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Tinubu Set To Unleash Regime Of Propaganda As State Policy, Atiku's Aide Alerts Nigerians

- Says "fake news regarding lifting visa ban by UAE, tip of iceberg"
- Expresses hope PDP will reclaim mandate at Supreme Court

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

An aide to the Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in 2023, Atiku Abubakar, has raised the alarm over the alleged plans by President Bola Tinubu to unleash a regime of propaganda as a policy of the state in the coming days.

Atiku's Special Assistant on Public Communication, Phrank Shaibu, said in a statement on Sunday, that the fake news regarding the lifting of the visa ban by the United Arab Emirates was just a "tip of the iceberg". Shaibu noted that Tinubu had already appointed over

15 media aides with the sole aim of pushing misinformation as a policy of state and distracting Nigerians from the deep pains his administration has caused them.

He stressed that this has always been Tinubu's style from his days as governor and leader of his party.

Atiku's aide said, "From information available to us, Bola Tinubu is set to push propaganda to overdrive as he heads out for the United Nations General Assembly. He will claim to have attracted foreign investments amounting to \$100bn but will fail to provide key details. It is all propaganda. It is all a load of baloney. In

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Strange Okra Disease In Northern Kaduna State An Epidemic -- IAR



Former Ekiti State Governor, Chief Niyi Adebayo; Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke; former President Olusegun Obasanjo and Mrs. Feyi Agagu @ the 10th anniversary of the Olusegun Agagu Foundation (OAF) held in Lagos. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

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Unions Threaten To Shutdown Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic Over Insecurity, Other Challenges

**Give Kaduna Govt ultimatum*

By; SANI ALIYU, Zaria

The in house unions of Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic Zaria, Kaduna State, have threatened to withdraw their services over the planned withdrawal of military and other security personnel around the institution.

Comrade Usman-Shehu Sulaiman, Chairman, Academic Staff Union of the Polytechnics (ASUP) Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic Chapter disclosed this during a joint press conference by the unions on Saturday in Zaria.

Sulaiman said the press conference was to inform the state government, management, parents and other key stakeholders on the security and other challenges hindering academic research, learning and other activities of the institution. He recalled that on June 11, 2021 academic staff, their families and students were abducted at the school.

The abduction forced the state government to

replace the school's security guards with military personnel and some members of Kaduna State Vigilance Service (KADVIS).

According to him, the Military and KADVIS personnel at the institution were planning to leave the college over non-payment of their four months allowances.

"The withdrawal of service by the Military at the school would put everybody at risk of abduction and other criminal acts as there are informants who will leak this development," he said.

He added that, the monthly overhead from the state government was not paid since February which makes so many challenges spring up at the school.

He said the non-payment of the overhead makes the school to delay exams and results presentations, provide identity cards to students and weed control exercises among others.

The union leader said the school was on its 13th

week of resumption, it is supposed to commence examinations, but currently, there is no booklet for such examinations.

"We will issue a one-week ultimatum to the government to address payment of the backlog of allowances to the security; if nothing was no favorable response, we would proceed on strike.

"We would ask our members residing at the staff quarters to find a l t e r n a t i v e accommodation; advise the staff residing off campus to desist from coming to the institution.

"Students would also be advised to remain at home as there will be no guarantee for their safety," he said.

Corroborating, Malam Mahmud Aliyu-Kwarbai, Chairman Non-academic Staff Union (NASU) at the school, said staff members live in constant fear of security breach.

"We don't have functional security in the school, our security was withdrawn and replaced by security personnel from Kaduna

State Vigilance Service (KADVIS).

"The KADVIS personnel attached to the school had left their beat because of the non-payment of their allowances, which lead to serious theft and vandalism of school property.

"There was an instance where thieves cut the armored cable of the school transformer in the afternoon at the annex campus of the school due to the withdrawal of services by the KADVIS personnel," Kwarbai said. He added that the Single Treasury Account (TSA) policy of the government has jeopardize the smooth running of the institution as the institution received an overhead only once since January 2023.

School's Public Relations Officer, Malam Abdullahi Shehu confirmed the development to newsmen, adding that the school management is working towards addressing the identified challenges.

However, Shehu said the Rector, Dr. Mohammed-Kabir Abdullahi has secured payment of the allowances to the military personnel at the school.

NSIB Gives Reasons Of Improved Air Safety In Nigeria

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) has said that improved air safety in the country is as a result of the quality of investigations into air accidents, serious accidents and timely release of safety reports.

In the last 10 years, according to the bureau, Nigeria's airspace has only recorded two fatal civil air crashes, resulting to the unfortunate loss of nine souls within the period.

Director-General, NSIB, Engr. Akin Olateru, the Director- General, NSIB, in a paper presented at the 7th African Aviation Summit and Exhibition in Abuja on Friday, tagged: "Nigeria Evolving Approach to Aviation Safety and Learning from Occurrence Investigation," explained that Nigeria has the best aviation safety record in the globe.

He further explained that Nigeria is now a formidable force globally

in terms of aviation safety. According to Olateru, "There are plans by the bureau, in collaboration with the Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development and the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), to review and measure the effectiveness of all safety recommendations that had been issued over the years."

He is of the opinion that would help monitor their implementation through the setting up of committees, saying that it would be unveiled in 2024.

He opined that the reduction in fatal accidents and serious incidents was not achieved overnight, explaining that in the last four years, Nigeria had only one accident per year in terms of classification.

The Director-General stated that the Bristow Helicopters crash of 2015 and Quorum Helicopters accident of 2019 were the only two civil occurrences in which fatalities were so far recorded within the period.

Strange Okra Disease In Northern Kaduna State An Epidemic -- IAR

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Director Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR), Professor Muhammad Faguji Ishiyaku has said that the strange Okra disease is an epidemic, which is prevalent in several places.

He stated this while fielding question from newsmen on the recent discovery of the strange Okra disease in Northern Kaduna State and some Southern parts of the

country.

Faguji Ishiyaku said on receiving the report of the strange Okra disease, the institute's experts swung into action and revealed that it is a virus that causes the disease.

According to the investigation, the virus is transmitted by some insects which are vectors of these disease.

Also the virus can emanate from a source and it can be an infected source that can come from anywhere.

The Director said, unfortunately, the virus diseases is unlike bacteria, it has no chemical control measures for now.

But as experts advise, the control can be indirectly by conducting a spray on the insects that spread the virus.

Professor Muhammad Faguji Ishiyaku advised farmers to spray the Okra with insecticide that will control those insects from spreading of virus.

"As IAR Scientists have

taken some samples for laboratory testing in order to identify the real virus, farmers were advised to continue with their farming by spraying insecticide with the aim of controlling the spread of the virus".

"Even though the Okra is very healthy for consumption, but next year, farmers should make sure they buy their seed from a seed company". He further advised.



Bende Fed Constituency: AA Fumes Over Conflicting Judgment In Abia Elections Petition

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The Action Alliance has expressed dismay over the National Assembly Elections Petition Tribunal in Abia State's dismissal of the case instituted by the Action Alliance (AA) against INEC and APC, challenging the election of Benjamin Kalu, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. It would be recalled that Action Alliance led by Adekunle Omo-Aje had petitioned the tribunal following the failure of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to upload the name of its candidate submitted for Bende Federal Constituency of Abia State.

Action Alliance's grievance was the failure of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to upload the name of its candidate submitted for Bende Federal Constituency of Abia State, Ifeanyi Chukwuka.

Buttressing this in his address, Daniel Anya, counsel to the AA candidate, asked the tribunal to annul Kalu's election over the exclusion of the party's name and

logo from the ballot during the polls.

The deputy speaker through his counsel, Kelvin Nwufo, however, prayed the court to dismiss the petitions for lacking merit.

While the petition was filed by Omo-Aje-led leadership, the three-member panel of judges led by Samson, Paul-Gang in its judgment, allegedly dismissed the case because another faction of the party led by one Kenneth Udeze said it never filed or authorized anyone to initiate any legal action against Kalu.

"The instant affidavit filed in support is deposed to by one Chief Barrister Kenneth Udeze, the acclaimed National Chairman of the second Petitioner (Action Alliance) while the earlier application filed on 24th July 2023 was deposed to by one IFEANYI CHUKWUKA IGBOKWE," a true copy of one of the judgments obtained by this reporter and signed by Bello Hassan, Principal Registrar of the Tribunal read.

"The difference in the two applications is that the first application was deposed to not by the applicant himself but by the National Chairman. Meanwhile, the second application was deposed by the one who bears the name of the first Petitioner, IFEANYI CHUKWUKA IGBOKWE.

"The Petitioners being the Respondents have filed two separate counter affidavits in opposition to the two applications. The earlier application had been argued before and the ruling was reserved till judgment.

"Since the subsequent application was filed after judgment had been reserved, we have seen the need to determine the two applications together at the same time since they are based on the same subject matter. Having adopted their processes before the Tribunal, we are only left with the issue of determining whether this application is grantable or not.

"After the matter was closed before the tribunal and all the

parties in the matter had made their final submissions and the panel of the tribunal was to fix a date to deliver the final judgment on the matter, we were shocked to hear another issue arose about the petition," a top member of AA said.

"While expecting the tribunal to fix a date for the final judgment on the petition filed by the AA, we learnt that the matter was allegedly withdrawn by one Kenneth Udeze, who had since been suspended and subsequently expelled from the party.

"Udeze who reportedly withdrew the matter was an impostor and an impersonator as he has no link to the party, having been expelled by the National Convention, which is the highest organ of the party. To our surprise, the purported withdrawal of the petition by the same Udeze who is not recognized by law, nor INEC prompted the tribunal panel made up of Justices Samson, Paul Gang, Kabiru Ibrahim Ahmed, and Abdulfatai Baba

Sekoni to dismiss the petition.

"Also, two conflicting judgments were delivered by the tribunal and the two different judgments were gotten by us, Omo-Aje filed a petition before you, but a few days to judgment, an impostor approached the court that he wasn't interested in the case again and the tribunal based its judgment on that, no investigation, a check on INEC website alone would have guided the tribunal that this man isn't the National Chairman of AA."

This reporter gathered that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) after the judgment Of the Competence Court gives recognition to Hon Adekunle Rufai Omoaje as the authentic national chairman of the Action Alliance (AA).

To this end, the commission updated its website, with the name of Omoaje appearing as the national chairman of the AA as against the name of one Kenneth Obidiche Udeze who was there before.

Sen Katung Vows To Make Southern Kaduna Hub Of Special Skills Acquisition

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

Sen. Sunday Katung (PDP-Kaduna South) has pledged to make Southern Kaduna region a hub for special skills acquisition.

Katung made this known while presenting scholarship awards to 200 students in Kafanchan.

New Nigerian reports that Katung, through his foundation, selected 200 students of higher institutions from the eight local government areas that make up the zone.

Represented by Mr. Edward Marshall, the lawmaker stated that the lack of white collar jobs in the country meant acquiring skills was the only way out.

According to him, the scholarship offer was borne out of the need to support financially disadvantaged students in their pursuit of higher education.

He said as part of efforts to bring educational development to his constituents, he had sponsored a bill to establish a Federal University of Technology in the



Sen Katung

zone which has passed first reading on the floor of the Senate.

"We are faced with too many crises at the same time as a people and the only way out of it is through education.

"I will continue to do my best to see to it that our people have the kind of education that brings about transformation," he added.

In his remarks, the guest speaker, Prof. John La'ah, said education is the backbone of socio-economic development, hence the need for the zone to invest heavily in education.

La'ah decried the deplorable state of educational institutions in the area and called for collective action by all stakeholders.

Also speaking, the chairperson of the

scholarship committee, Gloria Ballason, said the deserving undergraduate students were selected purely based on merit.

Ballason congratulated the benefiting students and urged them to make the most of the opportunity and also pray for its sustenance.

On his part, Shedrack Danladi, National President of the Southern Kaduna Youth and Students Forum noted that the forum is satisfied with the selection as it is reflective of the zone's ethnic and religious diversity.

Danladi stated that the senator's efforts at empowering the youth and students, is worthy of emulation by other prominent sons and daughters of the area. Some of the benefiting students who spoke, thanked the lawmaker for the gesture and promised to make him proud.

They also prayed God to grant the lawmaker the enablement to do more for students from the zone.

Court Nullifies el-Rufai's Order Banishing Deposed Piriga Paramount Ruler, Zamuna

By; AMOS TAUNA,
Kaduna

A Kaduna High Court on Tuesday, nullified a Kaduna State government restriction of movement order placed on the deposed paramount ruler of Piriga Chiefdom, Lere Local Government Area of the state, His Royal Highness, Chief Jonathan Parguwa Zamuna.

Delivering judgement on the case of breach of Fundamental Rights, Honourable Justice Nasiru U. Sadiq said the banishing order runs contrary to section 41, subsection 1 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) which 'states that every citizen of Nigeria is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria and to reside in any part thereof, and no citizen of Nigeria shall be expelled from Nigeria or refused entry thereby or exit therefrom'.

The Kaduna High Court sitting in Kafanchan, had three weeks ago, nullified similar restriction of movement order placed on the deposed traditional ruler of Arak Chiefdom in Sanga Council Area, His Royal Highness, retired Brigadier General Iliya Yammah.

The court also ordered Kaduna state government to pay Chief Yammah five million Naira damages for breach of fundamental rights.

Immediate past Governor, Malam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai had on May 22, 2023, announced the deposition of the two paramount rulers, stating "the depositions followed recommendations from the Ministry of Local Government Affairs in line with the provisions of Section 11 of the Traditional Institutions Law No. 21 of 2021", a statement signed by the Commissioner for Local Government Affairs, Hajiya Umma Ahmad, disclosed.

Reacting to the court's ruling, the lead Counsel to Chief Zamuna, Barrister Napoleon O. Idenala expressed satisfaction, even though dismayed that the defendants did not



Piriga deposed paramount ruler.

appear in court or counter any of the applicant's claims, having a High Court sitting at Kafanchan, recently declared a similar action of the government as illegal and void.

Barrister Napoleon explained further the magnitude of trauma the deposed chief suffered since the banishment order was placed on him, having lost his wife, brother and sister within a space of four months; however, he reserved comment on whether to appeal the refusal of the court to award any damages despite claiming for 250 million Naira, even though the court found that there was no defence and the claimants fundamental rights had been breached.

The lead counsel also stated further, that there is a case of the deposed Chief filed at the National Industrial Court, sitting in Kaduna, praying the court to void his deposition and reinstate him back to his throne because the action of the government in

doing so was arbitrary and without regards to the provisions of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

He had filed an action at the National Industrial Court sitting in Kaduna, challenging the legality of his deposition.

Upon his deposition, he was more or less banished to his house. Initially, the government wanted to banish him to an unknown house in Unguwan Rimi, Kaduna, which he refused. The government subsequently took him to his own house in Kaduna South and placed him literary under house arrest, by restricting his freedom of movement, with security stationed in front of his house.

He gave a chronology of sad event that happened while Chief Zamuna has been on house arrest, saying that someone needs to be in his shoes before he can understand the magnitude of trauma His Highness is going through under the house arrest he has been subjected to. "It

was barely three weeks after his wife of over forty years died when the government announced his deposition," he explained.

He continued; "While under house arrest, his younger brother took ill and was admitted in a hospital in Abuja; the government denied him permission to visit him; when he later died July, still, he was denied permission to see his remains, yet, his request to attend his burial was denied and until after the burial that he received a letter from the government telling him that he can now attend the burial already done.

"After the death of his brother, his nephew also died in Sanga area, yet, he could not attend the burial," he explained.

However, the defendant was not in court for their response, as he did not appear in court throughout while the case was heard, till when judgement was delivered.

Police Arrest Bandit Who Murdered Katsina DPO

***Pedophile, notorious kidnapper, others also nabbed**

By; SULAIMAN
AHMED MISAU,
Katsina

Recent achievements of Katsina State Command of the Nigeria Police Force in the ongoing fight against all forms of crime and criminalities in the state has led to the arrest of a wanted suspected notorious Armed Bandit, Saidu Yaro "alias Sabon Jini" who conspired with three others to ambush the late Area Police Commander, Dutsinma, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Aminu Umar in an encounter that led to the deaths of the officer and one another Police officer. The command also arrested a suspected informant to bandits, gunman, Ibrahim Abdullahi alias Dogo and recovered four hundred and four (404) rounds of 7.62 MM live ammunition. However, a suspected 65-year old pedophile, Haruna Wanzam alias "Baba Tsoho" and a suspected notorious kidnapper, Saminu Usman were also arrested by the Katsina state Police Command.

Parading the suspects before newsmen at the command headquarters in Katsina metropolis, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu said, "on September 2, 2023, at about 22:30 hours, based on credible intelligence, the command succeeded in arresting a 35 year old Ibrahim Abdullahi alias Dogo, of Sabon Garin Dunburawa village, Batsari Local Government Area a suspected notorious arms smuggler.

ASP Sadiq Aliyu said during the course of the investigation, the suspect was trailed and arrested at Rahamawa quarters. upon instant search, four hundred and four (404) rounds of 7.62mm live ammunition were recovered in his possession.

ASP Aliyu disclosed that, in the course of interrogation, the suspect, Ibrahim Abdullahi

confessed to the commission of the offense and further stated that he received the exhibits alongside one Yakuba, alias Dan Kwandago, of Kankara Local Government Area and one Salisu at Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State, all at large. "Efforts are on with a view to arresting the fleeing suspects as the investigation is ongoing," he added.

Similarly, on August 30, 2023, at about 17:30 hours, he said based on credible intelligence, the command succeeded in arresting a 30 year old Saidu Yaro, alias "Sabon Jini," of Tsaskiya Village, Safana Local Government Area, a suspected notorious armed bandit who has been on the command's wanted list for series of offenses such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, and other heinous crimes.

ASP Aliyu said nemesis caught up with the suspect, Sabon Jini when he was arrested in connection with the kidnapping of one Hussaini Nabara, 'm', of Kagara Village, Dutsin-ma Local Government Area.

The PRO further said that, "During the course of the investigation, it was revealed that the suspect, under the command of one Abubakar Jankare, a suspected notorious bandit leader, conspired with one (1) Usman Modi-Modi, 'm', (2) Auta Nokia, 'm', and (3) Sule Malam Aibo, amongst others, now at large, to ambush the late Area Commander Dutsinma, ACP Aminu Umar, in an encounter that led to the deaths of the officer and one other officer (may their souls continue to rest in peace) and the suspect confessed to the commission of the offense."

Also, the Command succeeded in arresting a 19-year old Saminu Usman of Tsambe village, Jibia Local Government Area a suspected notorious kidnapper, in connection with a case of kidnapping perpetrated on May 14, 2023, at Tashar Hurera

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Kaduna Govt Set To Promote Open Governance Through Youth Inclusiveness -Commissioner

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

In its quest to effectively deliver dividends of democracy, Kaduna State Government has once again harped on importance of youth inclusiveness in governance as panacea for transparency and accountability.

This was the position of the Commissioner for Planning and Budget, Mukhtar Ahmed Monrovia at an engagement over the weekend in Kaduna to create awareness on youth participation in politics and governance organized by Open Gov Youth Innovation Hub and Partnership To Engage, Reform and Learn with the support of the United Kingdom.

The commissioner, represented by Tara Jeremiah, Point Of Contact (POC) Open Government Partnership Kaduna State said since the launching of OGP Strategy by United Nations in 2011, key achievements have been recorded globally in promoting transparency and accountability in governance and above all, youth involvement in areas of policy and execution.

He noted that key strategic plans have been implemented by the state government in its drive to enhance timely delivery of infrastructure and improve lives of citizens.

"Since 2018 when Kaduna State Government joined the OGP initiative, remarkable feats and progress have been made.

"We have fully implemented our 2021 - 2023 Action Plan, the second and are earnestly preparing for the third one, which I assure you will give teeth to an overall goal of the essence of open governance and all what it entails.

"The principles shall be continuously adhered to for the good, progress and development of our communities," he said.

Earlier, in his remarks, facilitator of the programme Yusuf Ishaku Goje stressed the need for youth to be active in governance, saying it would go a long way in ensuring a better deal for the general populace.

He said youth, due to their significant numbers, should have the leverage of determining the swinging direction of the pendulum in relation to governance.

Goje insisted that the youth by virtue of their numerical strength, should not be walked over by policy makers, expressing optimism that government of the youth, by the youth and for the youth would strengthen youth innovation and contributions in governance.

He charged young people to get involved in processes of budget initiation, planning and



implementation as an opportunity to change the course of history.

Another facilitator of the OGP, Mubarak AbdulGaniyu decried passive nature of Nigerian youth in engaging actively with their elected representatives in order to ensure delivery of campaign promises.

"This is our motivation of engaging young people from the academia to instill sustainable interest in them to get to decision-making table of policies and governance.

"We have a legal framework in section 14 of 1999 Constitution which spells out citizens

participation in governance and decision-making processes.

"We have participants drawn from Kaduna State University, Kaduna Polytechnic, AFIT among others because participation in governance is not taught in schools, which makes our young graduates vulnerable to effects of bad governance within their respective communities.

"We want to change the narratives and negative trends of lack of participation by citizens in governance by creating awareness that could be sustained of making young people see the imperative to

getting involved in policymaking process.

Grassroots governance advocate, Sumayya Abdullahi Rigasa added her voice by calling on the female gender to leverage on the opportunity provided by civil societies to increase the number of women participation in politics and governance.

She said, women could no longer be relegated to the background in the scheme of affairs in the country, adding that with their significant number, they could decide their future and those of their children.



Korea Energy Conference Will Boost Nigeria's Power Sector - Adelabu

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu has hinted that Nigeria is set to benefit from the ongoing Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAFEC 2023) Conference.

The minister disclosed this in Busan, Korea at the ongoing KOAFEC 2023 Ministerial conference.

According to Chief Adelabu, the benefits for Nigeria as a country would be in areas of Energy security, sustainable development, investment opportunities, knowledge sharing and capacity building and clean energy transition.

He maintained that with the increasing global focus on mitigating climate change, the conference provides a platform for discussions on clean energy transition, saying, "This can result in increased foreign direct investment, job creation, and technology transfer in the energy sector".

The minister emphasized that additional benefits from the conference will include knowledge sharing and capacity building, adding, "We will explore collaborations with South Korea to adopt low-carbon technologies, promote renewable energy deployment, and develop sustainable energy policies".

"This will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting climate resilience, and achieving the targets of the Paris Agreements. The conference facilitates knowledge sharing and capacity building initiatives between South Korea and African countries", he said.

The minister added, "It allows for the exchange of best practices, experiences, and expertise in energy planning, policy development, and implementation".

"Our country can benefit from South Korea's advanced technologies and strategies for energy development, which can help build local capacity

and strengthen institutional frameworks".

On Energy Security, one of the key areas the country can benefit, Chief Adelabu noted that the conference will address issues of energy diversification, reducing dependency on fossil fuels and promoting renewable energy.

The minister stressed, "This will enable us to explore partnerships and strategies to enhance our energy security and reduce vulnerability to price fluctuations and supply disruptions", he said.

Emphasizing that energy plays a vital role in achieving sustainable development goals, such as poverty reduction, improved healthcare, education, and economic growth, Chief Adelabu said the conference provides, "a platform to discuss sustainable energy solutions, including renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency measures, and clean cooking solutions, which can contribute to our sustainable development agenda".

He stressed that the conference will also serve as platform for creating investment opportunities in the energy sector, saying "South Korea, with its expertise in technology and infrastructure development, will use this opportunity to explore partnerships and investment avenues in African countries".

The conference has as its theme: 'Embracing a sustainable future: Just Energy Transition and Agricultural Transformation in Africa', is being co-hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) with the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Korea.

The conference provides an opportunity for policymakers, ministers, and representatives from both regions to discuss and address key challenges and opportunities related to energy development and sustainability.



Chief Adebayo Adelabu and others at the Korea Conference

Holy Pilgrimage: Our Tool for Believer's Faith Strengthening - UfitFly

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The team leader of UfitFly Evangelist Ajibola Ogunkeyede has said the purposes of pilgrimage is to deepen the connection of Christian faithful with God, feel connected to the worldwide community of Christians. Evangelist Ogunkeyede stated this while receiving a top Israeli tour broker, Mr. Israel Goldstein of Ophir Tours to the general overseer of Seed of Christ Golden Church, Lagos, Prophet SMO Mustapha popularly known as Baba Sebioba.

He listed other purposes of the pilgrimage to also include meeting Christians from different denominations, learning more about and feel connected to the history of Christianity and seeing sites where miracles happened and receive special blessings.

Evangelist Ogunkeyede stressed that the purpose of the visit by the top Israel tour broker is to meet with some distinguished ministers of God that have been supporting the vision of strengthening the faith of Nigerian believers through pilgrimage journeys to Holy Lands of

Israel and Jordan that are being championed by UfitFly.

"Keeping up with our evangelism of preaching pilgrimage, the Ufitfly team storms Seed of Christ Golden Church in Lagos together with Mr. Israel Goldstein of Ophir Tours all the way from Israel and Mr. Solomon Nwachukwu and Evang. Jesugbemi GIG paid a courtesy visit to our father Prophet SMO Mustapha Baba Sebioba." he said

Speaking, Prophet Sebioba while hosting the pilgrimage crew, hinted of his plan to lead over 500 pilgrims to the Holy land

in the coming year, relishing how he has for years, been leading the people of God for holy pilgrimage exercise.

"In 2023, Ufitfly returned to Israel with greater ambition and success, and overall, we are extremely encouraged and excited for the several milestones and chapters to come," he said.

Prophet Sebioba added, " We will continue to guide our pilgrims on a transformative journey, affirming our position as a visionary travel company dedicated to providing unparalleled travel experiences."



Evangelist Ajibola Ogunkeyede and others during the visit

FIRS: Adedeji's Appointment As Acting Chairman, Welcome Development - Senator Alli

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Senator representing Oyo South Senatorial District, Senator Sharafadeen Alli has congratulated Dr. Zacchaeus Adedeji, the Special Adviser to President Bola Tinubu on Revenue, on his appointment as acting Chairman of Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

Senator Alli in a statement personally signed by him on Thursday, said Dr. Adedeji's appointment is not just a testament to his outstanding track records

in public service, but recognition of his immense contributions towards national growth and development.

The Senator pointed out that Dr. Adedeji as Special Adviser to the President, exhibited a high level of competence, dexterity and commitment in the discharge of his duties.

Senator Alli maintained that Dr. Adedeji's appointment as acting Chairman of FIRS, a critical institution in revenue generation and management of Nigeria's resources, is well-deserved.

"We hereby congratulate

Dr. Zacchaeus Adedeji on his recent appointment as the acting Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)", he said.

Senator Alli added, "This appointment is not just a testament to his outstanding track records in public service, but also a recognition of his immense contributions towards national growth and development".

According to Senator Alli, Dr Adedeji possesses the requisite knowledge, skills, and experience to steer the affairs of FIRS, and thereby, expressed that he has the capability to

further strengthen the agency's capacity towards achieving its mandate of revenue collection and administration.

Emphasizing that the appointment is coming at a time when Nigeria needs individuals with deep sense of professionalism and integrity to manage critical institutions such as FIRS, Senator Alli wished Adedeji a successful tenure as acting Chairman of FIRS, and expressed confidence that under his leadership, the agency would achieve greater heights.

UTRI Conducts Public Awareness Campaign On Climate Change, Environmental Protection

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

A senior Official who is working to ensure the success of environmental protection through the care of trees, especially in cities, that is the Urban Tree Revival Initiative (UTRI), Hadiza Badamasi, has conducted a community rally, for men and women who went around the city of Kaduna with the aim of informing the public about the importance of trees in cities to protect the environment.

Hadiza Badamasi told reporters in Kaduna that they have organized a public rally that went around the city of Kaduna on the streets, including the main market of Kaduna that is (Central Market) with the aim of making everyone aware of their actions.

"The main reason for this public rally is to make everyone aware of the issue of climate change and its effects on the social life of humans in the society. improving and protecting the environment from all other harmful effects that threaten the environment in the community," she said.

Hadiza added that, "this will help even the government as an agency to continue to do what is right, and the authorities and people will continue to be aware of the issues of climate change and its effects on the environment and that will be very helpful in embracing all the provisions of the climate change management laws."

Speaking to reporters at the rally, Dr. Umar Haire, the Chief Officer in charge of Garbage and Disposal of the Kaduna Capital Territory Authority, (KCTA), called on the entire community to ensure that they continue to give full cooperation and support to all the policies and things that government has come up with because everything that the government does is for the people's benefit.

"So let's embrace government plans and do the right thing, we are assuring the public that I don't think there is any community that finds itself in the problem of flooding all the time.

"We have done everything that is necessary to say that the water channels have been desilted and cleared, we have removed everything that is not wanted which has given us the opportunity to successfully open the waterways. If you go to Kaduna River, you will see that government worked for the benefit of the entire people and now water is moving smoothly". He explained.

According to him, that is why some states are emulating what Kaduna State is doing to repair water channels because of the efforts made by the government to have good water channels.

"Because the government has invested a lot of money to ensure that the Kaduna River is dredged, as a result of which water flows to the place as needed without any problem.

"With this kind of efforts by the Kaduna State Government, we hope that there will be no problem that the NIMet predicted will happen, that there may be floods, that's why we are explaining that with the efforts of the government, this will be nothing but historic and that is why we are calling on other stakeholders to join hands with us, namely the Kaduna State Government, to see what others are predicting, doesn't happen in all of our society.

"Because Kaduna is ours, that's why we are calling on all the people to know that Kaduna is our city, so it is appropriate that we do everything possible to protect our city so that we can have a beautiful city and a better life, indeed, in the effort to achieve that, everyone is required to put their hands in with the intention of contributing to the government's efforts," he appealed.

Olubadan To CMDs: Come Up With Workable Approach To End Striking In Health Sector

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Olubadan of Ibadan, Oba Lekan Balogun has charged heads of teaching hospitals and medical centers owned by the Federal Government to come up with robust and workable approach that will stem incessant industrial actions in the health sector

Oba Balogun gave the charge while playing host to the heads of the Teaching Hospitals and Federal Medical Centres under the aegis of the Committee of Chief Medical Directors and Medical Directors of Federal Tertiary Hospitals (CCMDFTH) during a courtesy visit to him.

The royal father maintained that the notoriety the nation's health sector has assumed of recent when it comes to industrial action "calls for concern and serious brainstorming".

Oba Balogun pointed out that the ongoing Committee's 103rd regular meeting being hosted by the University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, saying, "the ongoing conference of the committee is a veritable platform to thrash out the issue.



"I urge you to please use this occasion of your gathering together to discuss the menace and proffer workable and lasting solutions to the problem. In doing this, I want you to be open-minded and considerate of the general situation in the country", he said.

Oba Balogun added, "You are to bear in mind that where two elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. Let the love of our people be your guiding talk-point.

"It is an established fact that there are some irreducible minimum conditions under which you can function effectively and efficiently which I believe the present nation's leadership would not deny. Let your relationship with it be more of dialogue rather

than confrontation, bearing in mind that the sincerity of purpose of Mr. President is never in doubt from his displayed posture so far".

While wishing the medical practitioners a happy stay in his domain, Oba Balogun promised that he would interact with his colleague Obas across the country to lend traditional voice to their demands as occasion may demand.

The Olubadan urged them to feel free to relate with the traditional institution as partners in progress for the well-being of the citizenry.

Chairman of the committee, Prof. Emem Abasi Basse, urged the Olubadan to use his influence to help in whatever way he could to assist in addressing some of their challenges

described as numerous.

"We have a lot of challenges which we won't bore you with, but, we can't but mention that of power supply. Your hospital here, the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan is groaning under a heavy burden of electricity bill", he said

Professor Basse added, "We would appreciate it, if Your Majesty's could help reach out to the state government in a way to come to our aid. This is just one out of our various challenges which we are brainstorming over at our meeting. On behalf of our Committee, I thank Your Majesty for making time out to receive us as our meeting would not complete without this visit".



IGP Egbotekun

Police Arrest Bandit Who Murdered Katsina DPO

***Pedophile, notorious kidnapper, others also nabbed**

village in Jibia Local Government Area.

ASP Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu said, "the fact of the case is that on the same date, a report of kidnapping of one Usman Shu'aibu, 'm', age five years old, of Tashar Hurera village, Jibia LGA, was received at the Jibia Divisional Police Headquarters through one Shu'aibu Salisu, 'm', of the same address. On that faithful day, the kidnapers contacted the father of the victim and demanded the sum of six hundred thousand Naira (600,000.00) and three (3) Android phones as ransom, to which the father obliged and secured the release of his son."

ASP Sadiq Aliyu said upon received of the report, Police detectives were detailed to investigate and succeeded in tracking down and arresting the suspect in Lambata, Niger State.

During the course of the investigation, the PPRO said, the suspect confessed to the commission of the offense and further stated that, "he conspired with one Rabe, 'm', now at

large, to perpetrate the heinous act."

On the arrest of the suspected Sixty-five (65)-year old pedophile, ASP Aliyu said on September 7, 2023, the command arrested the suspect, Haruna Wanzam, alias Baba Tsoho of Abuja quarters, Katsina Metroplis, a suspected pedophile, who sexually molested a four-year-old girl.

According to the PPRO, nemesis caught up with the suspect when a report was received against him at the Dandagoro Divisional Police Headquarters through the father of the victim, stressing that, upon receipt of the report, detectives promptly swung into action and succeeded in arresting the suspect.

ASP Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu said during the course of the investigation, it was revealed that the suspect took advantage of the absence of the girl's parents, who were away on a visit, and lured and molested the girl. saying that, the suspect confessed to the commission of the

My Mission Is To Put Ogbomosho In Its Rightful Place - Oba Olaoye

By: **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The newly installed Soun of Ogbomosho, Oba Afolabi Olaoye has said his mission is not to make money or name on the throne as Soun of Ogbomosho.

Oba Olaoye who made this known while speaking during his coronation ceremony on Thursday in his inaugural speech when he addressed residents of Ogbomosho, declared that his aim is to put Ogbomosho in its rightful place.

The Soun of Ogbomosho

urged the aggrieved people in the town to unite with him for the development and that it is God that sent him to rebuild the city and to work for its progress.

"Ogbomosho will be different. In terms of development, Ogbomosho will be different in terms of peace, Ogbomosho will be different. I want you to know it is a new thing in Ogbomosoland. Imole tuntun lo de yi (A new light has come). Ire tuntun lo de yi (A new goodness has come), he said.

Oba Olaoye added, "Many knew what has been

happening, what we have passed through, but we will leave that behind us. Those who are aggrieved, let us unite for the development of Ogbomosoland

"Let us unite so we can move Ogbomosho forward. Let us eschew violence, if we love this city we will rebuild it together. It is God that sent me to rebuild this city, to work for the progress of this city".

The new Soun stressed, "We have not come to the throne to make wealth, God has given us wealth; we have not come to make

a name, God has given us that. To put Ogbomosho in its rightful place is our goal. I assure you, we will make Ogbomosho greater.

"What we have come to do in Ogbomosho has started today, the development of Ogbomosho has started today, new glory has started. Things will change. Good things such as industries will spring up, not one but many. God will give us many.

"I don't talk much, it is action you will see, What did I say? That is what you will see in the name of the Lord."



New Soun of Ogbomosho

RIFAN Felicitates New Kaduna Agric Perm Sec

By: **IBRAHIMADAMU, Kaduna**

Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria (RIFAN) has expressed satisfaction over the choice of Alh Abba Umar to serve in the ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as a permanent secretary.

In a congratulatory message signed by Kaduna State Chairman of RIFAN, Mohammed Umar Numbu and made

available to journalists in Kaduna, the rice farmers lauded the magnanimity of the state governor towards appointing a seasoned administrator and grassroots mobilizer in the person of Abubakar Abba to serve as Permanent Secretary in the agricultural sector of the state's economy.

The statement also expressed optimism in the ability and capacity of the new Permanent Secretary

to work assiduously towards the realization of the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Tinubu and Governor Uba Sani, adding that the new Permanent Secretary has contributed immensely towards farmers' growth and development during his tenure as Vice Chairman of Sanga Local Government Council of Kaduna State.

The Chairman of the Rice Farmers Association of

Nigeria, however, appealed to the new Permanent Secretary in the ministry of agriculture to redouble efforts towards uplifting farmers, especially in the new regime of subsidy removal.

The association further prayed for God's guidance and protection as well as the desired wisdom to enable the new Permanent Secretary succeed on his new assignment.

Kaduna Govt Commissions Livestock Development Project

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Government has commissioned Livestock Development Project (L-PRES) office to increase livestock production and reduce farmers-herders conflict in the state.

Murtala Dabo, Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, said this on Thursday, during the inauguration of the office of L-PRES in Kaduna.

He said the inauguration of the office is part of the state government's

commitment towards the health and welfare of livestock population in line with global best practices.

He said the goal of the project is to improve livestock productivity, resilience and commercialisation of value chain, as well as increase the state's capacity to respond to emergencies in the livestock industry.

Dabo also said the project aimed at tackling the frequent clashes between farmers and herdsmen by focusing on conflict management towards

finding a lasting solution to the problem.

He said the state is successful in widespread vaccination of livestock against transboundary diseases, hence the need to key into the project.

According to him, the livestock market is a huge business, particularly for meat and dairy products, that could generate revenue and create employment for youth in the state.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Shittu Hashim, State Project Coordinator L-PRES, said the project is a six-year initiative of the

World Bank and the state government to improve livestock productivity.

He said the office is part of the state government's contribution to fast track the implementation of the project.

Hashim said the project was designed to address the challenges associated with livestock production, including lack of access to grazing areas, water drinking points, rustling and transboundary diseases.

He said the state would key into the cattle, poultry, sheep and goat value chain.



Makinde Approves Appointment Of Oyebola As New Aseyin Of Iseyin

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde on Thursday, approved the appointment of Prince Sefiu Olawale Oyebola as the Aseyin of Iseyin. The governor gave the approval in a memo signed on Thursday, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by subsections 1 and 2 of the Chiefs' Law, Cap. 28, Volume I, Laws of Oyo State of Nigeria, 2000. According to a statement

by the Oyo State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters, Honourable Olusegun Olayiwola, the approval is a culmination of a series of processes stipulated by the extant laws of the state regarding ascension to royal thrones.

In the statement, Governor Makinde congratulated the new Aseyin-Elect, praying that his tenure will usher in greater developments to Iseyin.



Prince Sefiu Oyebola

Oyo Govt To Demolish Illegal Properties On Proposed Games Village

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Commissioner for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Williams Akin-Funmilayo has hinted that the state government will soon commence demolition of illegal property and structures built on government land in Akanran, Ona-Ara local government.

The commissioner who said this in a chat with journalists, warned those

encroaching on the land to vacate the government land with immediate effect.

According to the commissioner, it has been observed that a lot of people in the state have encroached on government lands, and that "this is disturbing the masterplan of the state".

He stressed that the Omituntun 2.0 agenda will not leave any stone unturned in making Oyo State a good place to live in, adding that the

government properties illegally built upon in Akanran is the proposed land for the State Games village.

The Commissioner maintained that the decision of demolition by the government brings an end to the long-awaited realization of the proposed game village project, which has been in the pipeline since 25 years ago.

Mr. Akin Funmilayo stressed further that most

occupants and developers claiming ownership of the land have fake documents and anyone who refuses to vacate the government land within the stipulated period will be forcefully evicted by law.

The commissioner therefore, called on the people of the state to visit the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development for any enquiry regarding land issues before purchasing any land.

Tinubu Set To Unleash Regime Of Propaganda As State Policy, Atiku's Aide Alerts Nigerians

■ Says "fake news regarding lifting visa ban by UAE, tip of iceberg"
 ■ Expresses hope PDP will reclaim mandate at Supreme Court

India, he claimed they had received pledges of over \$14bn just as his predecessor, President Muhammadu Buhari, claimed in 2018 that he had secured pledges of up to \$6bn. This is nothing but audio investments. "Last month, the NNPC claimed to have obtained a loan of \$3bn with which it would help stabilise the Naira. We raised the alarm that it was all a ruse to deceive Nigerians. Now, we have been justified as the naira is now approaching \$1/N1,000 on the black market. "After his trip to the UAE, Tinubu claimed the visa ban had been lifted immediately. Now, they have shifted the goalpost after the UAE authorities revealed that the news was false. This is the sort of embarrassment Nigeria will continue to attract in this season of balablu. "The report by FTSE

revealed that Tinubu's so-called FX unification policy was failing and Nigeria was degraded from frontier market to unclassified. Having failed to bring economic rebirth, he has now recruited over 15 media aides instead of recruiting more economic experts. "His list of media aides include: Ajuri Ngelale (Special Adviser Media and Publicity); Tunde Rahman (SSAP Media); Tope Ajayi (SSAP Media and Publicity); Abdulaziz Abdulaziz (SSAP Print Media); Otega Ogara (SSAP Digital/New Media); Segun Dada (SAP Social Media); Nosa Asemota (SAP Visual Communications); Sunday Moses (PA Videography); Taiwo Okonlawon (PA State photography); Moremi Ojudu (SAP, community engagement southwest);

Tanko Yakasai (SAP, community engagement northwest); Chioma Nweze (SAP, community engagement southeast); Abiodun Essiet (SAP, community engagement north-central); Abdulhamid Yahaya Abba (SAP, community engagement northeast); Emmanuella Eduozor (SAP Multimedia content production). This is apart from the minister of information and others appointed in the ministry to drive the propaganda agenda." Shaibu said it was laughable that Tinubu, who vowed to hit the ground running from the first day, had held only one cabinet meeting since his inauguration nearly 120 days ago. He asked Nigerians to remain patient as the Supreme Court prepares to commence work on the

election petition appeal. "Tinubu removed the petrol subsidy without any plan whatsoever and decided to hand over a few bags of rice to millions of poor Nigerians. Till date, the minimum wage remains N30,000 or \$31 per month based on the parallel market exchange rate. "This is the punishment Nigerians are facing because the election management body failed to do its work on February 25. This is a manifestation of the words of the Holy Book, which says when the righteous lead, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people suffer. "In the meantime, we ask Nigerians to remain patient as the judicial authorities do their job in righting the electoral fraud that has brought Nigerians to their knees."

Gombe Governor Mourns, As District Head Of Kuri Dies At 84

*Sends condolences to family members, Kuri Community, Deba Emirate

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya CON has received with sadness the passing of Alhaji Badamasi Ahmadu, District Head of Kuri in Yamaltu Deba Local Government Area who died today at the age of 84. A statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Sunday September 17, 2023, said that Governor Inuwa noted that the late traditional leader had during his 23 years of service as the district head, made invaluable contributions to the peace and harmony within his domain and the entire state. He said, "the leadership of the late Alhaji Badamasi was characterized by wisdom, compassion, and a genuine concern for the well-being of those under his care. He played a great role in our administration's drive for peace and harmony within his district and beyond, leaving

an indelible mark on the hearts and lives of his community members." Governor Inuwa Yahaya therefore, called on those left behind by Alhaji Badamasi Ahmadu to honour his memory by sustaining his legacy of selfless service, peace, and community development. In this time of mourning, Governor Inuwa Yahaya, on behalf of the government and people of Gombe State, conveyed his deepest condolences to the Emir of Deba, HRH Alhaji Ahmad Usman Muhammad, the Deba Emirate Council, and, in particular, the Kuri community. He prayed Almighty Allah to forgive the shortcomings of the deceased traditional leader and reward his good deeds with Aljannat Firdaus. Meanwhile, a statement from Deba Emirate indicates that the funeral prayer for the late District Head has been scheduled to hold today by 4: PM at Kuri, Yamaltu Deba Local Government.

Peace Week 2023: Kaduna NGOs Empower 100s Of IDPs With Education, Religious Tolerance

By: USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

As the world anticipates International Peace Day on September 21, 2023, several non-governmental organizations in Kaduna have embarked on a week-long journey to nurture hope and enlightenment among the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

From September 16th to the 21st, the Network of Peace Journalists (NNPJ) and Eko Smile Support & Empowerment Initiative (ESSEI), in collaboration with the Interfaith Mediation Center (IMC), orchestrated a series of events that ignited the spirits of young minds. One of the highlights of this initiative was a captivating reading and

writing competition designed exclusively for IDP teenagers. This competition was crafted with the intention of sowing the seeds of literacy and fostering a culture of peace among the displaced youth. The National President of the Nigeria Network of Peace Journalists (NNPJ), in a statement, underscored the significance of this

endeavor. He spoke from the heart, emphasizing the importance of instilling peace education into the young souls inhabiting the IDP camp. His words resonated at the Maraban Rido Internally Displaced Persons camp, situated in the Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, North Western Nigeria.

Insecurity: Crush Terrorists, Bandits, Criminals In Your Areas Of Responsibility, CDS Charges Commanders

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Christopher Musa, has enjoined operational commanders not to spare any terrorist, bandit or criminal in their various areas of responsibility. The Chief of Defence Staff gave the charge on Saturday at the closing of the maiden Defence Headquarters Joint Task Force Commanders Conference with the theme: "Towards Enhancing Joint Task Force Operations for National Security", held in Abuja. According to him, the charge was apt and in line with President Bola Tinubu's directive to the armed forces and other security agencies to deal decisively with all threats to national security. He also charged them to remain focused, dedicated and committed towards ensuring that they achieved the mandates of the president that no terrorist, bandit or criminal should be spared in any part of the country. The conference, he said, had afforded them to discussed the challenges they face, shared their experiences and lessons learned, and collectively charted a course for the future. According to the CDS, the knowledge gained, relationships forged and the

ideas generated during the conference would significantly contribute to the effectiveness and success of ongoing joint operations. "One of the key takeaways from our discussions has been the importance of unity of effort. He noted, "As commanders, it is imperative that we foster a culture of cooperation, collaboration and synergy among our forces." By breaking down barriers, sharing resources, and leveraging each other's strengths, he believed they can maximise their collective impact and achieve their shared objectives. He stressed that there is the need for them to bring the spirit of 'jointness' back to their respective task forces and integrate it into their daily operations, adding that there is the need to reform the structures of the various operations was keenly noted and will be considered. The CDS assured the commanders that all identified operational challenges would be addressed to ensure operational effectiveness in all theatres of operation and also urged the commanders to always encourage and empower their troops to think creatively to challenge conventional wisdom and embrace change as they strive for continuous improvement.

Bandits Kill Two Persons, Abduct Three Others, Cart Six Motorcycles In Kaduna Community

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Bandits on Friday, attacked Dogon Noma village, Maro Ward in Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State, killing two persons, abducting three others and taking away six motorcycles. The damage was done before the villagers raised the alarm while their community was being attacked by the bandits.

A source who spoke, said the bandits invaded the community in the early hours of Friday with guns and other dangerous weapons and attacked houses and anyone in sight. According to him, "We have raised the alarm immediately these criminal elements stormed the village. Security men later came and pursued them out of the area." He explained that by the

time they took the inventory of the damages done to their people and property, they recovered two bodies, while they could not account for three others, lamenting that six bikes were also taken away during the attack. According to him, they have buried the two persons that lost their lives during the unfortunate incident and appealed to the state government and

security agents to help rescue their people that were kidnapped and see what they can do to avoid any future occurrence. The acting Public Relations Officer for the Kaduna State Police Command, ASP Mansir Hassan confirmed the incident. He said that, "yes, the police are doing all their best to rescue the victims unhurt".

Kogi Speaker Shines As Nigeria Parliamentary Leaders Conclude 2023 Conference

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

The Speaker of Kogi State House of Assembly, Rt Hon Aliyu Umar Yusuf was a cynosure among Speakers of Assemblies in Nigeria at the 2023 Speakers' Conference held in Abuja where new leadership emerged. Being a first time attendant to the event owing to being a first time speaker, Rt Hon Yusuf's leadership qualities instantaneously hit the entire conference with many lobbying him to broker understanding for their emergence in the various positions they vied for. His role was obvious to all as he received pats from his colleagues upon the pronouncement of the new leadership. To him, the event was an avenue to network and ensure unity among heads of parliaments in states of the country. He also sees the

conference as an opportunity to work closely with his colleagues across the country on how best to take the arm of government forward and attract development to states of the federation. In his usual modesty however, the speaker's reaction is more of giving accolades to his colleagues for their show of best parliamentary practice for Africa, saying he had learnt a lot in the course of the programme. To him, democracy was in its finest form during the entire meeting and process of leadership emergence. In his words, while congratulating his Oyo State colleague for being elected as the new Chairman of the Conference, he said the possibility of growth among Nigerian parliamentarians through the organisation is huge.



Governor Inuwa Yahaya Mourns Chiroman Dukku, Engr Yakubu Rasheed

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has expressed profound sadness over the demise of Engr. Yakubu Abdulkadir Rasheed (Chiroman Dukku) who died today at the age of 53 after a brief illness.

A statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, said Governor Inuwa described Engr. Yakubu's life as "one marked by unwavering commitment to the development of community, state and the nation, leaving an indelible mark on our dear Gombe State."

He recalled the meritorious services rendered by the deceased in various capacities, especially when he served the state diligently as the Chairman of the Gombe State Water Board, contributing to the improvement of the state's infrastructure and public services.

He said, "Engr. Yakubu A. Rasheed had always displayed passion and

unwavering commitment to the betterment of our state. He was a grassroots politician par excellence and staunch supporter and chieftain of our great party the All Progressives Congress (APC). He had played a significant role in the party's growth and victory within our dear state. His commitment was further exemplified through his service on the 2023 APC Presidential Campaign Council. Indeed his memory will remain etched in our hearts, and his absence will be sorely felt".

The Governor, on behalf of the government and people of Gombe State, conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members, especially his sister and former first lady of Gombe State, Hajiya Aishatu Abubakar Hashidu; the Emir of Dukku, His Royal Highness, Alhaji Haruna Kadir Rasheed, II, CON and the entire Dukku community over the great loss.

Governor Inuwa prayed Almighty Allah to forgive the shortcomings of the deceased and reward his good deeds with Aljannat Firdaus.



Late Engineer Rasheed

Comptroller Abubakar Is New Customs Katsina Comptroller

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Comptroller Muhammed Umar Abubakar has been appointed and deployed to Katsina area Command of the Nigeria Customs Service as Comptroller.

A statement by the Public Relations Officer of the Katsina Command, Superintendent of Customs, Tahir Balarabe, said the new Comptroller Umar Abubakar resumed office on September 13, 2023 and took over as the Customs Area Controller from his predecessor Comptroller M.N. Musa.

He said Comptroller Abubakar is a native of Bauchi State. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaira.

According to the PRO, Comptroller Mohammed Umar Abubakar was enlisted into the service as an Assistant Superintendent of Customs in 1989.

PRO, Tahir Balarabe said Comptroller Mohammed Umar attended several courses both within and outside the country and also a Fellow of the Institute of Strategic Management, Nigeria.

The Comptroller, he explained, is a "seasoned officer with vast experience in various Customs formations, units, and departments, his posting has re-candled the light of hope that the Command will improve on its core mandate of revenue generation, trade facilitation, and smuggling suppression." Similarly, Tahir Balarabe said before his promotion to the rank of Comptroller, Umar Abubakar was once an acting Comptroller Special Duties at the Headquarters Abuja and also served as substantive comptroller of Plateau/Nassarawa/Benue, Kano/Jigawa, until his present posting, adding that, he was Comptroller Administration at the Zonal Headquarters, Zone



Comptroller Abubakar

BKaduna.

"The CAC thanked the Ag. CGC and his management team for the privilege to serve the nation as comptroller of Katsina Area Command, promising to uphold the highest standard of professionalism and work

ethics," the PRO emphasized.

Accordingly, Comptroller Mohammed Umar Abubakar charged officers and men of the Katsina Command to be disciplined and professional while discharging their duties.

78th UN General Assembly: Governor Inuwa Yahaya Accompanies President Tinubu To New York

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor and Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya CON, will be accompanying President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on a trip to New York, United States of America to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The 78th session of the UNGA, with the theme "Rebuilding trust and Reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all", is scheduled to hold between September 19-26 2023.

A statement signed by the

DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismail Uba Misilli made available at the weekend, said that on September 19, the first day of the High-Level General Debate of the 78th UNGA Session, President Tinubu will deliver his inaugural National Statement.

According to the Presidential spokesperson, Chief Ajuri Ngelale, apart from Governor Inuwa Yahaya, President Tinubu will be joined by Governors Umo Eno of Akwa Ibom State; Hope Uzodinma of Imo State; Uba Sani of Kaduna State; AbdulRahman AbdulRazak of Kwara State; and Seyi Makinde of Oyo State.

Also traveling with the President are the Chief of Staff to the President, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila;

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar; Coordinating Minister of the Economy & Finance, Mr. Wale Edun, Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Mohammed Pate; Minister of Defence, Abubakar Badaru; Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Mr. Dele Alake, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Betta Edu; and Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Doris Uzoka-Anite. The National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu; Chairman of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa and other senior government officials will also be present.

Note: While in New York, Governor Inuwa Yahaya will hold sideline meetings with some key UN agencies, investors and relevant development partners in an effort to seek support and collaboration for financing critical infrastructure projects, particularly those addressing climate change-related challenges.

The governor is also scheduled to hold a meeting with the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed. During this meeting, discussions are expected to centre around climate change, education, and healthcare among other issues of benefit to the socio-economic development of Gombe State.

Beyond 100 Days: Focus On The Uba Sani Framework For Infrastructure Upgrade

By; Bldr. ISHAQ MSANI

The colossal of Arewa and most economic hub after Lagos, and Kano, Kaduna State is progressing into sustainable infrastructural hub under Gov Mal Uba Sani's administration. The state, in the past 100 days witnessed people-oriented infrastructural upgrade in education, transport, housing and across all sectors of the economy, yet challenges are inevitable for any successive administration as they hinder smooth implementation of campaign promises.

Hence, just like any other sector, infrastructure is a critical sector to enhancing job creation and socio-economic growth and development; with the first 100 days gone by and more than a thousand more to go, true patriots can only wish the good people of Kaduna well and pray that Gov. Uba Sani succeeds.

It also seemed like a date with destiny; 100 days gone since after sworn into office as the 21st Governor of Kaduna state, a man who played a vital role in the Kaduna infrastructural transformation, a professional mechanical engineer is assuming the reins of leadership as the executive governor of the most cosmopolitan Kaduna state; coupled with a famed administrative skill, vibrant and visionary leadership exhibited as chief executive officer, expectations were high – and rightly so.

What can we make of early indications from the Uba Sani infrastructural upgrade and what more can be expected?

Unanimously, it is believed that Gov. Uba Sani's achievement within the first 100 days in office towards the realization of the upgrade infrastructure manifesto is an indicator of future success. The administration is with reinforcement to sustaining the comprehensive renewal and regeneration of critical infrastructure to enhance economic growth and public welfare.

The current government at work has been repositioning the state into an accelerated rural-urban development, through the sustainable environmental infrastructure and by extension bolstering indigenous stakeholders involvement in critical projects and local patronage.

Beyond 100 days, I see a governor with desired commitment to drive the completion of abandoned projects across the state comprising roads, waterways, bridges, initiate major link to market projects which possess element of value generation, wealth creation and employment generations capable of unlocking new and expansive economic frontiers.

In line with the governor's plan to give the state infrastructural facelift, Mal Uba Sani is providing strategic inputs in filling any gaps related to rapid completion of on-going projects handled by various MDAs across the state in form of task-based interventions and multi-pronged, people-oriented infrastructural projects in Kaduna State.

Transport infrastructure, to address rural underdevelopment, Ground breaking for the construction of over 400km rural roads across the state to upgrade road infrastructure, through the construction of 32 rural roads to facilitate easy movement



Gov Uba Sani

of farm produce which includes 21.7km Anchau-Gadas-Palla road Kubau and Ikara, construction of 15km Turunku-Jaji road Igabi, 13.4km Kwanar Parakwai-Kofato-Ila road Igabi, 25km Rigachikun-Tami-Birnin Yero, 2km Madachi-Wusasa road Zaria, 4.5km Katanga-Rafin Gwaza road S.Gari, 9km Sakaru-Bagaldi road Soba, 12km Lere-Gamagira Maibindiga road Lere, 2km Gubuchi-Kusallo road Makarfi, 2.5km Doka-Sabon Garin Doka-Sundu road Kudan, 31km Ikara-Sayasaya-Palla road Ikara, and 5km Sabo-Ung.Barde-Jaji-Gimbiya road Chikun.

Additionally, more strategic roads captured such as the 2.6km Makabun Aya-Lagum road Kaura, 6.2km Tachira-Kadarko road Kaura, 8.7km Tachira-Mayi-Assu road Kaura, 6km Kachia-Yelwa road Kachia, 5km Rafin Kimba-Pankare road Kagarko, 3.1km Tsauni-Kurmin Sidi road Kagarko, 9km Fadan Ninzo-Dorowa-Agamati road Sanga, 4.8km Gada Biyu-Ninte road Jema'a, 5KM Kadage-Galadimawa road Kauru, 9.3km Kwoi-Chori-Galadima road Jaba, 2km Afana-Kagoma road Jema'a, 5.6km Fadan Kaje-Rebok-Aduwan road Z/Kataf, 3km Kwoi-Gora road Jaba, 35km Kagarko-Akote-Kenyi road Kagarko, 12km Giwa-Yakawada road Giwa, 10km Fadaman Kororo-Kutura road Kajuru, 12km Kujama-Joga road Kajuru, 11.5km Idon-Iri-Ikirimi road Kajuru, 13.2km Kasuwan Magani-Kalla-Gefe road Kajuru, 27.5km Bagoma-Ung Dan Malle-Maraban Dawaki-Sabon Layi road Birnin Gwari local governments among several others on the pipeline.

Moreover, significant progress is been made to resuscitate the locomotive Train service as rail-lines are on the pipeline to link some parts of the three senatorial

linking Zaria-Kaduna-Sabon Tasha-Kafanchan as part of the 3rd phase (long term) palliative measures to reduce the impact of subsidy removal.

Beyond 100 days, implementing the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system as a cost effective, affordable and sustainable mass transit system on the pipeline to cushion the effect of subsidy removal. I see a government at work through more laudable investment on agricultural infrastructure with special focus to creating access roads to mining sites, agricultural hubs to address huge post-harvest losses; and other industrial clusters in the state to boost economic activities for increased job creation for the teeming youth population.

To address housing deficit, Governor Uba Sani's Ground breaking of mass housing project for low-income earners and economic city for trade and investment was achieved through the multi-million-dollar Qatar-Sanabil Project which commenced the construction of the Kaduna Economic City, located at Millennium City, Kaduna designed to impact positively on the lives of over 500,000 beneficiaries.

Beyond 100 days, I see a government with the desired inputs to opening up new layouts across the LGAs of the State and encouragement of the private sector to provide the needed 5,000 housing units target annually that is required to bridge the housing deficit in the state through the Construction of medium- to low-cost housing estates that will facilitate the Rent-to-Own Scheme for citizens. Strengthen the public-private partnership model to increase the housing stock. Further empower the Mortgage and Foreclosure system in the state to assist residents with affordable home financing.

Educational infrastructure, in view of the number of out of- school children and the population growth of the State; as part of the 100 days of impact through proje200-bed capacity hostel block, 16 classrooms and sickbay GGSS Kawo, and most significantly the groundbreaking abd foundation laying for the construction of 62 junior and senior secondary schools across the state and groundbreaking of a project in GSS Nasarawan Rigachikun (AGILE), commissioning at Barewa college Zaria, the number of the existing schools and classroom blocks need to be doubled to adequately cater for the school age children. The schools need to be evenly spread across the political zones as well as wards in the State to ensure improved access to children of school age irrespective of their background.

Beyond 100 days, critical intervention for tertiary institution through Tefund is on track most notably the faculty of engineering and KASU permanent site at rigachikun in general are expected to be accomplished in the years ahead. A government committed to boost Information & Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure leverage, where young people in the ICT sector can fully harness the digital economy of the state through the construction of incubation centres.

Power and renewable energy infrastructure, in the long term of kaduna state; Gov Uba Sani is set to focus on expanding Power Supply from Hydro, Thermal & Renewable Sources: Build the transmission and distribution infrastructure necessary to evacuate the power from the proposed 84MW plant and ensure last mile delivery to homes and businesses, conclude engagement with the Federal Government to transfer management or concessioning of the 214MW Kudenda power plant to KDSG, complete the 100MW solar plant being built as part of the renewable energy drive of the northern states and seek intensive private partners to build more solar power plants and mini-grids and make Kaduna State the centre of renewables.

The above outlined areas notwithstanding, the good people of Kaduna state are unanimous in their verdict that the present administration has been able to deliver some of its campaign promises in the last 100 days while hoping and believing that it shall continue to pave the way for a prosperous and inclusive future of all citizens for our beloved state.

In conclusion, beyond 100 days; the state shall be utilizing maximum opportunity to stimulate socio-political and economic growth through infrastructural development. The State Government's efforts shall be materializing up to increased Private Sector Participation, Institutional Framework for Implementation and Delivery, M&E Framework, SMART Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), Scale up the Primary level data Collection like PPP Financing, Implementation Progress & Results Delivery, Performance Measurement and Strategic Partnerships.

Bldr. Ishaq MSani, a university lecturer, construction manager and public affairs analyst writes from Kaduna and can be reach via ishaqsanie@gmail.com

Micheal Omoloye: The Unsung Okitipupa Born Business Mogul

By: ADEBOYE ADO

The name, Micheal Omoloye is clearly a household name that readily commands huge respect amongst the leading players in Nigerian business climate. The name is quite synonymous with entrepreneurial success, financial independence and business excellence in the petroleum downstream subsector of Nigerian economy. The name of Micheal Omoloye needs no introduction in the business climate of Nigeria and in Okitipupa where the business guru was born. Even across the stretch of Ondo State, the popularity of Micheal has steadily been soaring on account of his phenomenal business successes.

Omoloye can be likened to a prophet that has honour everywhere and even in his household as well as place of birth. He has done so well for his people and Nigerians by given them economic lifelines. A good number of individuals that may have been wallowing in grinding poverty now life in comfort by the virtue of the economic platforms provided by the young entrepreneur.

Mike, as he is popularly known, is the Chief Executive Officer of a successful petroleum marketing company, Revelation Energy Resources Limited. The company is basically concerned with the marketing and delivery of highest quality petroleum products to the door steps of discerning companies. The company also conscientiously ensures optimum satisfaction of its customers. More so, Micheal is a major service provider in both the onshore and offshore sector of Nigerian petroleum industry.

Interestingly, Micheal Omoloye is a business partner of a multi-billion naira petroleum marketing company, NIPCO Plc. He has also grown his Revelation Energy Resources Limited to the enviable level of owning the franchise of Reveal Lubricants. The company has since secured technical and marketing agreement with the biggest and best petroleum marketers across Nigeria and in the sub-saharan region of Africa.

Reveal Lubricants are fast selling products that have become globally recognized and accepted for sufficiently meeting the expected standard of Original Equipment



Micheal Omoloye

Manufacturer (OEM).

Mike is a seasoned Geologist with almost two decades of robust experience in the efficient marketing of petroleum products, with a major concentration on the distribution of diesel to stakeholders in the telecommunications sector of Nigerian economy. The intellectual Omoloye attended Oyemekun Grammar School, Akure where he passed his Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) in flying colours. He thereafter took a giant academic leap by obtaining Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Geology.

The visionary Mike Omoloye was from the beginning very clear about his dream to be a successful entrepreneur and he

has given his all to the pursuit of this path. He did have a short stint of practice as a Geologist after his graduation from the university; but quickly activated his entrepreneurial vision by setting up Revelation Energy Resources Limited. The company has since its establishment been moving steadily from one level of business success to another. The Okitipupa born Micheal Omoloye is undoubtedly imbued with excellent leadership qualities, team playing attributes in addition to his outstanding negotiating skills. He is consistently committed to personal development; and for this reason, Mike has attended several courses and seminars within Nigeria and abroad.

The devout Christian also

belongs to a number of professional bodies both locally and overseas. Mike is a member of Nigeria Mining and Geosciences Society. He is also certified in Negotiation Skills by the Spearhead Training in the United Kingdom. He has been a regular participant in the Offshore Technology Conferences that holds yearly in Texas, USA.

The astute businessman and administrator has severally been honoured for his outstanding successes in business. He was given the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Recognition Award and the NUPENG Recognition Award few years ago. Mike was in year 2020 given the award of Young Entrepreneur in the West Africa

sub-region. He was also in year 2021 honoured with the Man of the Year Recognition Award by the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS). Aside providing employment opportunities for thousand of Nigerians, Mike Omoloye has also put machinery in motion to greatly impact huge number of lives and humanity through Felicia Omoloye Foundation; which is a humanitarian platform incorporated in honour of his late mother.

The strategic Micheal Omoloye unwinds by engaging in intellectual discussions, playing chess game and golf. As an ardent respecter of family values, Omoloye is happily married and blessed with healthy and responsible children.



Skills As Labour

By Safiya I. Dantiye

WHEN the Minister of Women Affairs, Uju Kennedy-Ohanenye, said school children should have Fridays as free days to work in producing items such as matchbox, toothpick and sanitary pads, just as they do in China, she probably hasn't reckoned with the amount of backlash her suggestion would receive.

She made the suggestion at the Anambra Investment Summit last week. She said it would create new source of income for families as the items would be sold in local markets, thereby reducing handouts from the government.

Some however equate learning of skills as not for the brilliant, which is probably why some are very sceptical of the minister. It would be as if she was discouraging children from learning and want to derogate them to learning skills or handiwork.

Some say China is not a good example as a country that violates labour laws and why should the minister advocate 'child labour' in violation of international laws? Besides, in this era of innovation and high tech, why should she even think of that, and on and on?

Anyway, it seems that some people want to close their eyes and pretend that they are not living on planet earth, and therefore not aware of the reality on ground, but under the grand illusion of living in some magical world.

After all, who would pretend that there are no child hawkers, where these self-righteous people buy groundnut and banana from or employ them as house-helpers?

I watched a feature on a national television recently on out-of-school children in the South East. Many of them said they were hawking to help their parents or to pay school fees when they gather the money.

From time to time, people are apprehended at motor parks with many children suspected to be trafficked as house-helpers.

One woman told me that why some people send their daughters to work as house helps is that after the farming season, they don't have anything to do since they don't go to school. They want to remove those that have started growing up especially, from boys or boyfriends.

"They just roam about with nothing to do," she said.

Who knows if skills are introduced early, some parents may be more encouraged to

put their children in school? And all the unskilled youth in the North that become redundant after the farming season would have learnt something.

Instead, they go to the South and ride achaba or okada, work as gatemen or become shoe shiners, nail cutters and hundreds of such menial jobs that don't pay much and don't add much to the economy.

In those days, school girls were taught needle work in some primary schools. Some would make pillow cases with flowers, some were taught knitting, though not in a larger scale.

Some however equate learning of skills as not for the brilliant, which is probably why some are very sceptical of the minister. It would be as if she was discouraging children from learning and want to derogate them to learning skills or handiwork.

Whatever the case may be, even if we are aiming for the stars in terms of high tech, we should not disregard that there are many unskilled and redundant people that need to be engaged and for them to get some money as well. And starting early is not a bad idea.

It is because of this mindset that one woman said she didn't like her son to make shoes. He was a graduate, but he was interested in making shoes. She said she felt that that type of skills was meant for the physically challenged!

In any event, unless we also want to pretend, how many small boys have we seen with mechanics, tailors and so on as apprentices? Some even organise some sort of graduation ceremonies they call 'freedom', which means you have learned enough to be on your own. Some of them don't go to school.

I don't know how the minister should have put it but apparently the situation in the country is so dire that no sugar-coating would do. Some things have to be done.

While those that are not happy with what she said may be comfortable with child-mechanics, child-tailors, child-hawkers and child-nannies, among many, their grouse may be that the minister wanted to make it formal.

Whatever the case may be, even if we are aiming for the stars in terms of high tech, we should not disregard that there are many unskilled and redundant people that need to be engaged and for them to get some money as well. And starting early is not a bad idea.

Culled from National Record

Akwa Ibom State Governor's Cup Kicks-off September 21

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

ANOTHER edition of the Governor's Cup competition meant to identify and groom emerging sports talents in Akwa Ibom State to global reckoning will begin on September 21, 2023 in three selected centres in the state.

It will be competed by 31 football teams to be drawn from each local government area of the state, with six kick-starting on match day one in three senatorial districts of Uyo, Eket and Ikot Ekpene, making the state.

During the conduct of the draws for the tournament on Friday in Uyo, the governor, Pastor Umo Eno in his goodwill message, said the competition is also hoped to help the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports to assemble a formidable team which will represent Akwa Ibom in national and other sports festivals.

Pastor Eno, who was represented by his deputy, Senator Akon Eyakenyi assured that his administration would create an enabling environment for budding football stars to achieve their dreams.

According to the Governor, the re-introduction of the Governor's Cup underscores his administration's desire to develop the youth of the state to achieve their God given talents in sports, just as in other sectors of the state's socio-economic spheres.

"This competition will help us identify and motivate special talents among our football loving youth into global reckoning. It will help the Ministry of Youth and Sports assemble a formidable team which will represent our state in national and other sports festivals.

"I have no doubt that there are Ronaldos, Messis, Etim Esins, Friday Ekpos, Okochas, Kanu Nwankwo, Vincent Enyeamas, etc among our youth. We can't afford to allow them waste. Our duty is to create an enabling environment for them to bloom, achieve their dreams and maximize their potentials. This competition comes handy in that regards.

The governor while promising to be physically present to perform the kick-off of the tournament, charged the Ministry of Youth and Sports to engage competent officials, with a clear-cut code of conduct, in order to instill public confidence in the competition.

"To reciprocate the governor's kind gesture and faith, it's important to ensure fair officiating throughout the tournament, in line with global best practices. Nothing discredits a tournament and destroys the spirit of competition like corruption, partiality, favouritism and bias.

"I expect the ministry to engage only professionally competent and ethically sound officials, develop a code of conduct for them and set up a structure for match reviews in order to instill public confidence in the competition while promoting discipline and hard work among the teams" Governor Eno added.

Earlier in his remarks, the Commissioner for Youth and Sports, Sir Monday Ebong Uko, said the tournament which covers the 31 local government areas, will further strengthen the bond of unity and peace existing among youth in the state.

While thanking Governor Umo Eno for approving the competition, the commissioner said necessary measures have been put in place to ensure a hitch-free outing.

Chairman of the Tournament, Elder Paul Bassey who spoke on behalf of the Organising Committee, lauded the state government for reviving the tournament and promised unity, fair-play and peace throughout the event.

Others who spoke at the event were the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Frank Archibong and the Chairman, Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON), Hon. Iniobong Robson.

Present at the event also were the Speaker of Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, represented by the Member representing Ini State Constituency, Hon. Lawrence Udoide, members of the State Executive Council, council chairmen, as well as sports stakeholders and enthusiasts across the state.

Our correspondent reports that on match day one, team in Nsit Ubium Local Government Area will play against Uyo for Uyo Senatorial District, Esit Eket against Ikot Abasi for Eket Senatorial District, while Abak will lock horns with Oruk Anam for Ikot Ekpene Senatorial District.



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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

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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

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

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

Moroccan Earthquake: A Monumental Disaster And A Monarch's Parochial Politics

By Owei Lakemfa

THE six-point-eight earthquake that hit the High Atlas mountain range of the Moroccan Kingdom last Friday claimed 2,901 lives and injured 5,530. The number of casualties is likely to rise, and we may never know how many more will die. Also, quite tragically, we may never know how many might have survived had the Moroccan government not played the parochial politics of rejecting help from friends and foes alike except Spain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. Even the quartet had to wait for two days before receiving the green light to deploy. When an earthquake occurs, it is an emergency, and every second counts as it is a race against time. In fact, after the first 24 hours, the chances of finding survivors begin to dim as victims may be trapped with life-threatening injuries and may die unless they are not only quickly rescued but also given emergency treatment. There is what is called the 72-hour "golden period" for saving lives, after which hope of finding survivors is lost.

Despite such differences, immediately after the earthquake occurred, Algeria offered to come across the border to aid the victims and save lives. The Moroccan government, through its Justice Minister, Abdellatif Ouahabi, like any reasonable government would, accepted the offer, but with the caveat that the aid be delivered in coordination with the Moroccan Foreign Ministry. Based on this, Algeria opened its airspace for humanitarian flights and mobilised 80 emergency personnel and three military aircraft carrying humanitarian aid. After waiting for two days, a counter-order came, rejecting the Algerian offer.

So, quick and immediate rescue is crucial, as some victims may be trapped in places with little oxygen, others may be weighed down by debris, or they may even be faced with amputation. This is more so in the Moroccan case, in which collapsing buildings have been mainly responsible for many of the casualties. Also, all some may need to survive is water. There is also the matter of aftershocks. So, any assistance available must be grabbed, as life has no duplicate. In many cases, an earthquake victim is like a drowning person, who, as a British proverb says, will clutch at a straw.

Therefore, the decision of Moroccan King Mohammed VI to reject almost all aid after the quake struck, based on claims of the need to maintain the country's sovereignty and ensure "co-ordination", is playing parochial politics and constitutes a crime against the quake victims.

What can the dying Moroccan trapped under rubble care about his country's sovereignty? All he needs is to be rescued, irrespective of the colour, religion, or political persuasion of his rescuer. It would not even matter to him if his

rescuer was a dog.

Algeria is Morocco's neighbour, and both countries are virtually the same: Ninety-nine per cent of Algerians are Arabs and Berbers, while 98 per cent of Moroccans are Arabs and Berbers. In fact, Ahmed Ben Bella, the revolutionary who was Algeria's founding president, was the child of Moroccan migrants. However, both countries differ on the status of the Saharawi of Western Sahara, another country with mainly Berber stock. While Morocco occupies most of Western Sahara, claiming it as part of its kingdom, Algeria insists that the Saharawi, who are the brothers and sisters of both countries, should be allowed the freedom to run their country.

Despite such differences, immediately after the earthquake occurred, Algeria offered to come across the border to aid the victims and save lives. The Moroccan government, through its Justice Minister, Abdellatif Ouahabi, like any reasonable government would, accepted the offer, but with the caveat that the aid be delivered in coordination with the Moroccan Foreign Ministry. Based on this, Algeria opened its airspace for humanitarian flights and mobilised 80 emergency personnel and three military aircraft carrying humanitarian aid. After waiting for two days, a counter-order came, rejecting the Algerian offer. The rejection was in line with King Mohammed VI's view stated in a speech in 2022: "The Sahara issue is the lens through which Morocco looks at the world."

France, which had colonised Morocco but had subsequently become a close ally, offered immediate assistance. But France had recently angered the Moroccan monarchy when, unlike the United States and Israel, it declined to recognise Western Sahara as part of Morocco. The latter's reaction to France's aid offer was a total rejection.

French President Emmanuel Macron, disappointed by the Moroccan



"While Morocco occupies most of Western Sahara, claiming it as part of its kingdom, Algeria insists that the Saharawi, who are the brothers and sisters of both countries, should be allowed the freedom to run their country."

rejection, lamented: "... We are here and we are able to provide direct humanitarian aid... We will be there in the long term on a humanitarian and medical level for reconstruction, cultural and heritage aid, and in all areas where the Moroccan people and the government consider that we will be useful." It released five million euros in aid to Moroccan NGOs for relief work.

Rescuers Without Borders, a non-state French organisation, was also unable to enter Morocco. Its founder, Arnaud Fraise, told the media: "Unfortunately, we still don't have the go-ahead from the Moroccan government... All of our team members who train regularly year-round for this type of thing are miserable that they couldn't leave and put their skills to use."

Morocco also snubbed Germany, which had assembled a 50-person team from its Technical Relief Agency that had gathered at Cologne airport for a flight to Morocco.

Germany has, like France, fallen foul of Morocco's insistence that its colonisation of Western Sahara must be accepted. To this snub, the Chair of the German Parliament Group on the Maghreb responded: "It is incomprehensible that Rabat has so far forgone German help... The current situation should not be about misunderstood national pride." Vladimir Vlcek, the Director General of a Czech rescue service that assembled a 70-person team, said the

reason they were denied permission "could be political, religious, or any other reason".

So, rather than accept badly needed international aid, Morocco prefers its citizens to use pick axes and their bare hands to dig concrete rubble. The aid intended for Morocco could well go to Libya, where on September 10, 2023, Storm Daniel hit, resulting in 5,300 deaths, about 10,000 missing and neighbourhoods washed away by floodwaters.

A puzzle is why Morocco snubbed the United States, which has not only supported its skewed foreign policy but whose immediate past President Donald Trump had also 'donated' Western Sahara to it.

There may be brewing problems between them that are not apparent, but what is clear is the Moroccan monarch's macabre foreign policy dance. For instance, after its deviant attitude led to the collapse of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), rather than mend fences and try to revive it, Morocco, which is in North Africa, applied to join the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

When the Organisation of African States rejected its attempts to recolonise Western Sahara after the Spanish colonisers left, Morocco stormed out of the continental body, returning on January 31, 2017, after 33 years in the cold.

So, rather than accept badly needed international aid, Morocco prefers its citizens to use pick axes and their bare hands to dig concrete rubble. The aid intended for Morocco could well go to Libya, where on September 10, 2023, Storm Daniel hit, resulting in 5,300 deaths, about 10,000 missing and neighbourhoods washed away by floodwaters. However, the tragedy is that there are warring rival governments in that country, and for them, aid for the flood victims is part of the eclectic wars being waged by war lords controlled by various.

Culled from National Record

NDLEA/Lagos SWAN Symposium On Drug Abuse: Experts Warn Nigerian Athletes Against Doping

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Nigerian athletes across various sporting disciplines have been warned to desist from taking drugs to enhance their performance for results as this could spell doom for, not only their career, but their health, families and the image of the country.

This was the submission of various speakers at the symposium organised by the Lagos State Chapter of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) in partnership with the National Drug Laws Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). The symposium, which was the first of its kind in the history of the sports writing family in Nigeria, was held at the Golfview Suites and Conference Center in Ikeja, Lagos, South West Nigeria on Wednesday. It had as its title, "Workshop Symposium Against the Use of Illicit Substances, Drug Abuse and Doping".

The event was also made possible through the support from the Lagos State Ministry of Health, NAFDAC, Federal Ministry of Sports Development, Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) Golfview Suites and Conference Center and National Anti-Doping Committee NADC. Chairman of Lagos SWAN, Ms Olatutu Oladunni commended the NDLEA for believing in the platform provided by SWAN for the agency to advocate against drug abuses among Nigerian athletes at a period when dope case is rampant in world sports.

While commending the leadership of the NDLEA headed by Brig. Gen (Rtd) Buba Marwa, the Lagos State Government, the NAFDAC, National Anti-Doping Committee and other partners that made the symposium a success, Oladunni noted that media would go a long way in pushing the war against drugs and illicit substances deeper into the grassroots in the country. She assured that Lagos SWAN would continue to support the fight.

Zonal Director, Zone H of the NDLEA, Dr, Segun Oke, who declared the workshop open on behalf of the Chairman and CEO of the NDLEA, Brig. Gen (Rtd) Buba Marwa noted that the reason athletes engage in doping for any competition is to take advantage to win a laurel, and "it is like bringing another person to win a medal. Using drugs for any



tournament is like the athletes' sourcing for artificial success which is more or less cheating," Dr Oke said.

The NDLEA's Director warned that doping brings with it artificial problems, disgrace and embarrassment, adding that Nigerian athletes should play their sports clean by not engaging in drugs before or during competitions.

To Dr Gbenga Olowo, Chairman, SABRE West Africa and Central Africa Republic, who was a special guest of honour at the occasion, he berated the use of drugs to win laurels by sportsmen and women, warning that athletes don't need to take drugs as there are alternatives to making money in sports, even as he called on the Nigerian government to look deeply into sports tourism where monetary revenue can be generated to the nation.

"It is unfortunate that tourism could only generate about one per cent of our GDP. This is not good considering what most countries across the world are making from tourism. I want the present government to focus more on tourism, especially sports tourism," Olowo said.

ACGN Umar Isah Adoro, the State Commander, NDLEA, Lagos State Command, who was

glad about the inspiration that brought about the symposium, hailed the leadership of Lagos SWAN for reaching out to the NDLEA for the organisation of the programme.

According to him, the platform of sports, which has been a unifying factor of Nigerian people over the years, is a veritable ground for the NDLEA to advocate its war against drugs in Nigeria.

"Our athletes have been very good ambassadors of the nation, and we would not want to see them cutting corners to win laurels. This is dangerous and the multiplier effects have always been worrisome and deadly," he warned.

Commander Usman WADA, the Airport Commander, NDLEA, Lagos was of the opinion that many athletes who take drugs are doing it out of ignorance, adding that officials, most especially the coaches, may have lured them into believing that they are taking substances that would help them.

"It is very alarming with the way the youths involve in drugs and illicit substances these days, the NDLEA has not been resting on its oars, as we are winning the war," he said.

Dr Ralph Okor, Deputy Director/Head Drug Testing at

the National Anti-Doping Committee emphasised the dangerous consequences of doping to the athletes and the nation in his presentation titled, "Doping and Its Consequences in Sports", and warned that it pays for the athletes to win on a clean slate than cheat with drugs.

The NDLEA's presentation at the workshop symposium was delivered by DCN Chinyerem Eziaghighala, the Deputy Commander, Drug Demand Reduction, NDLEA Lagos State Command, where the officer elaborated the significance of the NDLEA's intervention in the spread of drug abuses in the country with the testimonial that the agency has been able to check this spread and enforce the laws against narcotics in the country. According to her, the NDLEA will continue to record success in its works with the support of Nigeria and especially the media.

Other speakers at the symposium talked extensively about the dangers inherent in the abuses of drugs and doping in sports. One of the speakers is Dr Joy Mayaki, a senior lecturer at the National Institute for Sports (NIS), who holds a Ph.D. in Exercise and Sports Psychology. She is the Vice President of the Nigeria Sports Coaches Association, Treasurer of the National

Association for Physical and Health Education, Recreation, Sports and Dance (NAPHERSD) and Treasurer of the National Association for Women in Sports (NAWIS).

Dr. Mayaki talked about Drug Use and Misuse: An Alternative Look to Combating the Scourge. Others are Pharm. Mrs. Simisola Opanuga from the Lagos State Ministry of Health. She is the Secretary of the Lagos State Inter-Ministerial Drug Abuse Control Committee. She spoke on the Prevention Science of Drug Abuse.

The duo of Dr. Adebukola Bojuwoye and Dr Tajudeen Sule who are from the Ministry of Health but attached to the Lagos State Sports Commission spoke on the History of Doping in Sports, Doping in Sports New Era, Drug Abuse and Doping in Sports the Relationship and Illicit Substances.

The audience who included athletes, coaches, officials, journalists, NAFDAC officers and a team of NDLEA officers from the Lagos State Command, were enthusiastic about the topics of discussion, and it was generally agreed that while the Nigerian athletes are good at their respective sporting activities, they should refrain from cheating through doping as this could endanger their lives.

Excitement Galore As BSFA, State Government Launch 'Football For All' Initiative In Benue



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A new soccer revolution known as 'Football for All' has been officially launched in Benue State.

The initiative designed by the Benue State Football Association (BSFA) is aimed at ensuring that massive footballs are made available and distributed across the state at a low cost.

Launching the initiative in Makurdi, the state capital, Commissioner for Youth, Sports and Creativity, Rt. Hon. Ikyange Terkimbi, commended BSFA leadership,

led by the Chairman, Barr. Paul Edeh, for its unpredictable passion and commitment in driving football development at the grassroots.

He said while other sporting groups and associations only send in requests of the things they want government to do for them, Benue FA has led the way in pursuing a vigorous footballing system geared towards taking the youth off the street and engaging them meaningfully.

Citing the ongoing FA Cup tournament at all 23 local government areas (LGAs) across the state, the Commissioner who

was a Speaker, Benue State House of Assembly, reckoned that with the tempo at which football is currently being administered, other sports will take a cue to revive the sector which had gone moribund.

"Really, It's quite commendable of what the BSFA has done in setting the pace in football development particularly in the state. The initiative, backed with commiserate action, to crash the price of balls, is highly laudable. The state government will always support your activities because we are partners in

progress," he said.

Earlier, the BSFA Chairman, Barr Edeh while explaining the rationale behind 'Football for All' initiative emphasised that the need to ensure that various football teams in the state and young individuals have access to balls informed the idea.

Recalling how a local FA board member was recently attacked and kidnapped on his way to buy balls, Barr. Edeh said the availability of balls will mitigate against such occurrence in the future.

He also revealed that already some balls have been procured for distribution at a very low cost with more expected to be brought, in later on, courtesy of a partnership with Haggai Sports.

He said, "We intend to flood Benue State with balls. We are starting with 10,000 of them which will be sold at N6,000 each, being the maximum amount. We are even working on further getting the balls at a reduced price in the future.

"The idea which is part of our resolve to improve the round-leather game, is also to ensure that young ones who have interest in playing football have easy access to balls without hindrance. Same goes for the coaches and any other person who is willing to move game of football forward."

Some football stakeholders including FA board members, coaches and referees chairmen, among others, were present at the launch.

Top officials of the ministry were also at the event, which witnessed signing and presentation of balls to and by the commissioner.



AFD, NBA Africa Unveil Newly Refurbished Court As Part Of Jr Basketball Experience



L-R: Consul General of France in Lagos, Laurent Favier; AFD Director for Nigeria, Xavier Muron; NBA Africa VP and Country Head of Nigeria, Gbemisola Abudu; French Ambassador to Nigeria, Emmanuelle Blatmann; 2003 WNBA Champion, Astou Ndiaye and Dream Sports Africa Founder & CEO, Chenfa Dombin during the unveiling ceremony of the newly refurbished Court as part of Jr. NBA & AFD Basketball Experience at the Campos Mini Stadium in Lagos on 14-9-2023.

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

NBA Africa and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) unveiled a newly refurbished court at the Campos Stadium, on Thursday, September 14, as part of the Jr. NBA & AFD Basketball Experience programme in Lagos.

The refurbishment project, which commenced in June in collaboration with the Lagos State Sports Commission, will benefit youth from Lagos and surrounding communities by providing them with more opportunities to learn and play the game of basketball.

The French Ambassador to Nigeria, Emmanuelle Blatmann said, "Today marks a significant milestone in our collaboration with Nigeria, as we inaugurate this basketball court. Sports have the power to unite people, and this project exemplifies the

strong ties between France, AFD, and Nigeria in promoting youth empowerment and skill development through sport. I am convinced that having this dedicated sharing space will enable young girls and boys to become changemakers in their local communities."

In his words, AFD Director for Nigeria, Xavier Muron stated, "We are thrilled to witness the opening of Lagos' first basketball court as part of the Basketball Experience program, made possible through our joint efforts with the NBA and Lagos State Sports Commission to promote social inclusion, sustainable development and gender equality. This new facility will give even greater impact to the deployment of education through sports activities in schools, by providing young people with a space in which to practice and realize their full potential."

Jr. NBA & AFD Basketball Experience program is part of AFD and NBA Africa's larger collaboration to support youth development through basketball across the continent and builds on the inaugural Jr. NBA & AFD Basketball Experience launched in Zenata, Morocco in 2019. In November 2021, AFD and NBA Africa initiated a pilot phase in Lagos implemented by international non-governmental organisation Dream Sports Africa. To date, the programme has reached more than 34,000 boys and girls ages 12-17 from 55 public and private schools in Lagos State.

"The unveiling of the newly refurbished court in partnership with AFD is a testament to our continued efforts to use the power of sport to positively impact African youth. We remain committed to using the game as a vehicle for driving positive social and economic

change in Nigeria and we hope that the new basketball court will encourage more young boys and girls to play the game and live healthy, active lifestyles," explained NBA Africa VP and Country Head of NBA Nigeria, Gbemisola Abudu.

For Dream Sport Africa Founder and CEO, Chenfa Dombin, "Dream Sports Africa exists to create young leaders through sports and Basketball Experience, with this newly refurbished basketball court, will transform the physical wellbeing, mental health and life skills of thousands of young boys and girls across Lagos State. Sport has the capacity to transform the lives of individuals and communities through physical, psychological, emotional, and social well-being and development. In Nigeria, basketball plays a significant role in our culture and

communities while speaking to youth in a language they understand. Innovative partnerships, such as Basketball Experience, empower youth with educational and engaging learning experiences that prepare them for life after school and the future."

2003 WNBA Champion, Astou Ndiaye mentioned that, "I am thrilled to be back in Nigeria and take part in the Jr. NBA & AFD Basketball Experience in Lagos. Sport has the power to change lives and I hope this new basketball court will inspire more young people to play the game, stay active and learn from each other as their development continues through this initiative and beyond."

Following the court unveiling, NBA Africa & AFD hosted a Jr. NBA clinic for 70 boys and girls to celebrate the newly refurbished court.

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NNPP Crisis: We Are Fully In Support Of Kwankwaso -NNPP S/West Leaders

***Pass vote of confidence on him**

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The South West zonal leaders of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) on Friday, expressed total support for the Presidential candidate of the party in the last election, Senator Rabi Musa Kwankwaso.

Rising from a statutory South West zonal executive meeting in Ibadan, the NNPP zonal leaders passed vote of confidence on Dr. Kwankwaso, pledging their support and loyalty to him against Dr Boniface Aniebonam. Reading the communiqué issued at the end of the meeting, NNPP National Vice Chairman (Southwest), Prince Ademola Ayoade, the SW leaders called on the leader of factional group, led by Aniebonam and his group to retrace their steps without wasting time.

"We hereby, agree and support the various activities of the National Working Committee (NWC) and the National

Executive Committee (NEC) after assessing and appraising the various activities of our party during the last general elections, agree to do everything necessary to reposition the party for better performance in the future," he said.

Prince Ayoade added, "Also the entire committee passed a vote of confidence on the NWC, the National Executive Committee (NEC) and the leadership of the party, Senator Musa Rabi Kwankwaso and totally reject the charade by a group of former members of the NNPP, led by Dr. Boniface Aniebonam."

"We will work with the people to present the NNPP as an alternative party for the governance of the country", Prince Ayoade submitted.

While rejecting the leadership of Aniebonam outrightly, the SW NNPP leaders urged all suspended former members of the party to toe the line of honour and that Nigerians, especially in



the Southwest geo-political zone should support the NNPP for good governance and quality leadership

The NNPP SW Statutory meeting was attended by the National Vice Chairman of the party (South West), Prince

Ademola Ayoade; the NNPP National Auditor, Ladipo Johnson and NNPP Chairman of all Chairmen in Nigeria, who is the NNPP Osun State chairman, Dr Tosin Odeyemi.

Others at the meeting included, the Chairman of Chairmen, South West Forum, Pastor Peter

Olagookun; Lagos State Chairperson, Mrs Veronica Dikko Kila; Ekiti State Caretaker Chairman, Dr Oluyinka Gabriel Folahan; Ogun State Caretaker Chairman, Prince Kunle Ibrahim and other zonal officers.

Alaafin Stool Not For Sale - Gov Makinde

***Says it's important to Yorubaland**

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Governor, Engineer Seyi Makinde on Friday, disclosed that the vacant stool of Alaafin of Oyo is not for sale.

Speaking at the commissioning of the Iseyin campus of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), in Iseyin, the governor vowed to do everything possible to protect the stool.

The governor warned that all those allegedly collecting money from any of the contestants to the Alaafin's stool should without wasting time, refund as he is ready to follow due process on the selection of a new Alaafin.

Gov Makinde said all those that might have allegedly collected money from any of the contestants to the Alaafin's stool without wasting time, go and refund such money as he is ready to follow due process on the selection of a new Alaafin, saying any one collecting money because of the stool will be handed over to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC).

Tasking those fighting the Alaafin stool to embrace peace, the governor said doing so, will be a lot easier for someone to be selected as the next Alaafin, saying,



Chief Olusegun Obasanjo with Gov Seyi Makinde at the commissioning

anyone who might have collected any money from any contenders for the stool, such a person will be made to face the wrath of the law.

"And before I leave here, some people are abusing me that I have not chosen some

monarchs. I have chosen that of Iseyin and I look forward to coming back for the coronation and the presentation of instrument of office to the new Aseyin. You people in Oyo, you can see now that we have linked Iseyin with Oyo and it will

take 22 minutes", he said.

Gov Makinde added, " You too should stop fighting so that we can have peace to choose the new Alaafin. Some people might have collected money from someone, Alaafin stool is not for sale. It is so important to Yorubaland that we won't sell it"

"Anyone who might have gone to collect money, I won't take them to OYACA, I will take them to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the man who started the EFCC is here seated and I am saying in his presence."

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo while speaking at the commissioning, lauded Governor Makinde " for doing well " in the office, saying by reelecting him for a second term in office, the people of Oyo State did not waste their votes.

Chief Obasanjo commended the governor for all his efforts, especially in the area of road construction, saying the importance of good road network to economic development cannot be over-emphasized. The former President said with the projects embarked upon and completed by the governor, he has set a standard for good governance in the country.