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Hon. Yusuf Mugu

God Fatherism Era Winding Up In Nigeria's Politics - PERL/CLEAP Session

■ Says social accountability will determine winners in 2027

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

In the 2027 general elections, what would determine those that would make a mark is their tenability to social accountability, as the era of godfathers determining who wins polls in the country is gradually being relegated to history books. Yusuf Ishaku Goje of the CS - Legislature Engagement & Accountability Platform (CLEAP) predicted this, while presenting a paper titled, "Social Accountability: A Tool For Ensuring Value-for-money in Service Delivery" on day two of a session organised by the

Partnership to Engage, Reform & Learn (PERL-ECP) in partnership with CLEAP yesterday in Zaria.

In the presentation, he explained that Nigeria's political trajectory is fast changing, with electorate becoming more sophisticated.

"The issue of god fatherism will soon be in the past. Using demography of the young people in the last election, they were politically active, using the Obidient movement they were able to deliver over 6 million votes, which is unprecedented.

"Even though Peter Obi didn't win, he pulled his



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Tribunal Verdict: Focus On Policies That Will Boost Nation's Economy, Citizens Welfare, Group Tasks Tinubu

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A body, Save The Poor And Needy Charity Initiative (SPANCI) yesterday, charged President Bola Tinubu to henceforth, focus on issues that have to do with how to protect the lives and properly of the citizens.

The NGO in a statement signed by its President, Comrade Yemi Ezekiel Bello, emphasized that President Tinubu should also without waisting more time, focus on policies that will boost the Nigeria economy.

SPANCI in its reaction to the last Wednesday judgement of the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal which dismissed petitions filled by Alhaji Abubakar Atiku of the PDP and Mr Peter Obi of the Labour Party, pointed out that it is now time for the country to move forward.

According to the Non-

governmental organisation in doing this, President Tinubu should focus on developmental projects that will boost the economy of the nation in a way that will make life easy for Nigerians.

"We want Mr President to now focus on developmental projects that will boost the economy of the nation in a way that will make life easy for Nigerians", it said.

SPANCI added " We also want concentration on the security of lives and properties of people and to also charge the law enforcement agents to respect the right to the dignity of the people as enshrined in section 14(1) (2) (a) (b) (c) and section 34(1)(a)(b) and (c) of our 1999 constitution as amended in the spirit of true democracy and social justice".

" We in Save the poor and needy charity initiative (SPANCI) a human rights

and charity organization congratulate Mr President, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Vice President Kashim Shetima on their victory at the presidential election petition tribunal".

The NGO stressed further, " We also appreciate the sustainability of the economy and security of our dear nation which has drastically improved despite the many challenges in the hundred days in office".

On the newly installed Soun of Ogbomoso, Prince Afolabi Olaoye, SPANCI urged him to use his good office to checkmate the land grabbing menace in the town, saying, " We Congratulate His Emperial Majesty Oba Pastor Afolabi Ghandi Olaoye the Soun of ogbomoso for ascending the throne of his ancestors."

"We also appreciate His Excellency, Engineer

Abiodun Oluseyi Makinde for the selection Obas and other traditional rulers in Oyo State and for charging them to support the government against the criminal elements in the state which include the land grabbers in which some traditional rulers are also culpable. This will bring checks and balances to their activities as obas and traditional rulers

"We also want him to use his good office to check some criminalities which includes land grabbing and criminal conspiracy that is prevalent in Ogbomoso and it's environs in which some traditional rulers, influential personalities and some law enforcement agents are culpable by which some innocent indigents are in court and other in correctional centers based on wrongful conviction and miscarriage of justice".

CP Garba Sani Promises Criminals Hard Times In Kaduna

**Meets Christian leaders, preaches unity*

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Commissioner of Police, CP Garba Sani has said that he will leave no stone unturned towards dislodging all criminal elements from their hideouts across the 23 local government areas in the state.

He assured, "I am in Kaduna State to make the lives of criminal elements uncomfortable who are also making life unbearable to the citizens of the state."

Speaking in Kaduna yesterday at the invitation of the leadership of the state Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) with all pastors in the state in an emergency security meeting, the Commissioner of Police called on the support of religious leaders with useful information towards curbing insecurity in the state.

According to him, "Insecurity has become a global issue but the State Police Command will go all out in every hidden place where the criminals are operating to make life uncomfortable to them." He called on the general public to cooperate with the police personnel by giving them useful information that would enable them apprehend people with questionable characters by creating a conducive atmosphere for the people.

"I am in Kaduna state to do my best with officers and men of police to ensure the people of the state go to bed with their two eyes close. It is only

in an atmosphere of peace that people will go out to carry their legitimate duties in order to put food on their table," he explained.

He enjoined the clergymen to pass the information to their congregations, saying, "We need each other to be able to do the needful and work as a team to also defeat the few bad eggs that are making things very hard for the innocent ones that are the majority in the society."

CP Garba Sani assured that he is working on modalities of bringing together Christian and Muslim leaders together to share ideas with a view of giving the best way insecurity could be tackled in the state.

He also promised to make life unbearable for anybody found selling drugs, saying that anybody found aiding and abetting people with questionable characters will be made to face the full wrath of the law.

The Kaduna state chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria, Rev John Joseph Hayab, said the people want to be part of ensuring peace in the state, lamenting that in the past, they were not given such privileges to tell those in authority their grievances.

He assured that such engagements with those in authority would go a long towards providing a good platform for people to air their views with what they are passing through and the best way to amicably resolve areas of concern.



Former President Olusegun Obasanjo and Osun State Governor Senator Ademola Adeleke at the 16th Harvest Anniversary and Thanksgiving Service of Love Christ Generation Church at Victoria Island, Lagos on Sunday. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Delta Women Warn Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan To Leave Them Out Of Her 'Media Stunt'

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

Women from the 25 local government areas of Delta State, yesterday, dissociated themselves from a celebration of the tribunal victory of a Senatorial Candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), in Kogi State, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan.

The women, who addressed the press in Asaba, the state capital, said they would have not be bothered to raise an eyebrow on the tribunal victory, but for the senatorial candidate's "media congratulatory stunt", which focused on Delta women.

The Convener, Delta State Grassroots Women, Umukoro Oghenekevwe, who addressed the press on behalf of others, pointed out that the media stunt compelled them to set the records straight and publicly dissociate the good women of Delta from the purported celebration of someone who allegedly "has a very controversial status in Delta State."

The women, who said they had nothing against female politicians from other geopolitical zones of the country and were in support of their success, however added that they "reject the

unsolicited generalization of Delta women by one person who chose to begin her charity outside."

The women said, "We have more than enough female politicians in Delta State that we haven't appreciated enough and, therefore, crossing borders to other states to celebrate their own female politicians is abnormal."

"We are saying this in response to a publication that purportedly said that Delta State women celebrated a female politician who just won her election to the Senate in Court from the North Central state of Kogi State, Mrs. Natasha Akpoti.

"We have nothing against her, but we reject the unsolicited generalization of Delta State women by one person who chose to begin her charity outside by claiming that Delta State women celebrated someone whose political mandate is to the people of her constituency in her state.

"Even if she succeeds in



winning the final processes to go the Senate, which is still ongoing, she will go there to represent her own people, not us."

"As Delta State women resident in this state and relevant to its politics, we dissociate ourselves from the purported celebration of Natasha-Akpoti-Uduaghan who doesn't represent our state and has a very controversial status here in Delta State," they added.

Highlighting a controversy that raged in the recent past, the Convener stated, "Recently, a voice note of the father of our sister, Mrs. Alero Uduaghan, got leaked where the old man painfully recounted the terrible experiences that her

daughter went through when her home was shattered allegedly by blackmail and in a very wicked manner.

"We would not have even bothered to raise an eyebrow on her tribunal victory but for her media congratulatory stunt which focused on Delta women. This compelled us to set the records straight and publicly dissociate the good women of Delta from the purported celebration of someone who allegedly scattered our sister's home." "Dog may eat dog elsewhere, but not here in Delta State. We always stand by our own and we remain standing," the women declared.

Kaduna Lawmaker Wants Constitution Amended For Higher Academic Qualification For Legislators

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Kaduna State House of Assembly, Honourable Yusuf Mugu has advocated the need to amend constitution to give higher academic qualification criteria for who can be a legislature. He expressed this, while making contributions at a two-day session organised by the Partnership to Engage, Reform & Learn (PERL-ECP), which is supporting CS-Legislature Engagement & Accountability Platform (CLEAP), on Tuesday September 12 in Zaria.

He regretted why Honourable Suleiman Dabo whom he described as intelligent and a good lawmaker was not

returned by his Zaria Constituency in the 2023 election.

"We were there together at the last Kaduna Assembly. He is brilliant, intelligent, well educated and passionate about development,

"Honourable Suleiman Dabo's knowledge goes beyond his Constituency but is useful to the entire state," hence the need for constitution to clearly spell out qualification of who can be a lawmaker," he said.

Honourable Mugu who represents Kaura Constituency in the Kaduna Assembly, argued that with lawmakers that have higher qualifications, their constituents will get better representation and quality bills will scale through for the overall good of democracy.

Subsidy Removal: Zulum Launches 70 New Air Conditioner Buses For Metro Transport

**Opens new structures at terminus*

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, on Monday evening, unveiled a new fleet of 70 buses for metro transport and to ease the movement of civil servants to their various places of work.

The initiative aims to alleviate the burden of commuting for both government employees and the general public.

The unveiling ceremony was held at the premises of Borno Express terminus along Kano-Maiduguri road.

The new fleet of buses, specially acquired for this purpose comprised of

standard-sized buses and larger buses to accommodate a greater number of passengers.

Each vehicle is equipped with modern amenities, including air conditioning facilities and comfortable seating arrangements to ensure a pleasant commuting experience.

Making his remarks, Governor Zulum noted that this second phase of the intervention in the transport sector is to alleviate suffering due to the removal of fuel subsidy.

The governor further said that 30 out of the total 70 buses will be dedicated to conveying civil servants to their places of work from 7:00 am to 9:00 am pick ups and return 3:00 pm to

5:00 from Mondays to Fridays.

"I want you to ensure that these buses start operations tomorrow morning (Tuesday) unfailingly. You should however be mindful of our situation and ensure that you bring down the cost of transportation. Let us consider it as a social service and not as a revenue generation drive," Zulum said to Borno express management.

The governor commended the management for transforming the face of Maiduguri terminus and improving the welfare of both the serving and retired staff.

"Since he assumed office, the General Manager has been paying entitlements

of his staff at due time. This is very commendable," Zulum said.

... Opens new structures at terminus
Meanwhile, Governor Babagana Umara Zulum also unveiled newly constructed structures and remodeled buildings at the terminus.

The structures are to serve accommodation for travelers, and for operations of businesses such as restaurants and offices.

Conducting the Governor round, the General Manager, Mohammed Grema noted that all the construction projects were funded with internal revenue generated by Borno Express company.



Honourable Yusuf Mugu

SGBV: FiDA, GPD Talk Tough, Declare State Of Emergency

By: EMMANUEL AGBO, Kaduna

International Alert, (IA) in partnership with the Global Peace Development, (GPD) and the International Federation Of Women Lawyers, (FiDA) has expressed dismay over the incessant sexual and gender based violence, (SGBV) in Kaduna State.

The Kaduna State Chapter Chairperson of FiDA, Hajiya Aisha Abdu Mohammed alongside other sister agencies, declared a state of emergency, during a one-day sensitization workshop on addressing harmful cultural norms and practices that promote SGBV on the theme, "Legal and social protection of women and girls against gender based violence", in Kaduna on Monday.

Aisha said, FiDA has been at the forefront in the fight for the protection, promotion and preservation of the rights and interest of women and children in Nigeria, adding that despite the collaborations with many organizations and NGOs in the fight, there seems not to be any headway.

The Chairperson stressed that, "the reason we think it's not perfect is that the perpetrators are not sensitized enough and women and girls are usually the main focus on sensitization leaving the men who are the perpetrators behind.

"We are not saying that some female genders are not involved in this but the ratio compare to the men is quite negligible. So this propel the meeting of today. FIDA from now is going to sensitized the men more than the women because we have been sensitizing women and we are going to do this so that we can send out the message to the men and we hope that we bring at least to the bare minimum.

"So we believe that all hands must be on deck to fight this thing not only the women but the men, everybody should be out there to fight this menace. To this end, we are declaring a state of emergency on violence against women and children." She said.

In his remarks, the Country Director, International Alert, (IA) Paul Nyulaku, said the workshop signifies a significant stride forward in their joint commitment to confront and eradicate the cultural norms and practices that underpin SGBV in the



communities.

Represented by the Program Manager, International Alert, Anicetus Atakpu, Nyulaku conveyed their profound appreciation to the Kaduna state chapter of FiDA for their unwavering support in organizing the event, disclosing that the workshop was also been made possible through funding from the United Kingdom, (UK) Government under the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF).

He further reiterated that that the initiative is a crucial part of their ongoing project titled "Promoting Stability, Access to Justice, and Accountability in North-West Nigeria: Samun Adalchi Shine Kwanciyar Hankali (Achieving Justice

Promotes Stability)" while noting that the project is dedicated to supporting stabilization, local justice, and the prevention of SGBV by fostering inclusivity, accountability, and conflict management to reduce violence in Zamfara and Kaduna states.

Assuring FiDA and Sister agencies at the program, the Attorney General, Commissioner for Justice Kaduna state, Barrister Sule Shauibu said that the government of Kaduna state will always stand by them and also fight to the last against any gender based violence.

He said, "I am sure you are aware that we have such unit in the ministry of justice. we do not take it likely, we are not taking it likely and I am



assuring you that we are going to fight it to the last wherever it is identified.

"This program cannot be more apt. SGBV like we all know continue to be on the increase the prevalence of which the purpose of our gathering today am sure will give us the opportunity to be able to dissect and discuss on ideas and solutions on the way forward.

"I want to use this opportunity to assure you that the government of Kaduna state will always stand by you and also fight to the last any gender based violence. I am sure you are aware that we have such unit in the ministry of justice, we do not take it likely, we are not taking it likely and I am

assuring you that we are going to fight it to the last wherever it's identified.

"We won't compromise. The Kaduna state Governor, Senator Uba Sani has zero tolerance for crimes and criminality particularly the ones that affects women and girls. So I want to assure you that whatever it's that you might have resolved today, wherever we can key in, we shall key in. We will collaborate with you, we will support you we will give you all the necessary assistance to ensure that you discharge and fight this cankerworm to a standstill."

In a communique agreed upon by participants at the workshop, they agreed that SGBV is a horrific offence

that has lasting negative effects on the victims/survivors.

"It is a pandemic that requires all hands on deck to treat this cancer worm. Hence the need to highlight practical solutions that will help the fight against SGBV and strengthen the protection of women and children in our society," they said.

They however, recommended that SGBV should have a stipulated timeline And should be pseudo-generic cases as the longer the case takes the less likely for conviction, due to loss of evidence and witnesses.

According to the participants, sensitisation should be continuous, while the method may be adaptive.

"Communities need to feel heard and seen so as to encourage survivors (women and children) speak out more about their abuse."

"Economic empowerment for women and girls should be invested in heavily, this will provide independence and a sense of identity for them, and also economic protection."

"There is need to carry-out a robust and thorough investigation, in order to gather enough evidence that prosecutors can use to win cases and ensure a conviction."

"There should be training for personnel handling cases in family courts and increased funding for running these courts."

"Rape is a criminal offense and such cases are between the state and the defendant, no one has the right to settle a rape case privately especially as it attracts a capital punishment."

"There should be monitored interaction between children and relatives and neighbours of the opposite gender; this includes bathing, playing privately etc."

"Sex offenders register should be made public so as to alert communities of a perpetrator in the community .Expose minors to information about sexual abuse and rape so they do not fear reporting to an adult about sexual abuse. The report from SARC should carry the name of the offender, as this is crucial in securing a conviction in court. Offender's names should not be kept anonymous where the survivor has declared his name," they added.



Unity Remains Foundation For Progress, Development -Kaduna Dep Gov

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Deputy Governor, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe at the weekend, stressed the importance of unity as the foundation of progress and development in any society, that with unity, societies achieve great things.

The Deputy Governor expressed this while serving as the special guest of honour at a unity summit organized by the Southern Kaduna Unity Frontiers which took place at New Choice Hotel, Kafanchan.

Deputy Governor, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe and Senior Kaduna State Government appointees from Southern Kaduna were in attendance at the Unity Summit, tagged, "Path to Rebuilding Southern Kaduna Unity".

Also, wide section of stakeholders from the Southern Kaduna Senatorial Zone were present.

The summit brought together a wide section of stakeholders from Southern Kaduna, comprising paramount rulers, religious and community leaders as well as government officials and politicians from Zone 3.

Speaking on the theme, "Path to Rebuilding Southern Kaduna Unity", Dr Balarabe said the summit is a welcome development for the state government.

She pointed out that a united society is of utmost importance in today's interconnected and globalized world, explaining that, "we live in a society where diversity is not just a reality, but also a strength, that should be celebrated and embraced."

She further admonished all the groups living in Southern Kaduna to focus on their common humanity and eschew divisiveness, which slows the progress of the region.

"For how long will we allow petty fights, ethnic rivalry and quest for supremacy, religious bigotry and general pull-down syndrome continue to envelop us. Are we happy or content with where all these have taken us?" Dr Balarabe asked.

She expressed excitement that the Southern Kaduna Unity Frontiers decided to take the bull by the horns through convoking the summit, to find ways of arresting deteriorating social relations.

She said, "I find the theme of this summit, "Path to Rebuilding Southern Kaduna Unity", appropriate and aptly-timed.

Clearly, the organizers of this conference recognize the imperative of charting a course of getting us out of the doldrums

while enabling us build resilient economies that will benefit everyone.

"I understand that to make progress towards achieving set goals, SKUF has pooled together representatives from diverse ethnic nationalities in Southern Kaduna. I further understand that attendance at the summit include traditional leaders, tribal development associations, youth and women groups, civil society organizations and religious bodies. This is a wide range of participants that can get a lot done if they have the right self-motivation," she said.

She added that for the summit to realize its objectives, participants must be open and truthful to one another.

"The moment participants begin to sugar-coat or white-wash the problems, it would mean that time and efforts would have been wasted.

"The meeting needs to be abreast with the risks and causes of ethnic conflicts, religious tensions, and banditry, which have led to significant loss of lives and property in Southern Kaduna," she added.

On behalf of the Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani, Deputy- Governor Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe also led government officials to Fadan Kamantan to condole the people over the unfortunate bandits attack on St. Raphael Parish, Fadan Kamantan, Zangon Kataf LG.

The Deputy Governor first visited the Chief of Anghan Chieftdom, HRH Adamu Alkali at his palace, before proceeding to St. Raphael Parish, Fadan Kamantan, Diocese of Kafanchan.

She was received by the Very Reverend Father Okolo Emmanuel, the Chancellor of Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, who thanked the Kaduna State Government for the visit.

The Chancellor who narrated the kidnapping attempt by the bandits and the arson that took place leading to the death of one seminarian, appreciated the good people of Fadan Kamantan for the love and solidarity they have shown to them, particularly from the Muslim community, which he said, showed the unity that exists among the people, irrespective of their religious differences.

The Deputy Governor condemned the attack and prayed for the repose of the lone soul lost in the attack.

She urged the Chief of Anghan and St Raphael Parish to take solace in God.



2023 PDP Presidential Candidate Head To Supreme Court

According to Atiku Abubakar Wazirin Adamawa in his official reaction to the judgment delivered by the Presidential Election Petition Court on the 2023 presidential election.

As you already know, I approached the court following the declaration by INEC that the APC and its candidate are the winners of the February 25, Presidential Election.

My decision to go to court is anchored in my belief that the court is the sanctuary of justice. The journey of my political career, as you know, holds so much to the courage and fearless decisions of our judiciary.

However Atiku Abubakar GCON Wazirin Adamawa revealed that he is not a stranger to legal battles, and "I can say that I have a fair idea of how the court system works. All through my career as a politician, I have been a fighter, and I must say that I have found the judiciary as a worthy pillar to rest on in the pursuit of justice".

The last presidential election in our country and the way it was managed by the electoral umpire, the Independent

National Electoral Commission, leaves behind unenviable precedents, which I believe the courts have a duty to redress.

Atiku further said that "Our gains in ensuring transparent elections through the deployment of technology was heavily compromised by INEC in the way it managed the last presidential election, and I am afraid that the judgement of the court as rendered by the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal, failed to restore confidence in our dreams of free and fair elections devoid of human manipulations".

Like I did say at the beginning of this legal battle when I instructed my lawyers to file my petition challenging the outcome of the presidential election, my ultimate goal in this pursuit is to ensure that democracy is further strengthened through the principles and processes of fair hearing.

"I take great pains to tell you that the decision of the court of first instance on this matter utterly falls far short of that expectation".

I am therefore here to tell you that, though the judgment of the

court yesterday is respected, it is a judgment that I refuse to accept. I refuse to accept the judgment because I believe that it is bereft of substantial justice. However, the disappointment in the verdict of the court can never destroy my confidence in the judiciary.

Consequently, I have asked my lawyers to activate my constitutionally guaranteed rights of appeal to the higher court, which, in the instance, is the Supreme Court. It is my conviction that the electoral process in Nigeria should be devoid of untidy manipulations and that the outcome of every election should be a perfect reflection of the wishes of the electorate. I believe that such is the only way through which our democracy can have a manifest expression of its true meaning. Whether I prevail in this quest or not, the record of my effort in ensuring an order of credible elections in Nigeria shall remain for the future generations to evaluate.

"On this note, I urge all my supporters to remain steadfast. I urge them to take solace in an immortal lesson I learned from



Alhaji Atiku Abubakar

my leader and mentor, the late Shehu Yar'Adua, that losing a battle is less important than losing the war. We might have lost a battle yesterday, but the war is well ahead of us. And I believe that with our hopes in

God, we shall win the war of restoring confidence in our electoral system". Atiku added. Atiku Muhammad Yabo Sarkin Yakin Yabo, PDP North West Youth Leader

Nigerian Pilgrims Always Exciting In Holy Land - Top Israel Tour Broker

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Top Israeli tour broker, Mr. Israel Goldstein of Ophir Tour has described Nigerian pilgrims to Israel as always exciting people. Mr. Goldstein said this while speaking at the grand finale of a 72-hour With God Marathon Prayer hosted by the great revivalist, Prophet Taiwo Ojo of Mercy Camp in Osengere Ibadan.

The top Israeli tour broker pointed out that Nigerians are the most exciting people that he has ever met in his tour broking experience.

He assured all pilgrims from Nigeria to the Holy land of Israel of a rousing welcome and exceptional experiences during their pilgrimage exercise for always being exciting set of people.

Mr. Goldstein expressed joy to all the worshipers at the marathon prayer, saying, " the presence of God is always felt

during the programme."

While sharing his good tidings of great news from the Holy Land of Israel, he enlightened the

worshipers of the importance and spiritual benefit of pilgrimage to the holy lands which according to him will

connect believers with the most beautiful places where incidents that were recorded in the scriptures happened.

UfitFly boss, Evangelist Anibola Ogunkeyede while speaking, lauded Prophet Taiwo Ojo's courage, saying, " his 72 hours crusade is making waves globally, with massive online followers from different parts of the world.

"This programme has a strong online presence as we all know that Prophet Abel Taiwo Ojo Live has a lot of followers on Facebook with many of his followers based in the UK, France, the US and various other countries of the world".

Evangelist Ogunkeyede added that a meeting with all other renowned travel agencies was held with aim of using the programme to address the church's annual pilgrimage to the Holy land scheduled towards early 2024.

Dignitaries at the monthly spiritual awakening crusade programme, included, Mr. Solomon Nwachukwu of Obamark World Travels among others.



Top Israeli tour broker, Mr. Israel Goldstein (second right) with others at the programme.

Fake Commissioner Of Police, Lawyer Land In Police Net

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The long arm of the law has caught up with two impostors who have been impersonating a Commissioner of Police and a lawyer in Lagos. They were among the 13 suspected criminals paraded on Monday by the Lagos State Police Command.

Police Public Relations Officer, SP Benjamin Hundeyin on behalf of the Commissioner of Police, Idowu Owohunwa, paraded them at the Command headquarters, Ikeja.

According to the police spokesperson, the duo have been going about in the nomenclature of the rank and profession to deceive unsuspecting members of the public.

While parading the suspects, the police image maker disclosed that the fake Commissioner of Police Identified as Nwagu Emmanuel was apprehended at a police formation, where he introduced himself with the rank, but could not justify it on further enquires.

Hundeyin stated that the

impostor was offered full compliment by officers and men on duty, but later discovered to be an impostor.

His words, " On September 2, 2023 at about 4.40pm, one Nwagu Emmanuel 'm' visited a police premises and introduced himself as a Commissioner of Police.

In the case of the fake lawyer, Hundeyin hinted that he was arrested following complaint by members of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Epe branch.

Identified as Ibrahim Bello, the fake lawyer was alleged to have been presenting himself as a lawyer at the Epe High/Magistrate Court for several years.

" On September 4, 2023, after receipt of a complaint from the Nigeria Bar Association, Epe Branch, against one Ibrahim Bello 'm' who has been conducting and presenting himself as a lawyer at the Epe High/Magistrate Court for several years, operatives of the command arrested the suspect fully dressed as a lawyer in court.

"He was brought in for questioning, where he was



The fake lawyer

discovered to be an impersonator".

Upon a search conducted in his office, two photo frames in which he dressed in lawyer's robe, several books on law practice, which include Tenancy Law 2015, Law of Lagos State 2015, Administration of Criminal Justice Repeal

and Reenactment Law, Law of Trespass To Land and Nuisance, third edition, Due Process of Law edited by Akintunde O. Obilade & Gloria J. Braxton and Lagos State Government Oba and Chiefs of Lagos State Government were recovered.

Story About Contract Inflation, Variation At FCTA/FCDA False - Sources

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A Social Media post trended recently about alleged illegal variations and inflation of some contracts of the FCTA/FCDA.

Our correspondent took time out to investigate the allegations contained in the Social media post. Credible sources in the FCTA/FCDA provided useful information which proved that the allegations were false and misleading.

Our correspondent gives a point by point explanation on each of the allegations below:

The Project referred to in Gaduwa is presumed to be the contract for the Emergency Rehabilitation/Improvement of Access Road to Nigeria Centre for Disease Control Laboratory in Gaduwa District. The contract was awarded to M/s CBC Global Civil & Building Construction Company Nigeria Limited at the sum of N2,493,389,942.88.

As the name implies, it was an emergency contract due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the need to quickly access the facilities for testing and treatment of infected persons. The scope of work comprises, Roadworks, Surface Water Drainage, Culverts and River Training. It is 2.4km long asphaltic concrete road. The project was completed on schedule and payment made in full.

The assertions of the author is therefore false.

On the issues of the contracts awarded at 10 billion Naira and later jacked up to N119 billion, no such contract exists in FCDA.

"Awarded Contract of N50 Billion later jacked up to N200 Billion" - FCTA/FCDA sources say this is strange to them and believed to be the figment of imagination of the writer.

"Award of contract of N6 Billion and later jacked up to N70 Billion", Our sources in the FCTA/FCDA also revealed that they do not have such contract.

"Awarded Emergency Maintenance of Usman Dam at the cost of N9 Billion and paid in full without any BOQ and so many procurement infractions".

Our credible sources revealed categorically that it is not true.

According to them, currently, the nature of works at the site demands emergency attention due to the fact that it can result to disruption of water supply to the city.

More so, some of the Electro-mechanical components required will have to be imported, so the procurement process is ongoing.

"But as we speak, there is no payment yet on the works", the source said.

"Left debt of over N1.2 Trillion to FCT without anything to show" - Our sources revealed that debts owed contractors working for the FCT Administration were debts accruing over a period of more than 20 years, spanning through several administrations and not wholly incurred during the last administration.

"Approval of green areas to residential houses and converting residential houses in Wuse 2, Maitama Gana Street, Garki into Commercial contrary to the Abuja Master Plan". It was confirmed that the FCT/FCDA at no time, condoned the abuse of the Master Plan.

"However, if there is any infringement known to the Authority, necessary actions are always taken to correct such violations".

Palliatives: Oyo Govt Ready To Stop Hijacking Of Food Distribution Exercise - Commissioner

**Says next phase will be better implemented*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Government is to stop desperate and violent-minded people from hijacking food distribution exercise under the Sustainable Action for Economic Recovery (SAfER) from the organisers.

The state Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Prince Dotun Oyelade made this known in a statement at the weekend on the SAfER exercise.

Prince Oyelade in the statement, described the food distribution exercise as a testing ground that has thrown up its own challenges and success.

According to the commissioner, " in spite of the challenges, the exercise was able to reach most vulnerables in all the 33 local government areas in the state and therefore, a success".

He stressed that the food distribution exercise which is the first phase of SAfER consists of only 25% of the food to be distributed to identified poorest of the poor in the state.

Emphasizing that the items distribution went according to plan in other areas of the state aside some parts of Ibadan, Prince Oyelade assured that the next phase which will begin in due course will be better implemented, saying, food items distribution is only an aspect of SAfER.

The Commissioner pointed out that other areas of SAfER such as " Transportation, Health care Insurance, Food Security and Agriculture are also very active", saying, " on transportation, 46 buses have been provided out of which 31 of them ply intra-city routes in Ibadan, while the

others ply other key towns in Oyo state at a very reduced cost".

"This transportation project has been so successful that private transport owners have had to complain about the reduction in government buses fares. The plan of government to provide N500m as loans to small and micro entrepreneurs is also afoot and has reached advanced stage with the signing of memorandum of understanding (MOU) with seven micro finance banks across the state", he said.

Prince Oyelade added, " On Health, the SAfER Initiative has identified 50,000 pensioners as qualified to be enrolled in the Oyo State Health Insurance Agency (OYSHIA) free of charge, while 100,000 vulnerable residents will be enrolled for free treatment under the same scheme".

" Under food security, the State

Government earmarked N1bn as loans for Small scale farmers, and Youths Entrepreneurs and Agriculture businesses (YEAP) at N500m each. The loans are being midwifed by financial institutions and the Agricultural Credit Corporation of Oyo state.

Prince Oyelade maintained that these are long poverty alleviation plans of the state government that take immediate effect and that is why Governor Seyi Makinde has said that in Oyo state, we do not operate a Palliative plan, but SAfER plan, which is more enduring.

The Commissioner stressed further that On the phase 2 of the Food distribution project, Governor Makinde has assured the people that the little anomalies identified in a few areas will be corrected.

Tackle Rampant Cases Of Building Collapse In Nigeria, Olubadan Tasks NSE

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Amidst increasing spate of cases of building collapse in Nigeria, the Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lekan Balogun has tasked Nigerian Engineers to tackle rampant cases of building collapse in Nigeria.

Receiving the newly inaugurated executive committee of the Oyo State chapter of the Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE) to his Alarere residence in Ibadan during a courtesy visit at the weekend, Oba Balogun called on the engineers to embark on aggressive sensitization campaign.

He stressed that the aggressive sensitization campaign should focus on the need for builders to ensure that competent professionals are engaged in building construction, in order to stem the tide of collapsed structures with their attendant woes.

Oba Balogun stated that the reports of collapsed buildings that were becoming rampant in the state could not have been, if experts' advice and inputs were involved.

The Olubadan pointed out that the awareness and sensitization of the members of the public being canvassed would open the understanding of the people on the importance of professional inputs in building construction.

"Some of the people are ignorant while some that are not ignorant want to cut cost. It is incumbent upon you to bring the people into the awareness of why you are very crucial to construction activities", he said.

The Olubadan added, "By the awareness and sensitization, you would raise the consciousness of those that are ignorant while those who know but want to cut cost would know that no amount of money can equate a life that is lost in a collapsed building".

"Your new exco has started very well, going by the actions you have taken so far as reeled out by your Chairman and I can only pray for a resounding success for your team and the Society at large".

The Chairman, Oyo State chapter of the Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE), Engr Adewale Ikotun while speaking disclosed that the society is ready to partner with the state government to wage war against the menace Engr Ikotun solicited for the support and royal blessings of Oba Balogun in the onerous task ahead, promising to take the organization to a higher level during the two-year term.

He stressed further that his committee had set out for actions immediately it was composed by making presentation of sets of computers and accessories and solar panels to the Liberty Academy in Odo-Ona Elewe area of the metropolis to identify and lend support to the government on its free education policy.

Engineer Ikotun said the society had concluded arrangements to give out wheel chairs to some of the residents that have challenges that require such to enable their mobility in addition to similar efforts to assist some of the handicapped students at The Technical University along Lagos-

NSCDC Seals Site In Ibadan Over Production Of Illegal Car Lubricant

**Commandant says suspects, accomplices at large*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Oyo State Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) on Friday, sealed off a production site in Ibadan with over 2,500 litres of suspected adulterated Automated Transmission Fluid (ATF), one plastic container of suspected adulterated grease oil, metal drums used for storage, impounded.

Briefing journalists in Ibadan, the Oyo State NSCDC Commandant, Dr Michael Akintayo Adaralewa said the production site was sealed off by the Commandant General's Special Intelligence Squad and the Oyo State NSCDC command.

Specifically, Dr Adaralewa charged Nigerians to be vigilant of

the kind of lubricant and other fluid they use in their vehicles and production machines.

Dr Adaralewa while parading the suspects at the production site in Gbekuba Ido Local Government area of Oyo State, gave the name of the suspects as Patrick Umeakuana, Adegoke Sunday.

The state commandant stressed that all the impounded items would be taken to a relevant agency for elaborate laboratory analysis.

Dr. Adaralewa maintained that the two arrested suspects and their accomplices now at large will be charged to a competent court of law within the jurisdiction after the conclusion of the investigation.

The state commandant then enjoined the people of Oyo State and Nigeria to



Exhibits recovered from the site suspected to be harbouring adulterated lubricants.

support the command in exposing other criminals involved in these act and it will serve as a deterrent to other mischievous elements in our society.

We Will Rid Oke-Ogun Of Insecurity - Oyo Govt

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Deputy Governor, Barrister Bayo Lawal has disclosed that the state government is committed to winning the war against insecurity in Oke-Ogun Zone of the state.

Barrister Lawal made this known during a stakeholders meeting ahead the 2024 fiscal year, held at Kisi for all the local government areas in Oke-Ogun Zone II.

According to the deputy governor, the present administration in Oyo State would stop at nothing to ensure citizens are safe in all zones in the state and that more Amotekun Corps will be recruited, across all the zones in Oke-Ogun.

The deputy governor while commending the efforts of security outfits at ensuring peace and stability in the state, expressed the government's readiness to partner with all security agencies towards safeguarding the state.

Barrister Lawal also tasked leaders in the zone

to synergize and come up with a template to quickly address the issues of insecurity around the zone, adding that all the local government in Oke-Ogun Zone II, comprising of Olorunsogo, Oorelope, Irepo, Saki West, Saki East and Atisbo Local Governments, need to put heads together and come up with a security template that will holistically and comprehensively address the issues of insecurity around the zone.

Speaking further, the deputy governor maintained that budgetary system is critical to democracy and "therefore, the people need to be consulted first before any budget preparation. This is the only expression of true democracy".

Emphasizing that governance is different from politics, the deputy governor stressed, "now is the time for governance, which must be done right" adding that all ongoing projects in the zone will be completed as he'll ensure that they're captured in the 2024 budget.

Projects such as the Saki-Ogboro-Igboho Road



Oyo State Deputy Governor Barrister Bayo Lawal

rehabilitation will be completed as well and the dualization of Kisi Township road which the people have requested will also be done.

In his remarks, the Honorable Commissioner for Budget, Professor Adetunji Babatunde stated that a good budget must be a budget of engagement, hence the purpose of the engagement meeting.

The meeting which was chaired by the Deputy Governor, Barr Adebayo Lawal also had in

attendance other political office holders in the State such as the Hon. Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Professor Salihu Abdulwaheed Adelabu, Executive Assitant to the Governor on Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Alh. Kolawole Gafar Bello, Honourable representing Irepo-Olorunsogo State Constituency, Hon Atanda Abdulsalam Wele, the Local Government Chairmen under Oke-Ogun Zone II respectively.



Olubadan of Ibadan receiving NSE Executives in his palace.

Dawakin Tofa Education Trust Fund Distributes Learning Materials To Schools

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Learning materials worth hundreds of thousands of Naira were distributed to some schools by Dawakin Tofa Education Trust Fund (DEFUND) in a colourful ceremony held at GSS Grammar Dawakin Tofa with all the invited guests in attendance.

In his welcome address, the chairman of the trust fund, Dr. Ameer Abdulazeez announced that education deserves collective contribution as government alone cannot cover everywhere due to population and other factors that are becoming an obstacles in managing the sector.

He added that, "DEFUND would continue to mobilise the general public to engage in people oriented contributions towards the development of education across the local

government area with helping hands and we are certain that in the near future, education would continue to receive bumper treatment with optimum results".

Similarly, the Chief Press Secretary to the Kano State Governor, Malam Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa announced that education is one of the top priorities of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf and with the public participation, the sector would become more progressive and well managed across the state.

Other speakers include a representative from the state's ministry of education, SUBEB, civil societies, education stakeholders and the representative of the Dawakin Tofa District Head, who called on well meaning citizens to participate fully for the development of education no matter how little it



Items distributed by DEFUND

might be. The items distributed include 1,000 20 leaves exercise books, 1,000 40 leaves exercise books, 500 registers, 500 record books, 700 stickers and chalks, while there were other interventions carried out, which clearly indicates that Dawakin Tofa Education Trust Fund would become exemplary among other trust funds. Speaking to our correspondent, Malam

Musa Mudi, a reporter with Express Radio said that Dawakin Tofa Academic Forum is one of the most formidable non-governmental associations that is seriously working selflessly towards the development of education at both levels. He commended the leadership of the trust fund for steering the affairs of the organisation without bias.

Lagos Police Busts Bridge Rods Vandal Syndicate, Apprehends Suspect, Recovers Operational Tools

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The long arm of the law has caught up with a member of a notorious bridge rods vandal, following his arrest by police operatives in Lagos.

It was exclusively gathered that the suspect, Austin Emmanuel, 38, was nabbed by police operatives attached to Badia Division on the Ijora Olopa axis of the Apapa bridge.

Our correspondent gathered that he was apprehended at about 11.00pm on Thursday by a patrol team, while vandalising the iron rods on top of the bridge.

It was reliably gathered that operational tools which include a sledge hammer and shape knife were recovered from him.

As learnt, he confessed to the crime, even as he



Suspect and recovered operational tools.

disclosed that he has vandalised iron rods on the bridge thrice and other public installations before his arrest.

The suspect, who disclosed that he lives in Apapa area of the state, however declined to name other members of his gang.

Efforts to get the comment of the Spokesperson of the Lagos State Police Command SP Benjamin Hundeyin proved abortive as at time of filing the report.

However, an impeccable police source confirmed the arrest of the suspect, saying it was based on a distress call from a concerned member of the public.

The source, who preferred to be anonymous, disclosed that the suspect has been transferred to the CP's Special Squad for discreet investigation.

Katsina Gov Signs Supplementary Budget Into Law

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has signed the year 2023 Supplementary Budget of 300,633,257,963.00k billion Naira into law.

The Budget according a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed, is to tackle insecurity and alleviate poverty in the state.

Mohammed Kaula said the 2023 supplementary budget of N300,633,257,963,00k underscores the government's commitment to combat insecurity, reduce poverty, and provide assistance to the less privileged and those in need throughout the state.

He explained that, the Supplementary Appropriation Budget, which has been eagerly anticipated, was presented to Governor Radda by the Katsina State House of Assembly, led by the Speaker, Right Honourable, Nasir Yahya Daura.

The signing of the over 300 billion naira Supplementary budget took place at the General Muhammadu Buhari (Government) House, Katsina during which the Speaker was joined by his Deputy, Right Honourable Abduljalal Haruna Runka and the House Leader, Honourable, Shamsudeen

Abubakar Dabai (Ciroman Dabai), along with other members of the state House of Assembly. Mohammed Kaula said

"This move demonstrates the government's unwavering dedication to the welfare of its citizens and its determination to create a safer and more prosperous environment for all."

He disclosed that, the supplementary budget reflects a collective effort to tackle pressing issues and uplift the lives of the people of Katsina State.

He said Governor Dikko Radda while signing the budget expressed optimism that, "this initiative will contribute significantly to the state's development, ensuring a brighter future for all its residents."

He said while commending the legislative arm for working tirelessly on the budget, the governor emphasized the importance of unity and cooperation in achieving the goals set out in the Supplementary Budget.

"As the government continues to work tirelessly towards the well-being of its people, it remains committed to transparency and accountability in the allocation and utilization of resources for the betterment of Katsina State," Governor Dikko Umaru Radda said.



Gov Radda

Apply Benin Republic Port Community System Model, Experts Counsel FG

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Some experts in the Nigerian maritime sector have advised the Federal Government to copy the Webb Port model of port community system being used in neighbouring Benin Republic.

Rising from the 2023 JournalNG Port Industry Town Hall meeting in Lagos, they agreed that the Webb Port model has proven to enhance national security, improve revenue collection and promote trade at the seaport, airport and land borders.

Giving an insight into the workings of the Webb Ports in Benin, Lanre Balogun, A manager in charge of installation at Webb Fontaine Nigeria Limited said the Port Community System has achieved seamless interactions between systems used by the port authority, customs and terminal operators from data exchange and logistics through billing and payment.

Balogun said all port processes under the Webb Ports regime enjoy speedy processing from electronic manifest declaration through electronic payment of all duties and fees; space booking for delivery and loading preparation; e-release for cargo exit authorisation and cargo movements management and follow up

Balogun said his company has trained 8,137 persons in Benin from 2018 to 2022 and has 6,624 users of the system that has helped Benin Republic Customs achieve 97 percent increase in customs revenue collection between 2016 and 2022.

He added that the PCS is active at Cotonou Port, Cotonou Airport and six land borders of



Speakers at the JournalNG stakeholders meeting on Port Automation system.

Hilla Condji, Krake Plage, Malanville, Parakou, Iloua and Tchicandou.

According to him, the contract entered with Benin Ministry of Finance has contributed immensely to the port efficiency in the country easing trade. He listed trucking companies, banks, stevedores, customs brokers, shipping agents, inspection authorities and others are maximizing the benefits of the Webb Ports system

Also speaking at the occasion, the Customs Area Controller of Kirikiri Lighter Terminal, Comptroller Timinadi Bomodi warned that the nation's blue economy won't attract FDIs without adequate data to guide investors.

Bomodi said that automated processes and technology could be utilized in addressing the dire need for relevant data on

various aspects of the sector which makes it easier for investors to understand the terrain.

He identified fishing trawler operations in the country as a sub-sector that requires optimum regulation and adequate data to guide the regulators, operators, government policies and spur Foreign Direct Investments While stating that the Customs online portal, Nigeria Integrated Customs Information System (NICIS) II, allows for integration of other agencies, he maintained that blue economy should be explored as an ecosystem that leverages technology.

"Also speaking at the meeting, Chief Abdullai Tony Dania, a Maritime Lawyer, called for due diligence and enactment of laws that will strengthen integration among government agencies.

According to Dania, there is a need for mandatory inter agencies and inter-Ministerial collaboration, supported by statute to give impetus to the required technologically backed integration.

He stated the Nigerian Customs and Excise in under the ministry of Finance, but her operations are more under the Marine & the blue economy. He talked about the need to regulate the existing maritime agencies " Meanwhile, the Founder of National Association of Government Approved Freight Forwarders (NAGAFF) and Chairman of the occasion, Dr. Boniface Aniebonam observed that automated processes of port agencies are fragmented.

Aniebonam, who was represented by the Registrar, NAGAFF Academy, Mr. Francis Omotosho observed that even the popular Customs

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Valuation system and NPA's electronic truck call-up system are fraught with the challenge of human interference.

The veteran freight forwarder suggested that technology could be utilized to alert Customs of overtime cargoes after 28 days at ports, thereby positioning the Service to expedite the evacuation of such cargoes.

On his part, the Chairman of the Association of Maritime Truck Owners (AMATO), Chief Remi Ogungbemi advised that already established technological processes should be improved upon.

He also lamented that truck owners are equally being vilified when their trucks are seized along with consignments intercepted by Customs and other security agencies.

Earlier, the Publisher of JournalNG and convener of the conference, Mr. Ismail Aniemu observed that technology has become part of daily life and automation has also become the norm.

The magazine publisher said Nigeria Customs Service is the best suitable to be the lead agency for a national single window project and most qualified to handle it with its more robust NICIS II platform While commending the Webb Port system as most suitable tested and trusted platform observed to be sustainable in Benin in the last six years, Aniemu said the Nigeria Customs strong presence at the seaports, airports and border stations further attests to its suitability to undertake the task

Adamawa Records Another Boat Mishap, Many Feared Dead **11 bodies recovered, 20 rescued*

By; TINAPHINEAS, Yola

Another tragic event has unfolded in Adamawa Monday afternoon, as a boat capsized in Gurin, a suburb of Fufore Local Government Area, with many people onboard.

This incident is coming barely two days after a boat conveying traders to the market capsized in Njuwa, killing about 15 persons.

New Nigerian learnt that the accident reportedly happened at Kwatan Mallam Adamu in Gurin village.

A local source told our correspondent that the victims on board were mostly women and children.

Eyewitness report stated the incident happened on Monday afternoon, when farmers were scampering to reach home to escape rainfall.

"About 40 passengers including women

and children crammed into the boat to get home before today's heavy downpour.

"Unfortunately midway, strong wind and thunderstorm set in, causing the boat capsized.

"A mother who held up her infant on the surface of the water drowned, but the baby was saved by a diver. I think those who were rescued are not more than 20," the eye witness stated.

The Information Officer of Fufore Local Council, Jingi Abdullahi has confirmed that 11 bodies had so far been recovered. "As of now, local divers have recovered 11 dead bodies," Abdullahi said.

Also, the Executive Secretary of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA) Dr. Suleiman Aminu, confirmed the incident to New Nigerian.

God Fatherism Era Winding Up In Nigeria's Politics - PERL/CLEAP Session

**Says social accountability will determine winners in 2027*



marks. This was achieved through social accountability," he said.

According to him, the Social Media is a critical instrument in determining acceptance of a candidate in present democracies.

He explained that social accountability therefore, allows citizens the opportunity to ensure that government answers their needs by organizing amongst themselves and engaging with government and service providers.

"It builds on the existing social and community structures that allows citizens to push for what is best for them and demand some level of responsiveness and

accountability from their government," he said.

Goje explained that social accountability refers to the broad range of actions and mechanisms that citizens can engage in to hold the government, (represented by public officials and service providers), its actions, civil society, media and other societal actors promote or facilitate the capacity of citizens to hold the state agents accountable.

"No government can run away from engaging citizens," he stressed.

Speaking further, he said that social accountability is an approach towards building accountability that relies on civic

engagement, in which citizens participate directly or indirectly in demanding accountability from service providers and public officials.

"Social accountability generally combines information on rights and service delivery with collective actions for change," he added.

On the forms of social accountability, he said it includes, freedom of information petitions and procurement monitoring, Citizen report cards and community score cards, Community monitoring of public service delivery and Citizen's monitoring of political campaign promises.

Other forms according to him,

are participatory budgeting, public expenditure tracking and fiscal responsibility, Meaningful participation in public policy making including constitutional review process, Public commissions and hearings and Citizen advisory boards; Citizen Charters Grassroots organizing and project impact assessment.

Speaking in a welcome address of the session on Monday, PERL Kaduna Team Lead, Mr. Abel Adejor said that this is part of next steps from an earlier Technical Session on Strengthening Citizen's Participation in the Audit Process with the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Office of the

Auditor-Generals of the state and LGAs.

"The session has the objectives to: increase the understanding of participants on social accountability and performance audit; facilitate the co-creation of performance audit community engagement framework for improved social accountability in service delivery; and agree on next steps towards increasing citizens' participation in the performance audit process," he said.

He explained that the presence of past and present legislators of Kaduna Assembly is geared towards synergy to ensure services are delivered at the community level.

God Fatherism Era Winding Up In Nigeria's Politics - PERL/CLEAP Session

****Says social accountability will determine winners in 2027***

"It is important that partnership is key in delivering services to the people," he added.

Mr. Adejor noted that since 2015, over 50 per cent of citizens input has made its way into the budget, an indicator that tremendous progress is being made, which is a departure from the past.

A member of the Kaduna State House of Assembly, Honourable Nuhu Yusuf in his goodwill message, said that the workshop is timely.

"I want to believe that coming here to meet experts, I will be the luckiest to gather all the knowledge required to run the PAC Office.

"For all that are here, let's interact and exchange ideas in order to enhance good governance. It will lead to achievements to the state so that value can be added to governance.

Chairman Budget Appropriation Sub Committee, Kaduna State House of Assembly, Honourable

Peter Agite in his remarks, said that he was a local government chairman, now a legislator and is happy to be at the workshop to learn.

He said that the rural development drive of the present Kaduna State government, is a welcome development as it would stimulate the economies in the rural areas.

Another member of the Kaduna State House of Assembly, Honourable Mohammed Bello

said that as a member of the appropriation committee, he is at the workshop to learn and take what learnt to the others at committee.

Abdulsalam Mohammed, representative of Auditor General of Kaduna State said that he looks forward to witnessing fruitful discussions at the two-day session.

Also present at the session, were former members of the Kaduna State House of Assembly, Rt.

Honourable Nuhu Goro Shadalafiya, Rt. Honourable Tanko Ubankato and Honourable Suleiman Dabo, who shared their experiences, on the role of legislative arm in horizontal accountability and quality service delivery.

The two-day session had September 10, 2023 as its arrival date, while departure was September 13. The main activity was held on September, 11 and 12.



Ibadan Bizman Alleges Justice Ministry Staff Of Shielding Land Racketeers **Petitions Oyo AG*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

An Ibadan based businessman, Mr Dapo Davies on Sunday, alleged a staff of the Oyo State Ministry of Justice, one Mr. Mashood (Esq) of shielding some land racketeer involving staff of Ministry of Lands and Alhaji Kamilu Orotoye.

Mr Davies through his lawyer, Mr Babatunde Oni & Co, has petitioned the Oyo State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice over the alleged involvement of the staff of the Ministry on the said landed property situated at Ogunpa, Oke Padre Ibadan which is under litigation at the State High Court, Ibadan.

In a letter dated 6th September, 2023 and made available to journalists on Sunday, Titled: Re - "Suit No: 1/380/2013 Between: Mr. Dapo Davies Vs

Alhaji Kamilu Orotoye & ORS", Davies through his lawyer complained about the Senior Counsel at the Oyo State Ministry of Justice for allegedly aiding and assisting some land grabbers who are 1st and 2nd defendants in the above suit in erecting building on the disputed land.

The letter stressed that the alleged action of Mr Moshood (Esq) "is targeted at subverting justice and also aiding an action that are likely to cause breach of public peace".

Davies Lawyers in the petition signed by Niyi Okanlawon from Babatunde Oni & Co Chamber said "We are Solicitors to the Claimant in the above suit (hereinafter referred to as Our Client) on whose instruction we write on the above subject.

"Our Client instituted the above suit in respect of his land situate,

lying and being at Ogunpa, Oke Padre, Ibadan via the Writ of Summons dated 14 May, 2023, wherein the Attorney General of Oyo State was sued as the 4th Defendant, the matter had already came up before Hon. Justice Akintola sitting as vacation judge on the following dates: 12th July, 2023, 17th August, 2023, 25th August, 2023, with the appearance of Mr. Moshood, Senior State Counsel with his Senior Colleague on the proceeding of 17th August 2023 for the 3rd-5th Defendants", it said.

The letter added, "Having had the notice of the pending suit, the 1st and 2nd Defendants commenced construction on the disputed land which necessitated, Our Client to file an application for interlocutory injunction dated 18th August, 2023, which was duly reacted to

via the Counter Affidavit filed by the 1st and 2nd Defendants".

"The said Application was fixed for hearing on the 5th September, 2023, however, court did not sit due to an industrial strike. We are reliably informed by Our Client that more to his chagrin, the 1st & 2nd Defendants have accelerated construction in the disputed land on the instruction of Mr. Moshood, a Senior Counsel of your Ministry, who claims to be acting under the instructions of the Attorney-General."

The letter stressed, "As if that was not enough, the said Mr. Moshood has confronted our Client on the said land while 1st and 2nd Defendants were constructing on the disputed land", adding, "We must state at this juncture that the conduct of Mr. Moshood of this Ministry is not only attempt to subvert justice, but also undermines the

sanctity of the legal profession which is capable of stirring breach of public peace, should our client react that grave lawlessness".

"Our Client is peace loving and a law abiding citizen, who in spite of the absence of interlocutory injunction over his property subject to litigation at Lebanon Street, Dugbe, Ibadan, which was engulfed by fire few years ago did not take step to renovate the property because of the respect he has for the Rule of Law and the Court.

"Against the backup of the above, we most humbly appeal to this highly esteemed office that the Mr Moshood be put to order, as his conduct falls below the standard of this hallowed Ministry. We hope our client will be accorded with dispatch it deserves in the interest of justice".

Akwa Ibom First Lady Calls For Concerted Efforts To Fight NTDS

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Significant strides can be recorded in the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDS) in Akwa Ibom State if relevant bodies combine force to stamp it out, wife of the governor, Patience Umo Eno has said. Patience named these relevant bodies to include Non-Governmental Organisations, the academia, governments and other relevant stakeholders.

She stated this on Monday, during of the First NTDS Stakeholders' Summit tagged "Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilizations Towards Sustaining the Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases in Akwa Ibom State", which was organised in Uyo, by the State Ministry of Health in partnership with Helen Keller International.

The governor's wife who was the Special Guest, encouraged

mothers to take seriously the deworming of their children, assured the organisers of the event of her constant support whenever the need arises.

"Our collective knowledge and expertise will be vital in shaping a future where these diseases no longer pose significant threats to human life and well-being".

"Let us foster an environment of open-mindedness, empathy and knowledge sharing, recognising the importance of multidisciplinary approaches and the involvement of various stakeholders, including government, the academia, NGOs, and the private sector so that significant strides can be recorded in the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases," she noted.

While thanking organisers of the event for putting the summit together, Pastor Patience Eno expressed confidence that the meeting would prompt

stakeholders to take meaningful measures in stopping the spread of NTDS.

The Commissioner for Health, Prof. Augustine Umoh in his address stated that the summit is apt underscoring the need to raise awareness and draw greater attention towards NTDS noting that the diseases are hardly heard about but sadly, they are prevalent and pose serious health challenges in the state.

Prof. Umoh said the Ministry of Health in partnership with Helen Keller International have recorded over 314 free surgeries across the three Senatorial District in the state in the last 3 years while assuring government continuous commitment to the well-being of Akwa Ibom people. He however called for partnership from stakeholders from all sectors towards financing and the elimination of these NTDS in the state.

Earlier, Akwa Ibom State

Coordinator, NTDS Control and Elimination Programme, Dr. Aniekeme Uwah said the essence of the Summit was to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to "take a cursory look at how solutions could be proffered to the myriads of challenges confronting the implementation of control and elimination strategies through the identification of gaps, areas of partnership and opportunities for domestic resource mobilization (DRM) to help the most vulnerable population affected by NTDS, which has led to stigmatization, untold hardship and suffering."

Furthermore, Dr Uwah said the resolutions reached at the end of the Summit will aid the achievement of the goals of the economic blue print of the state government as contained in the Arise Agenda especially poverty deduction, improved standard of living and highly educated healthy and skilled populace.

He expressed appreciation to the Governor's Wife for honouring the invitation in person and called on stakeholders to partner with the Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Health towards meeting the global 2030 target of 90% reduction in the number of people required for treatment for neglected tropical disease and elimination.

The Head of Programmes, Helen Keller International, Mohammed Aliyu in a goodwill message said they are present in 12 states in Nigeria with huge investments in curbing NTDS in the country and as well pledged his organisation's commitment to sponsoring more surgical operations.

Highpoint of the event was the conferment of Grand Ambassador of NTDS on the Governors wife by the Federal Ministry of Health, as well as testimonies by beneficiaries of various medical interventions carried out by the NTDS team in Akwa Ibom State.

Nutritionists Train Kaduna Journalists On MICYN Reportage, Warns Against Breast Milk Substitute

By: EMMANUEL AGBO, Kaduna

Nutritionists have warned against breast milk substitute for new born babies, said it is tampering with natural process and tantamount to affect the mother in future.

At a two-day orientation of Media Practitioners and Social Media Influencers on promotion and Reporting maternal infant and Young child feeding Nutrition, (MICYN) messages in Kaduna State, held at the weekend in Kaduna, the experts said breast milk is a natural magic from God.

A Consultant Nutritionist with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, (UNICEF) Muhammed Sani Hassan, while engaging the media practitioners, said some mothers become agitated immediately after delivery on the ground that the breast milk is not coming out for the new born child, meanwhile it can take six to eight hours before the milk can be produced.

Hassan, who is also Technical Advisor to Kaduna State Emergency Nutrition Action Plan, (KADENAP) disclosed that the little pocket at the nuke of the breast of any man who is about to deliver can sustain the child for twelve to eighteen hours without any consequence and that is why the baby feels comfortable to suckle even when the milk is not forthcoming.

He lamented that rather than waiting for the breast milk to be formed, some persons run out of patience to give water, milk or any other thing available to the new baby as substitute, an act he said it's tampering with the future of the woman not to continue to produce breast milk for the baby, hence she has given what the baby does not require but the breast milk.

He said, "We don't expect the breast to flow until about six to eight hours. When a woman is about to deliver, there's a natural preparation for breastfeeding. That is why you see some oily at the nuke of the breast of any woman that wants to deliver.

"Also some little pocket. The content of that pocket is enough to sustain that child for twelve to eighteen hours without anything. It's not breast milk, God knows that the breast milk will not produce immediately. So in the process, you will see the breast coming oily and some pockets on it. The content of that pocket can sustain the baby without milk so there's no point to panic because the baby is comfortable. So nobody should rush to give the baby water or milk. People looks for other alternatives within this hours because they are not aware.

"The magic of breastfeeding is quite interesting and it's a natural process. It is God's made, so let's follow it. Always seek the advice of professionals and be guided appropriately because the implication is that you already tampering with the natural process of producing and using the breast milk. You are already exposing the child to substances that his or system is not be able to digest or use.

The nutritionist further cleared that when the situation is up to 24-hrs or more, it means there is a problem somewhere and the woman in that regard should go to the hospital and see a doctor, nurse, or nutritionists, who would access and find out why, meanwhile he assured that 99% of babies put to birth within one hour of life will have successful breastfeeding.

In his remarks, the Technical Advisor on Social and Behavior Change Communication, (SBCC) for Alive & Thrive, Auwalu Kawu, said the essence of the two-day training is to build the capacity of the media practitioners in providing information on nutrition, noting that the more Journalists are trained, the more they are informed and the more richer than their programs.

He said, "the challenges in nutrition is that everybody must play it's role, the husbands must provides for his family, some food are available, but we have overcome that but what is missing is the ability of the providers to provide and the ability of the mother to cook the right meal at the right time, this is what is lacking here." He said.

In the same vein, the Zonal Coordinator, Alive & Thrive, (A&T) Kaduna Sarah Didi Kwaau, while giving an overview of the vision and mission of A&T including it's project in Kaduna state, said they have been a good partner to Kaduna state government and have recorded tremendous successes over time.

Sarah, stressed that the the six months maternity paid leave in Kaduna state is one of their achievements because they pushed for the bill and still pushing harder to ensure that it's being implemented also in private institutions and not just at the government level.

Sarah said, "we have a lot of successes so far but we are currently having a drop in indices. Prior to now, much attention was not given to maternal concept but MICYN has brought them to limelight. The six months maternity paid leave in Kaduna state is also part of our achievements because we push for it and we are still pushing for other private institutions to adopt it."



NDLEA Arrests 60-yr Fleeing Drug Kingpin, 14 Others

* Intercepts large quantities of assorted illicit drugs in Lagos, Ogun, Kano, Kaduna, Edo, Kogi, Anambra, Imo

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The long arm of the law has caught up with a fleeing wanted drug lord in Lagos, following his arrest by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) after two months frantic surveillance. Similarly, a 60 year old woman and 14 others were also apprehended by operatives of the agency in Lagos, Edo, Kaduna, Kano, Kogi, Imo, Anambra, Niger and Yobe states, with large quantities of assorted illicit drugs recovered from them. While the fleeing notorious drug kingpin identified as Odoko Festus, 40, was arrested in a hideout in Lagos and taken to Portharcourt, the 60 year old grandma, named Mrs. Eunice Egwehide was arrested in Edo with 17kgs of Cannabis Sativa. The Director Media and Advocacy of NDLEA Femi Babafemi made the disclosure in a statement on Sunday while reeling out the breakthrough recorded lately by the agency.

It reads, "After over two months of surveillance, NDLEA operatives on Wednesday 6th September arrested a wanted kingpin, Idoko Festus Ifesinachi, 40, linked to the importation of 76.9kgs Canadian Loud intercepted in a container marked MSDU6686346 at the Port Harcourt Ports Complex, Onne, Rivers state on 2nd June. He was arrested at his hideout in Lagos and taken to Port Harcourt.

"In Edo state, operatives stormed the Ekudo forest, Onwude LGA where they destroyed cannabis farms measuring 4.236347 hectares.

"In the same vein, operatives on Thursday 7th September raided the house of one Amuodu Egwehide, 40, in Iloje Okpuje, Owan West LGA, where they recovered 22 bags of skunk weighing 261.4kgs, while a 60-year-old grandma, Mrs. Eunice Egwehide was arrested in the town same day with 17kgs of same substance seized from her" Meanwhile, NDLEA operatives on Monday 4th September raided the enclave of a notorious drug lord in Akala, Mushin, Lagos, Abdul Rauf (aka 'Na God') where 1,101kgs of Ghanaian Loud were recovered and three suspects arrested while the wanted kingpin remains at large.



The statement further read: "In Kogi, 22-year-old Agada Emmanuel was arrested with 77.400kgs cannabis on Thursday 7th September along Okene – Lokoja – Abuja expressway while a total of 369,980 pills of opioids were also recovered on the same road on Monday 4th September and the suspect linked to the seizure, Kabiru Ahmad Abdullahi arrested in a follow up operation in Gombe state.

"No fewer than 399 pieces of improvised explosive devices were recovered by NDLEA operatives from one Asana Oluwagbenga Leke, 39, along Mokwa-Jebba road on Thursday 7th September.

"In his statement, the suspect said the explosives were handed to him at a park in Ibadan to be delivered to someone in Kaduna.

The suspect and exhibits have since been transferred to the military authorities in Niger state.

"In Ogun state, a follow up operation led to the arrest of Yinka Azeez at Sabo Lafenwa, Abeokuta on Tuesday 5th September following the seizure of 41kgs cannabis from Titilayo Adetayo at Sagumu Interchange the previous day.

"At least, two suspects: Muhammad Aliyu, 38, and Abdullahi Zakariya, 40, were arrested in Zaria-Kano Road and Haye Arewa, Hotoro, Kano, respectively over 426.5 kilograms of skunk seized from them on Tuesday 5th September.

"While Onyeka Uzor, 25, was arrested at Idemili, Anambra state, with 64.8kgs skunk and tramadol, another suspect, Destiny Irabor was nabbed on

Friday 8th September with over 180kgs of opioids loaded in his Toyota Sienna bus.

"In Kaduna, two suspects: Ahmed Yusuf and Rilwan Nura were arrested on Wednesday 6th September in connection with the seizure of 100 blocks of cannabis weighing 55kgs along Abuja road.

A suspect, Gapchiya Modu, 26, was arrested with 60kgs of cannabis along Kano-Nguru Road, Nguru, Yobe state, while in Imo state, 200 blocks of the same substance weighing 57kgs were recovered from Usim Orji, 45, along Aba-Owerri road on Wednesday 6th September.

After over two months of surveillance, NDLEA operatives on Wednesday 6th September arrested a wanted kingpin, Idoko Festus Ifesinachi, 40, linked to the importation of 76.9kgs

Canadian Loud intercepted in a container marked MSDU6686346 at the Port Harcourt Ports Complex, Onne, Rivers state on 2nd June.

He was arrested at his hideout in Lagos and taken to Port Harcourt.

Beside the various drug control efforts, the state Commands and other formations also continued the Agency's War Against Drug Abuse, WADA, advocacy campaigns to schools, worship places, palaces and local communities among others.

Among them include WADA advocacy visit to His Royal Highness, Emir of Hadejia, Alhaji Adamu Abubakar Maji; the sensitization lectures conducted for members of Hairdressers Association, Ila Orangun; at RCCG, Dominion Tower, Port Harcourt, and for Muslim faithful at Harmony Estate central mosque, Ilorin, among others.

While commending the officers and men of the MMIA, Ogun, Lagos, Kano, Kaduna, Kogi, Anambra, Niger, Edo, Yobe, and Imo Commands of the Agency as well as those of DOGI, for their balanced efforts in drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction activities, Chairman/Chief Executive of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) urged them and their compatriots across the country to keep up the good work.

"No fewer than 399 pieces of improvised explosive devices were recovered by NDLEA operatives from one Asana Oluwagbenga Leke, 39, along Mokwa-Jebba road on Thursday 7th September."

Plateau Senator Flags Off Cash Disbursement To Constituents

By: **BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos**

The Distinguished Senator Diket Plang of Plateau Central Senatorial Zone and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Labour and Employment has flagged off the disbursement of cash tokens as part of his empowerment programme in Kanam LGA.

Senator Diket Plang's first point of call was the palace of the Emir of Kanam LGA, His Royal Highness, Alhaji Muhammadu Mu'azu Muhammadu III.

While at the Emir's palace, Senator Diket Plang intimated the royal father that his decision to empower the elderly, youth and women was necessitated by the impact of fuel subsidy removal by the federal government of Nigeria, a policy the Senator said, will address permanently the cankerworm that has bedeviled Nigeria's growth and development in no distant time.

Senator Plang while at the palace shortly before proceeding to the business of the day, used the medium to specially condole the Royal father and the entire people of the locality over the demise of their illustrious sons and daughters, and prayed that God almighty forgives their sins and accepts their souls in paradise.

"May God give you the fortitude to bear the loss," the Senator added.

Responding, his Royal Highness, Alhaji Muhammadu Mu'azu Muhammadu III appreciated the Senator for his prompt intervention in coming up with empowerment programme at a time like this.

The monarch said such policy will go a long way to cushion the pains of the targeted beneficiaries in no small measure.

The royal father urged the Senator to target massive youth empowerment in the area of securing them job opportunities especially the graduates.

A gesture the royal father said, will make the youth independent and also contribute to the development of their communities and the nation in general.

The Senator assured the royal father that in no distant time, his fatherly admonition will be implemented as soon as government lifts embargo on employment.

The Senator, alongside his entourage didn't waste time to the venue of the empowerment programme at GMSS, Dengi, where thousands of party faithful converged to witness the historic cash disbursement empowerment programme.

The programmes which was targeted at the elderly, youth and women, captured over 300 beneficiaries across the twenty electoral wards of the LGA.

The beneficiaries were selected across the polling units in each of the 20 electoral wards, targeting the aforementioned class.

The event witnesses the presence of party leaders, wards and LGA party representatives, youth and women leaders, traditional institution as well as community development representatives.

While doling out the cash empowerment to beneficiaries, the Senator appreciated them for giving him the mandate to represent them in the Red Chamber and assured them that with their prayers and support, the mandate given to him would not be taken for granted.

"We will collectively strive to put smiles on the faces of our people. Our youth would be given employment. We will empower the elderly and the women, to make them feel belong". The senator assured.

While appreciating, Kanam LGA APC chairman, Alh Hussani Adafa thanked the Senator for putting smiles on the faces of many citizens and urged him to sustain the tempo.

The event climaxed with the presentation of cash tokens by the Senator himself to respective beneficiaries as palliatives to support them in the current economic hardship.

Prayers and goodwill messages were showered on the distinguished Senator for his people's centred representation.





Rumours About Women Cultists

By Safiya I. Dantiye

FOR WEEKS, there have been videos and audios sent out to warn people of some women that go to houses to ask for water to drink, and if you give them the water you would fall down and die and the women would go away or varnish. In another version, the water may even turn into blood, and you would have severe headache. This has created fear and become the topic of discussion.

The acts were said to have happened in Kano and Katsina where one man in a video said it happened in his house in Katsina where a woman went and asked for water and somebody in his house fainted.

Also, it was said that when one of such women was apprehended in Katsina, she confessed that there were about eighty of them sent out to 'drink blood.' But surprisingly, she was not taken to the police station and nobody asked her who sent them and for what purpose. Besides, how were they recruited, where are they from, what is their share of whatever benefits of what they are doing?

People are advised to lock their doors where possible as in one of such videos a woman said they went to isolated areas or houses with gates. She said if they went to congested areas or a ghetto as she said, they would be apprehended and even lynched.

However, as an aside, I don't think people go to houses to ask for water to drink these days, this is because taps are not running and people usually buy pure water. May be in some communities, but in Kano metropolis and in the area mentioned in one of the videos, which is a highbrow area by any standard, a strange woman could hardly enter through the gate and ask to drink water.

And that is the danger in these things that you cannot verify. Innocent people can fall victims, as I saw a video of a woman who was harassed and abused in one area just because she was a new face there. She was asked where she

came from and so on.

She later said she would never go out again, she was traumatised. Her video was taken and sent out as evidence of one of those women purported to drink blood. She was disgraced and her reputation tarnished. She might have been manhandled too.

The authorities and elders should do something before innocent women are killed, because you may be asking for direction in one area and people could descent on you, suspecting you as one of those women.

However, as an aside, I don't think people go to houses to ask for water to drink these days, this is because taps are not running and people usually buy pure water. May be in some communities, but in Kano metropolis and in the area mentioned in one of the videos, which is a highbrow area by any standard, a strange woman could hardly enter through the gate and ask to drink water.

Besides, since pure water is sold everywhere, there is no need to go to any house to ask for water, you can buy or beg the water vendor to give you if you don't have money and you are very thirty.

Women used to go to houses and asked to ease themselves, but even that has been reduced as people no longer allow strangers to enter their toilet. Some were said to steal through that, so they had other motives.

But in this case, it is not about using the toilet, but asking for water to drink which is not plausible.

In any event, people should report their suspicions to the police instead of making videos or audios and sending them out, scaring people and causing panic.

The rumours of these women are still rumours, because you would not hear of any arrest of them by the police, therefore we hope the authorities would go to the root cause and bring an end to it.

Culled from National Record.

An Open Letter To Governor Uba Sani On Need To Complete And Open Major Markets



Gov Uba Sani

By: HASSAN YAKUBU

I want to use this medium to congratulate Senator Uba Sani for his 100 days in office.

While we are at it, I want to register some concerns.

Malam Nasir el-Rufai had left office and by my assessment, he would enter the history books as one of the best things that happened to Kaduna State. Not without pains or failures though! That makes him human.

But one major area that he hasn't been able to pay much attention to or harness the potential, is the SMEs.

As we all know, the country is facing economic challenges. Poverty is at an all-time high. One sure way to reduce poverty among our people isn't by mere distribution of palliatives alone, but by creating an enabling environment for SMEs to thrive. This would translate into the creation of more jobs.

In 2020, the previous administration came up with a model of market renewal in which Kaduna markets were expected to have new faces. As good as the objectives and intention towards the projects, the market remodeling system rendered many people jobless, while few others are still struggling.

Take, for instance, Lere Local Government Area, is probably the largest producer of maize in the North, but since its main market was demolished with the sole aim of remodeling it last year, and has not been rebuilt to date, the local government's economic activities have crashed, pushing many people into joblessness. By this, the poverty level in the LG has increased.

Another example is the Lagos Garage along Kawo-Mando Road. The garage has successfully been remodeled, but the allocation of shops has not been done.

Many of these people paid for the shops and borrowed money from banks to pay for the allocations. Many others who couldn't raise the money, crashed out.

This is the same sorry state of Kawo, Unguwan Sanusi markets, etc.

The Kaduna State Government must come in, not just to finish the projects, but to empower many businesses with soft loans at a very affordable rates.

I am not against Kaduna State calling for investors, but I wish our local SMEs could be empowered with cheap loans to take advantage of the entire value chain of the production and distribution of maize and tomatoes in Nigeria and indeed Africa.

For proper contrast, in the harmattan period of almost every year, more than 30 per cent of fresh tomatoes you see across the country are from Zone A of Kaduna State. I once participated in this very supply chain.

Furthermore, some communities such as Mando only need a few road constructions (such as Assalamu Alaikum, Engineer, and Lema linking to the main roads) to better their economy.

Mando hasn't been lucky in this regard in the last 17 years. The last about five kilometres road witnessed was during Senator Makarfi.

The inability to continue with Gaskiya, Tudun-Wada as well as New Jos Road, has crashed the economy of important communities in Zaria LG.

Completing and opening the markets in record time would ensure job creation, poverty reduction, stimulate state economic growth, thereby increasing consumer spending as well and increased revenue generation.

Hassan Yakubu is a founder of Jidda Integrated Services Ltd and a Convener of Kada SMEs Bootcamp

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

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

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2	Per 1000 Copies (1 Page)	28,000.00	2,100.00	30,100.00
3	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine 2-8 Pages)	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
4	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine above 8 pages)	80,000.00	6,000.00	86,000.00

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1	Registration of Trustees	3" x 2 Cols	6,857.14	514.29	7,371.43
2	Loss of Documents	2" x 2 Cols	4,400.00	330.00	4,730.00
3	Change of Name	Per Box	2,000.00	-	2,000.00

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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

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

Fintiri's 2nd Term: A Tale Of Promise Kept, Leading Adamawa To Prosperity Path

By: TOM GARBA

This is his second term, the second first hundred days of his administration. These are success stories and tales that Adamawa State has taken the lead. The state has joined the league of Nigerian states with progressive records.

Rt Hon Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri's second term in office is a consolidation of work done in every part of the state.

I'm personally celebrating his second term 100 days in office, he has recorded a lot of achievements, a remarkable development for the people of Adamawa State. I'm one of this government's arch critics, critical of the policies I consider are anti people.

When compare his first hundred days (2019) and this term (2023) hundreds days, it's evident to say that Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri has gained the record breaker award of performance as the best Governor of Adamawa State.

I'm not the only one that can testify to this, he has continued gaining support and loyalty to his government and policies, from our own end as members of the private sector, public service, civil society organizations and actors, observers in the international community it is a story to tell that Adamawa State is wearing new looks and superb beauty under the Fintiri's led administration.

I can recall his campaign days in 2015, he rigorously visited the nooks and crannies of the state, promising them liberation from under development. Living by his words, Adamawa now is a touch of beauty, a touch of development in all the 21 local government areas.

Sir, in your first term, you have placed the state on the threshold of development that it became a path that all must follow, or else coming governors will not survive the terrain and their policies will be considered a violation of humanity laws and provision of human needs.

In this his second term tenure, he has silenced political jobbers in the name of opposition and even the naysayers, opponents, opportunists and enemies of Adamawa State have come to terms with reality that a doing and performing governor is on 24 hours duty. No wonder, the state is witnessing beehive



Governor Fintiri

activities of construction companies like Triacta and others.

In the dynamic realm of leadership, where time matches on with unyielding swiftness, the governor, Rt Hon Fintiri assumed the mantle of leadership with unwavering determination and a resolute commitment to propel the state towards boundless progress.

Like a sprinter at the starting blocks of a race, he wasted no precious moments. The physical infrastructure in place (bridges, schools and roads constructions, hospital constructions, the new Government House under construction, housing units, culverts etc) are glaring even to the feeling of blind and dumb that a new government with the masses agenda is working.

The inherent brevity in this giant of work Governor, Fintiri in working synergy has a good working team his assembled commissioners and a cabinet that is offering solution to the needs of all citizens. The Lawmakers under the leadership of Rt Hon Bathiya Wesley is a hallow team of progressives members working in tandem with the Governor's dream of a new Adamawa state is a dawn of a new era to the

entire state.

What sets Governor Fintiri apart and unique with all previous government is his high level of confidence he has for the state's civil servants. He believe that the civil servants are the state's engine room and are the pivots revenue generation entity. For this he valued and never treat them with laxity hands. He implemented new salary structures for them, promoted all deserving workers and ensure everyone of them is benefitting from the government's coffers of resources. His prompt monthly salaries payment on or before 25th has remained an invisible law as far as his government is concerned.

Fintiri's purpose in government extends far beyond the allure of influence and political privilege; it is deeply rooted in a fervent desire to build upon the solid foundation laid by his immediate predecessor, Senator Muhammadu Umaru Jibrilla Bindow, while also weaving his own distinctive tapestry of innovations that will stand as a testament to his time in office. In a landscape often marred by the unfortunate practice of new governments discarding the pearls of wisdom and progress

initiated by their predecessors Fintiri remains a Governor who is standing in the beacon of progressive and development continuity of the past administrations in Adamawa state. He keyed into the great ideas of the past legacies and transformative projects of while unfurling his visionary agenda for the accelerated development of Adamawa State. This exceptional commitment to harnessing the best of both worlds ensures that the state's progress remains uninterrupted. In his pursuit of unprecedented growth and prosperity, the Governor's commitment to forming strategic partnerships and attracting foreign direct investments became a linchpin of his strategy. His proactive approach was evident in meetings with foreign agencies and organizations.

Governor Fintiri's second term in office is no doubt a consolidation of progress, development and focused in renewing hope to the less privileged that the son of a nobody can be proud of becoming somebody in a near future as he has invested so much in education thereby international scholarship are given to students from various local government to study

courses like Engineering, Medicine and surgery, Aeronautic and aerospace management.

To the entire North, Adamawa Governor is a star, shining gloriously in the horizon of beauty. He has in him wisdom, ideas and knowledge to deliver on the desires of people. He is one of the Governor rising the hopes of Nigerians that one day the leadership of this nation will be rested upon the shoulders of Youths.

Under Fintiri, Adamawa is on the running way of growth and development. A new state is recreated out of the seeming impossibilities that "it is business as usual." For those asking question can there be something good coming out of Nazareth? (Adamawa). The doubting Thomases are now the town criers, shouting the "Come and see what Fintiri has done" and what he will still do. From me congratulations to all Adamawa sons and daughters. Count on my support your Excellency.

Tom Garba is a journalist, a political analyst, and an opinion writer. He writes from Yola-Adamawa State, and he can be reached via; tomgarba7@gmail.com or 08172570959

Mustapha Gajibo And The Dream Of Building The Nigerian Electric Vehicle

By Jibrin Ibrahim

AFTER some discussions on the encouraging story of a young entrepreneur on our Barewa Old Boys WhatsApp group, a couple of classmates and I decided to visit Mustapha Gajibo to better understand his engagement in renewable energy and project of the design and production of Nigerian electric vehicles. We were all impressed with his vision, drive, ambition and above all his commitment to seeking modern workable solutions to Nigeria's challenges.

From his base in Maiduguri, he has been producing electric cars since 2017. Recall that in 2017, there was no electricity in Maiduguri because the supply line had been blown up by Boko Haram. What audacity to think of producing electric cars in a city that did not even have electricity at the time, I asked. His response was that precisely for that reason, it was important to seek solutions and if the city had no electricity it had a lot of sun which could be harnessed to charge the vehicles.

Having been working on so many prototypes since 2017, he has finally designed his electric vehicle for mass production. It is a 7-seater vehicle that has a high clearance, open doors and a good suspension. This is the up-coming replacement for keke NAPEP. He would have loved to produce it in Nigeria but unfortunately the country has no iron and steel base and no cheap electricity to produce the components. So, he has patented it in China and found a partner there that would produce it. The vehicle will be called Kaandi, "Ours" in Kanuri. The restless Gajibo had opted out of his University of Maiduguri mechanical engineering course at 300 level because he considered the curriculum to be outdated and did not cover adequately his passion and interest in modern technology and renewable energy in particular. At that time, he already had successful businesses he was running. He had, for example, designed solar powered phone charging stations where he was beating the competition by charging phones at 30 naira each while the competitors, who were running generators, could not go below 50 naira. While in secondary school, Mustapha Gajibo had discovered the intricacies of solar power because his father had bought solar charging lamps to provide light in the house. He started studying how it worked and decided, in addition to the light, he could use it to power an electric fan. He studied how fans operate, designed and produced a fan himself which he linked to the solar panel to provide him some relief from

the heat in Maiduguri.

All his life, he had been studying how things work and designing and producing them out of interest. Increasingly, however, his interest in entrepreneurship grew and his vision from his teenage years had been how to invent and produce original products for industry.

His vision was focused on what meets the eye in Maiduguri and other cities – the omni-presence of tricycles or keke-NAPEP as the dominant form of urban mass transit. He considered the keke very deficient as it was unstable leading to many accidents in the city with hospitals establishing special wards to care for numerous accident victims that are brought in daily.

His first decision was that he was going to ensure that these vehicles are eliminated from Nigerian roads to be replaced by an electric four-wheel version he would design to replace them. Secondly, he was very conscious of the high level of pollution they produced and decided that by transiting to electric vehicles, city residents would be able to breath fresh air.

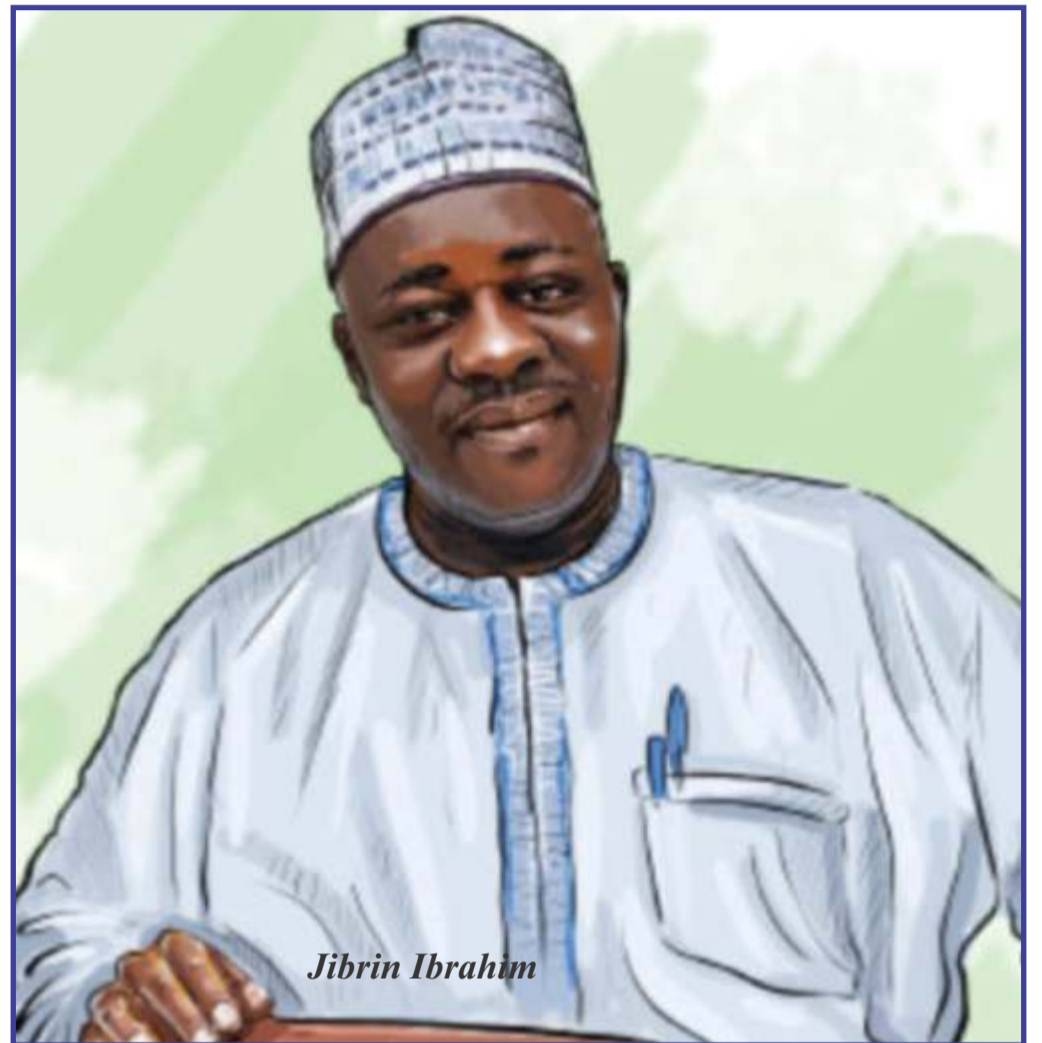
The third issue he considered was the design of the tricycle that made it the preferred form of urban transit. It is cheap and its basic design of an open vehicle without doors which people can easily jump in and out fits the pocket of the teaming poor in our cities so the vehicle he decided to design should be as cheap and simple so that there is a huge market to tap into.

The electric vehicle he decided to invent that fits the political economy of our urban centres does not exist anywhere in the world so he decided to invent it and make a lot of money from the process.

The major economic activity he is currently engaged in is converting petrol vehicles to use Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). He is scaling up the business and is establishing a factory that can convert 100 petrol to CNG vehicles daily. A 15 kg CNG tank costs only 4,500 naira and can run for 300km making it much cheaper than petrol in his era of no fuel subsidy.

He started by building a prototype of a 16-seater vehicle that can go 200 kilometers on one charge. He was also converting keke NAPEP to electric vehicles fitting them with panels to add to the charge from the vehicle's rechargeable battery. The problem, he explained, is that they are not designed as electric vehicles and are too heavy to run with the battery and solar panel.

Having been working on so many prototypes since 2017, he has finally designed his electric vehicle for mass



production. It is a 7-seater vehicle that has a high clearance, open doors and a good suspension. This is the up-coming replacement for keke NAPEP. He would have loved to produce it in Nigeria but unfortunately the country has no iron and steel base and no cheap electricity to produce the components. So, he has patented it in China and found a partner there that would produce it. The vehicle will be called Kaandi, "Ours" in Kanuri, and the first seven hundred are currently being produced and the production would rise to 5,000 annually.

They would come in as completely knocked down parts (CKD) and then be assembled in Nigeria. He complained that there is no financing for start-ups in Nigeria and he has had to finance his passion for the electric car by running other businesses.

The major economic activity he is currently engaged in is converting petrol vehicles to use Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). He is scaling up the business and is establishing a factory that can convert 100 petrol to CNG vehicles daily. A 15 kg CNG tank costs only 4,500 naira and can run for 300km making it much cheaper than petrol in his era of no fuel subsidy. As he continues to pursue his ambition to drive out petrol vehicles from Nigeria, CNG is the transition mechanism. He is currently building two CNG filling stations in Abuja.

This 31-year old entrepreneur is full of brilliant ideas and has over 30 prototypes

in his kitty.

I love his engagement on numerous fronts. He said he has been in business virtually all his, and from the age of seven, was already running a Hausa sweets business with his mum while in primary school in Bauchi.

His passion for solving problems is exactly what is needed in Nigeria today. His vision of the use of environmentally cutting-edge technologies to address the problem of urban mass transit is what we need for our future.

Although he never graduated from the university, the irony is that many Nigerian universities are currently seeking his partnership in the automotive and renewable energy fields. Having walked out of the university as a student, one of his goals is to build the type of new technology cutting edge university he wanted to attend but did not find in Nigeria. We can only wish the best for Mustapha Gajibo and his Phoenix Renewable Energy Group.

His passion for solving problems is exactly what is needed in Nigeria today. His vision of the use of environmentally cutting-edge technologies to address the problem of urban mass transit is what we need for our future.

His can-do attitude is inspirational. Keep it up dear Mustapha.

Electric Vehicle
Mustapha Ganibo

Culled from National Record

Babysitting France In Africa

By Owei Lakemfa

FRANCE is a problem. In Africa, it is a man-child fighting hard to retain its feeding bottle. The United Kingdom-based Socialist Labour organised a virtual conference of Africans to discuss this and the current crises in Africa, with an emphasis on the Francophone countries. Co-ordinator Tokunbo Oke, in commenting on the theme, "The Niger Coup: Imperialism and the Crisis of Francophone Africa", lamented that to discuss, the African people have to surmount the obstacles of various European languages as they are either Anglophone, Francophone, Iberiophone, or Luxophone. My submission at the August 26, 2023, conference was that since France invaded Egypt 225 years ago, it has dug in, refusing to let go of a continent it regards as its Garden of Eden from which to eat and drink eternally. I explained that France is so greedy and vicious that it is ready to do anything to maintain its grip on Africa.

Ndongo Samba Sylla, a Senegalese development economist and co-author of the book *Africa's Last Colonial Currency: The CFA Franc*, noted that the recent coups in West and Central Africa occurred in the same Francophone Zone and that they are all landlocked.

He said the repeated coups in these countries show they have weak institutions and remain underdeveloped. He said the Niger Republic, for instance, had its highest real income per capita, a measure of a country's economic health and the purchasing power of its citizens, in 1965, while statistics show that this same indicator in 2022 was 59 per cent lower. He made a similar comparison with Cote d'Ivoire, whose real income per capita in 2022 was 25 per cent lower than it was in 1975.

Ndongo argued that the CFA Franc currency France imposed on 14 African countries was a way of that country exploiting and impoverishing African countries. He pointed out that the invasion of Libya by France, the United States, and their European allies led to the spread of Islamist terrorism, which enveloped countries like Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. He posited that if a zone is militarised, coups will become inevitable. Ndongo pointed out that even in Francophone areas like Senegal that have not witnessed coups, the leaders are no less tyrannical. He cited the example of his own country, Senegal, which currently has over 1,000 political prisoners. He submitted that the Francophone countries need to get rid of the Franc and France, adding that any

war against the Niger Republic, which he said would be a proxy one, would destroy the participating African countries.

Mrs. Susan Awasom, a university lecturer in the Anglophone area of Cameroun, lamented that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which has not been able to raise a voice against France's looting of the resources of African countries, suddenly finds its voice against the coup in Niger and even threatens to invade that country. She said France is propping up systems like "Biyaism" (Cameroonian President Paul Biya) while depleting the resources of the continent.

She wondered why the treasuries of the Francophone countries could be found in the French Central Bank. She said youths in countries like Senegal, Mali, Guinea and Niger want France out of the continent as all it does is prop up puppet regimes that loot the resources of Africa. She advocated for a people-centred system.

My submission at the August 26, 2023, conference was that since France invaded Egypt 225 years ago, it has dug in, refusing to let go of a continent it regards as its Garden of Eden from which to eat and drink eternally. I explained that France is so greedy and vicious that it is ready to do anything to maintain its grip on Africa.

"Only the people can liberate themselves. A progressive military junta cannot liberate the people even when the junta fights imperialist forces and the people temporarily support the junta. Neither can the national bourgeois ruling class, who loot the national treasury, nor imperialist foreign powers, whose primary interest is the exploitation of the nation's natural resources."

I said that when Guinea preferred freedom to remaining a colony, France was so crude that it smashed all it could destroy in that country, including machinery, water pipes, and roads.

I reminded the audience that when independence became inevitable in Cameroun, France ensured that no independent-minded person would be president of the new country. It trailed the pan Africanist pro-independence leader, Felix Moumie, to Switzerland, where its secret agents poisoned him.



I also recalled the fact that the first Togolese President, Sylvanus Olympio, was overthrown by France in Africa's first coup when he decided to establish a central bank for Togo rather than remain in the Franc CFA Zone. In that case, a sergeant in the French Legion, Gnassingbe Eyadema, dragged Olympio from the United States Embassy, where he had jumped into, and executed him at the gates of the embassy. I reminded all that Eyadema, from 1967, remained in office until his death in 2005, with his son, Faure Eyadema, continuing the rule of his father until this day.

I also pointed out that when ECOWAS decided to have a common currency for the West African Region, France sabotaged it by getting them to maintain a separate currency zone. I also pointed out that French troops installed Ivorian President Alhassan Oattara in the presidential palace, where he has now executed a civilian coup with an unconstitutional third term in office.

I submitted that France should be forced out of Niger as the citizens are demanding and that any military invasion of Niger in the name of removing coup plotters should be seen by Africans as an invasion of the continent.

John Odah of the Organisation of Trade Unions in West Africa said the chaos that has made Haiti a failed state today is due to the resources extorted by France from that country.

Professor Izielen Agbon, an international scholar and petroleum specialist, made a beautiful submission on where Africans should stand on the issue of undemocratic civilian leaders and military coup plotters: "In Africa, it is best for the autonomous power of the working class and the peasant class to be

expressed under a democratic system where they can choose their leaders and remove them whenever the need arises. A military junta or a corrupt civilian political government cannot replace the autonomous power of the labouring classes for self-development. In the final analysis, military, security, and police forces are coercive arms of the national ruling class used in the maintenance of class dominance over workers and peasants."

The conference concluded that the best interest of the African people is to push France out of the continent and collectively build a united Africa where no one will be hungry or oppressed.

Agbon further clarified that: "Under a revolutionary government that represents the interests of the people, the first step is the creation of a people's army and the arming of the workers and peasants so they can protect their class interests." He added that: "Only the people can liberate themselves. A progressive military junta cannot liberate the people even when the junta fights imperialist forces and the people temporarily support the junta. Neither can the national bourgeois ruling class, who loot the national treasury, nor imperialist foreign powers, whose primary interest is the exploitation of the nation's natural resources."

Juliana Ojinnaka, a participant, posited that without the political and economic unity of African countries, Africa cannot make progress in its socio-economic and political development.

The conference concluded that the best interest of the African people is to push France out of the continent and collectively build a united Africa where no one will be hungry or oppressed.

Culled from National Record

Kogi Lawmakers Restate Commitment To Effective Legislation As Retreat Ends in Abuja

By: YABAGI MOHAMMED,
Kogi

For lawmakers in the 8th Assembly in Kogi State, the three-day retreat/induction training held in Abuja between Tuesday the 29th of September and Friday September 1st was an avenue for them to be better prepared for the task of making laws for the greatness of the generality of the state.

In fact, the lawmakers unanimously agreed that crafting and passing of laws are critical responsibility they must discharge, noting collectively that having a deep understanding of the legislative process is essential for them to fulfill their roles effectively and to serve the interests of their constituents and society as a whole.

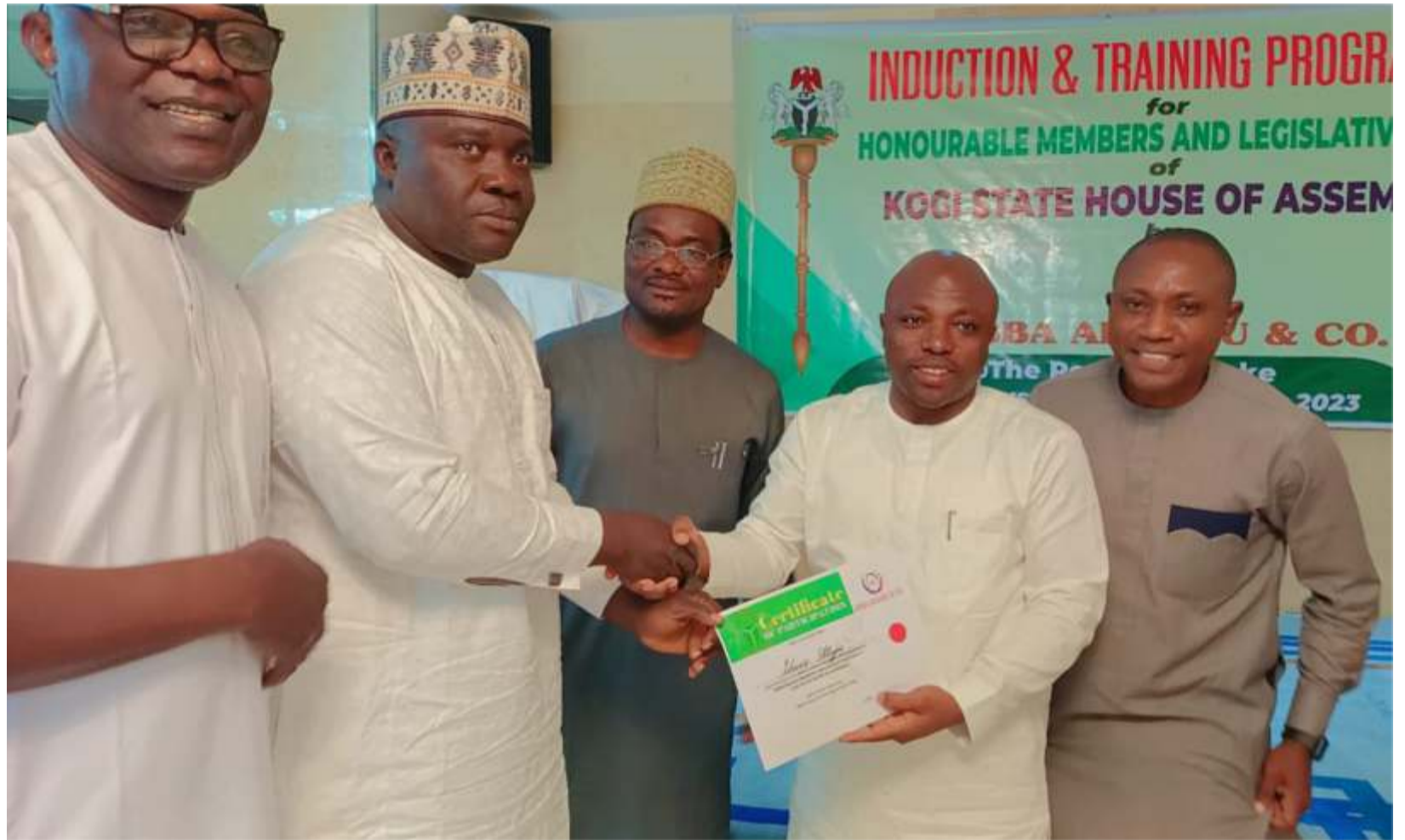
It is for that reason that the importance of effective training on the lawmaking process for lawmakers cannot be overstated.

They noted, in their communique at the end of the retreat that effective training helps lawmakers in the fulfillment of their responsibilities competently and ethically. By gaining a deep understanding of the legislative process, lawmakers can create quality legislation, make informed decisions, promote transparency and accountability, and contribute positively to public policy outcomes. This investment in training not only benefits lawmakers themselves but also assist the other arms of government and the society at large.

It is against this backdrop that the speaker of the Assembly, Rt Hon Aliyu Umar Yusuf stated that the event was a journey that would shape the destiny of Kogi State and its people, noting that the induction training does not only serve as an opportunity for members to let our heads down and refresh, but also formally mark the beginning of their genuine commitment to serving the people with dedication, integrity, and purpose.

“As the Head of the Kogi State Legislature, I am deeply honored to welcome each and every one of you to this solemn occasion. This assembly of dynamic minds and diverse perspectives is a testament to the strength of our democracy and the vitality of our political process.

Here, we gather not just as individuals, but also as representatives of the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of the people who have entrusted us with their voices. “Fellow legislators, we are bestowed with a profound responsibility. Our role goes beyond crafting laws; we are architects of change, stewards of progress, and



advocates for justice. The foundation of our actions rests on transparency, accountability, and empathy.

“Our every decision must reflect the values that underpin our democracy, the values that unite us as sons and daughters of Kogi State.

“This induction training serves as a reminder that leadership is not an entitlement but a privilege earned through dedication and the unwavering commitment to the welfare of our constituents. As we deliberate on policies, scrutinize budgets, and engage in debates, let us remember the weight of our duty and the power of our collective wisdom.

“In the hallowed halls of the state legislature, let us embrace diversity as our greatest strength. Our state is a mosaic of cultures, languages, and traditions, and it is this rich tapestry that shapes our identity. Let us listen intently to the voices that may differ from our own, for it is in these conversations that we will find the most innovative solutions to the challenges that lie ahead.

“Furthermore, let us remember that progress is not measured solely by the laws we pass or the speeches we deliver. It is measured by the tangible impact we have on the lives of the people we represent. We must bridge the gap between policy and reality, translating our vision into meaningful change in the lives of Kogi State citizens.

“As we navigate the complexities of governance, let us stand resolute against the temptations of self-interest and short-term gains. Our decisions should be

guided by a vision of a better Kogi State for generations to come. Let us rise above partisan divides and work collaboratively, for the challenges we face transcend political affiliations.

“My fellow colleagues, our journey is not without challenges, but our commitment to a brighter future is unshakable. Let us lead with purpose, integrity, and compassion. Let us be the embodiment of the change we wish to see.

“Fellow legislators, I want to heartily thank you all for the opportunity you have given me to serve as the speaker. I cannot pay my gratitude enough for the opportunity you have given me and the cooperation I have enjoyed so far. To me, this is an opportunity because in all of you, I have found more than just colleagues, friends, brothers, sisters and people whose homes are mine. I therefore want to use this opportunity to give you my words that I won't betray your trust. Your welfare is my priority at all times and so shall it remain.

“I also want to thank His Excellency, the Executive Governor of our dear state, Alhaji Yahaya Adoza Bello, Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) for creating the enabling environment for a robust and healthy working relationship between the legislature and the Executive. It is my prayers that this relationship translates to more progress and overall development in the state.

“Thank you fellow legislators for answering the call to serve our people, for believing in the power of democracy, and for your

dedication to the people of Kogi State. Together, we shall forge a path that leads our state to prosperity, harmony, and progress.

”Rt Hon Yusuf concluded his address by praying for wisdom, adding that their actions be etched in the annals of history as a testament to the lawmakers' commitment to a stronger, united, and prosperous Kogi State. At the end of the training, lawmakers admitted to have been able to have better understanding of their general functions and role in ensuring good governance for Kogi State.

“They agreed to have also been better tooled in the visionalisation, planing and Agenda Setting as legislators. The art of engaging citizens and other stakeholders in an inclusive and participatory legislative process, inclusion of state and national issues in the lawmaking business also form part of the knowledge the legislators gained during the training”.

The lawmakers also said they further learnt the lawmaking process and statutory instruments of Bill Scrutiny and Analysis, just as they were better informed about the powers and privileges, immunity and limitations of the legislature, just as they were further brought to speed about the issue of financial autonomy and resource management, issue of committee system and oversight process, how to promote relationship among the executive, the judiciary and the legislature and the fundamentals of appropriation.

In the same vein, the knowledge

of the laws guiding the use of public funds, resources and welfare of legislators and constituency responsibilities of the legislature were also brought to the fore for the lawmakers.

Consequently, members of the 8th Assembly can say, without any iota of doubt, that with the quality of those who delivered papers at the training and the quality of their content, that members are fully kitted to perform their roles effectively in the discharge of their functions as lawmakers, from ideation, discussion and passage of bills on the floor of the state House of Assembly.

Lawmakers in Kogi State can confidently say that no matter how seemingly difficult an issue might be, that they can navigate it and get a bill passed on the subject matter for the good of the entire state. Members of the Assembly therefore use the opportunity to thank the current administration in Kogi State under the able leadership of His Excellency, Governor Yahaya Bello, for giving members the opportunity to have such impactful training and urges that periodic training and retraining of the lawmakers should be made a norm to ensure a smoother working of this important institution – the legislature.

The lawmakers also praised the speaker of the State House of Assembly, Rt Hon Aliyu Umar Yusuf for his tireless efforts to ensure he gets the buy-in of the executive arm of government to ensure that lawmakers are well equipped to discharge their duties as lawakers in Kogi State.

SWAN, NDLEA To Launch Action Against Use Of Illicit Substances Drug Abuse, Doping In Lagos

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos
Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Lagos chapter and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) will hold a symposium against the use of illicit substances, drug abuse and doping in Lagos on Wednesday September 13, 2023. The workshop will be held in partnership with National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Lagos State

Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Sports Development, Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) Golfview Hotel and Conference Center, in collaboration with the National Anti Doping Committee (NADC).

According to the Chairman of Lagos SWAN, Olatutu Oladunni, the symposium, which is also being organized in collaboration with the National Anti Doping Committee (NADC), will start by 9am at the

Golfview Hotel and Conference Center on General Adeyinka Adebayo Road, off Oba Akinjobi Way, GRA, Ikeja, Lagos.

Oladunni further said the workshop is meant to orientate, guide and support stakeholders in the Nigerian sports sector on the dangers inherent in use of illicit substances, drug abuse and doping with 2024 Olympics in view, adding that various sports federations, performing athletes coaches, athletes and officials will be participating in the event.

The event has already been receiving support from Nigerian Breweries, Coca Cola, Rite Foods, CarolKings Media Nigeria Limited and others, while The Nation Newspaper, Arise TV and New Post Magazine are the official media partners for the event.

She said the time has come to change the narratives and negative signals sent to the public which can kill sports sector and the stakeholders in it. The chairman added that it is

important we make sports sector a sellable brand that will attract investors across the globe and add outstanding productivity to the economy and tourism.

"Giving utmost priority to performing athletes and critical stakeholders in sports which includes coaches and technical team is essential at this point and we need work together as one family to achieve positive result," she said.

Katsina Govt Signs Agreement With Foreign Football Scouts

**Unveils football academy*

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Government has signed an agreement with some foreign football coaches to come to the state for selection of talented youth from the State Football Academy for an oversee training to expose their talent to the outside world.

The state Governor Dikko Umar Radda confirmed this, when he officially unveiled the Katsina Football Academy after a friendly match held at Muhammadu Dikko Stadium in Katsina metropolis as part of activities marking his one hundred days in office.

Dikko Radda promised that his administration is more determined to ensure young footballers from Katsina state advanced further to join the most popular football teams in Nigeria and beyond. He said government is up and doing to ensure that



Katsina United Football team

youths in the state become more productive and self-reliant.

This he said, prompted the desire of his administration to establish an enterprise development Agency in the state.

The agency he said, would

provide skills training for youths, empower them with capital to set up businesses of their own as employers of labour.

Governor Dikko Radda who also presented a trophy to Malumfashi football Academy after defeating

Alheri academy Katsina appreciated the organizers of the competition and popular veteran footballers Tijjani Babangida and Austine Egabor for witnessing the match.

Earlier, the Commissioner for youths and sports, Yusuf Rabi'u Jirdede identified

football as a reliable business venture worthy of pride among our youths.

He thanked Governor Dikko Radda for his resolve to come up with the football Academy intended to engage willing and committed youth's into sports.

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SWAN, NDLEA To Launch Action Against Use Of Illicit Substances Drug Abuse, Doping In Lagos

Story on Page 23

Kano Govt To Partner Ghana On Health, Infrastructure, Others

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Kano State Governor, Alh Abba Kabir Yusuf has reiterated the readiness of his administration to partner with the Ghanaian Government in the areas of health services delivery, infrastructure, education and human capital development for the benefit of citizens of Ghana and Kano. According to a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, the Governor dropped the hint on Monday, when he received the Ghanaian Deputy Minister of Health, Mr Mahama Ase Asesini who led a delegation of officials of the ministry on a courtesy visit to the governor at the Government House. Alh Abba Kabir Yusuf said Ghanaians and people of Kano have so many similarities in terms of culture, religion, customs, inter-marriages and traders of large volume that could be dated back to decades and advocated for the

consolidation of the established bond of relationships. Governor Abba used the opportunity to inform the minister of some achievements his government made in rejuvenating the health sector, saying, "we are working assiduously in improving the services of the health facilities as we restored free maternity care to pregnant women and children. "We also embarked on the renovations of our general hospitals and plans are on the pipeline to re-introduce the mobile clinics in the forty four local government areas of the state that will go along way with our drive of training and re-training of health personnel across all cadres and absorption of female medical graduates to add more vigour to the health machinery." Explained the governor. Earlier, Deputy Health Minister, Republic of Ghana, Mr Mahama Ase Asesini said that he led the officials of the Ghana's Health Ministry to the Governor part of



their engagement in Nigeria to chart ways for symbiotic relationship and prosperous

development. Mr Mahama Ase assured of follow-up meetings, discussions

and deliberation to consolidate on the agreed areas of working together.

CLEAP Established To Champion Social Accountability -Goje

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The CS-Legislature Engagement & Accountability Platform (CLEAP) was established to serve as a link towards ensuring improved service delivery. CLEAP's Yusuf Ishaku Goje disclosed this, at the two-day session, organised by the Partnership to Engage, Reform & Learn (PERL-ECP), which supported CLEAP, in Zaria from September 11 to 12, 2023. "The establishment of CLEAP is a child-of necessity to build and strengthen the linkage between horizontal and diagonal actors to champion social accountability towards improved quality of service delivery and living



Goje

standard for residents in Kaduna State "The platform seeks to bring together legislators, Assembly Staff, civil society, media and development partners through a permanent dialogue platform to build a

community of practice that leverage the legislative mandate and process to engage the executive with focus on social accountability in the areas of development plan, sector implementation plan, policies, reforms, budgets, procurement service delivery and monitoring, evaluation and audit processes," he said. According to Goje, objectives of CLEAP include promoting Open Government Partnership (OGP) principles and practices in the legislative processes to enable more openness and participation and engagement and effective citizens. "Facilitate platforms for dialogue and partnership between the legislators and civil

society to enable more effective horizontal and diagonal accountability Increase interaction between constituents to strengthen the legislative process and legislators and strengthen and deepen the culture of open government through law-making. oversight and evaluation," he added. According to him, the legislature is at the heart of democracy. "The representation that the legislative arm provides is an expression of the peoples' sovereignty. "The primary role of the legislature - in terms of representation, law-making and oversight of the executive arm - is central to good governance, law and order," he explained.