum to solicit their support for sports development and funding.

"Finally, I will like to assure the forum that we will prioritize the revitalization of the eight sports zonal offices, by bringing them back to life without further delay, to anchor our programmes and serve as our liaison with the states under their watch".

Director of Sports from Bayelsa

State, Sir Braveman Wodi who is the Public Relations Officer of the forum, while moving the vote of thanks, lauded the minister for giving the forum a listening ear and assured him of effective collaboration with the federal ministry of sports, for him to achieve a fruitful tenure as a minister.

The high point of the visit was the presentation of souvenirs to the sports minister Senator John Enoh as well as a group photograph.

Other Directors in attendance at the visit, were Vice-Chairman of the forum, Alhaji Usman Umar Ladan, who is also the Director of Sports Kebbi State,

Zainab Ishaku, Treasurer of the forum and Director of Sports Gombe, and Alhaji Baba Shesi, the Director of Sports, Niger State.

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Boat Mishaps: Speaker Abbas Mourns Victims, Seeks Preventive Measures

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen has expressed sadness by the recent boat accidents across the country, killing tens of people.

A statement issued by Musa Abdullahi Krishi, Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to the Speaker, and made available to newsmen, said the incidents occurred in Adamawa and Niger states.

Speaker Abbas called for collective efforts by both the government and the boat operators towards safeguarding the lives and property of Nigerians on waterways.

On Friday night, several people reportedly died after a boat capsized at

Njuwa Lake, Rugange Village in Yola South Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

Later on Sunday, a boat boarded by over 100 passengers in Mokwa LGA of Niger State reportedly capsized, killing 30 of the passengers.

Again on Monday, a boat accident reportedly occurred in Kwatan Mallam Adamu, Gurin Village, in Fufore Local Government Area of Adamawa State, killing over 10 persons.

The Speaker condemned a situation where water transportation, which serves as an alternative to road and rail for the movement of people and goods, is now recording mishaps.

Speaker Abbas, therefore,



Speaker Tajudeen Abbas

urged the relevant authorities to consider a review of the operational standards, while seeking strict adherence to all safety measures by both the boat operators and the passengers.

The Speaker, while

praying for the repose of the lost souls, commiserated with the families of the victims, the people, and the government of Niger and Adamawa States over the unfortunate incidents.

EFCC Arraigns Firm Director Over Alleged Stealing Of N251.6m In Ibadan

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), on Tuesday, arraigned a suspect, Obakin Emmanuel Ajibola before Justice Ladiran Akintola of the Oyo State High Court, sitting in Ibadan, over alleged stealing of N251,685,000.

Arraigning the suspect on a four count charge bordering on alleged stealing of N251,685,000 belonging to a firm, Lee Fakino Nigeria Limited, EFCC said Obakin committed the alleged offence in December, 2022 in Ibadan

EFCC stated that Obakin who was one of the two directors of Lee Fakino Nigeria Limited and signatory to the company's account, allegedly withdrew the above sum from Lee Fakino Nigeria

Limited without authorization and consent of the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Akindele Fajemiyo who is also signatory to the company's account.

The anti graft commission stressed that the defendant allegedly removed the telephone numbers and email address of the MD/CEO of the company from the bank details of Lee Fakino Nigeria Limited, through which notification alerts of transactions were received to enable him keep track of the account.

Obakin, afterwards withdrew the said sum from the account of the firm, which was money paid for works executed by Lee Fakino Nigeria Limited for the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture between December 22, 2022 and March 9, 2023 without any notification received by

Fajemiyo.

Upon arraignment, Obakin pleaded not guilty to the charges filed against him by the EFCC, while the prosecution counsel, Oyelakin Oyedirin upon the not guilty plea by the defendant, asked the court for a trial date and as well prayed the court to remand the defendant in the Correctional facility pending the determination of the case.

However, Counsel to the defendant, Ibrahim Lawal urged the court to admit his client to bail.

Justice Ladiran Akintola in his ruling granted the defendant bail in the sum of N50 million and two sureties, preferably the wife and younger brother to the defendant, in like sum.

Justice Akintola stated that, "the sureties are to swear an affidavit of means, deposit their National Identification

Slip with the court and provide the court with adequate residential addresses".

Also, the court ordered that the defendant provides the court with his National Identification Slip and residential addresses.

The matter was adjourned till October 23, 2023 for further hearing.

One of the charges against the defendant read: "That you Obakin Emmanuel Ajibola, adult, male sometime in December, 2022 at Ibadan within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did fraudulently steal the sum of N120,500,000.00 (One Hundred and twenty million, five hundred thousand Naira) belonging to Lee Fakino Nigeria Limited, an offence of stealing contrary to Section 390(9) Criminal Code Law."

National Youth Games: Sports Minister Receives State Directors of Sports

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TELA Maize Project Conducts Farmers Field Day At Giwa LGA

**IAR urges Nigerian farmers to embrace modern technology*

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Executive Director, Institute For Agricultural Research (IAR) Prof Muhammad Faguji Ishiyaku has called on Nigerians to embrace modern agricultural technology to improve livelihood and disregard calls from people who do not have knowledge of science and genetic engineering.

Prof. Faguji Ishiyaku who made the call at the Farmers Field Day held at Kakangi Village in Giwa Local Government Area during the "Seeing is Believing" tour of the TELA Maize hybrids evaluated for resistance to stem borers and fall armyworm.

He said, "Those people unnecessarily discourage farmers from accessing the benefits accruing from such technology."

The director stressed that, the institute in its 100 years of existence, has continuously churned out research results and technology relevant to Nigeria's climate, which produces positive results. Professor Faguji Ishiyaku urged Nigerians to be

enlightened on the benefits of adopting technologies developed and released for the common good of Nigerian farmers.

In his remarks, the Principal Investigator of the project, Professor Rabi Adamu said the demonstration farm is for farmers across to see and judge the quality of the maize for them to adopt it.

Professor Rabi Adamu added that, there are 150 demonstration farms across the country all for farmers to see and access it yield.

He pointed out that five demonstration farms have taken place in Kakangi Village four farms are TELA Maize seeds, while one demonstration farm is the farmers seed and they received the same process and treatment.

The Principal Investigator said, with this success, by next year, Nigerian farmers will use Tela Maize in their farms for better yield.

Also speaking, the Maize Farmers Association Chairman Kaduna State, Alh. Kabiru Salihu assured the institute that they will use Tela Maize in the next farming season.

