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Morocco Earthquake: Death Toll Rises To 2,100



Her Excellency, Hajia Nafisa Nasir Idris, has commended her husband, Governor Nasir Idris Kauran Gwandu, for his support while receiving award of excellence from NBA President, Yakubu Chonoko Maikyau, SAN, during her inspection of the ongoing medical outreach at the Nigerian Bar Association Secretariat at Garki General Hospital in Abuja. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

By ; I B R A H I M
ADAMU, Kaduna

Authorities in Morocco have pegged the number of dead in the Friday's earthquake that devastated the country at 2,100.

The latest figure emerged following recovery of more bodies from rubbles by rescue team.

The 6.8 magnitude earthquake occurred in the old city of Marrakesh as the epicenter, sending tremors beyond 70 kilometers radius with aftershocks felt in several other cities in the center

of the country. Experts feared that number of dead may likely shoot up in the coming hours due to rising figure of the wounded put at 2,421 and intensity of the vibration and also, high population density of areas affected World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that more than 300,000 people have been affected in one way or the other by the earthquake. The country had already declared a three-day of National mourning.

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Dubai Bound Illicit Drugs Hidden In Tomato Paste, Used Clothes Intercepted At Lagos Airport

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Illicit drugs identified to be skunk, concealed in tins of tomato paste and methamphetamine hidden in used clothes, meant for exportation to Dubai, the United Arab Emirates have been intercepted by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Lagos, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt.

Our correspondent gathered that the skunk in the tomato pastes consignment weighing 20.00 kilograms was intercepted on Friday 8th September at the SAHCO export shed of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, MMIA Ikeja, while the meth shipment with a gross weight of 1.60kg was seized at a courier company in Lagos. The Director, Media and Advocacy of the anti-narcotic agency, Femi Babafemi made the disclosure in a statement made available to journalists yesterday. Babafemi explained that another consignment of 556 grams of Canadian

Loud sent from Canada to one Tunji Adebayo in Ikorodu, Lagos was also intercepted by NDLEA officers of the Directorate of Operations and General Investigation, DOGI, attached to courier firms. He said though Adebayo was not home when operatives visited his house at 52, Aina Atoloye street, Ikorodu, he however directed his younger brother to sign for the package on his behalf.

The NDLEA spokesperson hinted that the said younger brother was promptly arrested. In a related development, no fewer than 399 pieces of improvised explosive devices were recovered by NDLEA operatives from one Asana Oluwagbenga Leke, 39, along Mokwa-Jebba road on Thursday 7th September.

According to Babafemi, the suspect in his statement said the explosives were handed to him at a park in Ibadan to be delivered to someone in Kaduna. Babafemi added that the suspect and exhibits have since been transferred to the military authorities in Niger state.



Pack of the tomato paste, intercepted by NDLEA where substance was hidden.

ICT: NITDA Begins Installation Of Digital Economy Centre In Southern Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Barely one month after the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), approved the deployment of a Digital Economy Centre (DEC), in Kafanchan, headquarters of Kaduna South Senatorial District, the Principal, Government Secondary School Kafanchan Senior, Mr. Simon Yusuf has taken delivery of the materials meant for installation to facilitate digital services.

The Senator representing the Zone in the 10th Senate, Barr. Sunday Marshall Katung, had

secured the approval of the agency to install a 300 capacity women and youth training centre within his constituency for which the school was selected amongst the five project sites earlier suggested.

The principal of the school, while receiving the equipment at the school premises on Saturday, thanked the Senator for nominating the school for the project.

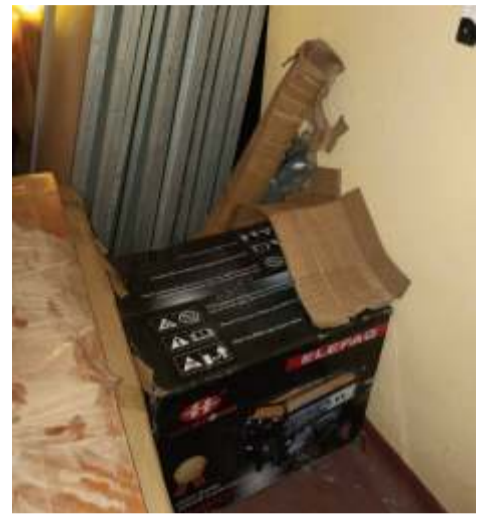
He pledged to champion the safeguarding of the equipments for the benefit of all especially students, to enable them have access to digital resources and improve their learning experience.

According to the principal,

"I have taken delivery of over 80 percent of all the expected materials for the smooth take off of the Centre."

Senator Katung, while reacting to the development, commended NITDA for the rapid deployment of the ICT equipments, saying that it would translate to a more digital savvy community.

The Digital Economy Centre will comprise of computers, internet



Materials received from NITDA in Kafanchan.

connectivity, Local Area Network, e-learning solution, solar-powered inverter, generator, among others and is expected to be completed soon.

Tinubu Deserves South East Support - Umahi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The Minister of Works, Senator David Umahi has called on the people of South East to continue to support President Ahmed Bola Tinubu for the overall development of the zone, while urging the

flagbearer of the Labor Party in the 2023 general elections, Mr Peter Obi not to appeal tribunal judgement, since the emergence of Tinubu as president is divine.

He urged all South Easterners to come together and support President Tinubu, saying that the Labor Party candidate, Peter Obi serves the purpose of the biblical John de-Baptist, who made way for the

emergence of the messiah, Ahmed Tinubu.

Senator Umahi further stated that God revealed to him, during the campaign, that Bola Tinubu will be the next president of Nigeria.

He also expressed satisfaction that the Governor of Ebonyi State, Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru, also believed in that direction.

"If you look at my script throughout the campaign, I have been saying that God told me that President Tinubu is going to be the next president of Nigeria. I am happy that your governor believed in God's direction. All of us believed that President Tinubu is going to be our president. And like I said in Imo State, God has a purpose for

everybody. Peter Obi has served the purpose of John the Baptist for the divine president, Bola Ahmed Tinubu. That is all God wants him to do this time around.

"So, I advice him not to go to any court to appeal, I am not a lawyer, but my son is a lawyer; he has interpreted the judgement and has left no hope for any appeal. These judges are spirits, they went into everything and dissected everything.

"Let all South Eastern people come together to support president Tinubu, he made us number one minister. We voted more than other regions, why? Through the coming of the John the Baptist, we were able to bring down PDP and gave victory to APC," he stressed.

PEPT Judgment, Affirmation Of Over 8m Nigerians That Voted For President Tinubu, VP Shettima In February Polls - Engr Alao

*Congratulates Tinubu, Shettima over victory

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Oyo State, Engr Oyedele Hakeem Alao yesterday, described the verdict of the President Election tribunal as an affirmation of the will of over eight million Nigerians that voted for President Tinubu and Vice President Shettima, in the February 25 presidential election.

Engr Alao expressed this in the statement he personally signed to congratulate President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Vice President, Kashim

Shettima, on their resounding victory at the Presidential Election Petitions Tribunal (PEPT). The APC governorship aspirant in the last general election, maintained that Nigerians had spoken through the ballots with the party working hard for the victory and that the court with the judgment has validated the decision of the citizens who have confidence in President Tinubu and his team to deliver the real dividends of democracy to Nigerians through the 'Renewed Hope agenda'.

Engr Alao emphasized that the judgment was sound, detailed and

comprehensive, as the judges displayed unmatched courage in the discharge of their duties without succumbing to intimidation by the opposition who deployed various antics to sway the judgement in their favour.

"I congratulate the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Bola Tinubu, Vice President Kashim Shettima, the leadership of the party at the national level, the state and the teeming members of the party across the country, on this well-

deserved victory at the Presidential Election Tribunal Court", he said.

Engr Alao added, "The unanimous judgment by the Justices was an affirmation of the trust Nigerians reposed in President Tinubu when they massively voted for him during the presidential election believing that he would take the country to the next level through the Renewed Hope Agenda".

"I sincerely believe that the judgement is a further testament to the fact that the judiciary is the last hope of the people of this great country of ours."

Nigerian Pastor Set To Break Guinness World Record For Longest Sermon

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

The President and Founder of Total Liberation Mission based in Kaduna State Nigeria, Rev. Emmanuel Sunday Olorunmagba has revealed that he will be attempting to break Guinness World Record (GWR) for World's Longest Sermon Marathon by individual, as he will be preaching sermon for sixty hours (60 hours) marathon from the Bible, starting from the book of Genesis and taking the message through the book of Revelation.

According to the information available on his verified Facebook page, 'the payment for the application processing fee for the Guinness World Record GWR has been completed. So all things are ready.'

"The kick off date is slated for Sunday December 17, 2023, with the venue confirmed for Abuja, Nigeria.

"The record is "World's Longest Sermon (Individual)," he said.

Speaking with our reporter through phone

conversation, on Thursday September 7, 2023, Rev. Olorunmagba said, "the event will be on Livestream through my official verified Facebook page and other online news platforms, for people all over the world to follow and also be blessed through the sermon, as it will not only serve for just breaking world record, but it will be more of an opportunity to minister to people all over the world." The cleric also added that it has been concluded that the company, DeGrey Digital Technologies, will be partnering in terms of the provision of all the data connectivity requirements for the Guinness World Record attempt.

"Through their advanced technology, it's certain that unbroken flow of internet connectivity all through the sermon period will be fully guaranteed.

"The CEO of the company has also promised to provide the 'Count Up Timer Dynamics' to include the TV sets and monitors that will be required to show the world the count up", he concluded.



Reverend Olorunmagbas

Timi Frank To Shettima: Only God Can Retire Atiku, Not Man

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, on Friday, told Vice President Kashim Shettima that no man can retire the Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, from politics in the country, except God. Frank reacted to a delusional statement by Shettima where he boasted that he would "retire Atiku and teach him how to rear goats and boilers" following the ruling of the Presidential Election Petition Court on petitions challenging the declaration of Bola Ahmed Tinubu as winner of the February 25, 2023 presidential election. He said: "Shettima should know that one with God, as they say, is majority. Atiku has the majority and this is why Nigerians did not jubilate nor celebrate the pyrrhic affirmation through judicial coup orchestrated by the PEPC affirming Tinubu as the winner of the Presidential election." He wondered why Shettima in gloating over the predetermined and compromised PEPC verdict like a child just handed a cup of iced-cream by the mother, cannot but notice that all is quiet across Nigeria, including Lagos and Borno States, because the people know the

justices ruled in Tinubu's and APC's favour notwithstanding the preponderance of hard facts and evidence adduced before them which show that Tinubu never won the last Presidential election." He said in spite of Shettima's unstatesmanlike comment, "some of us know that Atiku and Peter Obi remain the heroes of democracy in Nigeria and Nigerians will never forget their struggle for a free, fair and transparent democratic system in the country irrespective of whether they get justice in the instant election petition case or not."

According to him, "what happened in Nigeria on Wednesday was a judicial coup against the Nigerian state. It wasn't justice. It was an ambush against the people.

"Shettima and his gang may celebrate a stolen mandate against the will and wishes of majority of Nigerians now, but a time will come when they will feel the impact of what transpired when the judiciary brazenly decided to jettison substance, facts and evidence adduced before them and ruled against Nigerians for their personal gain."

Frank who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) Ambassador to East Africa and Middle East, called on Shettima to apologise to Atiku and Nigerians over



his unguarded statement which was "apparently borne out of crash impunity and arrogance."

He said: "A man like Shettima who has been accused times without number of sponsorship of Boko Haram ought to be in jail right now rather than walking free without any modicum of respect for elders and with a stolen mandate.

"He ought to be begging God for forgiveness seeing the many atrocities Boko Haram has committed in the North and the attendant deaths, ruination of lives and devastation of property."

He called on the Judiciary to use Atiku's and Obi's decision to approach the Supreme Court to redeem its image.

He commended Atiku for his resilience and doggedness in the pursuit of justice and in upholding the

rule of law.

He said despite Atiku's disagreement with the ruling of the Appeal Court's Justices, the former Vice President demonstrated his abiding faith in the Nigerian judiciary by opting to subject the verdict to further scrutiny by the Supreme Court.

"Let the judiciary use the opportunity to redeem itself. Despite Nigerians have lost confidence and hope in the judicial process, they have been presented with another opportunity to either destroy Nigeria finally or write their names in gold through fearless, courageous and truthful decision.

"Atiku and Obi are doing everything possible to bring hope to Nigerians in their decision to give the judiciary a second chance as men of integrity who strongly believe in a free, fair, democratic process," he said.

Gov Uba Sani Vows To Track Down Perpetrators Of Attack On Zango Kataf Church

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, His Excellency Senator Uba Sani, on Friday September 8, 2023, condemned in the strongest possible terms the recent attack on the Fadan Kamatan Parish - Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, located in Zango Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Expressing outrage over the killing, the governor vowed to track down the perpetrators of the heinous crime and ensure that they face the full wrath of the law.

A statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Muhammad Lawal Shehu on September 8, 2023, said that the attack was carried out with the sole intention of igniting ethnic and religious tensions in Kaduna State

and sabotaging government's efforts towards rebuilding trust in our communities.

"I am deeply saddened by the attack on Fadan Kamatan Parish, Zango Kataf. This act of violence against innocent worshipers is not only an attack on the Catholic community, but an attempt to set our people against each other. We will not tolerate such acts of brutality and will go to any length within the law to bring the attackers to book." He said.

While urging the security agencies to swiftly investigate the incident and ensure that the culprits are arrested and made to face the full wrath of the law, Governor Sani expressed heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and assured them of the state government's support during this

difficult time.

Governor Uba Sani's administration has taken proactive steps to restore peace in troubled communities by strengthening partnerships with federal security agencies and reinvigorating the Kaduna Vigilance Service (KADVS).

"The state government recently recruited and commenced the training of 7,000 personnel of the Kaduna Vigilance Service (KADVS).

"Additionally, strategic engagements have taken place with top Federal Government officials responsible for security such as the Minister of Police Affairs, Senator Ibrahim Geidam, and the Minister of State Police Affairs Hon. Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim and the recently appointed Service Chiefs," the statement said.

Dan Modi's 100 Days In Office: Testimony Of Good Leadership - Mai Unguwa Jaga

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Dutse

Governor Umar Namadi's 100 days in office is a taste of good leadership that proves that Jigawa State would continue to become an exemplary domain in a democratic dispensation.

This was expressed by the Jigawa State AFAN chairman, Alhaji Idris Yau Mai Unguwa Jaga in a chat with newsmen in Dutse.

He reiterated that

Governor Dan Modi is making excellent efforts to ensure that Jigawa State remains one of the best.

"From what we have seen in his first 100 days in office as our governor, His Excellency, Malam Umar Namadi has proven that he is working for the progress of our state which was created 32 years ago and we are certain that his blueprint that make his 12 points agenda would bring rapid development to the state in every sector

without bias," he emphasized.

Alhaji Idris Yau Mai Unguwa Jaga disclosed that agriculture is given good consideration in so many factors and Jigawa State is now set to climb the ladder of successful implementation of all aspects of good production with maximum profit as contained in the governor's 12-point agenda with agriculture in the first list.

"On behalf of AFAN state executive, the local government and ward leadership, I congratulate Governor Umar Namadi on his 100 days in office, where we actually agree that his leadership style would take our dear state to greater heights before his first tenure ends. We are always ready to give our maximum support and cooperation to actualizing his dreams," he concluded.



Mai Unguwa Jaga With Governor Namadi.

Prophet Oluwadare, Warns Nigerians Against Inciting Comments

By; AY O OJEDOKUN, Lagos

A call has gone to Nigerians making inciting comments that could undermine democracy and the unity of Nigeria to desist from such acts. Prophet John Oluwadare of Christ Redemption Bible Church, Ketu, Lagos, gave this warning during the monthly Anointing service of the church, in a sermon, titled, "SUPERNATURALLY SECURED AND PRESERVED".

He said persons and /or groups, who are calling for the return of the military to destabilise the current administration, should not be tolerated in the country.

The clergy stated that the recent military coup in Niger and Gabon, respectively, could not be a yardstick to create confusion and tension amongst Nigerians. "His words: Nigerian must discourage series of messages spreading via the social medias for the return of the army to be careful not to soil their hands"

He said, although, Nigeria is a multi-lingual and a multi-ethnic state; different in faiths and in religion, but are God's project, hence united them as HIS own people.



Prophet Oluwadare

His words: "We are a nation of people established by God, in spite of our differences in tribes, in faiths, and in tongues, God created us as an undivided entities".

The Prophet however, described the situation in the country as a phase, that would soon pass.

"For God would preserve the citizens, especially President Bola Tinubu, and secure the nation from disgruntle and selfish people," he predicted.

He stated further, now that, the country is currently been recognised in the comity of nations, efforts should be geared towards supporting Mr. President, to steer the ship of the nation to a successful destination.

He therefore, encouraged Christian leaders to pray for the safety of the citizenry, unity of leaders and the security of Nigeria.

Katsina Governor Distributes Over 4,000 Bags Of Rice To Widows, Elderly, Others

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has distributed 4,019 bags of rice to over 4,000 widows, elderly persons and divorcees with cash at the state capital, Katsina.

The aimed of the distribution according to a statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed was to ameliorate hardship of some Katsina citizens.

The flag off ceremony took place at the Muhammadu Dikko Stadium in Katsina metropolis under the umbrella of 'Vulnerable Women and Elderly People Empowerment Program' of the State Government.

The beneficiaries who are mainly from Katsina Local Government Area, according to Mohammed Kaula, also received a cash donation of 10,000 Naira aside from the food provision.

He said the rice distributed to the Katsina widows, divorcees and elderly persons, was part of the 40,000 bags procured by Dikko Radda's administration as palliative for cushioning the hardship of citizens, occasioned by fuel subsidy removal.

Governor Dikko Radda while addressing the beneficiaries advised for judicious utilization of the food item and cash donated to them, pointing out that, the 4,019 beneficiaries would remain on the social register of the State Government for future palliative support.

"The way we have distributed this food item and cash support is the same way we shall distribute the rest at the remaining local governments in the State," Governor Dikko Umaru Radda said.

Mohammed Kaula said the "Governor who braced the oppressive weather to personally supervise the distribution of the palliatives was seen, moving from one end of the stadium to the other ensuring orderliness and fairness of the process."

He disclosed that, some of the beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the state governor for personally supervising the process. adding that, the Governor's presence from the beginning to the end of the programme was a masterstroke."



Wike Not A Tool For Your Attacks, Don't Distract Him, CSO Tells Blackmailers

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A civil society group, Pro-Impact Initiative has raised alarm over what it termed, "Calculated attempts to blackmail top Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) officials and derail Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Barr Nyesom Wike from repositioning Abuja."

The group pointed out that in less than two weeks, over "three fabricated falsehoods" against key officials of the FCT administration has circulated widely on the social media with calls on the FCT to take actions based on the false and fake reports.

The Coordinator of the group, Dr Osamudiamen Isokpehi who briefed journalists over the weekend in Abuja, said, "if those behind these acts are not traced, arrested and brought to justice, these criminals may go to any length to jeopardize the smooth administration of the FCT"



Dr. Isokpehi noted, "First it was a fabricated lie against some directors over a disputed land in Guzape District. A statement credited to nobody was circulated online, calling for their sack by the FCT Minister

and quoting "Undisclosed sources". It was discovered that the original documents of land was stolen from the owner and sold to someone who wanted to continue keeping the land even after the owner discovered the theft and unapproved sale.

"Secondly the blackmailers went after the Permanent Secretary, Mr Olusade Adesola by issuing a write up titled, "WHY FCT PERM SEC MUST BE SACKED AND ARRESTED NOW" credited to one 'faceless' Babalola Tajudeen calling on the minister to sack the Permanent Secretary of the FCT Administration. The allegations of over bloating the workforce, awarding multi-billion Naira contracts and others were discovered to be completely false and misleading. "Thirdly, on Friday 9th, September while the FCTA officials were preparing for Tuesday's swearing in of Mandate Secretaries by the

ministers, a notorious nine paragraph write up credited to nobody was pushed into the social media lying that the minister had written to EFCC and ICPC asking them to invite and probe his predecessor, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello for alleged contract variation fraud and other unfounded falsehoods. Unlike the previous two fake news, the Minister of the FCT, Nyesom Wike this time, issued a clear-worded press statement from his office debunking it as a lie".

Dr. Isokpehi said, "we are convinced that Mr Wike who is also a victim of numerous fake news on social media and twisted news in the conventional media, won't work with the report of the blackmailers. These same people, we can tell you plainly, would be the first to attack Mr Wike when he leaves office.

"Though one might not know the entire motives of these faceless satanic characters, two things are certain; they want witch-hunt

FCT top officials and derail the minister from focusing on repositioning the city for general good.

"While we call on these characters to desist from such acts and let the FCTA breathe, we also call on the Nigerian Police to mandate its anti-cyber crime department to trace and arrest these agents of fake news who are currently directing their attacks at FCT administration's top officials"

Dr. Isokpehi appealed to residents of the FCT and Nigerians not to be quick at sharing fake and unverified news items. He expressed worry that, "a statement typed on a plain sheet of paper, no letter head, signed by nobody and credited to nobody would be believed and widely shared, thus making falsehood looks exactly like the truth".

He commended Wike for his proactiveness in administering Abuja he appealed to the staff to give him all the needed support to succeed.

ANA Village, Biggest Writer's Resort In Africa - President

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The President of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), Mr. Camillus Chima Ukah has described the Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village as the biggest writers' resort in Africa.

The President made the statement recently at the August edition of the Mbari Series, the monthly writers' parley, at the Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village, Mpape, Abuja.

He said the present level of development of the Writers' Village was achieved by his administration's policy of development by progressive addition.

In his words, "We have been able to realise the magnificent Chinua Achebe International Conference Centre, a functional secretariat with offices for principal officers, a hotel, a physical library with shelves that can take thousands of books, an E-library with over 200 million books, and the Institute for Creative Writing and Film Studies, which is ready to take off any time soon."

Mr. Ukah further explained that the 50-room capacity hotel is now functional, and that the hotel area has been redesigned to accommodate more facilities in addition to apartments that are still coming up.

"We have made tremendous

progress, in fact, magical progress. And this has consolidated the leadership of Nigerian literature in the continent and beyond," he said.

Speaking on the Mbari Series, Mr. Ukah said it is very dear to his heart and that reviving it is one of his greatest achievements as the President of ANA.

He said, "We are creative people and critical thinkers, the main content of our calling is intellectual. And that is what we have achieved by reviving the Mbari Series, which was initiated by our founding fathers at Ibadan in the 1960s. Today we have a very vibrant Mbari Series where you have writers and other intellectuals coming together to rub minds on critical issues of literary and national interest. It has become an intellectual hub for Nigeria."

He said the August edition of the Mbari Series was dedicated to the renowned writer, intellectual, social critic, Professor Udentia O. Udentia on his 60th birthday, because he was one of the brains behind the revival of the parley.

According to him, "On coming into office, I undertook familiarisation visits to stakeholders in Abuja. Professor Udentia was among the people I visited, and it was in his house that the idea of reviving the Mbari Series was mooted through casual conversation.

And very quickly we started. I hosted the first edition and then he took over the hosting. He has been hosting for close to two years now."

He stressed that Professor Udentia has made a lot of financial and intellectual commitment to the growth of literature and deserved to be celebrated.

The President thanked members of the ANA exco, the congress and the elders, stressing that the achievements recorded wouldn't have been possible without their cooperation and support, given the fact that he assumed office amidst leadership crisis.

He said, "My resolve was that one moment of crisis should not define the association which has been very illustrious. Hence, I decided to go beyond the extra mile to move ANA forward, especially by ensuring the development of the writers' village, which was also one of the major points of controversy and concern. I thank the ANA land developer for his unwavering commitment all through my tenure. I'm happy that with the cooperation of all the stakeholders my two-term tenure is coming to an end on a successful note."

On the current state of ANA state chapters, he said, "We have achieved stability in the branches where there were



Camillus Chima Ukah, ANA President

misunderstandings before. They are now running smoothly."

He added that the national secretariat is currently undertaking membership revalidation and soon there would be an authentic register of members with a central ID card from the national secretariat, and new members could be added online.

The August Mbari Series, themed 'Writers in Politics – A Dialogue on Literature, Politics and Nationhood', featured

literary discourse, readings, drama performance and the presentation of Professor Udentia's book, Revolutionary Aesthetics and the African Literary Process.

The occasion was attended by many renowned writers including Professor Emeka Aniagolu, who moderated the event, and Malam Denja Abdullahi, the immediate past ANA President, who served as one of the discussants.

All Set For Commencement Of Operation In New Model Smart School, Ibadan - SUBEB Executive Secretary

**UBEC hands over structure*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Oyo State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), on Thursday, declared that all is now set for the commencement of operation in the newly constructed model smart school, Sogunro, Akinyele, Ibadan.

This was made known by the Executive Secretary, Oyo State Universal Basic Education Board, Mr. Jacob Dairo while speaking during the handing over of the structure to the board by the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC). Commending UBEC on its commitment to technical and digital education in the state, Mr Dairo pointed out that Oyo State Government, through the board, has not relented in its bid to equip the younger generation with the requisite skills to remain competitive in the global economy.

"All is set for the school's take-off in the new school calendar. The school will enhance the quality of teaching, learning and the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) of our pupils", he said.

Mr Dairo added, "We commend the Universal Basic Education Commission, UBEC, for its support in uplifting basic education in the State, as well as moves to eliminate out-of-school syndrome".

"Equally, we appreciate Governor Seyi Makinde in the implementation of qualitative basic education in the State. The visit was meant to assess the level of the project in readiness for the next session"



SUBEB Executive Secretary signing the hand over note.

Emphasizing that the place of education in the attainment of national development and transformation cannot be relegated to the background, Mr Dairo said Federal government through the Universal Basic Education Commission

and the Oyo State Government constructed the Model smart school at Sogunro area, Akinyele Local Government.

Mr. Dairo stressed that the goal of the gesture is to prioritise digital and technical

education towards attaining socioeconomic development in the younger generation and make them competitive.

Stressing that officials are ready for full academic activities, which will commence in September, Mr. Dairo said the school will accommodate pre-basic class; Special Education; Basic 1-3 and Junior Secondary School 1-2 pupils.

Speaking, a representative of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), Mrs. Sherifat Lawal, reiterated the commitment of the federal government to Basic Education in Oyo State.

Mrs Lawal said the objectives of the Commission is to assist all States in the development of smart schools project, and to improve the access of teachers and pupils to quality teaching and learning materials.

The Zonal consultant, UBEC, Arc. Sanya Akindele said the school has classrooms for pupils with special needs, Pre-basic, Primary and JSS classes, adding that the school is equipped with a Robotic laboratory, vocational laboratories, Clinic, ICT room and a e-library.

Arc. Akindele pointed out that the project is an opportunity to open up e-learning and expose pupils to computers at an early age, saying the school is fully computerised by UBEC/SUBEB, saying "The way forward is ICT and this will give them a jump-start in life", he said.

Oyo LG Polls: We Won't Engage Services Of Amotekun - OYSIEC Chairman

**Says commission will conduct free, fair polls*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Oyo State Independent Electoral Commission (OYSIEC) on Thursday, hinted that the commission will engage activities of Operation Amotekun Corps in the conduct of the coming local government election in the state

Chairman of the Commission (OYSIEC), Chief Isiaka Olagunju (SAN) dropped this hint in Ibadan while speaking at the Oyo State Correspondents' Chapel of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) guest platform "Speak Out".

Chief Olagunju (SAN) pointed out that this was part of the commission efforts at ensuring a free, fair and acceptable local government election in the state

The OYSIEC Chairman maintained that in any election in Nigeria, the services of Nigeria Police is very crucial and other security agencies such as the army, DSS and NSCDC in the conduct of the election.

According to him, engaging Amotekun in the local government election may be seen by the opposition parties willing to participate in the election as a ploy by the ruling party to intimidate them during the election.

"In election management, the police is key in security matters. We have visited the police, the army, the DSS, and the NSCDC' and the correctional service on the need for adequate security during the election", he said Chief Olagunju (SAN) added,

"We may not engage Amotekun to avoid the insinuation that they may be used to intimidate the people. We are going to engage the police, the army, DSS and NSCDC even the correctional centre,"

"We have over 6,000 polling units now in Oyo state and we will have at least three people in a polling unit. So, we will have about 18,000 personnel. We will engage them and give them the necessary training"

He emphasized that OYSIEC is ready to conduct a free, fair and credible local government election in April next year, adding that towards this the commission will engage about 18,000 personnel to ensure that the election went as expected.

The OYSIEC Chairman stressed



OYSIEC Chairman (middle) speaking at the programme.

that the commission will next week commence screening of candidates to be presented for the election by the political participating in the election and that politicians in the state should be ready to cooperate with the commission in the conduct of the election.

In doing this, Chief Olagunju

(SAN) tasked politicians and political parties in the state to abide by the laid down rules in ensuring free, fair local government election in the state, adding that OYSIEC will be neutral and fair to all the political parties participating in the local government election

Address Shortfall Of Doctors, Nurses In Tertiary Hospitals - CARTA Don Tells Health FG

**Call for policy to formalise informal caregivers, spends \$3.6m to train 36 UI staff*



CARTA Dons in a group photograph

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A Fellow of Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA), Dr Kudus Oluwatoyin Adebayo on Thursday, asked the Federal Government, through the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof Ali Pate, to attend to staff shortfall in tertiary health institutions in the country.

Speaking at the dissemination workshop on a project funded by CARTA on the “Lived Experiences of Migrating Informal Caregivers” (LEMIC) held at the Institute of Africa Studies, University of Ibadan, Dr Adebayo said the shortfall is already affecting quality health service delivery in tertiary health institutions in Nigeria.

According to Dr Adebayo, there is the need for the federal government to mobilise fund to support health service delivery in tertiary institutions across the country

He stressed that informal caregivers of hospitalized patients who live within and around Nigerian hospitals need to be

captured in hospital care system by designing and implementing a sustainable policy model for informal caregiving. The University Co-focal Person, Fellow of Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) Dr Olufunke Fayehun while speaking disclosed that the consortium has spend \$3.6million on 36 personnel of the University of Ibadan in the past 12 years for doctoral training.

Dr Fayehun said “25 have graduated while 11 fellows are still on their PhD programs at Ibadan or other CARTA partner

institutions outside Nigeria”, adding that CARTA hopes that the findings of the funded research will inform policy and program formulation and implementation that acknowledges caregivers' role in hospitalization care in Nigeria.

Presenting the findings of the study alongside members of the team (Dr Mofeyisara Omobowale, Rukayat Usman, Funmilayo Omodara and Atinuke Olujimi), Dr Adebayo said relatives of patients are forced to stay back to take care of the relatives because the seek care far from home and cost of commuting is huge.

“The University Co-focal Person, Fellow of Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) Dr Olufunke Fayehun while speaking disclosed that the consortium has spend \$3.6million on 36 personnel of the University of Ibadan in the past 12 years for doctoral training.”

While some desire to be near their sick relatives, many have limited choice but to stay, as the hospital needs them to run errands and fill the gap left by staff shortages.

Dr Adebayo called on the federal government to mobilise funds for tertiary hospitals to utilize more technology to improve healthcare service delivery to minimize reliance on informal caregivers, as there is the need to “alleviate the plight of informal caregivers by prioritizing their wellbeing.”

He stressed that “ This includes assisting them in preparing for long-distance referrals, improving facilities, training staff, and reversing the dependency on informal caregivers.”

The research team stated that this is important for government, hospital management, ministry of health and social workers because “informal caregivers face many challenges related to health and wellbeing, facility deficiencies, social and economic issues, security and safety, relational and attitudinal problems and hygiene maintenance

Kaduna Catholic Attack: Reps Member Says Kidnapping Stands Condemnable

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The member, representing Zango Kataf/Jaba Federal Constituency, Mr. Amos Gwamna Magaji, has called on security agencies to redouble efforts in securing lives and property of the affected areas of insecurity in the country. In a statement he personally issued and obtained by New Nigerian, the lawmaker expressed sadness over an attempted kidnapping incident on the Parish Priest of St. Raphael Catholic Church, Fadan Kamantan in Zango Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State by kidnapers on Thursday night.

According to him, “The kidnapers which invaded the premises with an attempt to kidnap Rev Fr. Emmanuel Okolo which

proved abortive, resulting in setting the rectory ablaze, as a result, burnt to death a Seminarian, Brother Na'aman Ngofe Danladi who is at the verge of completing his training into the Catholic Priesthood.”

He added, “This is ungodly and inhuman, a sad moment, for a priest to die in such manner means that we are not all safe, drastic actions is needed by the Government and community leaders to end this ongoing carnage.”

The lawmaker extended condolences to the Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, under Bishop Yakubu Kundi, Reverend Fr Emmanuel Okolo, the Catholic Priest of Kamantan parish, the deceased immediate family, the Kurama community and the Anghan Chiefdom.

Dawakin Tofa LGA Holds Special Prayers For National Unity, APC Victory In Court

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The executive chairman of Dawakin Tofa Local Government Council, Honourable Ado Tambai Kwa has organised a special prayer for national unity and peaceful coexistence in the country. The special prayer which took place at Dawanau Hospital Field, was well attended by prominent Islamic scholars, local government functionaries, business class as well as politicians respectively. Speaking to our correspondent shortly after the special prayers, Malam Abubakar Suleiman Dawanau thanked the executive chairman and his lieutenants for what they have done, especially at present, when Nigeria is in

need of more prayers.

He added that only through good prayers from both religions that things tend to be better.

He called on religious leaders to always preach unity and peaceful coexistence among the people of different religions, “as we are bound to remained together as one nation”.

Similarly, Ustaz Usman Adam stressed that the special prayer which was fully attended by the different categories of people, would be a good channel for the national progress and hitch free implementation of policies by the leaders at all levels. He commended Ado Tambai Kwa for his foresight for organising the special prayers.



The prayer session.

Northern CAN Calls For Drastic Steps Against Herders Destroying armlands



"Vigilate et Orate"

AREWA CHRISTIANS AND INDIGENOUS PASTORS ASSOCIATION
"Safon Ecclessia Ve Rabbincia"

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Nineteen Northern States and Abuja, has called on the federal government to take drastic action against armed Fulani herders going about destroying crops by grazing on farmlands or wickedly cutting off the crops of farmers in parts of the country.

A communique issued at the end of its meeting in Kaduna, signed by Chaplain Gilbert Jechonia, Public Relations Officer (PRO), said, "We call on the government to take drastic action against armed Fulani herders, who go about destroying crops by grazing on farmlands or wickedly cutting off the crops, especially in Plateau, Benue Taraba states, Southern Kaduna and other parts of the country."

The meeting hailed the efforts of security agencies for fighting insurgency and banditry that has contributed to the destruction of the country's economy, while calling on the federal government not to relent in empowering and supporting security agencies to crush the criminals.

Following the incessant attacks by bandits, the meeting noted that there is mass poverty and hunger in the land, "many Nigerians are barely struggling to make ends

meet," lamenting that many businesses have collapsed as a result of the harsh economic situation in the country, as unemployment has pushed many young people into crime.

The meeting called on President Bola Tinubu and the 36 governors to live up to the expectations of Nigerians, by ensuring that the economic and social problems bedeviling the country are addressed, adding that they must run an all inclusive government and ensure that development projects are distributed fairly to give every section of the country or state a sense of belonging.

The meeting also called on President Bola Tinubu to do everything possible to address the issue of food crisis in the land, saying, "Nigerians are suffering as a result of the removal of Petrol subsidy. Life is becoming a living hell as prices of food, transportation and other essential commodities have gone up beyond the reach of many the poor masses. The prices are on the increase on a daily basis."

On the provision of palliatives, the meeting advised the government to take more concrete and realistic measures at addressing the problem than adopting the adhoc strategy that will only end up enriching few individuals.

Kingmakers Install Prince Olaoye As New Soun Of Ogbomosho

**Say no court order served*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Kingmakers in Ogbomosho early Friday, installed Prince Afolabi Ghandi Olaoye as the new Soun of Ogbomosho.

New Nigerian reports that the installation of Prince Olaoye as new Soun was performed at Abata by the kingmakers led by the Areago of Ogbomosho, High Chief Sobalaje Otolorin.

The kingmakers while performing the installation of Prince Olaoye as the new Soun of Ogbomosho, stated that they have not received any court Injunction restraining them from installing Prince Ghandi as Soun of Ogbomosho.

Sources said the new Soun arrived Ogbomosho early in the morning in a private chopper, which landed at Ogbomosho grammar school from where he moved to the palace.

New Nigerian recalls that an Oyo State High Court sitting in Ogbomosho on Thursday, restrained Governor Seyi Makinde and others from presenting any instrument of office or certificate of installation to Prince Afolabi Ghandi Oladunni Olaoye as the new Soun of Ogbomosho land

Justice K.A Adedokun

gave the order, while ruling on a motion ex-parte file before the court by one of the contenders for the Soun of Ogbomosho stool, Prince Muhammed Kabir Olaoye dur

The judge ordered a stay of action on the new Soun of Ogbomosho stool pending the hearing and final determination of the mandatory injunction already filed before the court.

Also, the court gave an order restraining Prince Afolabi Ghandi Olaoye from parading, representing or presenting himself as the candidate for any ceremony for the issuance of certificate of installation or wear any regalia resembling that of the occupant of the stool of Soun of Ogbomosho Chieftaincy pending the hearing and final determination of the mandatory injunction already filed before the court.

Justice Adedokun ordered Prince Muhammed Kabir Olaoye to serve the motion on notice for mandatory injunction on all the 12 respondents in the suit.

Giving the order after hearing Barrister Abiodun Ogunjinmi, counsel to Prince Muhammed Kabir Olaoye, who moved motion ex-parte before the court and after carefully

perusing the application, the affidavit in support, the affidavit of urgency, which are the three exhibits attached as well as the written address, Justice Adedokun said he is convinced the application has merit.

"I am convinced that the application is one of the instances where this honourable court is empowered by Order 48 Rule 8 to exercise its discretion in favour of grant of same", he said.

Justice Adedokun added, "One of the situations which an injunction is designed to combat is to arrest a fiat accomplished which the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 12th respondents have attempted to foist on the circumstances of this case. In this situation, the application is ordered as prayed and accordingly," The judge adjourned the matter to September 12, 2023 for hearing of the application.

Others restrained by the court with Governor Makinde are the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Local



Prince Afolabi Ghandi Olaoye arriving venue of installation.

Government and Chieftaincy Matters and their agents.

Respondents in the suit are Ogbomosho North traditional council, Prince Amos Olaoye, the Mogaji of Olaoye Ruling House; Chief S.O. Otolorin, the Areago of Ogbomosho land, who is also the chairman of the kingmakers of Soun Chieftaincy; Chief Salawu Ajadi, the Jagun of Ogbomosho land; Chief Tijani Abioye, the Baara of Ogbomosho land; Chief David Adeniran Ojo, the Ikolaba of Ogbomosho land and Chief Yusuf Rasaki Oladipupo, the Abese of Ogbomosho land.



Prince Afolabi Ghandi Olaoye awaiting installation rites.

How Can A Church Close To Military Checkpoint Be Attacked, Burnt By Bandits - CAN

**Demands immediate arrest of those responsible for the 'Kamatan Evil Night'*

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Kaduna State Chapter, has raised concerns on how a church close to a military checkpoint in Zango Kataf Local Government Area was attacked by bandits and set ablaze by the hoodlums.

CAN expressed this in a statement, signed by its Kaduna State Chairman, Rev. John Joseph Hayab, made available to our correspondent on Friday September 8, 2023.

"What is disheartening about this particular attack is the fact that the place of attack is just by the Kaduna - Kafanchan Major highway with a Military check point not far from the Parish.

"The Parish is located at the heart of Kamantan town and the attack was carried out at about 8:00pm. This caused us to wonder some more, where is the hope, how much more terrible could the situation get?" CAN wondered.

According to the text of statement on titled, "The Kamantan Evil Night Of September 7, 2023" the

umbrella body of Christians in Nigeria said, "Our hearts are filled with pains at the wake of today 8 September, 2023 with the news of the in our land and against our People at Fadan Kamatan Parish of the Catholic diocese of Kafanchan, Zangon Kataf LGA of Kaduna State.

"It is no longer news that armed men invaded a Catholic Church Parish Headquarters located at Fadan Kamantan community and the criminals targeted the Parish Priest's residence, lucky the Parish Priest, Very, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Okolo who also doubles as the Chancellor of the Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, and his assistant were able to escape out of the house before the criminals set the entire Rectory ablaze burning to death a Seminarian Bro. Naam Ngofe Danladi who is just about completing his training into the Catholic Priesthood".

CAN however, appreciated the willingness of the present administration to proffer practical, real and lasting solution to the security challenge in Kaduna State

as made visible by the ongoing recruitment process of over 7,000 men and women into the Kaduna State Vigilante Services (KADVIS).

"In the light of sharing in the faith of the perceived good will of the present administration in Kaduna State, we invite the Governor of Kaduna State and all relevant stakeholders to immediately swing into action and ensure that those responsible for the Kamatan Evil Night are apprehended and made to face the law.

"Security is everyone's business, it is disappointing that this kind of unholy activity could be recorded at the heart of Fadan Kamantan community and the criminals will operate unchallenged. It is a slap to the security forces within that jurisdiction, it is a slap to the religious leaders, traditional and community leaders.

"The position of CAN Kaduna State Chapter has always been that we as citizens must complement government in her Primary responsibility of saving our lives and properties by proactively building a

community security system that prevents any form of invading force into our community, sadly we are still here. We reiterate again here, that leaders at all levels in southern Kaduna and Kaduna State must wake up to this call and be responsible for the protection of the communities where the live and lead. We cannot continue like this, no it is unacceptable and we all must wake up to our responsibilities," the statement advised.

It noted that the Executive of CAN Kaduna State Chapter and indeed all Christians in Kaduna State sincerely sympathize with the chief shepherd and local ordinary of Kafanchan Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Julius Kundi, the Parish Priest and Parishioners of Kamatan Parish, the Kurama Community of Bro. Naam Ngofe Danladi, the leaders and the good people of Zangon Kataf LGA and Fadan Kamantan community over this unfortunate incident.

"We pray that the good Lord will heal our land and bring this menace to an end," CAN prayed.

UNICEF Seeks Alternative Care For Almajiri Education

By; **I M R A N A ABDULLAHI, Kaduna**

In an effort to move the Almajiri education forward, the Sokoto State Arabic and Islamic Education Commission, supported by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), revealed that no fewer than 100 Tsangaya schools teachers (Malams) in Sokoto State received a 4-day training on safeguarding children and alternative care for Almajiri.

The participants were drawn from eight local government areas of the state for the training.

The initiative by the Sokoto State Arabic and Islamic Education Commission is supported by the UNICEF and funded by the Eleva Foundation of UK.

At the flag off on Thursday, UNICEF Sokoto Office Child Protection Officer, Mr. Williams Nwaokorie who spoke on, "Understanding Child Protection and The Ideal Almajiri Education", pointed out that children are the primary beneficiaries of their work and initiative, thus, implementing partners should not allow harm come to them.

According to Nwaokorie, the essence is to create a window for the participants to responsibly support the endorsement and adoption of alternative care minimum standards for Almajiri out of family care, while disclosing that a monitoring framework to fast track the initiative to ensure compliance with alternative care will be developed to sustain the drive.

Speaking, the Secretary, Arabic and Islamic Education Commission, Dr Umar Altine Dandin Mahe noted that the drive was not alien, pointing out that it is the admonishment of the religion.

"It is not a new thing because religion admonishes doing so," Dandin Mahe stressed. According to him, children

in both Islamiyya and Almajiri schools system must imbibe the culture of neatness, must be comfortable and given care to be appealing to others.

While noting the positive initiative, the commission's Secretary commended UNICEF for its genuine sense of interventions with commitment to children welfare worldwide, irrespective of race, religion and nation.

He admonished the clerics to be very attentive to all segments of the training by also participating actively and interact as much as possible to enable better understanding.

Accordingly, Dandin Mahe called for a law to prescribe an acceptable age which parents can take their wards to other places for Islamic education.

In his goodwill message, Malam Lawal Maidoki, the state Chairman, Zakat and Endowment Commission, stressed the urgent need to objectively study with care the issue and proliferation of Almajiri.

Represented by Malam Jabbi Ibrahim Ilela Dabore, Director of Endowment Services of the Commission, the Chairman emphasised the need for people to differentiate between children floating the streets and Almajiri pointing factors as insecurity, climate change and numerous other socio-economic challenges that have rendered many families homeless as such would be forced to roam the streets for alms to survive and will be mistaken for Almajiri.

A UNICEF resource person, Professor Umar Alkali who in his presentation dwelled on "Safeguarding from the Lenses of Islamic Law and The Ideal Almajiri Education and Child Safeguarding" drew the attention to recognise and admit global realities in dealing with children under their care. policy, as he called on Islamic teachers to imbibe.



The Church as it was burning



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Drug Abuse: Group Interacts With Kantin Agah, Black Street Youths In Kaduna

By; AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna
A one-day interactive session organised by Think Tank Group Organisation with youth of Kantin Agah and Black Street in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State took place on Friday, with a view to train and engage the youth in various skills to curb social vices in the society. The chairman of the group, Mr Don Olivera Idihosa, while speaking to New Nigerian, said, "We have come to understand

that with proper training and by engaging the youths in different skills, many of them will stop all manners of social vices that have become the order of the day among them and become better citizens to themselves, families and the society at large." According to him, "As a group, we have taken upon ourselves to identify these youths who for one reason or the other found themselves into drugs and other social vices with a view to know their problems and how to come

in order to give them hope by training them into various skills that will make them to be better citizens in the society. "We have various skills like welding, carpentry, fashion design and many others that they can fit in base on their areas of interest. We believe that if properly trained, they will become better citizens to themselves and the society because for one reason or the other, some of them found themselves into what they are

today, and so, there is hope that some could be future leaders of tomorrow if properly harnessed." Those among them that are into drug addiction, he said, "We want to disabuse their minds that hope is lost, they can be trained and before you know it, they will stop such practices and become better citizens and contribute to wellbeing of the country." According to him, the programme is organised mainly for the youths that have found

themselves in different kinds of wayward lives with a view to make an impact in their lives and give them hope of a better living. He said, "Our activities as a group is geared towards a better society, quality leadership and good governance in the society because we believe to have a good society where the youths must be properly trained and take good care of. The youths are the leaders of tomorrow and so, they should be arrested and be given proper attention for a better tomorrow in the country."



Kantin Agah, Black Street youths in interactive session with Think Tank Group in Kaduna.



Kantin Agah, Black Street youths with Think Tank group in an interactive session in Kaduna.



Think Tank with Kantin Agah, Black Street youths in interactive session.



Kantin Agah, Black Street youths with Think Tank group in an interactive session in Kaduna.

Owan Community In Abuja Celebrates House Leader, Hon Ihonvbere, Lauds Proactive Representation

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Lawmakers in both Chambers of the National Assembly have been called upon to ensure their communities are properly developed and enjoy the dividends of democracy.

The call was made by speakers at the weekend when Indigenes of Owan West and East local government areas of Edo state resident in the Federal Capital Territory held a grand reception in Honour of the House Leader of the 10th National Assembly, Professor Julius Ihonvbere at the international conference Centre, Abuja.

Speakers at the event lauded Professor Julius Ihonvbere for Impacting every community in both local government areas, which he represents at the Green Chamber.

In his Goodwill speech, Minister of Niger Delta Development, Prince Abubakar Momoh said he met Professor Ihonvbere when he was a senior Aide to former President Olusegun Obasanjo.

He noted that The Leader of the House is “One person that can be trusted for his commitment to duty, academic depth and vast knowledge. Ihonvbere is a passionate lawmaker that anyone would be happy to

associate with”

Chairman of the event, Former Inspector-General of Police and current Chairman of Police Service commission, Dr Solomon Arase used complimentary words to describe the House Leader. In his words, “Professor Ihonvbere has come a long way. For me the Owan people are recognizing excellence. He is passionate about his people in Owan and want to always see Owan develop” He said despite many obstacles faced, Professor Ihonvbere has continued to Soar.

Former Edo North Senator, Kassim Oyofe, who turned 80 this Year praised Honourable Ihonvbere for his academic knowledge and how passionate he served former President Olusegun Obasanjo when he was his special adviser. While thanking Professor Ihonvbere for his good works, he tasked him to work towards uplifting the Image of the national assembly and gaining total public confidence.

Another Former Edo North Senator, Senator Yisa Braimah praised Honourable Ihonvbere for, “emerging at the 9th highest citizen of the nation”. He charged him to ensure that the marginalization suffered by the Owan and Akoko Edo

people in the politics of Edo North senatorial District.

Permanent Secretary Federal ministry of Agriculture and food security, Dr Ernest Umakhihe praised Professor Ihonvbere for putting the name of the Owan nation on the national stage in the 10 National Assembly. He noted that the leader of the 10th House of Representatives has impacted most schools in Communities across Owan west and east local governments. He pleaded with him to use his elevated office to do more for his people.

In his appreciation speech, The house leader, Profe Julius Ihonvbere thanked God for bringing him this far. He praised his wife for doing everything to lift him up and ensure he wins his election by reaching out to even those who disagree with him. “Am immensely grateful for this honour. This is the first time am seeing Owan people doing this. There are many challenges and only in unity that Owan Land can move forward”

He canvassed for greater unity in Afemai land which is made up of Etsako, Owan and Akoko Edo.

He pledged to do more saying, “Since the House went on recess, my staff and I have

gone to work everyday. I know my people. I must use my intellect to work for my people. I must be a candle to give light to my people and those around “

Chairman, Event planning committee, Engineer Festus Eguaoje said the Owan nation decided to celebrate the Leader of the 10th Assembly because of his commitment to development of all communities in Owan. He lauded the Convener of the event, Deacon Patrick Ahonkhai Giwa for uniting Owan sons and daughters to celebrate one their own. Chief Dennis Ifidon pointed out that at a time when Owan Nation was in dare need of Leadership, Professor Ihonvbere is showing leadership and filling the vacuum. In his words, “Prof has been a benefit to all Owan communities. He promised to do all to ensure owan roads which are very bad shapes would be rehabilitated”

In the vote of thanks, the Convener of the event, Deacon Patrick Ahonkhai praised professor Ihonvbere for his progressive representation. He noted that the even was successful because professor Ihonvbere was reputable among Nigeria elite and masses.



EFCC Returns Multi-million Naira Property Recovered From Fraudster To American Victim

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Property estimated at several million of Naira, recovered from a convicted Nigerian fraudster, one Aisosa Kelvin Ohue, (a.k.a Frederick Leonard) by the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) has been returned to the victim, New Nigerian Newspaper has learnt.

The property as learnt, include the sum of ₦19,000,000,000 (Nineteen Million Naira), a three bedroom semi-detached duplex at Ward 36A Amagba Community in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, a Lexus E350 saloon car, an iPhone 13 Pro Max and a Samsung A31 phone, as confirmed by the commission's spokesman.

The spokesperson of the agency, Wilson Uwujaren, who made the disclosure in a statement, said they were presented to the victim, one Cheryldene Cook in Abuja on Thursday by the Zonal Commander, ACE I Adebayo Adeniyi and the Head, Advanced Fee Fraud Section 1, ACE II



The suspect

Jimoh Rauf.

According to the statement, Cheryldene Cook who flew in from the United States of America to receive the items, was accompanied to the commission by her lawyer,

Dr. Mike Nwosu.

She expressed appreciation to the commission for the recovery.

Justice C.E Nwecheonwu of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High

Court, Kuje had in January, ordered the forfeiture of the property after the fraudster, Orhue was convicted of a three-count charge bordering on obtaining money by false pretense.

The convicted cheated the victim in a love scam, while pretending to be a famous actor, Frederick Leonard.

Count one of the charge read, "that you, Aiosa Kelvin Orhue (AKA Fredrick Leonard) sometimes in 2021, at Abuja within the jurisdiction of the Honourable Court, by false pretense and with intent to defraud obtained the sum of ₦104,000,000 (One Hundred and Four Million Naira) only from one Cheryldene Cook, that you are one Frederick Leonard who is in love with her and you made her to believe that you are going to marry her which you knew to be false and you thereby, committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Sections 1 (1)(a) and 1 (3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 respectively".

Agriculture: Katsina Govt To Recruit 300 Extension Workers



Gov Radda

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina Government will strengthen staff strength of the two recently created new ministries and to recruit 300 extension workers to enhance the capacity of the state farmers.

A statement by the Chief Press to the governor, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed named the two ministries as :- Ministry of Internal Security and Ministry of Higher, Vocational, and Technical Education. Mohammed Kaula said Governor Dikko Umaru Radda, while speaking at a special dinner to commemorate his 100 days in office also unveiled the comprehensive report of the 'Harmonization Committee for the Review of the Development Blueprint of Katsina State at the dinner.

Dikko Radda said "I wish to use this occasion to inform you all that the recently-created Ministry for Higher, Vocational and Technical Education and that of Internal Security would attract staff from within the existing workforce in the State civil service. Again, we shall also employ additional ones to bridge the vacancy gaps in the two new Ministries."

The governor further disclosed that, "Also, our government will increase the number of extension workers in Katsina to over 300. This is in realization of the importance of

farming to the growth of the State's economy.

"Again, the Katsina State Development Management Board, Assets Management Agency and Katsina Irrigation Authority, among other functional government parastatals in the State, will be saddled with the responsibility of providing extension services to our farmers," Governor Radda said.

The governor emphasized that, his administration had succeeded in coming up with impactful socio-economic and administrative reforms, within the last 100 days. This, the Governor said, made it possible for the merger of some government Agencies to create new Ministries, alongside with other parastatals for effective service delivery to the people of the State.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda explained that, part of the reforms introduced by his Government includes:- introduction of competency examination and test for Permanent Secretaries in the State's civil service; and passing relevant laws that ensure public officers are posted to government agencies where their services are needed.

"That is why we recently conducted a staff audit to ascertain the educational background of all categories of Katsina civil servants, and their areas of specialization for appropriate placement," Governor Dikko Umaru Radda reiterated.



The victim receiving the recovered items from EFCC

Governors, President Should Stop Celebrating 100 Days In Office - Mikati

***Challenges FG to end shameful, disgraceful situation country is facing**

SHU'AIBU IDRIS MIKATI, is a politician, a patriotic Nigerian, a businessman, an analyst on politics and economic issues of the world. He is also an opinion leader that is leading by example. In this interview with our reporter **IMRANA ABDULLAHI**, he makes many revelations on some issues affecting Nigeria as a nation. Excerpts:

What can you say about giving back to society?

The reasons behind sponsorship of billboards carrying messages calling on citizens to help governments at all levels in fight against the menace of drug abuse, human trafficking, child and gender violence to mention but a few, is basically to seek to give back to the society. Indeed our religion ordained us to not only be good and do good, but also to encourage people to do good and discourage them from doing evil. My dear in doing this little contribution to the society and indeed mankind is to seek the pleasure of Allah.

I pray that Allah SWT accepts it as an act of Ibadah amin

What is your position on celebration of first 100 days in office?

To me, I sincerely believe that both governors and president should endeavour to stop the aberration of celebrations of 100 days in office. A president or a governor who is elected to serve for a first term of four years or 1,464 days, shouldn't be wasting his time and resources to celebrate 100 days in office as this is just 6.8 per cent of the journey.

It's rather too early and hasty to begin to sing praises. Most elected officials have not even settled down, formed government or understand the nature and enormity of the challenges before them.

A few of those who came fully prepared would have either just finished conceptualisation of policies or may have just announced programmes and policies, thus not implemented to a level where either impact can be felt or results seen. Herein is the wisdom of jettisoning this 100 days celebrations as it does not add value instead it distracts attention and drains resources.

One may say that even some of the policy pronouncements made appear to be in a rush and not fully thought out. Cabinet members announced are significantly men and women of timber and caliber but portfolio assignment appears to be somewhat not as expected, because while some round pegs were put in round holes, there are a few round pegs that were placed in squares.

At the federal level, mix and confusing or conflicting signals on fiscal and monetary policies are coming. The number of ministers appear rather too large, given our lean resources and the fragmentation of certain ministries



Mikati

appears to be uncalled for and ill advised.

On subsidy removal and its consequences, what is the way forward?

I am not sure if we will ever go back to the era of fuel subsidy. Nigerians have adjusted and life continues! Way forward is to readjust and adapt to the

reality of our time. Governments should quickly implement the much talked about palliatives, so that Nigerians can have some relief.

It's sad that it took us such a long time to achieve this but its better late than never. Incidentally, all the presidential candidates during the last general election promised to remove subsidy on

petrol. This is because there appears to be consensus of opinion on this issue amongst broad spectrum of people in Nigeria on the matter.

My suggestion to government at the centre is to come out of the shameful and disgraceful position or situation this country is in by quickly getting all our refineries back to production.

Uba Sani's Administration Will Ensure Planned Development For Cities, Major Towns - Deputy

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor Uba Sani's administration will ensure that all towns and cities in the state have master plans that allow for planned development.

This is to ensure that cities and towns are fit for purpose for the greater good of the citizens of the state.

Deputy Governor, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe stated this at the weekend, when she received the Executive Committee of the Northern Town Planners Forum when then they visited her in Government House Kaduna.

Dr. Balarabe explained that Kaduna State Government under Uba Sani believes that in ensuring that cities and towns are fit for purpose, there must be strong partnership between government, regulatory bodies, and professional associations, adding that the administration, therefore, remains committed to partnering and collaborating with professional bodies in the quest to developing the state for the greater good of the citizens. She further explained that Kaduna State Government has designated 117 settlements as urban areas in addition to the existing 23 and has awarded contracts for the preparation of master plan for 19.

She added that one of the major areas of focus for the administration of Governor Uba Sani is infrastructure development.

"The governor has rolled out road constructions across the state, three have been flagged off and many more will be flagged off in the coming days. There are 32 roads to be constructed across the state.

"The previous government



made considerable progress in executing the urban renewal programme and this administration will ensure the completion of all projects commenced.

"All these initiatives we hope, will provide an environment that is serene, aesthetically beautiful, and most importantly safe for pursuance of livelihoods, liberties and businesses," she said.

She appealed to professional town planners to collaborate with government in sensitizing Nigerians on the critical importance of engaging the services of professionals when constructing or developing properties.

"I want to use this opportunity to assure you, of Kaduna State Government's readiness to continue to deliver

development to the people of the state in line with its governance agenda.

"I have listened to the presentation of the Chairman and the issues raised. These are issues the government will be happy to look into. The Kaduna State Government will be happy to receive a copy of your communique at the end of the conference to help guide its developmental plans going forward," she said.

Earlier in his presentation, Barnabas Atiyaye, Chairman, Northern Town Planners Forum, who said they were in Kaduna for their forum's maiden annual conference, pointed that while governments in the south have come to terms with what physical planning can do in transforming their cities and rural areas, most of

our governments in the North hardly appreciate the role of the physical planner.

He however, noted that, "Kaduna State stands as a role model and is absolutely on the right track and ahead of all its counterparts in respect to physical development in the North, apart from the FCT.

"Your Excellency, we are proud to note that as far as physical planning is concerned, Kaduna State is the best that has acknowledged the place and role of planning in sustainable development.

"It is obvious that the investment opportunities in tourism, agro-industry, livestock, real estate which is exemplified with the commissioning of 500,000 housing by Qatar meant for the less privileged residents in

Kaduna and renewable energy, has been accentuated by the physical development plan that is in place.

"Undertaking Regional Development Plan for the state will certainly give clear intervention for the rural areas.

"Your Excellency, we are very much aware of the fact that you have placed physical planning on the front burner.

"The Northern Town Planners Forum identifies very much with your programme which you tagged, SUSTAIN.

"Some of your programmes such as to strengthen safety and security, upgrade Infrastructure particularly rural roads to boost economic activities, enhance trade and investment are clearly what a professional planner can significantly contribute

towards its realization," he said.

Atiyaye said as Northern Town Planners, their forum is embarking on a strategic advocacy with the intent of getting all the Northern governors to understand the necessity of urban and regional planning.

"We, therefore, appeal for your kind assistance, as a dynamic and respected Governor, to use your network to introduce us to the meeting of Northern Governors Forum, to reposition human settlements in Northern Nigeria," he appealed.

He indicated readiness of the professional town planners to support Kaduna State Government in realizing the SUSTAIN agenda and recommended that the state government should vigorously engage town planners to manage the towns and cities in the state and be consulted in preparing regional development plan for the state as well as master plans for all the urban areas in the state.

He also advised the administration of Senator Uba Sani to organize a colloquium to discuss challenges related to the development of the state and how to re-direct it for benefits in addition to having trainings and retraining for town planners in the service of the state to produce professionals, technologists, and technicians to man relevant planning authorities.



Tribunal Dismisses APC Candidate's Petition, Affirms PDP Won Warri Reps Seat

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The National Assembly and State Election Tribunal holding in Asaba on Saturday, dismissed the case filed by Ekpoto Ekpoto Emmanuel of the All Progressives Congress (APC) challenging the election of Rt. Hon. Thomas Ereyintomi on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the February 2023 General Election.

The Chairman of the three-man panel of the tribunal, Justice Catherine Ogunsola, who read the judgement while dismissing the case in Asaba, said that the petitioner's case lacks merit.

She also said that the petitioner failed to prove his case beyond reasonable doubt.

The panel member further said that the evidence brought before the tribunal by the petitioner is not admissible in the eye of the law.

According to the Tribunal Judges, "The petitioners failed to call evidence unit by unit and ward by ward to establish malpractice in the election.

"The petitioner in his

pleadings did not demonstrate the discrepancy between the number of accredited voters, the lawful votes cast and how it affected the outcome of the election. Attempt to do this in his Written Address was of no moment.

"The alleged forgery of the third Respondent's NECO was not established as there was disclaimer from the issuing authority. Besides, no mean could be inferred."

Each and every relief in the petition as well as the petition itself were dismissed with cost of five hundred thousand Naira (N500,000) against the petitioner in favour of the second and third respondents.

Speaking to journalists, Counsel to the lawmaker, Robinson Arhiyo said: "It is victory for democracy and for the electorate, who voted massively for Rt. Hon. Thomas Ereyintomi during the election."

INEC, on March 2, declared Thomas Ereyintomi, winner of the election having scored 20,155 votes to defeat his closest opponent Omatseye Young Piero of the Labour Party (LP), who pulled 9,491 votes.

ATM Foundation Offers 300 Nigerian Students Scholarship In Benin Republic

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Over 300 Nigerian students are to benefit from the scholarship programme of the Akande Tunde Movement (ATM) to study in Espam-Formation University, Cotonou, Benin Republic.

Addressing the beneficiaries of the scholarship, on their way to Benin Republic, founder of the movement, Dr. Kazeem Akande tasked them to be a good ambassador of the country and take their academics

seriously during their stay in the Benin Republic.

Dr. Akande pointed out that the scholarship programme is aimed at contributing to the educational sector in Nigeria and that it is also meant to give succor to the families of the beneficiaries.

He stressed that it has always been his passion to be a sponsor as regards education, while he described education as the bedrock of the development of any society that desires good change.

Lamenting the high rate of poverty in the society which has made it difficult for many to access quality and tertiary education, Dr Akande said he feels to see brilliant students who should attain tertiary education, but are denied the opportunity due to the paucity of funds.

Dr Akande added that the scholarship given will fund 50 percent of the tuition fees of beneficiaries of the initiative and that the beneficiaries will be given an opportunity to study the course of their choice at

the university, which according to him had produced great alumni, including some Nigerians governors, legislators amongst others.

Some of the parents who spoke with newsmen expressed gratitude to the scholarship donor for how his organisation is helping their wards get to where they want to go in life and helping them to fulfill a lifelong dream of getting their children obtaining good tertiary education good.



Adamawa Boat Tragedy: Gov Fintiri Mourns, Commiserates Families Of Victims

By; TINA PHINEAS, Yola

Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State has commiserated with the families of victims of the River Njuwa boat mishap which occurred on Friday. The governor described the accident as unfortunate and a big loss to the state. A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Humeashi Wonosikou states that the governor was deeply shaken over the sad incident.

He said, "These were petty traders in search of livelihood whose lives were cut short.

"I have directed my deputy to visit and assess the situation for prompt assistance to the families of the affected persons", he stated.

The passenger boat was said to be travelling from Rugange village to Yola town when the incident occurred at about 11 am after encountering a violent storm.

"I am out of the state attending a crucial

meeting of the North East Governors forum in Maiduguri, but my heart is with the families of the affected and the entire State during this period of mourning and pray Allah grant us the fortitude to bear the loss," the governor stated.

While commiserating with the families of the deceased, Fintiri has assured that the state government would not relent in coming up with policies and programmes aimed at ensuring safety on the waterways.

Meanwhile, the state government has confirmed the rescue of eight persons as rescue operations continue.

New Nigerian reports that the ill fated boat was ferrying 23 across River Njuwa when the accident happened as a result of a heavy storm.

Our reporter learnt that the boat with carrying capacity of 15 persons, was overloaded with people and their goods.

**Says 8 rescued*



Governor Fintiri

When Things Fall Apart: The End Of Nigeria's Failed Ideology

By **Amb ALIYU BIN ABBAS**

In the annals of African history, Nigeria was once held up as a beacon of hope, a land of promise, and a testament to the possibility of unity in diversity. It was an ideology that fueled the dreams of many, both within and beyond its borders. But today, as we stand on the precipice of a shattered dream, it's become painfully clear that Nigeria, as an ideology, has crumbled.

For years, the Nigerian state has proven itself to be little more than a fiction—a grand illusion that promises prosperity but delivers despair. It's a nation that works remarkably well for the elites and members of the establishment, who continue to thrive amid the chaos. But for the masses, Nigeria is a dystopian nightmare, a never-ending story of unfulfilled promises, and a cruel hoax.

The truth is, the Nigerian dream has devolved into a tragic comedy. With each passing cycle of governance failure, the nation's diaspora community swells as disillusioned citizens seek refuge in foreign lands. They flee the very homeland that should be their sanctuary, driven away by a nightmarish reality where basic services are a luxury, corruption is rampant, and insecurity is the order of the day.

The institutions that should serve as the pillars of a functioning democracy have crumbled under the weight of corruption and incompetence. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Electoral Tribunal, once symbols of hope, have revealed their absolute partiality to the status quo. The facade of free and fair elections has been torn asunder, exposing the deep rot within the Nigerian political system.



Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas

The consequences of this institutional decay are far-reaching. The people have lost faith in the electoral process, viewing it as a charade designed to perpetuate the rule of the few at the expense of the many. This disillusionment is not isolated; it's a ticking time bomb that threatens to explode into political upheaval.

The recent years have witnessed movements and

protests across Nigeria, driven by a collective frustration with the prevailing order. From the #EndSARS protests to calls for secession, the voices of dissent are growing louder, and they will not be silenced. The people are no longer willing to accept the status quo, and they are demanding a fundamental restructuring of the Nigerian state.

The end of Nigeria as an ideology is not a doomsday

prophecy; it's a stark reality that we can no longer ignore. The farce we call Nigeria, with its broken institutions and shattered dreams, cannot endure in its current form. It's time to acknowledge that the old order is crumbling, and it's up to the people to shape a new future.

The way forward is uncertain, but one thing is clear: the Nigerian people have the resilience and determination to chart a

different course. It's time to dismantle the broken system and rebuild a Nigeria that works for all its citizens, not just the privileged few. The end of Nigeria as we know it is the beginning of a new chapter—a chapter where the people reclaim their power and rewrite the story of their nation.

Amb Aliyu Bin Abbas is the President National Youth Alliance

We Used To Have A Country: Rediscovering The Promise Of West Africa

By; Ambassador ALIYU BINABBAS

Once upon a time, we used to have a country—a nation of boundless promises and potentials. In the heady days of independence, Nigeria stood as a beacon of hope, not just for its own people, but for the entire African continent.

It was a time when our manufacturing capacity was the envy of the world, our medical facilities were sought after by people from distant lands, and our universities were revered institutions of learning and inclusion. But today, as we look back on that golden era, we can't help but wonder what went wrong.

In the years following independence, Nigeria thrived in various aspects. Our manufacturing sector, for instance, boasted of international brands such as Leyland Nigeria, which produced Land Rover cars, a testament to our industrial prowess. World-class medical facilities in Lagos and other major cities drew patients from as far as the Middle East, establishing Nigeria as a hub for healthcare excellence.

Our universities, like the University of Ibadan, were not only centers of learning but also symbols of inclusivity, serving the diverse tapestry of our society.

So, what happened to that Nigeria? How did we go from a land of opportunity to a nation grappling with dysfunction, corruption, and ethnic tensions? The answers to these questions are complex and multifaceted, but the truth is that Nigeria, as we once knew it, is no more. We are living in the aftermath of dashed dreams and squandered potentials.

As we confront this reality, it's time to consider a way forward—a radical reimagining of the geographical entity known as Nigeria. The idea of dismantling the failed state and renaming it "West Africa" might seem unconventional, but it carries the promise of a fresh start. Under this

proposal, West Africa would become a confederation of states, emirates, and kingdoms, each with a degree of self-determination. This format would acknowledge and honour the complex tapestry of ethnic, tribal, and religious identities that make up our region.

The name "West Africa" itself implies a geographical location rather than a narrowly defined nation-state. This cosmopolitan ideology, inherent in the name, automatically implies a commitment to diversity, freedom of expression, and inclusivity. It embraces the richness of our cultural mosaic while providing a unifying umbrella under which our varied identities can coexist.

The benefits of such a transformation are numerous. By decentralizing power and allowing for regional autonomy, we can address long-standing grievances and foster a greater sense of ownership among our diverse populations. A confederation model could also pave the way for economic cooperation, shared resources, and more effective

governance.

Furthermore, a renamed West Africa has the potential to inspire similar transformations in neighboring nations. Ghana and Cameroon, for example, might see the benefits of joining this confederation of states, contributing to a more stable and prosperous region. Of course, the path forward will not be without challenges. It will require a willingness to let go of the failed state structure that has

held us back for so long. It will necessitate dialogue, compromise, and a shared vision for the future. But if we truly want to recapture the spirit of our nation's early days—the sense of hope and possibility—we must be bold enough to reimagine our collective identity.

In the end, the name "Nigeria" is just that—a name given by a white man's girlfriend perhaps due to its origin, it was already destined for failure. The essence of a

nation is not defined by its title but by the unity, purpose, and aspirations of its people.

As we look back on the Nigeria we used to have, let us also look forward to the name brand - West Africa, we can become—a region that honors its diversity, empowers its communities, and embraces a future of shared prosperity and progress.

ALIYU BIN ABBAS is the President of National Youth Alliance



Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas

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

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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

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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

An Agenda For National Rebirth (1)

By; HASSAN GIMBA

"The greatest patriotism is to tell your country when it is behaving dishonourably, foolishly, viciously."

—Julian Barnes, *Flaubert's Parrot*

Until the rivers run dry and the world ceases to exist, problems shall never end. Problems became part of man the moment he took a bite of that apple and was banished to earth to come and find the solution that would take him back. And so, seeking solutions to problems must be our eternal habit.

However, just as Albert Einstein said, "The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them", we have to think differently and divorce ourselves from all the things that have pinned us down to where we are now. As pointed out by many who took it upon themselves to be pointers at problems, Nigeria's problems are all condensed into one – leadership.

Most of the things we are writing about are things that we have written about in the past. And since instead of improving, we are progressing in the manner of the person digging a hole – going deeper down – we should not get tired of reiterating and retelling what we have said earlier until something gives.

And this is why we opened with the quote from *Flaubert's Parrot*, a novel by the award-winning English writer, Julian Patrick Barnes. Born on 19 January 1946, he won the Man Booker Prize in 2011 with *The Sense of an Ending*, having been shortlisted three times previously with *Flaubert's Parrot*, *England, England*, and *Arthur & George*. *Flaubert's Parrot* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1984 and won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize the following year.

We have always believed and told the world that patriotism is the bedrock of development. Without it, no nation can make progress and if, by some miracle, they grow, that growth will be ephemeral. You see, patriotism is the love of country with devotion deep from the heart. Anything from your country is, in your eyes, the best. The way the parents of an ugly child see beauty in that child is the way a patriot sees anything from his country as the best in the world.

In my write-up of 27/05/2019, entitled "Open letter to an incoming governor," I wrote, among others: "Your Excellency should also make sure that those who have their children in private schools do not determine the affairs of public schools. How can one be in charge of education but send his wards to private schools or abroad? Anybody who will administer education must have faith in what the government is doing to improve education, which he superintends. Anybody who cannot sacrifice for the state should not be allowed to benefit from the state. Your Excellency, do that and education would improve by leaps and bounds.

"There is a reason why Malaysians in 2018 overwhelmingly brought back Dr Mahathir Mohammed at the age of 92 to lead them again. He was ready to sacrifice his life for them when he refused to travel

abroad for medical treatment in 1989, opting to be operated upon in Malaysia, which led him to build world-class medical facilities in the then under-developed country later.

"He had this to say, 'As a doctor myself, I knew the risks. I knew there was a possibility that I might not survive the operation, as it was not a common procedure.'

"Yet he rejected his doctors' recommendations for surgery in the US. 'I had to have faith in our Malaysian doctors,' he said. 'If I didn't make an example of myself, no one else would have confidence in our medical service.'"

"Your Excellency, anybody who, together with his family, has to travel abroad for medical reasons need not be in charge of your ministry of health and any health facility. Not only those who go abroad, but even those who patronise private hospitals or clinics, please relieve him of his duties if you had already appointed him. The only exception is in dire cases determined by a competent medical team that such cases have to be treated abroad.

"You can aim at providing standard primary health care centres in at least each ward, a standard General Hospital in each local government, a standard Specialist Hospital in each Senatorial Zone and a world-class referral hospital, maybe in the state capital. You can even partner with world-renowned hospital managers and administrators.

"These two measures, in education and health, when taken with such seriousness, will see a turnaround in the standards of education and health in your state, and ultimately the general quality of life."

In "Nigeria: How do I begin?" written on 22/06/2020, we talked about how a leader galvanizes his people for development. We said: "But whatever the case, a leader must, by his actions, give hope to his people and the confidence to excel. Again, if the Chinese, in one of their proverbs, believe the fish rots from the head, then the head must show more patriotism.

"Servant leadership is why Malaysians in 2018 overwhelmingly brought back Dr Mahathir Mohammed at 92 years old to lead them...." We have written about this early on.

"Or the Indian case where the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi (October 2, 1869 - January 30, 1948) would not ride in the sleek and luxury cars from the west; he elected to trek and drive in locally made carts. This injected vigour into local car manufacturing. Now India is a vehicle exporter.

"These servant leaders teach that a leader sacrifices; he is not one collecting a fabulous salary and unimaginable allowances but still being fed by the government or using foreign-made items like clothes, food, cars, etc., instead of those his country produces."

Not yet done with the question of exemplary leadership, we wrote: "Change must begin with the leader" on 06/07/2020. We started with a quote from a Brazilian lyricist and author of *The Alchemist*, Paulo Coelho: "The world is



Hassan Gimba

Monday Column

changed by your example, not by your opinion."

We wrote: "Allah (SWT) said in the Qur'an that He does not change the condition of a people until they change what is in their hearts. It is a verse widely quoted out of context by people wanting to give their idols in power excuses. There was never a time in any history that people just woke up and all of them at the same time said to themselves: 'We must change.' Even revolutions and mass uprisings have guides. Someone has to mobilise the masses, sensitise them, and lead the way. And that person is called a leader. Therefore, those who are fond of quoting this verse as an excuse to shield their principals are loose-brained, mischievous or plain illiterate. Most likely, they won't refer to the verse if the icon does not appeal to their sentiments.

"Because God raises the living out of the dead and brings forth light out of the dark, He raises from among a people their type who leads them from deprivation to well being. Out of the palace of the Pharaoh, He raised Moses (AS). Out of the family and society of idolaters, He brought forth Abraham (AS), and out of the heathendom of Arabia, He revealed Muhammad (SAW). Chaka the Zulu founded the Zulu Empire and for twelve years, before his assassination on

September 22, 1828, he moulded his people into a dominant fighting force never seen before in southern Africa. Mao Zedong, known as Chairman Mao, was the founding father of The People's Republic of China and laid the foundations of what China now is. You can go on and count leaders who changed their people and their countries' fortunes by leading by example. Cuba's Fidel Castro was one; we also had Muammar Gaddafi from Libya, Dr Martin Luther King who raised the consciousness of Blacks, Dr Muhammad Mahathir of Malaysia and Mahatma Gandhi of India.

"These leaders raised the consciousness level of their people and changed them into better human beings, by being what they wanted their people to be. They did not look their people in the face in a condescending and patronising manner, point a finger at them, and sing "change" while they indulged in the vices of yore. Mao viewed such leaders as "swollen in head, weak in legs, sharp in tongue but empty in belly."

For Nigeria, when can we have our own Mahatma Gandhi or Chairman Mao or Fidel Castro or Gaddafi - somebody who thinks Nigeria and Nigerians first?

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

100 Days: A Look At Governor Inuwa Yahaya's Productive 2nd Term Start And Continuity Of Good Governance In Gombe

By: AUWALILYASU

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya's return to office following his reelection has been met with high expectations from citizens of the state which bring about the continuity in hard work and progress towards the implementation of his campaign promises.

Here today, we evaluate the progress and accomplishments made so far in the first 100 days of his second term. We counted the gains recorded within the short time as well as the foundation he has laid to cement the successes of his first tenure to ensure the development and transformation of the state in next four years.

The governor has made some visible progress in setting the roadmap for achieving the much-anticipated development in the areas of Economic Empowerment, Job Creation, Healthcare, Social Welfare, Education, Human Capital, and Infrastructural Development as well as Security, Good Governance, Accountability, and Agriculture. One of the significant steps taken by the administration was the provision of subsidized fertilizers, seeds, and other inputs to encourage and support farmers to participate in the 2023 wet season farming. The delivery of the 25% discounted fertilizer, along with other inputs, was to ensure food security in the state and the country as well.

While economic hardship that was occasioned by the Federal Government's decision on the removal of fuel subsidies bites hard on Nigerians across the country, Governor Yahaya reeled out a series of initiatives which included an additional 40% subsidy on the much-needed fertilizers and other farming commodities to boost food production and fight hunger.

Another notable initiative that was reeled out by the progressive governor in the 100 days under review, was the establishment of a Special Honorary Advisory Committee (SHAC), with appointment of some seasoned technocrats and well-accomplished experts and professionals in various fields to guide the implementation of his government's developmental policies and programs in his avowed commitment to turn challenges into opportunities and provide effective solutions to the problems facing the state. According to the governor, the plan was for the team to hit the



Governor Inuwa Yahaya

ground running in the pursuit of the development and betterment of the state.

The Governor, who had during his first tenure, invested much in the construction and rehabilitation of roads both in rural and urban areas continued with the infrastructural development of the state to ease the movement, especially for farmers and their crops. He also embarked on a series of meetings and consultations in pursuit of collaborations and partnerships towards the attainment of prosperity for Gombe State.

In the period under review, the governor met the President and Commander-in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Vice President (VP) Kashim Shettima, the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, the

National Security Adviser (NSA) Malam Nuhu Ribad, as well as the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Sen. George Akume where issues bordering on national security and other developments were discussed. He expressed his commitment to enhancing collaboration aimed at bolstering human capital development and tackling environmental challenges in his state, the Northern region and the country at large. He also held private discussions with the United Nations Deputy Secretary General, Hajiya Amina Mohammed in Gombe.

Governor Inuwa, who elevated Gombe to a development trajectory resulting in the state being ranked as the top performer in Ease of Doing Business for two consecutive years by KPMG, a reputable

consultancy firm commissioned by the Federal Government, also established a Drugs and Medical Consumables Management Agency to ensure continuity in improving welfare and wellbeing of the people of Gombe State.

Apart from sending a total of 17 nominees to the state house of assembly for screening to be appointed as commissioners, beating the constitutional stipulated time frame, the progressive governor has been able to appoint key functionaries and aides to propel the wheel of governance.

Worried by the current economic challenges, the governor distributed food items as palliative to the citizens, targeting 420,000 beneficiaries starting with 30,000 households to cushion the effort of the fuel subsidy removal.

As part of the palliative measure of the state government which was initiated by the Governor, a N10,000 monthly salary increment was doled out for workers across the state and local government services. The gesture was described as a clear demonstration of the governor's commitment to the welfare of his people (Gwambawa).

He has launched numerous programs to bring about a tangible change and a more promising outlook for the people of Gombe state. To showcase his plans to reform and remodel the state's higher education system, the Governor constituted a visitation panel to evaluate the current state of the state's institutions of higher education and provide recommendations for future enhancements.

Additionally, in his first 100 days of his stay in office, Governor Inuwa Yahaya also reeled out plans to shore up manpower in the state's health sector by recruiting additional 200 personnel to revamp the system and ensure efficient and better service delivery. To put the multi-billion naira newly completed ultra-modern mega motor park to use and drive benefits for the state, Governor Yahaya who inspected the facility, set up a task force to facilitate the smooth transition of the operations from three major motor parks in the state capital to the mega park in Gombe metropolis.

When a heavy downpour washed away the road and one of the bridges linking Gombe and Bauchi states, the governor of Gombe state, rushed to the scene where hundreds of the road users were stranded. He called on the federal government to ensure a comprehensive rehabilitation and reconstruction of the federal highway to permanently address the recurrent road washouts and collapse of bridges on the road which has an extension to Borno, Adamawa, and Taraba states.

The progress and successes made by the administration of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya in its first one hundred days in office have provided a new sense of hope and optimism to the people of the state. The achievements have been nothing but commendable, and proof that his vision for the state is inspiring.

Insecurity: Bring Criminals To Their Knees, Chief Of Air Staff Orders Personnel

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Chief of Air Staff, Nigerian Air Force (NAF), Air Marshal, Hassan B. Abubakar has reiterated that the era of treating criminal elements in Nigeria with kids' gloves is over, as they will continue on their trajectory until they bring all of them to their knees.

CAS stated this during the Sundry Military programmes and graduation of 628 officers and airmen/airwomen of year 2023 in Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), Nigerian Air Force Base, Kaduna.

The CAS who was represented by the Air Officer Command, Air Training Commandant, Air Vice Marshal, Nnamdi Ananaba, said at a time like this they need to operate optimally in order to effectively address the current spate of insecurity across the country.

"As you rejoin the mainstream workforce of the Nigerian Air Force, your contributions would be instrumental to our collective efforts to sustain and even surpass current intensity of air operations until we completely rid our country of all forms of criminalities.

"Attending ceremonies like this is always gratifying for me, as it directly relates to my command philosophy of "transforming the NAF into an agile and resilient force that effectively meets the air power demands of national security in all operational environments.

"The Air Force Institute of Technology is one of the Nigerian Air Force's foremost training institutions positioned to facilitate one key enabler of my philosophy which is deliberate training and mission-oriented force development.

"let me congratulate the entire staff of AFIT for successfully executing the sundry military programmes and graduating 628 officers and airmen/airwomen today. Undoubtedly, it is through these programmes that the Institute enhances the quality of skilled technical manpower of the NAF, this has largely contributed to the NAF's current status of being more self-reliant for our platforms and equipment maintenance.

"It gladdens that following your recent curricula review, the Institute has increased its focus on the practical aspects instead of the predominantly theoretical training that was hitherto the case, I am reassured that the Air

Force Institute of Technology products, like the set we are graduating today, are adequately skilled and technically capable of maintaining Nigerian Air Force platforms and equipment in the field.

"I am aware of the difficulties you are currently facing in trying to reposition the Institute, some of which have been mentioned today. I assure you that the Headquarters Nigerian Air Force is aware of these problems and will do our best to address them, despite resource constraints. I have also noted, with delight, the efforts of the Commandant in mitigating some of the pressing challenges of the Institute including the staff verification exercise, job rotations and cybercrime related offenses prevention.

"I want to commend Mr. President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, for his unwavering support to the Armed Forces of Nigeria and to the Nigerian Air Force in particular, without which our current level of operational successes would not have been possible" he stated.

Also speaking, AFIT Commandant, Air Vice Marshal, Sani Rabe, said despite the expansion of AFIT and the increase in its mandate, the Institute has not lost focus on its primary role of producing quality technical manpower for the NAF.

According to him, all successive managements of the Institute have been making efforts to sustain the vision of the founding fathers.

"This informed the creation of the Centre for Technical and Vocational Training (CTVT), which oversees all aspects of military technical and logistics training in the Institute as the current leadership of AFIT is steadfast in efforts at achieving the Chief of the Air Staff's philosophy of 'transforming the NAF into an agile and resilient force that effectively meets the air power demands of



national security in all operational environments' as well as the philosophy's Key enabler of deliberate training and mission oriented force development.

"Meeting the NAF's skilled manpower requirements therefore remains paramount in AFIT's endeavour despite its

expanding mandate. It is in fulfilment of this task that today we are graduating 37 officers who have completed their Initial Officers' Course, and 591 airmen/airwomen who have completed various Basic as well as Advanced/Intermediate Upgrading Courses.

"Completion of these courses

could not have been possible without the support of the Chief of the Air Staff who has continuously and promptly approved release of the funds required for the training as well as the course allowances for the personnel on training" he said.



Gombe Athletics Academy Students Get Bags, Sandals, Uniforms, Other Items

By; ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe

In his zeal and passion to develop sporting activities in schools in Gombe State, the Chairman of Gombe State Athletics Association (GAA), Hon. Ahmed Shuaibu Gara Gombe has donated school materials, comprising school bags, uniforms, sandals, exercise books to the students of Gombe State Academy he established. Addressing academy athletes, parents, instructors and coaches in Gombe recently, Ahmed Gara extolled the huge potentials in the academy, promising to redouble efforts in making sure their education is not comprised while indulging in sports activities.

The Chairman GAA opined that the provision of school materials and beverages to the academy students is to lift the burden off their parents shoulders to enable them concentrate in education and sports. It would be recalled that

28 athletes, U-15 and below boys and girls in the academy were carefully selected as best performing after the maiden Gombe State Inter-Primary School and other Athletics Championships, Gara sponsored.

Expectedly, the GAA boss admonished the parents of the talented academy students to be patient with their wards, assuring them that in future, their children would develop as State, and national and World champions in Athletics and would earned enough money to make food and other goodies available for them.

"This was an opportunity I never had growing up. Today, I have realized, this is the only way to hunt grassroots talents in Schools, local government areas, States and the Nation.

Many examples abound in Delta, Edo, Rivers, Anambra, Imo, Kwara, Kaduna Lagos, Kogi etc where previously developed grassroots talents are now giving back to their families and



States huge positive image and financial dividends", Gara said. Excited parents and their wards could not hold tears as Schools materials are being presented to each of

them. In their separate remarks, the parents admitted that nothing of this magnitude had happened in their lives either at the local or states levels. They thanked the GAA

boss for his philanthropic gesture and promised to support his efforts by encouraging their wards in sporting activities. Meanwhile, the Technical Assistant to Hon. Gara Gombe and

director of the academy, Simon Ayuba said, enough disciplinary code of conduct have been entrenched in the academy that would guide the training and official conduct of young

Sports Development: Fatgbems To Partner Nilayo Sports Management

*Rates Lotus Bank Abeokuta 10km Race high

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Managing Director of Fatgbems Groups, Ajibola Gbemisola has revealed plans to partner with Nilayo Sports Management Limited for developing sports in the country.

Gbemisola stated this during the annual Lotus Bank Abeokuta 10km Race in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

The Chief Executive Officer of Fatgbems Petroleum company said

the 10km race showcased the beauty of athletics in the state, earning the sport a high grade.

He said, "When approached by the Managing Director of Nilayo Sports Management Limited, Chief Bukola Olopade to be part of the Abeokuta 10km Race.

"I looked at the previous editions and saw the impact of the athletics event among the youths in Nigeria. The standard is high and I am happy to identify with sports in

Nigeria.

"We are working to have a five-year partnership with Nilayo Sports to promote not only marathon events but sports in Nigeria. I am also working assiduously on how to partner with the Ogun State Government in the annual Governor's Cup. "The 10km race is top notch; I can see that we had winners from not only Nigerians but Kenya. This has shown that this is an international event and

Fatgbems is glad to identify with sports in Nigeria."

Gbemisola revealed that Fatgbem will use sports as an avenue to meaningfully engage the youths to channel their energy into productive ventures.

He said, "I am a sportsman and I have involve myself in sporting activities. I see sports as an avenue to take the youth out of the street and meaningfully engage them".



Ajibola Gbemisola

NFF Rates Facilities In Akwa Ibom As World Class

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Deputy Secretary General, Dr. Emmanuel Ikpeme has rated structural facilities in Akwa Ibom State as world class that appeal to the heart and patronage.

Ikpeme who stated this while receiving the State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno who visited the team's camp at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Ikot Ekpene to officially welcome the team to the state, commended government efforts in building and maintaining the facilities in the state.

He also applauded the Governor for giving approval for the hosting of the Nigeria/Sao Tome AFCON qualifier at the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium, Uyo and appealed for more support in the upcoming 2026 World Cup qualifiers beginning from November this year.

Ikpeme, who described the reception of team at the airport as top-notch, added that the road network, hotel and the stadium are all world class facilities and thanked the governor for maintaining high standard in building quality infrastructure. Head Coach of the Super Eagles Team, José Peseiro and Captain



of the Team, William-Troost Ekong in their remarks, appreciated the Akwa Ibom State Government for the hospitality the team has enjoyed in the state. On his part, Governor Umo Eno

thanked the team for their kind words and expressed the solidarity of the people of the State with them, assuring the Super Eagles of the state government's support in their

Sunday's African Cup of Nations qualifier against the Falcons and True Parrots of Sao Tomé and Principe. While thanking the Nigerian Football Federation for choosing

Uyo as venue for the Super Eagles' home encounters, the governor pledged the continuous support of the state to the success of the national team.

Ogun YSFON Demands Legislation On Immortalising Late Abiola Via Annual MKO Football Tourney

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

After the successful hosting of the 5th edition of late MKO Abiola U-18 Boys Soccer Tournament in Abeokuta by the Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON), the secretary of the Ogun State chapter of YSFON, Kehinde Adeyemi has clamoured for the legislation on the adoption of the MKO Abiola U-18 boys football competition as an annual event by Ogun State Government.

A bill concerning that according to Ogun YSFON Scribe has been submitted to the the Ogun State House of Assembly by the YSFON National headquarters, urging the legislators to pass the bill on the floor of the house to enable Ogun State Government adopt the tournament, just like Kano State did for Ramat Cup in memory of late Gen Ramat Murtala Mohammed.

According to him, "without any doubt, late Chief MKO Abiola

has paid his price in the development of sports in Ogun state, Nigeria and Africa through his philanthropic gestures that later earned him the honour of being the first Pillar of Sports in Nigeria and Africa as a whole." Adeyemi who doubles as the

Director of Sports Olabisi Onabanjo University, explained that late MKO Abiola also founded the then Abiola Babes of Abeokuta that made the ancient town of Abeokuta more popular throughout Africa sub-region of West Africa during the club

campaign in the West African Football Union (WAFU) Cup competition.

"Former Green Eagles players like Tajudeen Disu and Dehinde Akinlotan both from Ogun state also benefited greatly from the generosity of Chief MKO Abiola

as they were given scholarships to study in America by the Egba high Chief, MKO Abiola who became the first grand patron of YSFON", said the Football Psychologist.

He added that, "Ogun state YSFON wants the Ogun state government to again commence the sponsorship of the late Bashorun MKO Abiola U-18 boys' football tournament as an annual event like RAMAT Cup in Kano State and Oba of Benin Cup in Edo State."

The just concluded fifth edition featured 12 states that qualified from the six geo political zones of Nigeria had its preliminary stages held in Dipo Dina Stadium Ijebu-Ode while the final match took place in Abeokuta at MKO Abiola International Stadium Abeokuta where Ogun state team defeated their counterparts from Kwara state by a lone goal to win this year edition of Late MKO Abiola U-18 boys football tournament.



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Atiku To PEPC: Explain Why Tinubu's Head Of Legal Team Is On CTC Copies Of Judgment

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Vice President and the Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar has challenged the Presidential Election Petition Court (PEPC) to explain to the world "ambiguities around why copies of the judgment bears the header of the Tinubu Presidential Legal Team."

In a statement signed and released on Saturday in Abuja by Phrank Shaibu, Special Assistant (Communications) to Atiku Abubakar, said there was no intention to stir up controversy on the matter, "but it is very important that the PEPC should tell Nigerians why they chose to affix the header of the

Respondents on the CTC copy of their judgment, whereas the copies that went to the petitioners did not have the same."

Phrank Shaibu said the court must explain Tinubu Legal Team is deemed to be accorded special privileges.

The statement said: "It is very clear that there are many questions begging for answers, including why the PEPC came to the decision to avail the Respondents, especially the Tinubu Legal Team to have a first receipt of the CTC of the judgment before the Plaintiffs."

"The curiosity is more confounding based on the fact that the lead counsel to Atiku and the PDP had pleaded in the open court to have express receipt of

the judgment, to which Justice Haruna Tsammani agreed to and promised to make the document available the following day, which was Thursday.

"Nigerians want to know why the PEPC confers special privileges to the Tinubu Legal Team by making them have a first custody of copies of the PEPC judgment, even though it was more urgent for the Petitioners who needed the document in order to cause an appeal to the Supreme Court within 14 days including weekends.

"In the course of delivering its judgement, the PEPC had spoken of the petition it was ruling upon in a vexatious and denigrating language as if it was a crime to bring a case of electoral banditry before the court.

"However, unfolding developments after the court's ruling elicit suspicions about whether or not the Tinubu Legal Team provided clerical services to the PEPC. Otherwise, how and when did the 'Tinubu Presidential Legal Team' creep into a document that was supposed to be the official document of the Court of Appeal of Nigeria.

"We need to restate that the 'Tinubu Presidential Legal Team' on the top left-hand corner of all the 798 pages is neither a monochrome nor a metadata. It is actually a HEADER, meaning that except for a valid explanation, the Tinubu Presidential Legal Team is the originator of the document. For the purposes of clarity, "a header is text that is placed at the top of a page, while a footer is placed at the bottom of a page. Typically, these areas are used for inserting information such as the name of the document, the chapter heading, page numbers, creation date, and the like." On the other hand, watermark is "a faint design made in some paper during manufacture that is visible when held against the light and typically identifies the maker of the document."

"The PEPC must, on its honour if indeed it still has any, clarify why the court chose to put the



Atiku

header of the Tinubu Legal Team on a CTC copy of its judgment document, while the only emblem that should have been on the document is the stamp of the Court of Appeal of Nigeria.

"Again, the PEPC must explain why it came to the discretionary decision of having the Respondents have a custody of the judgement earlier in the day on Friday while only making same available to the Petitioners later in the day, and only after the lead counsel to Atiku and PDP had written a second letter (the first was on Thursday) to the court demanding for copies of the judgment.

"Moreover, we have it on good authority that when the PEPC was informed that the CTC copies of the judgment given to the Respondents was already circulating in the public domain with the header of TPLT on it, a further delay was necessitated by the need for it to undertake a laundry of the documents by removing the Tinubu Presidential Legal Team header before handing over same to the lawyers of Atiku.

"Whereas the legal team of the PDP and Atiku have statutory 14 days to prepare its appeal to the Supreme Court, the PEPC had

erased 2 days out of that 14 days, no thanks to the PEPC whose Chairman, Justice Tsamani had promised to make available the CTC copy of the judgment to Atiku a day after its judgement was rendered, which ought to have been on Thursday."

While emphasising the need for answers to the posers caused by controversy as the legal challenge shifts to the Supreme Court, Atiku camp said "it will validate suspicions that there were external factors involved in the formulation of the judgment and bring the entire judiciary of Nigeria into disrepute.

"Make no mistake about it. This legal challenge to the electoral banditry of February 25, which has now shifted to the apex court, is not about Atiku. It is indeed our last ditch effort to salvage our country and deepen our democracy. Against the background of the decimation of nearly all of the institutions of state including the Independent National Electoral Commission which dragged us into this quagmire, our intent is to ensure that the judiciary, the last hope of the common man does not go to the dogs."

Katsina Govt Approves N28m For Rehabilitation Of Dutsi Earth Dam

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Government has approved 28 million Naira for the total rehabilitation of Dutsi Earth Dam in Dutsi local Government area of the state.

The rehabilitation followed damage caused by termite hub at the embankment of the dam, which resulted to overflow.

The state Commissioner for Water Resources, Alhaji Hamza Sule Faskari disclosed this when he visited the dam site to see the extent of damage caused by the overflow.

He said Governor Dikko Umaru Radda's

administration is moving to reactivate the dam to its normal status to make it functional.

Alhaji Hamza Sule Faskari said all arrangements have been completed for the commencement of the repair work of the Dutsi Earth Dam.

In a remark, the Marusan Katsina District Head of Dutsi, Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Sani commended the foresight of Governor Radda for the prompt action to save the dam from collapse.

The royal father who assured traditional leaders support to Government policies and programmes urged the Government to continue to focus on the execution of peoples oriented projects.