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Why Biden Avoided Meeting With Tinubu, French President Macron's Connection - CRPA



"The inclusion of Governor Inuwa Yahaya in President Tinubu's travel delegation, among the 36 State Governors, stands as a proof of his eminence and leadership qualities, as well as the confidence reposed in him by the commander-in-chief not only as northern governors' forum chairman, but as an outstanding leader."

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A group, the Centre for Reform and Public Advocacy (CRPA) has unveiled why President Joe Biden of the United States of America failed to honour a scheduled meeting with his Nigerian counterpart, President Bola Tinubu at the end of the United Nations General Assembly session in New York last week.

A statement released by the Centre yesterday in Abuja, signed by its coordinator, Ifeayi Okechukwu, said it reliably gathered that the State Department told the US President that the case against the authenticity of Tinubu's university degree from the Chicago State University was still president submitted to the

ongoing in the US court in Chicago and "it is highly likely that the litigation may run against the president's interest," the State Department reportedly told Biden according to the information available to us. Okechukwu said: "Information available to us indicates that the failure of Biden to meet with Tinubu was consequent upon the State Department advisory warning the US President to avoid Tinubu like a plague until the litigation on his election is concluded by the judiciary in Nigeria.

"We were also availed of the information that there are inconsistencies between the records of Bola Tinubu with the university and the record that the Nigerian president submitted to the

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Atiku's Aide, Shaibu Unveils '10 Big Lies' By Tinubu's Govt

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar's Special Assistant on Public Communication, Phrank Shaibu, has unveiled what he described as "the 10 big lies" that have so far characterised President Bola Tinubu administration.

Shaibu said in a statement yesterday that the repeated lies were evidence that Tinubu's only plan was to use propaganda to deceive Nigerians rather than do any proper work in rescuing citizens from the bottomless pit of bad governance they had been pushed into in the last eight years plus 117 days of the administration of the All Progressives Congress.

Atiku's aide asked Nigerians not to be deceived by the apology issued by the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Chief Ajuri Ngelale, and other aides to Tinubu.

He said they were only sorry because they had been caught and not because they were penitent. Shaibu said the fact that Tinubu had more media aides than economic and security advisers was enough to prove that his administration would rely on propaganda as a state policy.

"My advice to the Nigerian media is to always fact-check any claim made by this government as this would help maintain their credibility. If the Tinubu government says it is morning, go outside to verify if

the sun is shining," he said.

Atiku's aide listed the following as "the 10 lies of the Tinubu regime I have compiled so far:

"1. The first lie that was told by Bola Tinubu was in his inaugural speech, where he stated that petrol subsidy is gone. With oil prices now at \$94 per barrel and naira exchanging at N1,000/\$1, the price of diesel has risen to about N1,000 per litre while petrol remains at about N620 per litre. It is obvious to the discerning mind that petrol is now being subsidised, a position which all oil marketers have espoused. Nigerians should not be deceived. Tinubu's claim that there is no subsidy is a lie from the pit of hell, and the fact that they are even hiding the information means there is no transparency, and the money is probably being stolen again.

"2. The second lie told by these charlatans was that the United Arab Emirates had lifted the visa ban on Nigerians immediately and that all Nigerians were free to visit Dubai. This lie was well celebrated by many undiscerning Nigerians whose only crime was to believe the deceptive words of an illegitimate government. UAE authorities later confirmed to CNN that it was all a lie. What a national embarrassment!

3. A third lie told by this deceptive government is that Tinubu was the first African President to ring the NASDAQ bell. It has since been established that Malawian President, Jakaya

Kikwete, rang the bell on September 21, 2011.

4. Another lie was a statement issued by Ajuri Ngelale on August 27, 2023 where US Presidential Envoy and Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Ambassador Molly Phee, was quoted as saying, "President Joe Biden is asking to meet with you on the sidelines of UNGA and you are the only African leader he has requested to meet. It is a mark of his high regard for your leadership." Well, this has turned out to be another embarrassing lie as Tinubu has departed UNGA and never met President Biden.

5. A fifth lie was a claim made by Tinubu on the floor of NASDAQ where he stated that "We have retooled the exchange rate to a reliable, dependable one figure floating of the naira. You are free to take in your money and bring out your money." But this is another lie from the pit of hell. The exchange rate on the I&E Window is about N780/\$1, while the rate at the parallel market is about N1,000/\$1. Besides, foreign airlines still have over \$600m funds stuck in Nigeria. Tinubu, therefore, lied when he said "you are free to take in your money and bring out your money."

6. On August 14, 2023, the Nigerian government said on its official Twitter handle that the Nigerian Air Force struck terrorists gathering at Kurebe in Shiroro LGA in Niger State. The government claimed that the

terrorists were neutralised. Well, Premium Times has now revealed in its latest report that this is nothing but propaganda as those who were killed were innocent civilians. Is it not tragic that the Bola Tinubu administration has now infected the military with its lies? Indeed, once the head of the fish is rotten, the body cannot escape corruption.

7. As part of Bola Tinubu's propaganda programme, the Central Bank of Nigeria said on September 6, 2023 that within two weeks, it would inject \$10 billion into the foreign exchange market to clear the FX backlog. Days after the deadline passed, not a single cent has been injected into the system as the naira continues its free fall. The institution that Tinubu's leadership cannot destroy does not exist.

8. In his inaugural speech, Tinubu said, "As your President, I shall serve with prejudice towards none." But this has turned out to be another barefaced lie. Tinubu has been running a government of the clannish, by the clannish and for the clannish, with all key appointments in every sector going to a section of the country including CBN, FIRS, customs, army, police, immigration while he himself is the petroleum and gas minister. Tinubu appointed 10 ministers from the southwest and only five from the southeast. If this isn't prejudice, I don't

know what it is.

9. Last month, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited claimed they had obtained an Afrexim 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 trading at \$1/N1,000 on the black market, while Afrexim Bank has refused to speak on it. This was just audio money.

"10. Perhaps the biggest scam and deceit of the Tinubu administration was the Student Loan Act, which he signed on June 12. The new law provides loans for students' tuition only. It doesn't cover any other educational expenses. After the law was signed, all federal government schools began increasing school fees. But Dele Alake, the Special Adviser on Media as he then was, said in a statement that tuition in all government schools remains free and that the only fees that were increased were accommodation, laboratory, library and other costs. So if tuition is free and the Students Loan Act covers only tuition fee, that means the Student Loan Act is pointless, and no money will be released. In essence, Tinubu's government has prodded government schools to increase fees while no loans will be given to the students. This is the height of deception and wickedness."

Female Students Abduction: ACF Calls For Total Eradication Of Banditry, Terrorism

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has charged the Federal government to eradicate banditry, kidnapping, and terrorism bedeviling the country once and for all, following the abduction of female students of the Federal University of Gusau, in Zamfara state.

In a statement issued by the National Publicity, ACF, Professor Tukur Muhammad Baba and made available to newsmen in Kaduna yesterday, ACF noted with disdain that from the information gathered, the attack at the Federal

University was well planned and executed by the bandits and the female students were their target. ACF expressed concern that there was the conversation heard from one of the female students saying her father called her to come back home, telling her this was the end of her academic pursuit.

The other disturbing scenario, according to the statement, was the conversation of a parent overheard advising admission seekers against coming to the university.

The statement explained, "It is with utter consternation that the Arewa Consultative Forum

(ACF) received news about the abduction of mostly female students of the Federal University Gusau (FUGUS), from their private hostels, at Sabon Gida Village, Bungudu Local Government Area of Zamfara State."

It said although official information about the incident is scanty, relative to the enormity of the incident, personal testimonies from witnesses to the disturbing incident suggest that the attack was well planned, coordinated and executed by the bandits/terrorists.

The statement noted that evidently, the female students

were specifically targeted, and the bandits were at the crime scene fully prepared, saying that efforts to repel the bandits by elements of the Nigerian Army neither deterred nor stopped the bandits from going off with a yet-to-be-fully ascertained number of hapless victims.

ACF condemned the abductions in the strongest of terms, stressing that it is very disconcerting that such a most unfortunate criminal incident is not the first of its kind in memory but it certainly is one abduction far too many to occur in any community in Nigeria, nor elsewhere in the world.

To this end, the statement called on the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) to spare no efforts in ensuring that the abducted students are released unharmed forthwith.

ACF also urged the federal government to rejig Nigeria's security architecture and to come up with new multi-pronged containment strategies against security and related existential threats bedeviling schools and indeed all communities.

It said that such new strategies should aim at the total eradication of the scourge of banditry and terrorism country-wide.

50% Of Girls In Nigeria Out Of School -UNICEF

By AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF), has said that more than 50 per cent of girls in Nigeria are not attending school at the basic education level.

The education manager at UNICEF, Jutaro Sakamoto, stated this in Abuja at the education conference organised by the French Institute in Nigeria.

He said, "7.6 million girls are out of school in Nigeria – 3.9million at the primary and 3.7million at the junior secondary level.

Sakamoto further explained that 48 per cent of out-of-school girls were in the North West and North East, saying that gender parity in net

attendance ratio was below 1.0 in 10 states, primarily in the North, but is decreasing in 15 states.

The education manager said that 9 per cent of the poorest girls attend secondary school, compared to 81 per cent from the richest quintile.

He lamented that Nigeria accounts for 15 per cent of out of school children globally, stressing that if the situation is not address in Nigeria, they can not solve the situation in the world.

He said those going to school were not being taught well as a result of lack of facilities, pointing out that UNICEF's Education Opportunity for Out of School Children (OOSC) project had been able to make some impact.

Katsina Assembly Upholds Motion On Rehabilitation Of Kafin Soli Matazu-Musawa Marabar-Musawa Road

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State House of Assembly has upheld joint motions filed by Ibrahim Umar Dikko, Lawal Yaro and Salisu Hamza Kuraye of Matazu, Musawa and Kankara constituencies for the rehabilitation of Kafin Soli Matazu-Musawa Marabar-Musawa road.

Alhaji Umar Dikko said the road constructed by late Governor Umar Musa Yar'adua Administration has not witnessed any

rehabilitation since it was constructed.

The co-sponsor Lawal Yaro representing Musawa called on the House to prevail on the executive arm to take urgent actions to save the road from total damage.

The Speaker of the House, Honourable, Nasiru Yahaya Daura directed clerk to communicate to the executive arm for necessary actions.

Members representing Zango-Danja Katsina-Bakori-Kusada and Kafur supported the motion.

NDLEA Intercepts Laughing Gas Weighing 2,547.2 kg, Other Illicit Drugs In Lagos, Kogi, Abuja, Jigawa, Kaduna Sokoto, Edo

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have intercepted over four tonnes of illicit and controlled drugs including consignments of nitrous oxide popularly known as laughing gas, skunk, codeine syrup, methamphetamine and tramadol.

The seizures were made during interdiction operations in Lagos, Kogi, Abuja, Jigawa, Kaduna, Sokoto and Edo States.

The Director, Media and Advocacy of the anti-narcotic agency, Femi Babafemi made the disclosure in a statement made available to journalists yesterday.

He said that a total of 1,194 cylinders of laughing gas, weighing 2,547.2 kilograms loaded in two Toyota Sienna buses were on Friday 22nd September intercepted by NDLEA operatives along Okene-Lokoja - Abuja expressway.

According to him, two suspects: Onyebuchi Ikpozu and Kenneth Igwe who were taking the consignments to the nation's Federal Capital Territory for distribution have been arrested and taken into custody.

While one of the Toyota Sienna buses marked KTU 582 HV was conveying 99 cartons containing 594 cylinders weighing 1,267.200kgs, the second bus with registration number FKJ 329 YA was conveying 100 cartons of the substance with 600 cylinders weighing 1,280kgs.

A 48-year-old woman, Mrs. Ugo Eluba was also arrested in Abuja in a follow up operation after 2,400 ampules of pentazocine injection and 100,000 tablets of Exol-5 intercepted in Kogi state were traced to her.

In the FCT, operatives intercepted 977 kilograms of skunk on Wednesday 20th September in a trailer



One of the trucks loaded with the laughing gas.

marked LSR 343 XW, bearing cartons of maggi. The skunk consignment was loaded into the truck at Ipele junction in Ondo state. While 959kgs of the substance were meant for distribution in Sokoto state, the rest was to be dropped off at Gwagwalada.

Two suspects: Auwal Mohammed and Abdullahi Abubakar have been arrested in connection with the seizure, while two other suspects: Mutari Abdulazeez, 31, and Ayuba Madaki, 28, were also arrested on Saturday 23rd September at Zuba area of the FCT with different quantities of methamphetamine, cannabis and 13,930 pills of tramadol.

In the same vein, Shuaibu Yusif, 27, and Abubakar Hussaini, 20, were on Saturday 23rd September nabbed with 89.1kgs of skunk along Kano - Hadejia road, Jigawa state during a stop and search patrol by NDLEA operatives.

No fewer than 6,000 ampules of pentazocine injection were recovered from a suspect, Usman Musa Sidi, 35, on Monday 18th September along Abuja - Forest road, Kaduna while on his way to Bauchi state.

A follow up operation in Bauchi led to the arrest of the actual owner of the consignment, Dominic Chukwuma, 35, on Tuesday 19th September,

with at least 2.58kgs of Diazepam and 36.55kgs of pentazocine injection recovered from his home. Two other suspects: Inuwa Nuhu and Isiyaku Dahiru Sani were also arrested same Tuesday in connection with the seizure of 49 blocks of cannabis sativa concealed in a black sack weighing 26kgs in a commercial vehicle coming from Ogere, Ogun state to Kano.

While a total of 183kgs of Ghana Loud, a strain of cannabis, were recovered from body compartments of a J5 bus intercepted in Lagos on Wednesday 20th September, operatives in Sokoto, on Tuesday 19th September arrested one Charles Okeke, 44, with 473 bottles of codeine syrup at Uguwar Kosai area of Sokoto.

In Edo state, 365 blocks of compressed cannabis sativa weighing 258kgs were recovered from a Toyota Camry car marked KTU 886 EZ at Igarra, Akoko Edo LGA.

In a massive operation between Monday 11th and Wednesday 13th September, NDLEA operatives stormed thick forests in Ijesha Isu-Ekiti, Ikole Local Government Area of Ekiti state, where they destroyed 40 tons (40,000 kilograms) of cannabis plants covering 16 hectares of farmland.

"Meanwhile, across the country, NDLEA Commands continued

their War Against Drug Abuse, WADA, sensitization lectures and advocacy visits to worship centres, schools, workplaces, palaces of traditional rulers and communities all through the week.

"Instances include: WADA sensitization lecture at Madarasatu Tarbiyyatil Aulad Islamiyyah Izala Mosque, Sabon Gari Wudil, Wudil LGA, Kano; WADA sensitisation town hall meeting with principals of secondary schools in Kaduna north and south LGAs organized by the Zone J command of the Agency; WADA advocacy visit to the palace of Igwe Emmanuel Ugwu, traditional ruler of Ibagwa Nike, Enugu state and WADA sensitisation lecture for students of the Oyo State College of Science and Health Technology, Ibadan, among others", the statement added.

While commending the officers and men of the Lagos, FCT, Kaduna, Jigawa, Kogi, Sokoto and Edo Commands of the Agency for the arrests and seizures of the past week, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd) also applauded their compatriots in all the commands across the country for intensifying the WADA sensitization lectures and advocacy messages to every part of

Dagger Wielding Commercial Driver Nabbed After Stabbing LASTMA Operative

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A driver of a Lagos commercial bus has been arrested after stabbing an operative of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) with a dagger.

He was said to have committed the dastardly act after being apprehended for serious traffic obstruction around Costain Round-about, Lagos.

The Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of LASTMA, Adebayo Taofiq who made the disclosure in a release on Sunday said the driver was driving a painted Volkswagen 'T4' commercial bus (LSR 966 YE) at the time he committed the offence.

According to Taofiq, LASTMA Officer, Olajide Olukoga 'Bravo' who led the enforcement team disclosed that the Volkswagen commercial 'T4' bus was apprehended for picking passengers on main expressway thereby causing serious traffic obstructions to other road users around Costain inward Iponrin.

He disclosed further that the enforcement

operations were carried out around Costain round-about inward Iponrin after several warnings by the government to commercial bus/private car drivers to make use of designated bus-stops before picking or dropping passengers/friends across the state.

"Our enforcement team had successfully apprehended the driver despite dangerous driving attempts to escape before he brought out a knife and stabbed me.

"After seeing the deep cut he had inflicted with the knife, he decided to strip himself naked and caused serious commotions before he was eventually arrested by Police men from Iponri Police Station.

"After his arrest, dangerous weapons 'cutlass and knife' were recovered inside his commercial Volkswagen 'T4' bus by security officers.

"The government has confirmed that the arrested driver would be immediately prosecuted to serve as a deterrent to other recalcitrant drivers," said.

Southern Kaduna: FG To Intervene In Ginger Farming Over Fungal Disease

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari, has assured ginger farmers whose farmlands and produce were recently affected by a strange fungal disease in Kaduna of the Federal Government's intervention.

The Federal Government's assurance for succour comes after few weeks that over two hundred ginger farmlands and produce worth ten billion Naira were destroyed in Southern part of Kaduna State.

The minister who was represented by the Assistant Chief Agricultural Officer, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mrs. Rita Agbogo made the assurance of the minister's quick intervention during a visit to the affected farmlands in Southern Kaduna on Thursday.

The representative of the



minister who is the leader of a five-man delegation to Southern Kaduna, reiterated the commitment of the ministry towards finding lasting solutions to prevent further occurrence of the disaster and to ensure that the affected farmers are provided with adequate support.

"We are already feeling the pains of our dear ginger farmers and that is why we are here on the

mission of damage assessment. With our visit to some of these farmlands, we have seen to what extent the damage was. We are going to recommend to the ministry what is the best way to help the affected farmers out of the present situation," Mrs. Agbogo explained.

When asked, what could be the cause of the fungal

disease, she however said, "as we speak now, we are yet to know the cause of the damage, and that is why we are here with other relevant organisations. We will make research and continue to liaise with these organisations in order to know the cause and prevent future occurrence.

"The cause could be the type of seeds, soil, source of the seeds, and it could be any other factor, but for now, we cannot say what really happened."

While fielding questions from journalists, the National President of the National Ginger Association of Nigeria, Nuhu Daudu commended the minister for his quick response towards finding a long-term measure to prevent future occurrence of what he described as an ugly situation.

Daudu further explained that definitely, the damage will impact negatively on the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Zamfara Governor Summons Security Heads Over Abduction Of Students

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Zamfara State Governor, Dauda Lawal has summoned an emergency security meeting following the recent abduction of students of the Federal University Gusau.

In a statement signed by Sulaiman Bala Idris, Senior Special Assistant (Media and Publicity) to the Zamfara Governor made available to newsmen, revealed that the emergency security council meeting was necessitated by last night's kidnapping of students of the university who were abducted in their off-campus residence in Sabo Gida Village in Bungudu Local Government Area.

In a statement on Friday, the spokesperson to the Governor, Sulaiman Bala Idris, stressed that the Emergency Security Council meeting aimed at

ensuring the immediate release of all abducted persons and also finding a lasting solution to the lingering issue of insecurity that has become a source of concern to the administration.

He added that the governor directed the Deputy Governor, Mani Mallam Mummuni, to provide all the necessary support to the security agencies to restore normalcy in all affected areas.

"During the meeting, the security chiefs assured the Deputy Governor of their commitment to restoring peace in the State. They equally unequivocally confirmed to the Deputy Governor that troops had successfully rescued six kidnap victims.

"The Security Chiefs further assured that troops had neutralised scores of the kidnappers and are actively pursuing them to ensure the safe rescue of all victims.



Gov Lawal

"Mani Mallam Mummuni urged the heads of the Security agencies to improve troops' presence in volatile areas for surveillance.

"The Deputy Governor has reassured the people of Zamfara that security operatives are working tirelessly to address the current situation."



The recovered machete from the accused.

Why Biden Avoided Meeting With Tinubu, French President Macron's Connection - CRPA

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

According to information at our disposal, which was obtained late on Saturday night, Tinubu's records at the Chicago State University are inconsistent with what he submitted to INEC in Nigeria.

President Tinubu's main rival in the February 25 presidential election, Atiku Abubakar is challenging the decision of INEC in declaring Tinubu winner of the election and has cited non-qualification of Tinubu based on forgery

of documents as one of the grounds for his appeal.

According to the information, "as a result of the inconsistent records in his (Tinubu's) Chicago State University file, President Biden was advised to cancel his sideline meeting with Tinubu.

"Similarly, a phone call that was arranged for Tinubu to speak with Biden was also cancelled. So, States Department advice is to avoid Tinubu until his legal matters are resolved in Nigeria."

The Centre further claimed

that "the Nigerian president promptly flew to France from New York in order to seek the intervention of the French President Emmanuel Macron to help secure support of the West in the emerging legitimacy crisis rocking his administration. "So, both the meeting of Tinubu and the phone call with Biden were cancelled at the last minute.

"It is certain that President Tinubu has serious legitimacy problems.

"Indeed, if he were not a President with diplomatic

immunity, parading any fake or unapproved university document is against the law in the United States.

"Under American laws, he would be denied entry or deported. Obviously, the States Department didn't want any controversy to emerge during the General Assembly and that is why they tactically opposed to Biden meeting with Tinubu as that could be interpreted as President Biden aiding Tinubu in seeking protection from the law."

Dangote Wins Brand Of Year Award For Good Corporate Performance

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Africa's foremost Conglomerate, Dangote Industries Limited (DIL) has bagged the Brand of the Year award, in recognition and celebration of the top brand's outstanding odyssey and consistently rising profile.

Marketing Edge, Nigeria's leading Brands and Marketing publication which honoured Dangote with the award at a grand ceremony held in Lagos, described it as signposting Dangote's good corporate performance over the last one year.

Speaking at the event, Publisher and Chief Executive Officer of Marketing Edge, John Ajayi said the award category won by Dangote Industries is the flagship in honour of the company's continuous contributions to the economic development of Nigeria and Africa.

"This recognition covers many business investments and corporate interventions carried out by the company in Africa as a continent," he said

Mr Ajayi stressed that Dangote Industries Limited came atop in ranking among other companies because of its

aggressive employment generation drive, which has seen thousands of able youths, gainfully employed in the Group, as well as the commitment to provision of critical infrastructure.

The Publisher noted that the Marketing Edge Brands and Advertising Excellence Award has established itself as a seminal event in Nigeria's Integrated Marketing Communication (IMC) sector because it offers a singular forum for rigorous intellectual discussion and it recognises and celebrates, year after year, products, corporate, institutional,

personality brands that stand in their segment or sectors, as well as practitioners for their dedication to excellence in branding and marketing.

Mr. Ajayi said that the entrance of Marketing Edge into the industry 20 years ago 'has no doubt made us an authoritative and dependable ally to all players in the Nigerian marketing and advertising eco-system. This is the reason why we have rolled out the drums to celebrate excellence by recognising those individuals and organisations who have contributed immensely to the country."

Akwa Ibom First Lady Gives Recipe To Preserve Environment

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The wife of Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Patience Umo Eno, has pushed for the adoption of modern cultivation methods and recycling of waste materials as ways to preserve the environment against further degradation.

The governor's wife said this on Thursday, during the 8th anniversary celebration of Family Empowerment and Youth Re-Orientation Path-initiative (FEYReP), a Non-Governmental Organisation founded by wife of former governor of the state, Dr. Martha Udom Emmanuel.

Pastor Eno who was represented by the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Welfare Dr. Ini Adiakpan, attributed the former First Lady's commitment to service to her burning desire to better the lot of Akwa Ibom citizens through various people-centred projects.

"For the women, you have to do a lot of adaptation. The traditional way of cultivation must give way to modern ways of cultivation. We now have dry season farming too and that is to cushion the effects of Climate change.

"The use of polythene has to be checked. Right from the home, we should learn to sort out refuse to separate the ones that can be recycled from the ones that can be burnt because those are key climate change issues," she said.

The governor's wife congratulated the former First lady on the formal launch of Climate Change For All Initiative, as a subsidiary of FEYReP, to create awareness on global

warming and praised her for impacting lives through FEYReP even after exiting office as Governor's wife.

She also commended Dr. Martha Emmanuel for delving into issues of climate change, deforestation and conservation of the environment from erosion through the planting of trees and hybrid seedlings.

The state governor, Pastor Umo Eno, represented by his deputy, Dr. Akon Eyakenyi, who unveiled the Climate Action for All Initiative, said the venturing into Climate change by FEYReP demonstrates the initiative's interest in current global issues and activities targeted at saving the environment.

The Keynote Speaker at the event, Prof. Ibrinke Olubamise, said climate change affects everybody, and charged all to be in the vanguard of mitigation and adaptation.

Earlier, the progenitor of FEYReP, Dr. Martha Udom Emmanuel, recounted the success story of FEYReP to include interventions in the areas of education, health, empowerment, GBV, drug abuse, housing, mentoring, agriculture, and the addition of the "Climate Change Initiative" to its existing programmes, to address issues of global concerns, while advocating for the planting of trees to mitigate the effects of climate change in the environment.

The event featured the unveiling of FEYReP Climate Action for All Initiative by the deputy governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, panel discussions and the empowerment of a cross section of Akwa Ibom people with work tools.

NNPP Slams Justice Anya Over "Bandits And Terrorists" Claim

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Auditor of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Barrister Ladipo Johnson, has criticized the Kano State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal over comments credited to the panel in the press that supporters of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf and leadership of the party in

Kano State were violent and engaged in acts of banditry and terrorism.

In a statement in Lagos at the weekend and made available to the press, Johnson raised serious objections to what he described as "indecorous and libelous language" used by the panel, in order to tarnish the image of leaders and members of the party.

Johnson was particularly

miffed by the portions of the publication where a member of the panel, Justice Benson Anya, condemned NNPP members, who he referred to as "the gang of Red Cap wearers who, like a violent and terrorist cult, chased us out of Kano and put us in the fear of our lives".

He also condemned Justice Benson Anya's remarks that "instead of

some Kano politicians to be allowed to use banditry and violence to abort democracy in Kano State, justice will be used to stop them from destroying democracy in Kano and upward."

The NNPP stalwart vehemently objected to such language, which, he stated, was unbecoming of a Judge and defender of the law.

FG Trains Youth, Women On Green Maize Enterprise



By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna
The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMFS) has trained 60 women and youth in Plateau and Kaduna States on Green Maize Enterprise.

The minister, Abubakar Kyari, culture, said during the training in Kaduna on Thursday, that the goal was to boost maize production in the two states and crash the price of maize in northern part of the country.

Kyari, who was represented by Mr Bruce Asaleke, Director, Agric Extension in the ministry, said that the training would educate small holder farmers on all year

green maize farming.

He explained that the farmers would also be trained on maize value chain and equip them with new farming techniques to improve production in the county.

He said that the goal was to create jobs, reduce scarcity, and increase the farmers' income.

This, according to him, will boost their capacity and increase production of maize, as part of the government's efforts to empower women and youths in the country.

The minister said that the ministry was working assiduously to ensure food and nutrition security in the country.

He described maize farming as a "lucrative

business" that creates jobs, promotes nutrition and socio-economic development.

Kyari mentioned that the choice of Plateau and Kaduna was due to the availability of land and climatic conditions which favours maize production in the locations.

In his remarks, Mr Muhammad Rili, General Manager, Kaduna Agricultural Development Project (KADP), said that the training would improve the capacity of the farmers to tap from the lucrative maize value chain.

Rili pointed out that maize, apart from serving as food, was equally a source of

raw material for industries. He said that the training was part of the Federal Government's programme to enhance maize production and ensure affordability of the produce, particularly in the northern part of the country.

Ms Juliana Choji, a participant from Plateau, described the training as "timely", and promised to put the knowledge gained to practice for better yield and high returns on investment.

Another participant from Kaduna, Ms Fatima Usman, expressed optimism for a more rewarding investment in maize production.



Those Calling For My Resignation Busybodies - A A Chairman

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The national chairman of the Action Alliance (AA), Hon Adekunle Rufai Omoaje has said that he is not worried about the calls for his resignation, saying the proponents of such moves are mere busybodies who do not have a grasp of the goals of the party when it was formed.

He expressed this in a statement made available to the media in Kaduna on Friday September 22, 2023.

Hon Adekunle Rufai Omoaje, reacting to a statement credited to a nonexistent group that goes around as 'Concerned Stakeholders of the Action Alliance' signed by purported president and secretary, Dr. Lukman Mohammed and Alhaji Bako Jibrin

respectively, said the duo are nonexistent and not known to the party

"All that they are doing does not affect me because they are busybodies

"I know I am fixing the party, I am doing my work diligently, I have not committed any offence,

"We will not allow anybody or persons to become spoilers, this is our party, so all that is expected of us is to fix it and not be distracted," he declared.

The Action Alliance National Chairman stressed that there is no factional chairman within the party as claimed by the busybodies.

He therefore, urged the public to beware of the activities of anyone or persons parading himself or themselves as representatives of the party.

Digital: UBEC Trains 30 Teachers, Others In Oyo State

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Commissioner for Education and Technology, Prof. Abdulwaheed Adelabu has disclosed that Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), through its Digital Resource Centre (DRC) has trained 30 teachers and other personnel for smooth take-off of the Smart Model School in Sogunro, Akinyele, Ibadan.

Professor Adelabu said this when he led a monitoring team to the Smart Model School in Sogunro, Akinyele, Ibadan.

He declared that the training was designed to

equip the personnel with requisite skills for commencement of operations during the third term 2023/2024 academic session in the state.

The commissioner pointed out that the training focused on blended learning techniques and information and communication technology (ICT) skill sets, with resource persons from universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education serving as trainers.

He however, tasked the participants to pay attention to the training, as they will also train other teachers in the use of the skills acquired.

IPPS: Petitioners Accuse Union Leader, MD, Fin Dir As Major Accomplices Of Alleged Fraud In Yola Upper Benue River Basin

By: TOM GARBA, Yola

Scandal of how assistant Director (Finance), Abubakar Tela Suleiman of Upper Benue River Basin Authority (UBRBDA) have used the Integrated payroll personnel information system (IPPS) and defrauded staff of the organization from their salaries account continued to generate much tension in Yola, Adamawa State.

It would be recalled that some weeks ago, concerned Nigerians, Habib Garba and Amos Douglas wrote petitions to anti graft agencies, EFCC and ICPC and accused Suleiman of using the IPPS for fraudulent acts and massive diversion of money connected to all staff in the agency.

The petitioners in a statement further made shocking revelations that the union leader, Mal. Mustapha Salihu who is UBRBDA Chief Admin Officer was also a beneficiary of the salary arrears fraud shared by Tela, Assistant Director (Finance).

According to them, one of the reasons that Salihu (Chief Admin Officer) is adamant to fight for the staff right is because Suleiman has been servicing him with the alleged staff diverted IPPS deductions.

They gave a thorough investigation of his salary account upon what has been paid to him as padding of salary arrears on the 21st January, 2022 Payment reference No: RRR/IPPS FGN UBRBDA/20.

Petitioners Garba and Douglas said a simple check to the reference above, will definitely disclose the amount he has received, compare to his actual legitimate salary amount.

According to them, Salihu being the union leader was discovered to have been secretly calling on committee members investigating the matter, prompting them that there is no tension with the staff in UBRBDA, against the fact that there is rising tension that might cause serious rancour in the entire authority.

In the statement, they indicted Salihu as an accomplice who is making all efforts to protect them because of his alleged involvement in the fraudulent activity.

"Our union leader is now a stooge who is presently receiving instructions on what to do on behalf of the staff from the gang leader of IPPS scandals, Abubakar Tela Suleiman," the statement said.

In the statement also, Garba and Douglas accused Engr Abubakar Muazu, the



UBRBDA Managing Director of lying to the Ministry and protecting Mr Tela Abubakar Suleiman because he has been a beneficiary of the diverted IPPS salaries.

They called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to intervene and send independent auditors to investigate federal government agencies, ministries and parastatals because of the directors in finance department, using IPPS to defraud staff.

They also called on the National Security Adviser (NSA), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu to seriously put an eye on the Yola UBRBDA to fight the many injustices going on in the place as it is happening in Adamawa, his state of origin and bring to book all the culprits in the agency.

"Furthermore, the



Managing Director Abubakar Muazu and Mr Tela Abubakar Suleiman are trying to cover all the monumental fraud of all time in the organization in the account and procurement units.

"Series of vices in many contracts is the order of the day in the account and procurement units.

"We are also shocked that despite providing evidence of the many crimes and a way forward to the ministry, the ministry seems to be a supporter of what Suleiman is doing to the staff of the organization by buying time to cover all the allegations and fraud committed by Abubakar Suleiman Tela."

They further alleged that the union leader, Mal. Mustapha Salihu Chief Admin Officer was also a beneficiary of the Salary arrears fraud shared by Abubakar Tela Suleiman Assistant Director (Finance) that is the reason why he is adamant to fight for

the staff right.

"The union leader is secretly calling the Fact Finding Committee members in the ministry on behalf of the UBRBDA staff informing them that there is no any tension with the staff in the River Basin, while it is lie. He is just trying to protect them because of his involvement in the fraudulent activity.

"Consequently, he is receiving instruction on what to do on behalf of the staff from the gang leader Abubakar Tela Suleiman. The Managing Director has been lying to the ministry and protecting Mr Tela Abubakar Suleiman because he is part of the beneficiary of the promotion arrears.

"We are calling the Commander in Chief Federal Republic of Nigeria and the NSA which happen to be an indigene of Adamawa State. to bring this fraudster to book," they demanded.

Responding to the petition, the Federal Ministry of Water Resources said that it has set up a fact-finding committee to investigate the allegations against the UBRDA Assistant Director of Finance and some other staff members of the authority in Yola.

Efforts made to get the union leader's response were not possible as his numbers rang severally without been answered.

Suleiman however, said that he will not comment on issues that are already dead and a committee is handling the petition. Calls put to the UBRBDA Managing Director, Engr Mu'azu's number were not connecting. SMS and WhatsApp

"In the statement also, Garba and Douglas accused Engr Abubakar Muazu, the UBRBDA Managing Director of lying to the Ministry and protecting Mr Tela Abubakar Suleiman because he has been a beneficiary of the diverted IPPS frauds salaries."

Police CMR Platform Recovers 89 Stolen Vehicles

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The importance of the Nigeria Police Force Central Motor Registry (CMR) platform has been highlighted by the Force Public Relations Officer ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, saying it has assisted in combating motor vehicle-associated crimes.

He disclosed that no fewer than 89 stolen vehicles were recovered within five weeks through the platform, due to the swift response of CMR desk officers in collaboration with field operatives.

The Force spokesperson hinted that since inception of the CMR on December 7, 2022, the police has received a total of 8,569 requests from 7,513 applicants, encompassing 8,497 motor vehicles and 72 motorcycles/tricycles.

Out of the figure, according to him 8,466 have been successfully approved, while 103 requests are currently in the processing phase.

Making the disclosure at a media briefing in Lagos on Thursday, ACP Adejobi emphasised that the statistics underscore the dedication of the Police authority to streamlining and modernizing its processes, ultimately benefiting the public and bolstering law enforcement capabilities in Nigeria.

He added that over the past five weeks alone, the CMR platform

has witnessed the registration of 1,244 vehicles, with 234 of them flagged as reported stolen on the platform.

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

While justifying the importance of the platform, Adejobi stressed that the CMR offers profound benefits to various stakeholders within the society.

He assured that Motor vehicle licensing agencies, insurance firms, and other pertinent entities will experience increased efficiency and productivity with streamlined processes and real-time access to vehicle statuses.

"Additionally, this innovative system contributes to reducing crimes by

providing comprehensive details and statuses of vehicles, enhancing law enforcement efforts, and serving as a powerful deterrent against unlawful activities.

"The CMR's digitalization underscores our commitment to efficiency and effectiveness, reinforcing our dedication to maintaining law, order, and security on our roads", the Force Public Relations Officer said.

Speaking further, he said, ".In our pursuit of enhanced national security through the CMR, the



ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi

Nigeria Police Force appeals to all government agencies involved in the motor vehicle administration ecosystem for cooperation and collaboration in data exchange and sharing.

"We believe that this synergy is essential for the success of this transformative initiative. To ensure comprehensive coverage and effectiveness, we propose that the CMR becomes a mandatory requirement for motor vehicle registration and renewal licenses nationwide.

"This step would not only streamline processes but also enhance national security by providing real-time access to critical vehicle information.

Furthermore, we stress the importance of establishing data endpoints for digital integration, facilitating seamless data transfer across relevant agencies.

"Lastly, we are committed to supporting the sustainability of the required infrastructure for data integration, recognizing the financial support needed to maintain the system's robustness. Our combined efforts will undoubtedly strengthen our national security framework, ensuring the safety and well-being of all Nigerians".

On how to access the platform, he said, ".To apply for CMR services, we encourage citizens to visit our user friendly public portal at

<https://cmris.npf.gov.ng>.

"For support or inquiries, our dedicated team is available via email at

cmrsupport@npf.gov.ng, or you can contact our CMR Command Centre in Abuja at 08117777666 and 09169892000, or the CMR Command Centre in Lagos at 08117777555 and 09169891000. We are committed to providing efficient and accessible services to the public through our digitalized Central Motor Registry, and these contact channels are here to ensure your needs are met seamlessly".

Oyo Govt Begins Second Phase Of SAfER Intervention

**Commissioner says 20,000 of 200,000 SAfER food items for personnel of security apparatus, media houses and few other groups.*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Government has kicked off the distribution of palliatives under the state's Sustainable Action for Economic Recovery (SAfER) intervention.

This was disclosed by the state Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Prince Dotun Oyelade in a statement made available to journalists in Ibadan.

The commissioner pointed out that on the whole, Oyo State Government has earmarked 20,000 of the 200,000 SAfER food items for personnel of security apparatus, media houses and a few other considered groups.

According to Prince Oyelade, the SAfER second phase is kicking off with the distribution of foodstuff across all local government areas, provision of easy-to-access loans for small Entrepreneurs,

provision of inputs for farmers, among other initiatives.

The Commissioner for Information and Orientation maintained that the exercise "is a continuation of the SAfER plan of the Oyo State Government" and that "the exercise is in fulfilment of Governor Seyi Makinde's promise to soften the hardship on the citizens as a result of the fuel subsidy removal."

According to Prince Oyelade, the Governor has directed interest groups, the 33 council chairmen, and their councillors to demonstrate integrity in the distribution of the foodstuff and ensure that it cuts across political tendencies.

Tasking coordinators of the food distribution exercise to ensure that the foodstuff get to the less privileged and vulnerable people in the state, Prince Oyelade said "the exercise is going on smoothly all over the state, as targeted

beneficiaries were seen carrying bags of the different food items in orderly manner.

He stressed further that the state had commenced the process of distribution of free SMEs loan forms simultaneously from seven Micro finance banks in the state, adding that as it was in the last time, the second phase saw the distribution of another 25% of the 200,000 promised by the governor.

The Commissioner maintained that at the conclusion of the second phase in a few days, 100,000 bags of rice, beans and other food items would have been distributed, adding that other critical areas that will reduce hardship on the people are being addressed side by side the food distribution, adding.

"For instance small scale enterprises, under the supervision of the Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Professor Musibau Babatunde,

is empowering traders, artisans and other small business owners with N500m, as part of efforts to mitigate the effects of subsidy removal on the residents of the State".

Emphasizing that the forms are free and can be collected in the Micro finance banks: Prince Oyelade gave its details as.

1. Full range Microfinance Bank Iwo Road, Ibadan.
2. Isale Oyo Microfinance Bank, Oyo town.
3. Excel Microfinance Bank, Eruwa.
4. NUT Oke Bola Microfinance Bank, Oke Ado, Ibadan.
5. Caretakers MicroFinance Bank, Caretaker, Ogbomoso.
6. Kadupe Microfinance Bank, Shaki.
7. Ebedi Microfinance Bank, Iseyin.

The Commissioner stressed that the loan exercise which is for low and medium scale entrepreneurs will cost the Oyo State

Sahel Consulting Agriculture, Nagari Seed Organize Green Field Day At Tohu Village

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria
Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition Limited in partnership with Nagari Seed Nigeria in Kaduna State on its green field day, has sensitized farmers' of Tohu Village community in Sabon Gari Local Government Area, on the use of quality seeds and advanced cultivation practices of maize. Mr. Ilesanmi Pupa a representative of Sahel Consulting Agriculture said the Collaborative Seed Programme, which is a programme contributing to the Nigeria - Netherlands seed partnership, aims to transform the Nigeria seed companies in Kaduna and

Kano states respectfully. He said to build farmers capacity, they established demonstration plots and advanced cultivation to ensure quality seeds into the hands of farmers. Mr. Ilesanmi Pupa introduced the Collaborative Seed Programme to the Tohu community and mentioned that it is critical and important for farmers to embrace quality seed that will improve their productivity and livelihood. He said, it is necessary to adopt the use of quality seeds and advanced cultivation practices, given the adverse effect of the climate change; like pest developing

resistance, draught and poor soil fertility. According to him, these are issues that call for urgency and need to be addressed immediately for farmers to gain. Mr. Ilesanmi added that there are lots of varieties of seeds marketed by seed companies that farmers are yet to identify, Collaborative Seed Programme partnering with the seed companies to assist in the marketing and promotion of quality seeds in Kaduna and Kano, also to create an efficient linkage between the farming communities and seed companies within the region. Commenting on the green field day, Aliyu Umar who is an extension agent

in the area, said the Collaborative Seed programme will assist farmers towards boosting their agric production. He advised farmers to be sincere to themselves by adopting the new Agricultural technologies currently in place. Aliyu assured farmers that if surely they follow the new method of farming, they will see improvement beyond their expectations. Earlier, the collecting partner, the Nagari Seed Nigeria Ltd has showcase their products, which the farmers appreciate the yield in the trial demonstration farm. They assured farmers of producing quality seed to boost their yields.

Agriculture Is Year Round Activities As Practice Worldwide - Prof. Ikani

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria
The Director National Agricultural Extension Research and Liason Services (NAERLS) Professor Emmanuel Ikani has said agriculture is an all year round activities as practiced worldwide. Prof. Ikani was responding to the questions from journalists at his office over the issues of wet and dry season farming. He said, farmers should consider agriculture as all year round since God has blessed Nigeria with water for irrigation and humans to meet up the agricultural needs for the country. The agricultural extension expert said dry season farming produces higher than the raining season farming and it is more profitable. Professor Ikani advised Federal Government to give farmers soft loans, which he believes, without any problem they will pay back as at when due. According to him, NAERLS through its adopted Village Programme, witnessed

such results as they stood as their guarantors in obtaining loans from banks. Speaking on the dry season farming, Prof. Ikani lamented that lack of proper maintenance and use, as well as flooding is of serious concern. He said, in 2022 alone Nigeria recorded about N700 billion loss to flooding across the country, which is a set back to the growth of agriculture in Nigeria. The director said the Giant of Africa Nigeria is known for, is because of agriculture, but since the discovery of crude, Nigeria lost focus on agriculture. He added that agriculture was doing well in the past, things were working, but now, agriculture is in a sorry state in many states because they don't have extension offices any more in their respective states. The extension experts advised for the use of privately driven extension agents so that they will help agriculture in Nigeria.

Kogi Guber: Gov Bello Inaugurates State APC Campaign Council

By ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja
Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State has inaugurated the All Progressives Congress (APC) with a charge that the members of the governorship campaign council should base their campaign on issues, avoid ethnicity and harp on the performance of the current administration. The campaign council is headed by Minister of Steel Development, Prince Shaibu Abubakar Audu. Speaking during the inauguration of the State APC governorship campaign council on

Tuesday in Government House Lokoja, Governor Bello called on the campaign council not to preach ethnicity or religion, but base their campaign on the unprecedented achievements of the incumbent government in the last eight years. Governor Bello was optimistic that the APC gubernatorial candidate in the person of Usman Ododo was capable of building effectively on the current administration's landmark achievements. To Governor Bello, members and supporters of the party should not join issues with others who do not have anything in terms

of creativity and value to improve the well-being of the state and its inhabitants. He advised the members of the group to eschew ethnic and pathological hawkers whose interest is best acknowledged by unlettered indigenes for their selfish interest. "Forget about liars, whose stock in trade is thuggery with nothing to offer. Go out there and preach what we have on the ground in terms of infrastructure, not about ethnicity. Kogi State belongs to all of us. I have always said that Kogi State has the potential to be great if only we stop playing politics of ethnicity" Governor Bello

said. "I want all of you to go and work for the success of the party, and you will be adequately rewarded." In his remarks, the Director General of the campaign council said his late father and former governor of the state had never believed in ethnic agenda, but had vision for the growth and development of the state. He noted that in the last eight years, Governor Yahaya Bello had demonstrated his father's vision for the state through appointments, distribution and execution of projects across the three senatorial districts without any iota of bias or sentiment.

Disappearance Of Male Organs: Stop Raising False Alarm, Kogi CP Warns

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja
Kogi State Police Command has warned those alleging the disappearance of their male organs in the state to desist henceforth. The state Commissioner, CP Bethrand C. Onuoha, called on the residents of Lokoja and its environs to desist from peddling unfounded information regarding disappearance of male organs that is currently trending in the state capital. According to a statement

by the Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO), of the command, SP William Ovyo Aya, some of the allegations have been investigated both by the Police and medical practitioners which turned out to be false. The commissioner therefore, warned that anybody caught disturbing the public peace would be prosecuted in accordance with the law. The Police Commissioner opined that the false information is aimed at inciting public

disturbance, creating fear and disrupting the peaceful environment the state hitherto is basking in. Disturbed by this trend, the Police he said, is planning tough measures including prosecution of peddlers of such information against false alarmists to deter the trend. The Commissioner warned members of the public to desist from taking law into their own hands by carrying out jungle justice that may emanate from unfounded information, saying that

the Command has deployed its Security assets to detect individuals behind peddling rumour that has so far led to the attack on innocent citizens. "Therefore anybody caught taking law into his own hands will be prosecuted according to the law", the statement added. Rather he enjoins the good people of Kogi State to remain security conscious and report anything that looks suspicious in their areas to the Police.



Prof Ikani

Katsina To Spend Over N761m On New Dialyses Centre

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Government to spend over 761 million Naira for the construction of a new dialyses center at General Amadi Rimi General Hospital, Katsina.

This is in addition to over 599 million Naira for the upgrade of Faskari Comprehensive Health Center to the status of a general hospital.

The approvals were arrived at during the fourth Executive Council presided by Governor Dikko Umar Radda.

Briefing newsmen after the EXCO meeting, the State Commissioner for Health Dr. Bashir Gambo Saulawa said the dialysis center project would consist of civil work, provision of the dialysis machine, water treatment plant and solar powered section among others.

According to him, the two

projects were intended to effectively address healthcare needs of the People of the State in line with the policy agenda of Radda led administration.

Also briefing the press, Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning Alhaji Bello Kagara Said the Executive Council has deliberated more on the memos from Members of the council ahead of the 2024.

According to him, part of

the areas attracted the deliberations include security architecture, irrigation, youths and women empowerment, teacher capacity and training among others.

The press briefing was coordinated by the state Commissioner of Information, Dr Bala Salisu Zango with attendance of the Director General Media to the Governor, Maiwada Dan Mallam.



Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke and former Special Adviser on Media to the ex President, Muhammadu Buhari, Hon. Femi Adesina during a courtesy visit to the governor of Osun State @ his office, Abere Osogbo. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Kaduna State Government Will Continue To Partner Value Seeds -- Commissioner

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Kaduna State Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. Dabo Mohammed has said that the state government will continue to partner with Value Seeds Ltd, towards supporting women farmers in the state.

He stated this while speaking during his tour of the seed's company at its office at Tashar Ya'u in Kudan Local Government Area.

Dabo Mohammed said, it is encouraging that Value

Seeds Company has targeted women as beneficiaries through A G R A Gender Consortium because they are trustworthy.

The commissioner charged the company to do more in maintaining its quality and improved seeds to farmers in the state.

He reiterated government commitment towards partnering with Value Seeds Company in its efforts to assist farmers in the state.

Earlier in his welcome

address, Mr. George Kabutha, Head of Finance and Administration of the company said their objective is to increase productivity for women smallholder farmers in Kaduna and Niger states. "Also, they have increased capacity of smallholder farming households and value chain to better prepare, adopt to shocks and stressed.

"While they strengthen young women's access to output markets at scale," he said.

According to him, 40,378

women farmers were trained on farming as an enterprise and cooperative entrepreneurship.

Mr. George Kabutha also told the commissioner that two agro processing centres were established, one in Kaduna and another in Niger State,

He said Value Seeds is committed to ensuring that all stakeholders in the seed industry in Nigeria have access to quality seeds which will in turn ensure farmers meet their aspirations of high yield and increased income.

Law Professors Pick Errors, Condemn Kano Governorship Tribunal Judgment

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kano State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal on Wednesday sacked Governor Abba Yusuf of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) while declaring the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Nasiru Gawuna, winner of the election.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had declared that the NNPP polled 1,019,602 votes to defeat the APC with its candidate, Mr Gawuna, who scored 890,705 votes. The NNPP candidate thus won with a margin of 128,897 votes.

The APC had filed a petition challenging the election of Mr Yusuf. The three-member panel of judges led by Oluyemi Asadebay delivered the judgement on Wednesday virtually. The court invalidated over 165,663 votes printed in favour of NNPP.

The court deducted the invalid votes stating that the ballot papers (165,663) were not stamped or signed and were therefore invalid. But perusing the judgement, some legal experts have picked professional and indicting errors in the judgement prepared by the panel.

Professor of Law, University of Ibadan, Professor S O Adegoke highlighted that the panel clearly showed sentiment and emotion in support of the APC in the language used in the judgement.

According to him, quoting the judgment, "I use this opportunity to condemn the gang of Red Cap wearers who like a violent and terrorist cult chased us out of Kano and put us in the fear of our lives. We believe that only Allah is the giver of power. Those who believe in Allah must bow to his will and submit to the authority of Governmental power. Resort to anarchy, violence and killing can never be a source of lawful power. Threatening to put Honourable Judges in the danger of their life as done in Kano by some disgruntled bandits parading as politicians is hereby condemned.

"Every Judge worth his salt will always abandon and ignore any form of threat to stand by justice and pronounce justice. This Tribunal in the lead judgment have pronounced

justice and we stand by justice. I concur with the lead Judgment and commend my lord the Chairman for delivering this judgment under the threatened fire and brimstone by bitter losers. There is always another day for politics. I am in no doubt that the security Agencies know and are aware of those who removed their eyes from their case and put it on the Judiciary. They are also aware of those who extended the threat further by declaring that they will kill the Judges. This threat must not be swept under the carpet.

"Instead of some Kano politicians to be allowed to use banditry and violence to abort Democracy in Kano State, justice will be used to stop them from destroying Democracy in Kano and upward, we do not want Anarchy and terrorism as being promoted in Kano State and as threatened by them".

One could be forgiven to think the judgement was prepared by card carrying members of the APC, the language used clearly showed malice against the NNPP and it is by far the most unprofessional judgement I have seen in my 38 years in this profession, Professor Adegoke stated.

Echoing Adegoke's submission, the Acting Head of Department, Law, University of Maiduguri, Professor Tijjani Buba also added that mentioning Nasiru Gawuna as a petitioner in the judgement when he is not, is clearly a case of gross unprofessionalism and hostility.

Also quoting the judgment on page 222, "It is hereby determined that the Petitioner, NASIRU YUSUF GAWUNA having scored a majority of lawful votes and having met the constitutional requirement, is hereby declared the winner of the election and returned elected as the Governor of Kano State", stated that, it's a disgrace to the law profession.

"I think the people who wrote that Tribunal judgement have a motive to disgrace the law profession and cause grace disrepute. It is the only explanation for this shameful narration as a judgement. I urged the National Judicial Council to investigate this issue as a matter of urgency", The university don concluded.

Kogi: Bello Slams N5bn Suit On Natasha Over Comments In Media

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja
Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State has filed a N5 billion suit as damages against the state central Senatorial district candidate, Chief Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan at the State High Court, Lokoja.

The suit number HCH/16/2023 and backdated to the 6th of February 2023, might not be unconnected with a matter that occurred in November last year. Gov Bello's 34-page lawsuit, sought, among other things, to claim that the defendant (Natasha) should pay the said

sum to him for defamation of character and libel over her interview on Arise TV that was aired on 4th November 2022. In addition to the N5 billion claim, Natasha is being requested to publish a retraction and tender an apology in five national dailies including

personal statements on Arise TV, AIT, Channels and NTA. The suit also seek a perpetual injunction restraining the defendant and whosoever connect, affiliated with her as an associate, privy, agent, etc. from making defamatory words or statements against the claimant either on social media, print

media, television, radio, etc.," the court document partly read. It could be recalled that Natasha Akpoti Uduaghan made appearance on Channels TV, AIT and Arise TV in October 2022 in her defence after the Kogi State Government called for her arrest in connection with sponsoring terrorism in Nigeria.

Uba Sani Outlines Action Plans For Peaceful, Safer Kaduna State

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna
Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has outlined his administration's blueprint for building peace, tackling insecurity and ensuring a safer Kaduna State.

The governor spoke as the guest of honour at a symposium organized by the Kaduna Peace Commission to commemorate the 2023 International Day of Peace with the theme "Call for Action: 'GlobalGoals'" which took place at Kaduna State University.

The governor who was represented at the event by his Special Adviser on Peace and Conflict Resolution, Honourable Atiku Isaac Sankey, said his administration is bolstering the security architecture of the state with the recruitment of 7000 additional vigilantes to join the existing 2000 vigilantes in the Kaduna Vigilance Service for a community policing model that complements the efforts of national security agencies.

He added that the administration will deepen dialogue among the diverse communities in the state by

strengthening the platforms that allow for open, frank, and honest discussions that are essential in addressing issues of concern.

Addressing the gathering, the governor's representative said "Citizen engagement lies at the heart of Governor Uba Sani's administration. Through town hall meetings, public consultations, and grassroots initiatives, we will create avenues for meaningful participation and input from our citizens.

He added that Governor Uba Sani's administration recognizes the invaluable role played by the traditional institutions that serve as vital links between the government and the people, and their knowledge and wisdom are invaluable in maintaining peace and security.

Sankey further said to truly address insecurity and build sustainable peace, Governor Sani firmly believes in the importance of human capital development, inclusiveness, and poverty eradication adding that these pillars form the foundation upon which the administration's peace-building efforts stand.



"By investing in education, healthcare, skills training, and job creation, we will empower individuals and communities, fostering an environment of opportunity and growth.

"Through inclusive policies and programs, we will ensure that no one is left behind, and every citizen has a stake in the progress of our state.

"Additionally, we will tackle poverty head-on, recognizing its role as a driver of conflict and social unrest. By implementing targeted poverty alleviation programs, we can uplift the most vulnerable members of our society and create a more just and equitable Kaduna State.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to work in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders and organizations to achieve its seven-point agenda outlined in the SUSTAIN program.

He further commended the Kaduna Peace Commission, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), West African Network for Peace-builders, Mercy Corp and Kaduna State University for organizing the symposium which he said presented another platform for a robust discussion and ideation to consolidate the gains made in the area of peacebuilding and security in Kaduna State.



IPPS Salaries alleged corruption in Yola UBRBDA: In Defence of Suleiman, Finance Assistant Director

By: DAMIAN ROBERT

Weeks ago, both conventional and online media organizations were so much agog propagating a sponsored narrative to dent the image of Mr. Abubakar Tela Suleiman, an Assistant Payroll Personnel Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority (UBRBDA) to have used the Integrated payroll personnel Information System (IPPS) and defrauded staffs of the organization from their salary accounts.

It beats my imagination to come to terms with this unimaginable fake and cooked-up story of the fact that an integrated payroll system can be manipulated by one Man who is far away from the database and breakthrough the salaries payment system to enrich himself and others.

May I inform Habib Garba and Amos Douglas as the petitioners hired to embark on a long voyage of unprofitable venture that the introduction of IPPS is to stop illegal government spending payment of undue salaries, and illegal deductions and control the financial system of government through an automated system as one of the reasons it was established?

That is why your petitions to all Anti-graft agencies like the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offenses Commission (ICPC), your petition to the Auditor General office, and the one to the Ministry of Water Resources on 21st January 2022 could not get headway. I see your actions as a brainwashed wisdom of the belief that the best form of defense is to Launch an attack to cover many of your sins soon to be in the public domain.

I studied your petitions which centered on "massive fraud and abuse of office orchestrated in the Integrated payroll personnel Information System by Abubakar Suleiman, the Assistant Director Finance of the Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority Yola, Adamawa State on the 9th February 2023". A journey of about eight months to pin down Abubakar is not possible but left me to ask you guys an obvious question. Why is it that the EFCC, the ICPC, the Minister, the Permanent



Secretary, the Auditor General, and the entire Ministry of Water Resources reports could not find him guilty after many of your baseless petitions were submitted?

I'm compelled to write in defense of Abubakar who over the years he chosen to remain silent and allow God and natural justice to take its full course. I see him as a perfect and honest gentleman to remain a silent warrior. I'm very sure the Assistant Director has all that it takes to reply to you in defense and to fight back to clear his name you are dragging into the mud. Despite your gang-up and the show of hatred to cover the mess you all committed, the investigation committee of the Ministry of Water Resources formed a committee to investigate the matter and found him guiltless. If they do, why is the Assistant Director despite your attacks to smear him black, the EFCC, ICPC, and all the places and those you have sent your petitions have discharged

and acquitted him of all crimes? It should be done on you that you are fighting a lost battle and be sure that Kama is watching with a disgusted eye to fight back in defense because is a witch.

May I also tell Douglas and Habib that the court of public opinion has equally found Suleiman innocent of your frivolous allegations? Which is why I'm defending him and I want to clear his name from all the mess you have instituted against him. You have taken too long on the wrong person, please watch back at the four fingers pointing at you, I'm sure it is an accusation of your hiding crimes to be unearthed soon.

I know of a time in many organizations when there was a mistake in salary payment through an IPPS, some were overpaid while many others were underpaid and vouchers were raised by upright accountants and returned mopped-up money to the government treasury. Maybe

my gullible petitioners were unable to question whether Suleiman was able to return money if there were lapses of payment through the IPPS emanating from his office. One thing I know and am very sure off, no one can stand the fight of siphoning government money to enrich himself and still be roaming the streets of Yola unarrested after all forms of petitions against him. I can say that Suleiman has passed the integrity test of a corrupt Government official. With your petitions, I believe the DSS, the ICPC, and EFCC have unknown to you invited him and cleared his name over the petitions you are sponsoring and padding around the world of media.

His silence not replying to your foul petitions is wisdom and I commend him for such a humane maturity. I call you to leave him alone and find your troubles elsewhere, I'm very sure soon, and very soon you too will meet your Waterloo of

servants with unfaithful stewardship. He who laughs last will certainly laugh the best, in all these, Suleiman will laugh last. He will keep seeing him going high because I found out from all records that your attacks are a mere defense to shield your one thousand and one sins. Tell your sponsors that he is pure as a crystal, he is innocent of all your petty petitions.

In my last note, let me reiterate that the court of public opinion has vindicated Suleiman, hence my confidence to put this opinion for record sake. He has proven beyond reasonable doubt is a leader and can not stoop too low in replying to you over baseless issues. But he earned the respect of the public and I found it a duty to write on his defense that you have succeeded in wasting your time, killing your moral guard by losing your entire respect to the general public. Nobody can buy your word for a penny in this battle you were hired to do. You lost it all through, you have all disgraced yourselves and he won it over you because of his decision not to reply to you.

As a professional accountant, I can say that Suleiman has kept one of the cleanness records since the history of Yola UBRBDA. Otherwise, your petition would long booted him out of office and behind bars to serve a jail term.

Look elsewhere on who to fight Please, Suleiman has gone far to become what Destiny is calling him to become take it or leave, He is certainly going to be under whatever guise of attacks your taskmasters and those you lick their boots are directing you to do. "The head that destined to wear the golden crown, must one day wear it." It is not in your petitions but in what the destiny lies ahead for him.

No too long, I'm sure the truth shall unravel itself, there shall be Justice in both Natural and Divine laws between you and him who is in the part of Justice. Abubakar Suleiman Tela, God is with you, the people are with you and the natural justice is a jury and judge to disgrace your enemy.

Damian Robert is a public affairs analyst, he writes from No. 22 Lere Drive Ungwan Rimi Kaduna, Kaduna State

Governor Inuwa Yahaya's UNGA Trip: The Gains And Wins For Gombe State, Northern Nigeria

By ISMAILA UBAMISILLI

In the realm of politics, some leaders shine with exceptional brilliance, and Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State undoubtedly ranks among these distinguished figures.

His recent trip to the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City on the entourage of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu carries profound implications for the socio-economic future of Gombe State and the Northern region at large. The inclusion of Governor Inuwa Yahaya in President Tinubu's travel delegation, among the 36 State Governors, stands as a proof of his eminence and leadership qualities, as well as the confidence reposed in him by the commander-in-chief not only as northern governors' forum chairman, but as an outstanding leader.

The significance and impact of this journey cannot be overstated as it aligns with the Greater Gombe Agenda, a vision championed by Governor Inuwa at all times.

The UNGA serves as a platform for comprehensive development, and Governor Inuwa Yahaya took full advantage of the global gathering and advanced the interests of Gombe State and Northern Nigeria effectively.

On the sidelines of the General Assembly, Governor Inuwa Yahaya engaged in fruitful discussions with key UN agencies and partners, with a particular focus on the pressing issue of out-of-school children in his State and Northern Nigeria. This critical issue has been a central concern for him, given the challenges posed by poverty, insecurity, and cultural beliefs.

His commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goal Four (SDG4) through inclusive and equitable quality education also came to the fore. He particularly sought the support of UNICEF and other international partners to address the pressing challenge of out-of-school children.

Speaking to newsmen in New York, Governor Inuwa Yahaya outlined various strategies employed by his administration, to address the menace of out-of-school children, including the establishment of community-based schools, school construction and renovation, distribution of learning materials, and sensitization campaigns for parents. However, he noted that while the strategies have yielded some positive results, more needs to be done, which is why he has sought for

support in that direction.

"I have been able to meet with UNICEF, UNFPA, and other agencies of the United Nations to make sure that we get the support required so that we can uplift the lives and livelihoods of our people, especially in the Northern region where there are a lot of challenges with regards to insecurity and poverty. So, we are strengthening collaboration to address challenges in our state, region, and country," the Governor said.

The UNGA trip also enabled Governor Inuwa Yahaya opportunity to solidify Gombe's stance on vital development issues and strengthen relationships.

During his visit to the Nigeria Consul General in New York, Ambassador Lot Peter Egopija, Governor Inuwa highlighted the immense potential of Gombe State and its readiness to tap into global opportunities.

The Governor informed Ambassador Egopija of Gombe State's agricultural richness and the availability of two major dams in the state which are essential for irrigation and hydropower generation. These valuable resources, he noted, could catalyze agricultural growth and energy sustainability.

He also intimated the Consul General about the sprawling 1000-hectare Muhammdu Buhari Industrial Park, which holds the potential to be a game-changer in Gombe State's industrial landscape.

He said the Industrial Park will be powered by clean and renewable energy sources such as hydro and solar power, with a promise of uninterrupted 24-hour electricity supply to factories within the park.

The Governor also mentioned the successful maiden Gombe investment summit held in 2022 which secured commitments from investors amounting to over 50 billion Naira across various sectors, including Agriculture, Services, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and Cement manufacturing.

He expressed his eagerness to build on this success, and



solicited the support and participation of the Nigerian Mission in US in the upcoming Gombe investment summit scheduled for November this year.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya's commitment to addressing climate change and ecological equilibrium is also evident. Recent incidents of floods and infrastructure damage in the State have underscored the need for ecological solutions. The UNGA provided the Governor an opportunity to engage with experts and organizations focused on these challenges.

Also, the Governor secured commitments from the United Nations for support and collaboration in various critical sectors, including health, education, and more to foster socio-economic development.

The UN Deputy Secretary-General, Hajiya Amina Mohammed, during a meeting with the Governor on the sidelines of the General Assembly, assured him that the UN would stand shoulder to shoulder with him and his administration throughout his stewardship to deliver meaningful development to Gombe State.

The DSG assured Governor Inuwa of her willingness to engage with international development partners such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Susan Buffet Foundation, and the African Peace Corp to garner

support for Gombe State in the realm of healthcare and human resource development.

She also offered to facilitate UN's technical support to bolster the Secretariat of the Northern States Governors' Forum, a crucial platform for regional development, as soon as a formal request is made.

She commended the giant strides and progress achieved under the leadership of Governor Inuwa Yahaya in Gombe State, noting that the Governor has set a precedent in subnational governance.

Hajiya Amina Mohammed offered words of encouragement to Governor Inuwa Yahaya, lauding the discernible improvements in the quality of life of the people of Gombe State.

In his remarks, Governor Inuwa Yahaya commended the Hajiya Amina Mohammed for her remarkable contributions to the UN's global mission, describing her as a worthy daughter of Gombe and proud global ambassador of the state and Nigeria.

During the meeting, he presented an overview of the multifaceted development initiatives that his administration is currently implementing, with a particular focus on healthcare and education.

The Governor appealed for support in leveraging Hajiya Amina's international networks to enhance Gombe state's healthcare system, particularly at

the primary and secondary levels. This includes attracting skilled manpower to fortify the operations of the three General hospitals that have either been constructed or rehabilitated across the three senatorial zones of Gombe State.

In his capacity as the Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum, Governor Inuwa Yahaya also sought the UN's assistance in strengthening the Forum's Secretariat through the provision of technical experts. These experts would work in tandem with the Forum to drive its overarching development objectives.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya's active engagement at the UNGA epitomizes his statesmanship and commitment to representing the interests of Gombe State, Northern region and Nigeria as a whole. His mission to secure investment opportunities, address critical issues like out-of-school children, healthcare delivery, and promote ecological sustainability is a demonstration of his leadership's vision and forthrightness.

As the Governor returns home with the promise of partnerships, investments, and support, Gombe State and Northern Nigeria stand to benefit from his successful sojourn on the global stage. His feat at the 78th UNGA reaffirm that, indeed, he is a diamond shining in the rhinestone of Nigerian politics and governance.

Misilli is the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe

The Gates To Hell Were Opened Long Ago

By Owei Lakemfa

THE WORLD gathered this week under the umbrella of the United Nations to talk peace, security and socio-economic justice, but hawks circled and beneficiaries of a skewed world sat silent in cold complicity.

However, two pieces of good news seeped through. The first is that Turkey and Greece, two neighbours whose conflicts began in May 1919, met on the side-lines of the UN conference on Wednesday at the Turkish House in New York. The bigger picture is that if both countries agree on full reconciliation, it might reflect on divided Cyprus. That country split in two in 1974 when Greece backed a military coup and Turkey retaliated by invading Cyprus in support of Turkish Cypriots.

It was the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), and even as the world on Thursday, September 21, complemented the UN objectives by marking the International Day of Peace, the voices for conflict were sounding more strident.

As world attention was turned to the UN stage, Azerbaijan and Armenia went to war in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory which has been the source of unending conflicts since 1988. This time, the war lasted 48 hours, September 19–20, 2023. However, before the gathered Heads of State could raise an eyebrow, Russia had moved in to secure a ceasefire. But the crisis remains as Nagorno-Karabakh is peopled by 120,000 Armenians in a territory inside Azerbaijan.

Simultaneously, Canada and India were engaged in a spat as the latter suspended visa issuance to Canadians, expelled a Canadian diplomat and advised its citizens to avoid travelling to that country. The current disagreements began on Monday when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau claimed that there were “credible allegations” of Indian official involvement in the June assassination of 45-year-old Canadian Sikh, Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

The second good news was that the United States (US) and Iran who are virtually on war footing, made some goodwill gestures. The former released \$6 billion in seized Iranian assets while the latter released in exchange, five American prisoners held in Iran.

The disagreements are likely to further degenerate as Canada is being challenged to provide proof of its allegation. There are about two million people of Indian origin in Canada who might be affected if the disagreements fester.

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Lula, a former labour leader, lamented that: “The destiny of every child born on this planet seems to be decided while they're still in their mother's womb. The part of the world where their parents live, and the social class their family belongs to, will determine whether or not that child will have opportunities throughout life.”

Those released include businessman, Siamak Namazi, imprisoned since 2015, Morad Tahbaz and Emad Shargi, held since 2018. The identities of the other two were not disclosed. While it is not clear if the trial of the Americans were fair, it amounts to arrogance for the US to go about seizing or freezing the assets of sovereign members of the UN.

At the UNGA proper, Brazil, which has the traditional right to speak first, tried to set the tone for a humane world. Its charismatic President Lula Silva, informed: “The ten richest billionaires have more wealth than the poorest 40 per cent of humanity.” Lula, a former labour leader, lamented that: “The destiny of every child born on this planet seems to be decided while they're still in their mother's womb. The part of the world where their parents live, and the social class their family belongs to, will determine whether or not that child will have opportunities throughout life.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, clad in military fatigue while playing the victim of a big country attacking a small country and threatening its sovereignty, was silent about his country's military flying 3,876 kilometres from Kyiv to attack Khartoum. Zelensky was silent on the over a dozen attacks in an African country by forces identified as Ukrainian special forces.

Brazil speaks first at UNGA because in the early days, when no country would want to speak first as they preferred to listen to other countries and then try some response or clarification, Brazil volunteered to speak first. So, the tradition was established. Now, as the host country, the US speaks next.

US President Joe Biden spoke about continuing the war in Ukraine with no talk about peace because: “Russia alone bears responsibility for this war.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky,



clad in military fatigue while playing the victim of a big country attacking a small country and threatening its sovereignty, was silent about his country's military flying 3,876 kilometres from Kyiv to attack Khartoum. Zelensky was silent on the over a dozen attacks in an African country by forces identified as Ukrainian special forces. Some have rationalised the attacks as justified on the basis that the mercenary Russian Wagner forces are involved in the Sudanese Civil War.

Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu lamented that: “Failures in good governance have hindered Africa. But broken promises, unfair treatment and outright exploitation from abroad have also exacted a heavy toll on our ability to progress.” He added: “We welcome partnerships with those who do not mind seeing Nigeria and Africa assume larger roles in the global community.”

How does that justify Ukraine attacking the African continent? Zelensky has no right extending the theatre of Ukraine's war with Russia to the African continent. But no country, whether European or African sought to call Ukraine to order. Rather, they sat listening to Zelensky raging about terrorism, “weaponising” food, and, rather than seeking peace, about the illusion of militarily defeating Russia.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan whose country is playing a balancing act on world stage talked about humanitarian crises, economic problems, conflicts, and social tensions worldwide, concluding that: “Peace has no losers.”

South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa spoke for peace, women empowerment, equal access to healthcare, education, economic opportunities and the need for inclusive, democratic, and representative international institutions. He advised: “Leaving no one behind — that is the duty that we all have.”

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unfair treatment and outright exploitation from abroad have also exacted a heavy toll on our ability to progress.” He added: “We welcome partnerships with those who do not mind seeing Nigeria and Africa assume larger roles in the global community.”

President Paul Kagame of Rwanda whose country has witnessed genocide, bemoaned: “Today, there is no sign of ongoing conflicts ending anytime soon. Innocent lives are left alone to carry the burden of this instability. That is a profound injustice.”

The problem is that most of those who gather at the UNGA making speeches they don't believe in, are irredeemable sinners whose actions would lead to the gates to hell being opened wider.

UN Secretary General António Guterres, who also spoke to the world leaders at a high-level summit on climate change, painted a picture of the universe thus: “Horrendous heat is having horrendous effects. Distraught farmers watching crops carried away by floods. Sweltering temperatures spawning disease.” He concluded that: “Humanity has opened the gates to hell.” But I do not think the gates to hell, have just been opened; they were opened over six decades ago when nuclear weapons were introduced and allowed to proliferate.

By 1986, there were over 70,300 nuclear weapons in the world. The good news is that by 2019 these had been reduced to 13,890. The bad news is that you don't need more than 100 to set the world firmly on the path of self-immolation. So, while climate change is a deadly path, mass hunger and poverty is deadlier, but nuclear weapons are the deadliest and fastest. The challenge is, even after the gates to hell have been opened, how does humanity avoid it?

The problem is that most of those who gather at the UNGA making speeches they don't believe in, are irredeemable sinners whose actions would lead to the gates to hell being opened wider.

Culled from National Record.

Kano Tribunal's Decision: A Simple Mob Job

By; BELLO Y. MAKAMA

The decision from the Kano State Governorship Election Petitions Tribunal to sack Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf and declare the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Nasiru Gawuna, winner of the March 18 governorship polls is simply an elaborated conspiratorial scheme masterminded by Abuja-led mob and unjustly executed by the three-man-led tribunal. Reliable sources confirmed that the tribunal-led supervision of the ballots was rigged and did not bring on board the INEC or the NNPP in supervising the alleged 165,663 votes that needed to be signed, stamped, or dated.

Pundits believe that there wasn't even any supervision of the ballots by the tribunal.

A reasonable person would see it as a statistical impossibility that all the alleged votes come from only NNPP and none from APC. Knowing that the APC was the party in power, it is also troublesome that the suspected vote inflation happened right before the APC agents at the polling units.

Assuming this is all true, deducting 165,663 puts Abba Kabir Yusuf at 853,939 and Nasir Gawuna, who scored 890,705 votes. I am even more inclined to see this as a mob job, since the tribunal did not declare an inconclusive despite a difference of 36,766 and an election with more than 70,000 votes canceled.

It is simply not cool to celebrate the decision of the Kano Tribunal to invalidate 165,663 ballots. And people who celebrate are either told lies or do not understand the long-term implications of injustice.

I am neither a politician nor have any allegiance to any of the candidates. I also do not think Abba Kabir Yusuf has anything to offer me at this career stage.

It is only a responsible man's vow and burden always to reject injustice, perverted and



depraved decisions and conclusions.

Like most of the poor who waited hours to vote for Abba K. Yusuf, I do not have any power or authority to change this ill-driven decision, but we must also recognize that keeping quiet about such menace can bring no good either. And as citizens of Kano State, the long-term consequences of our silence and calm are immeasurable! Think about the products of your silence! Consider whether you would be proud to raise your sons and daughters in such a

society.

In many societies, democracy is believed to be a system of government in which state power to select leaders is vested in the people or general population.

Today in Kano, who were the people to whom the power is now vested? The emphasis is now in the hands of the Abuja-led mob who think democracy means something like dictatorship of the people.

Ultimately, your votes do not determine who governs. The mob will decide which votes

count. I am sure this blasphemous desecration on the entire Kano community will blow up on the faces of the Abuja-led mob just the same way it is blowing up on the faces of the politicians of our neighboring African countries. Are we not sure about the military option?

It saddens me to see the Abuja-led mob leader at the UN seeking to re-establish constitutional order to address political and economic problems in neighboring Niger Republic.

It appears that the Abuja-led

mob is not reading the signs of the times. The new tactics is, if we cannot win at the ballot box, we win at the tribunal. This is simply an attempt at ruining the young democracy, and the Abuja-led mob believes they can get away with it.

I call on the citizens of Kano to learn from history lessons. The ancient story of Moses is an important tale that appears throughout various religions, though it is most iconic in the Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Bible and Torah, respectively.

God charged Moses to lead the Israelites out of bondage and bring them to the Promised Land. The lesson is that Moses accepted the charge and did not say it was the will of God for them to live in bondage.

More recently, the Ukrainians are not ready to relinquish their land, accepting that these territories belong to Russia. They did not just say it was the act of God for Russia to take over.

Finally, I call on the Nigerian Judiciary System and the International Community to do something about this!

Stay Happy!

Bello Y Makama is a public affairs commentator.

“Like most of the poor who waited hours to vote for Abba K Yusuf, I do not have any power or authority to change this ill-driven decision, but we must also recognize that keeping quiet about such menace can bring no good either. And as citizens of Kano State, the long-term consequences of our silence and calm are immeasurable!”



Halima, The Blind Chef

By Safiya I. Dantiye

THE STORY of Halima Jibril Usman and her video in the kitchen was very impressive. She was in her uniform and a chef's cap. Born blind, the young woman in her early 20s is a student of Kaduna State University. She said she wanted to become a journalist and to become a famous chef as well.

She said her passion for cooking started since she was a child as her mother encouraged her to do household chores.

The automatic thought when people see a blind child is that he would end up being a beggar and a burden to his parents and the society. This mindset should be done away with. Some are not happy when offered alms since they are not beggars, though even those that offer don't mean to disparage them.

She uses her phone to learn recipes and advertises on social media platforms. Due to her condition, people are curious and want to buy the food directly from her to make sure she is the one cooking the food. She however has somebody to help her.

The vogue now among young women is to be a cook, create a name mostly with 'kitchen' attached to it and advertise online. Some are invited to television stations for cooking programmes. Halima also goes with the trend, and 'BLIND KITCHEN CREATIONS' is written on her cap and 'THE BLIND CHEF' written on her uniform.

Her story will give parents with children with disability hope and will encourage the children to believe that they can achieve what they want to do. That it is possible and therefore be self-reliant, employ others and help others as well.

The automatic thought when people see a blind child is that he would end up being a beggar and a burden to his parents and the society. This mindset should be done away with. Some are not happy when offered alms since they are not beggars, though even those that offer don't mean to disparage them. But this is because of the cultural mindset that a person with disability is a destitute in search of 'coins' thrown at him/her, so to speak, in order to survive.

The way universal education is said to be compulsory for every child in Nigeria, it should be as well for the physically challenged children. They should not be neglected and forgotten as if they don't

count because they are the children of ordinary people.

The case of Halima is however among the few lucky ones, with education, supportive parents and equipped with a big modern kitchen to ply her trade.

There are many in special schools that may not have such opportunity or support at home, though the fact that they have the opportunity to attend the school is enough. They learn mobility; how to move around among other things. And they have their ambitions as well.

The way universal education is said to be compulsory for every child in Nigeria, it should be as well for the physically challenged children. They should not be neglected and forgotten as if they don't count because they are the children of ordinary people. The children of the wealthy with such conditions are taken to school, even sent abroad or teachers are engaged for them at home.

Those that beg in the street are many! Even in Abuja, you see young blind boys and girls with their parents begging. They should not be consigned to a life of begging without any future.

Halima has proved that apart from learning she could excel and compete with anybody in other field, her blindness notwithstanding.

Taking them to school may however be a challenge unless the community and religious leaders are co-opted into the scheme. It is not easy for those that are used to begging and don't have any contact with formal education to accept to go to the school, especially boarding schools.

One man told me that he once saw a blind child begging in the outskirts of Abuja. He wanted to talk to him and take him to the school for the blind. The man spoke only few Hausa words and instead of him to explain his intention to a Hausa person to talk to the boy and see his parents, he approached the boy directly and the boy took to his heels, probably afraid that the man meant to harm him.

Another interesting thing about Halima's story is how she is using her phone to do something positive as young people are advised to do instead of using them in ways that would not benefit them.

All hope is not lost! Halima has proved that apart from learning she could excel and compete with anybody in other field, her blindness notwithstanding.

Culled from National Record.

Law Professors Pick Errors, Condemn Kano Governorship Tribunal Judgment

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kano State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal on Wednesday sacked Governor Abba Yusuf of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) while declaring the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Nasiru Gawuna, winner of the election.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had declared that the NNPP polled 1,019,602 votes to defeat the APC with its candidate, Mr Gawuna, who scored 890,705 votes. The NNPP candidate thus won with a margin of 128,897 votes.

The APC had filed a petition challenging the election of Mr Yusuf. The three-member panel of judges led by Oluyemi Asadebay delivered the judgement on Wednesday virtually. The court invalidated over 165,663 votes printed in favour of NNPP.

The court deducted the invalid votes stating that the ballot papers (165,663) were not stamped or signed and were therefore invalid.

But perusing the judgement, some legal experts have picked professional and indicting errors in the judgement prepared by the panel.

Professor of Law, University of Ibadan, Professor S O Adegoke highlighted that the panel clearly showed sentiment and emotion in support of the APC in the language used in the judgement.

According to him, quoting the judgment, "I use this opportunity to condemn the gang of Red Cap wearers who like a violent and terrorist cult chased us out of Kano and put us in the fear of our lives. We believe that only Allah is the giver of power. Those who believe in Allah must bow to his will and submit to the authority of Governmental power. Resort to anarchy, violence and killing can never be a source of lawful power. Threatening to put Honourable Judges in the danger of their life as done in Kano by some disgruntled bandits parading as politicians is hereby condemned."

"Every Judge worth his salt will always abandon and ignore any form of threat to stand by justice and pronounce justice. This Tribunal in the lead judgment have

pronounced justice and we stand by justice. I concur with the lead Judgment and commend my lord the Chairman for delivering this judgment under the threatened fire and brimstone by bitter losers. There is always another day for politics. I am in no doubt that the security Agencies know and are aware of those who removed their eyes from their case and put it on the Judiciary. They are also aware of those who extended the threat further by declaring that they will kill the Judges. This threat must not be swept under the carpet.

"Instead of some Kano politicians to be allowed to use banditry and violence to abort Democracy in Kano State, justice will be used to stop them from destroying Democracy in Kano and upward, we do not want Anarchy and terrorism as being promoted in Kano State and as threatened by them".

One could be forgiven to think the judgement was prepared by card carrying members of the APC, the language used clearly showed malice against the NNPP and it is by far the most unprofessional judgement I have seen in my 38 years in this profession, Professor Adegoke stated.

Echoing Adegoke's submission, the Acting Head of Department, Law, University of Maiduguri, Professor Tijjani Buba also added that mentioning Nasiru Gawuna as a petitioner in the judgement when he is not, is clearly a case of gross unprofessionalism and hostility.

Also quoting the judgment on page 222, "It is hereby determined that the Petitioner, NASIRU YUSUF GAWUNA having scored a majority of lawful votes and having met the constitutional requirement, is hereby declared the winner of the election and returned elected as the Governor of Kano State", stated that, it's a disgrace to the law profession.

"I think the people who wrote that Tribunal judgement have a motive to disgrace the law profession and cause grace disrepute. It is the only explanation for this shameful narration as a judgement. I urged the National Judicial Council to investigate this issue as a matter of urgency", The university don concluded.



Kano's Governorship Electoral Outcome: Recalling The 2019 Edition

By Jibrin Ibrahim

ON WEDNESDAY, the Kano State Governorship Electoral Petition Tribunal sacked Abba Kabir Yusuf of the New Nigeria Peoples' Party (NNPP) as governor after deducting 165,663 votes from the total votes he scored during the election. The three-member panel of judges led by Oluyemi Asadebay ruled that the ballots containing the votes were not certified by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Despite the tribunal's ruling, Mr Yusuf will remain in office until the appeal court and possibly the supreme court gives a final ruling on the matter. I have not studied the judgement so I would make no comments on subtractions that go only in one direction but the outcome is concerning to many in Kano.

Meanwhile, the Governor of Kano State, Abba Yusuf, has rejected Wednesday's judgment of the tribunal sacking him as governor and announcing the candidate of the opposition All Progressive Congress (APC), Nadir Gawuna, as the winner of the 18th March election. At a press conference late Wednesday, Mr Yusuf said that based on the feedback from his legal team, the judgment was marred by human imperfections and misapplication of the law, thus, he will seek justice at the Court of Appeal.

Meanwhile, Governor Yusuf has appealed to residents to maintain peace while vowing to use all legal means to reclaim his mandate. It appears that the outcome was no surprise to the NNPP who have been murmuring about a compromised tribunal and praying for God's protection. There is no information that I am aware of about the tribunal being compromised so they should be assumed to be acting only on the basis of legal arguments and NNPP should focus on the legal issues.

I would like to use the opportunity of this outcome to recall the contentious 2019 outcome that gave Abdullahi Ganduje a second term in office because the concern of many is that some electoral outcomes do not emerge from the democratic system.

"The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has declared the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Abdullahi Ganduje, winner of the Kano State governorship supplementary election held Saturday 23rd March, 2019. Governor Ganduje was trailing the PDP Candidate, Abba Kabir Yusuf, at the end of the first election held on March 9, 2019 by a significant margin. In the supplementary election held in 28 out of the 44 local government areas of the state, Ganduje won by scoring 45,876 votes to Yusuf's 10,239 thereby upturning the result in his favour. The State Returning Officer, Professor Bello Shehu,

announced that Governor Ganduje scored a total vote of 1,033,695 while Abba Yusuf polled 1,024,713 given the winning margin of 8,982 between the two major candidates. This was a surprising result as in places where PDP was far ahead, the tides turned and the massive results emerged for the APC.

"As an observer, I had noticed during our rounds that the massive presence of thugs had depressed voter turnout so how did the 32% voter turnout during the previous election scale up to turn the tide. I asked an Assistant Presiding Officer [APO] to recount what he saw happen in his polling unit. For his security, this traumatised student of Bayero University does not want his name or polling unit revealed.

"The APO recounted that his involvement was through Bayero University who had asked students interested in being ad hoc election staff to fill forms, he did and was selected and posted to Nasarawa Local Government. He took part in the Presidential/National Assembly as well as the Governorship/State House Elections and had very good memories of both. He was charged with the smart card reader, which worked well and only those voters who were authenticated were allowed to vote in the two previous elections. He said the whole process was free and fair and he felt he was playing an important civic role for his country.

"For the supplementary elections, he had reported to Gama Tudu Primary School, his Registration Area Centre (RAC) which was also the Ward collation centre at 7.30 pm on Friday, 22nd March, 2019, that is the night before the election time as directed by INEC. All ad hoc staff comprising most students and youth corps members were expected to spend the night there. He recalls there was a large number of policemen and civil defence corps personnel and they felt safe initially. Their trauma, he said, started at 10 pm that Friday night when mobile policemen came into the school and ordered the youth corps and student ad hoc staff out of the premises without any explanation. They refused to go out and they were tear gassed out. It turned out it was simply an exercise of verification that they were the genuine names on the list. After the verification, they were allowed back in. He said they got very confused why they were tear gassed for a simple verification exercise because they would



Jibrin Ibrahim

not have resisted had they been told it was a verification exercise.

"At midnight, they realised the school was completely surrounded by thugs armed with clubs, swords and machetes. No one could sleep he explained. At 7.30am, that is Saturday morning, the day of the election security personnel escorted them to their respective polling units and had to set up surrounded by thugs. The first rule set by the thugs was that no cameras or cell phones must be used by anybody. Clearly, they did not want images of what was happening to be recorded he explained. He said he felt so harassed that he took his phone to a nearby house and

requested that they keep it for him. Trouble started at 11am when the thugs attacked and they all ran away with their materials. Subsequently, the thugs were cleared temporarily by the police and they returned and voting resumed. By 1 pm however, the thugs took over control of the voting process with police complicity who were present throughout. The thugs threatened to kill the ad hoc staff

if they refused to cooperate. By this time all the PDP agents had been chased out. According to him the result of the polling unit was fabricated in the following manner:

First, the thugs came with 200 already thumb-printed ballot papers and stuffed them in the ballot box.

Secondly, they took out the ballots already thumb-printed for PDP during the polling and thumb-printed them again to turn them into spoilt ballots.

Thirdly, he was forced to sign additional ballot papers which the thug's thumb-printed for the APC.

Finally, the ad hoc staff were forced to record the compromised results on result sheets and they were taken to the INEC office.

"The APO explained he worked under duress because his life was threatened. He said they were held hostage by the thugs and were not allowed to go out to look for food to eat and his next meal came 24 hours later only after he got home. His conclusion is that he would never participate in any other election in any capacity for the rest of his life. SAD. It would be great if other ad hoc staff could write up their stories."

Ibrahim is a professor of Political Science and development consultant/expert, and Senior Fellow of the Centre for Democracy and Development. He is also the Chair of the Editorial Board of Abuja-based online newspaper, PREMIUM TIMES.

"For the supplementary elections, he had reported to Gama Tudu Primary School, his Registration Area Centre (RAC) which was also the Ward collation centre at 7.30 pm on Friday, 22nd March, 2019, that is the night before the election time as directed by INEC.

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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

- All adverts are expected to be prepaid in cash or bank draft in favour of New Nigerian Newspaper's Limited.
- Series discount is subject to the stipulated number of insertions, and it is payable only at the end of a campaign (to be deducted from balance pay).
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- Cancellation of previously booked advert will be accepted in writing within four working days notice, less than 24 hours to the date of publication will attract 50% surcharge.
- Advertisers/Agencies are to provide their Camera ready artwork in electronic copies, in e.g. PDF, or JPEG format.
- Advertisers will be surcharged 20% of the applicable rate where artworks are not provided.
- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
- Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing at least 24 hours to desired alteration date.
- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
- The management of New Nigerian Newspapers Limited reserves the right to reject an advert or any publication in any of its titles where such materials are considered distasteful for public exposure or libelous.

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Family, Friends, Associates Mourn As BSFA Chairman Loses Brother, Burial For Sept 29

By ; J A C O B ONJEWU DICKSON

The death has been announced of Mr. Simon Edeh, younger brother to the Chairman of Benue State Football Association (BSFA), Barr. Paul Edeh, who died on Wednesday September 20, 2022. Aged 43, Mr. Simon, a personnel of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) passed on after an accident within his duty post, along the highway in Daudu, a community close to Makurdi, Benue State capital. Already, his family has announced the burial

plans of their departed loved one.

Announcing the schedule of funeral arrangement on Saturday in Otukpo, Barr. Edeh said a wake keep for the late NSCDC Officer has been fixed for Thursday, September 28, while he will be buried on Friday, September 29.

According to him, the service of songs at the wake will take place in Otukpo, before the remains of late Mr. Simon will head to his home town - Orokam, Ogbadibo Local Government Area of the state for interment.

He is survived by wife, daughter and siblings.



Late Simon Edeh

Jos To Host Maiden NNL Club Owners/Managers Pre-Season Tournament

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The maiden edition of the Nigerian National League Club Owners and Managers Association pre-season tournament earlier scheduled to hold at the International Stadium Lafia, Nasarawa State has now been moved to the New Jos township Stadium, Plateau State. The change in the venue is occasioned by the organizers resolve to ensure ease of movement for all the participants and stakeholders in the League since the Annual General Meeting of the Nigeria National League is equally scheduled to hold in Jos the Plateau State Capital.

The organisers noted that the NNL NALCOMA is championing a novel idea for pre-season tourney in the country to ensure quality football as it's done in other football countries to prepare smooth ground for

the kick-off of the league. Another important feature of this maiden tournament is to see the workability of giving awards to deserving teams, players and other relevant actors in the tournament as a way of motivating them in readiness for the League proper.

Among the teams confirmed for the tournament are the following; Crown FC of Ogbomosho, City FC, Abuja, Rovers of Calabar, Giant Brilla, Enugu, Mighty Jets of Jos and Mailantarki FC of Gombe. Others are: Jigawa Golden Stars, FC One Rocket, Akwa Ibom, Abia Comet and Sokoto United amongst others.

The organisers further announced that draws for the tournament is scheduled for Saturday, 30th September, 2023 at the New Jos Township Stadium while the grand finale will take place on Saturday October 7, 2023.

NYG: Kaduna Humble Lagos In Chess

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Team Kaduna has humbled team Lagos in the first round of chess competition at the ongoing

7th National Youth Games (NYG), Asaba 2023.

The young Team Kaduna athletes consisting of Praise Ola, Ado Paidia, Destiny and Jedithun Bello defeated team Lagos

to 3-1 to claim a point in the chess tourney.

Meanwhile, Team Kaduna female squad comprising of Opeyemi Shalom, Anna Onoriode, Praise Ola, and Deborah will be facing team Edo in the third

round, while the boys will be going against team Rivers in round 2.

The chess event is ongoing at the Indoor Sports Hall 2 of the Stephen Keshi Stadium, Asaba.



George Aluo, Chairman NNL

Be Professional In Reportage, SWAN President Tasks Members Covering NYG

Journalists covering the 7th edition of the National Youth Games (NYG) have been urged to embrace professionalism while discharging their duties at the ongoing NYG in Asaba, Delta State.

President of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Isaiah Kemje Benjamin gave the charge, during an interaction with his members, at the Media Centre, Stephen Keshi Stadium, on Saturday September 23, 2023.

"I want to first of all thank God for bringing us all here safely for this 7th edition of the NYG. I want to commend you all for the massive publicity you have given the games so far and urge you to keep up the

tempo.

"However, I must appeal to all to be factual in your reports as professional sports writers," he said.

According to a statement signed by his media aide, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, the SWAN President while speaking further, harped on the need for members of the association to be united towards ensuring further progress.

"With unity, we can make solid progress. I urge us all to be united in our various state chapters, " he charged.

"As your leaders, we are committed to giving your welfare and protection priority, together in unity we are stronger" he stressed.



Isaiah Kemje Benjamin



SPECIAL REPORT:

7th NYG And Benefits For Delta

AZUKA CHIEMEKA in this Special report, highlights the enormous benefits of hosting the National Youth Games (NYG) in Delta State.

Between September 23rd and September 30th hundreds of youths from all over the country will converge on Asaba, the Delta State capital for the 7th edition of the national youth games.

The multi-sports event was conceived by the Goodluck Jonathan administration, through the National Sports Commission (NSC) and was first held in the main bowl of the Moshood Abiola National Stadium Abuja in 2013.

The National Youth Games was designed for athletes below the age of 17 years with the aim of serving as a hunting ground to pick budding athletes while at the same time enhancing the unity of Nigerians across the thirty six states and Abuja, but later it became strictly for those under 15 years.

The 2023 edition of the youth sports competition will be the first time Delta State will be hosting it, though the state hosted the National Sports Festival (NSF) in 2022.



Azuka Chiemeka

Stakeholders have already given Delta State the thumbs up explaining that a major multi-sports event like the Youth Games has the potentials of building enthusiasm and excitement among citizens. The one week tournament of

various sporting events, will certainly promote peace, unity and development as citizens of the state and visiting contingents will put away whatever their political differences may be, when they start supporting athletes.

Other benefits for hosting the games will include the Foreign Direct Investment inflows, job creation, enhancement of the hospitality, transport and tourism industries, as well as improvement of sports and other related Infrastructure.

The joy, happiness and emotional satisfaction likely to result from state teams participating in the games will bring about social cohesion while also enhancing productivity thereby boosting the state's GDP.

The image of the city or cities used for hosting the games gets enhanced globally.

It is also expected that as host, Delta will benefit from skills and knowledge transfer in ICT, marketing, broadcasting and hospitality.

As the youths file out for their various sporting events, no doubt, a lot of younger ones who will grace the games will see the attraction of sports and key into it.

What is obvious is that despite the financial implications for hosting the Youth Games, Delta State will be a lot more richer for the positive image, the economic opportunities, as well as young talents who will emerge as Nigerians shake hands, and collect medals in Asaba.

Azuka Chiemeka is the Vice President South South, Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN).

NYG : Make Oyo State Proud In Asaba - Commissioner

By **BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan**
Oyo State Commissioner for Youth and Sports, Hon. Wasilat Adegoke

on Thursday, tasked the state's athletes participating in the 7th National Youth Games (NYG) in Asaba, Delta State to make the

state proud.

The Commissioner who gave the task during her visitation to the athlete's camp at Adamasingba

state and shun acts capable of tarnishing the image of the state and compete clean and fair as the games opened this weekend.

"I want to encourage everyone to make our dear state proud and to see how you all are faring in camp. The State Governor, Engr Seyi Makinde is doing everything possible to empower youths in the state and this is another achievement from His Excellency", she said.

The Commissioner added, "I want to remind you that, Oyo State is known for producing great sportsmen and women and I charge you to ensure you do the state proud by winning medals.

"I want you to believe in yourselves because self-confidence will help you not only in your career as an athlete but also in life. Do your best and maintain a high level of discipline as you are here and when you get to Asaba. I urge

you to be the best that you can to lift your career and also win medals not only for yourselves but for our state, Nigeria".

Assuring the athletes that all their allowances would be paid with no stress, she said, "I want to assure you that all your allowances will be paid in time without complaints but to whom much is given, much is also expected. On behalf of the state, I implore you to do your best and ensure that you set the pace for another stalemate in Asaba".

The Oyo State contingent comprises of 167 athletes and 33 coaches and sports officers.

Acting General Manager of the Oyo State Sports Council, Mr Tunde Ajibike in his response thanked the Governor, Engineer Seyi Makinde for his unrelenting support to the Youth and sports development in the state and promised that the athletes will represent the state excellently.



Hon Wasilat Adegoke meeting Oyo State contingent to NYG in Asaba

Make Sports Stronger Bond For Unity In Akwa Ibom, Sports Ministry Charges

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo
Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno on Thursday, charged the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development in the state to showcase high standards in the conduct of ongoing Governor's Cup football tournament in order to strengthen the bond of unity and peace amongst the people. Governor Eno, who stated this at the opening of the competition at the newly renovated Uyo Township Stadium, also stressed the need to encourage younger stars participating in the

tournament to exhibit their football skills. Represented by his Deputy, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, the governor maintained that his administration prioritizes youth development, emancipation, and empowerment as captured in his ARISE Agenda for greater Akwa Ibom State. The governor added, "I emphasize the need for the discovery of talents. And emphasize youth participation. I am happy to hear that the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports has taken this initiative going forward.

"Youth development, emancipation, and empowerment is the cardinal objective of this administration. Unity, peace, and fair play must be emphasized by all participants and the organizers". All 31 local government areas in the state are participants in the tournament where restrictions are placed on registered Nigeria Professional League players only. Uyo, the city capital boys and the defending champions, Nsit Ubium, Governor Umo Eno's home team locked horns in the opening match which, had the

deputy governor performing the kicked off, ended 1-1 goal. Otuekong Sunday on jersey number 14 who scored the lone goal for Uyo team emerged best player. Recall during the the draws ceremony for the competition, the Commissioner for Local and Chieftaincy Affairs, Mr Frank Archibong had announced One million Naira as prize money for best behaved team. Archibong while thanking the state governor, Pastor Umo Eno for reviving the competition after eleven years, said his ministry

alongside Association of Local Governments in Nigeria - ALGON would work to ensure the success of the talent hunting competition. "Your Excellency, let me thank you for the revival of this talent hunting tournament. This tournament previously had produced so many stars for Akwa Ibom State, so there was no reason to allow it die and as your Commissioner for local government, alongside the local government chairmen we assure you that this will be a pacesetting tournament for the state."



Team Kaduna Dazzles As: President Tinubu Declares 7th National Youth Games Open In Asaba



Photos: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS



By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Brilliantly kitted Team Kaduna was on spot as the 7th edition of the National Youth Games (NYG) was declared open by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the Stephen Keshi Stadium, Asaba, Delta State on Saturday.

Adorned in their traditional colours of yellow with a taint of green, Team Kaduna was the cynosure of all eyes as they marched past in their track suits and marching canvass.

In his address, the President, who was represented by the Minister

of Sports Development, Senator John Owan Enoh, was joined by the host Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori and other top government officials, thanked the Delta State Government for sponsoring the seventh edition of NYG after hosting the main National Sports Festival (NSF) in 2022.

President Tinubu said the importance of the competition is national unity, patriotism, mutual love and mutual understanding, especially among the youths who are going to be the leaders of tomorrow.

He also called on the young

players to be disciplined, polite and obedient and avoid the use of banned drugs. He prayed for the competition to start and finish successfully.

Meanwhile, Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori commended the Delta Sports Commission team for packaging and giving the National Youth Games a bright head-start.

In his remarks, the Delta State Sports Commission Chairman, Chief Tonobok Okowa charged all participants to say no to drugs if they must be counted among future champions.

Chief Okowa made this remarks while delivering his address at the 7th National Youth Games flag-off on Saturday in Asaba Delta State.

He noted that as future champions, saying no to drug temptations would further their sporting career just like their predecessors in sports.

While he expressed optimism in the state of the art sports facilities Delta State has assembled for the Youth Games, Okowa also enjoined athletes to take advantage of it and excel in their individual events.

"Youth Games play an important role in sports development as it also provides the platform for Athletes discovery and constitutes the pool from which athletes are groomed to represent the country at international competitions" he said.

Okowa who also doubles as the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) boss, welcomed all participants and urged Team Delta to win for the state and give him a parting gift as this would be his last Youth Games as the Sports Commission's helmsman.

Team Kaduna Dazzles As:
**President Tinubu Declares
 7th National Youth Games
 Open In Asaba**

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Kano Guber Tribunal Judgement Can't Stand - NNPP Chieftain

**Says it was a huge joke, pure miscarriage of justice*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

A Chieftain of the New Nigeria People's Party, (NNPP), Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Thursday, declared that the judgment of the Kano State governorship election tribunal which nullified Gov Abba Kabir Yusuf election cannot stand the test of time.

Ambassador Ajadi in a statement he personally signed and made available to journalists on the Wednesday judgement, said it is a huge joke and pure miscarriage of justice.

According to the NNPP Chieftain who was the party's governorship candidate in the March elections in Ogun state, the Kano state election petition tribunal judgement will be overturned by the Court of Appeal. "The judgement is a huge joke.

Abba Yusuf was given the mandate to govern Kano state by the people of Kano state willingly and it is only the people that can withdraw such mandate from him. The will of people will prevail at the end of the day", he said.

Ambassador Ajadi added, "The reported judgement nullified the free, credible and globally acclaimed fair election of our Governorship Candidate, Engr Abba Kabir Yusuf and brazenly awarded the election to the APC Candidate, Nasiru Gawuna".

"The Tribunal arrived at this unjust judgement by unfairly subtracting 165,663 votes from the Governor's tally in order to enable it unfairly award the election result to the Candidate of the ruling APC. In doing so the Tribunal obviously affirms its belief that the vote tally of the

APC Candidate was sacrosanct". He stressed, "Our party, the NNPP has about 26 members in the House of Assembly while APC has 14. Their elections were conducted on the same day with the governorship election. The party won in almost all the local government areas of the state. So where has the Tribunal's derived the victory it gives the APC Candidate"?,

Charging the people of Kano state and Nigerians in general to remain calm and be law abiding saying the judgement will be reversed at the Court of Appeal, Ambassador Ajadi

urged Governor Abba Yusuf to be calm and continue with his good works, saying the people of Kano State are solidly behind him.

" NNPP as a party is not disturbed by the judgement



because according to him, " everybody is aware that NNPP is the leading political party in Kano and that the judgement is temporary". He then reiterated his unalloyed

support to the leader of the party, Senator Rabi'u Musa Kwakwanso and praise him for the mature way he has been piloting the affairs of the party.

Experts Extol Dangote Cement For Sponsorship Of Kogi Building Exhibition

By: ADAMAJOHN, Lokoja.

The Dangote Cement Plc has been commended for its sponsorship of the 5th Kogi Built Environment and Building Materials Exhibition (BEBME) which attracted speaker after speaker.

With the theme, "Profitability and Quality

Advantages of Made in Nigeria Housing Development Option and Materials, the two-day Exhibition was held between September 19 and 21, 2023.

Speaking at the Dangote Special Day, the Chief Convener of the Exhibition, Hon. Oladipo Makakese Bayode commended the Dangote Cement Plc for the

sponsorship, adding that the company is strategically placed to support government in its drive to provide shelter for Nigerians.

While bemoaning the high cost of production, which negatively impacts on profitability, he said there was the need for a collaboration between the government and the organised private sector, as the cost of importation of cement additives and equipment replacement are on the high side given the exchange rate.

In his own remark, the chairman, Block Moulders Association of Kogi State, Mr. Kunle Raiyemo, extolled the company for producing quality cement.

According to him, the Dangote Cement has provided Nigerians with the opportunity to provide shelter for its people, adding that his association has been partnering the company to ensure that block makers keep to standard in the application of the product.

Also the General Manager Social Performance/Special Duties, Mr. Ademola Adeyemi, who represented the Director, Dangote Cement Obajana, Plant, Mr. JV Gungune, said the company has been partnering BEBME and other stakeholders to support the development

of Kogi State.

Mr. Gungune, who was earlier bestowed with the "Shelter Development Icon of the Decade" award by BEBME, urged participants to leverage on the ideas that will be generated from the exhibition in moving the State and the country forward. The Plant Director said the company has also contributed massively to the areas of corporate philanthropy in the State, and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) around its catchment areas.

Furthermore, the Deputy Regional Director, Dangote Cement Plc, Mr. Dayo Laniyan, said that Kogi State is central to Dangote Cement operation in Nigeria even as he commended the organisers for supporting the company in its enlightenment drive.

Speaking also, Regional Trade and Marketing Manager, Ahmed Tijani, told the audience that Dangote Cement confers three advantages on its users, which are: Extra Yield, Rapid Setting, Extra Strength.

He also urged participants and block moulders to maximize the advantages from the ongoing Dangote Cement's Next Level Retailers Offer to win consolation prizes.

