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From left: Speaker, 14th Gani Fawehinmi memorial programme, Prof. Anthony Kila; Speaker, Comrade Rufus Olusesan; Chairman, Gani Fawehinmi Memorial Organization (GAFAMORG), Comrade Tunde Agunbiade; Chairman of the Occasion, Dr. Yunusa; Lead Speaker, Bar. Tayo Oyetibo; Bar Inibehe Effiong; and Comrade Alani Silas, during the 14th memorial programme for the late Chief Gani Fawehinmi SAM/SAN, with the theme; "State of the Nation 14 Years after Gani" held in Lagos. September 5, 2023. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON, SANI ALIYU, Zaria and PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Tuesday being the first day of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) ordered strike cake with mixed blessings for most Nigerians.

This followed the shutting down of power by the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), resulting in an uncomfortable stay at home for workers, who would have used the strike to save transport costs to their respective offices.

Initially, most didn't know the power outage was as a result of the ongoing two-day strike, until a statement dropped from the Head, Corporate Communication, Kaduna Electric, Abdulazeez Abdullahi yesterday afternoon.

The public notice which was titled, "Outage Within

Our Franchise Due To NLC Strike Action" drowned all hopes for residents of the franchise states of getting power.

"Dear Esteemed Customers, We regret to announce that the outage being experienced currently in our franchise states is due to the warning strike embarked upon by the Nigerian Labour Congress and its affiliate unions.

"The action has necessitated the shutting down of all 33KV feeders by the striking workers. We hope the impasse between the federal government and the NLC shall be resolved soonest so that power supply can be restored.

We regret all inconveniences," the public notice said.

*Warning Strike Grounds Activities In Institutions, Business Areas In Zaria

Meanwhile, activities were grounded at the campuses

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Kano Governor Flags-Off Palliatives Distribution to 500,000 Households
**Agricultural intervention to 9,857 beneficiaries*

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We'll Transform Plateau To A State Of Religious Harmony - Governor Mutfwang

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Strike: Mixed Blessings As NLC Grounds Nigeria

*Outage Within Our Franchise Due To NLC Strike Action - Kaduna Electric

*Grounds Activities In Institutions, Business Areas In Zaria

*Socio-economic activities in Akwa Ibom paralysed, Banks Shut Down

of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria following the full compliance of workers to embarked on the two days national warning strike as directed by the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC).

The Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU/ABU, Zaria) fully participated in the warning strike for Tuesday and looking set to continue on Wednesday as directed by the national body of the union.

A circular to all SSANU members dated September 4, 2023 jointly signed by Comrade Muhammad A. Yunusa and Comrade Halimat F.O. Abubakar, branch chairman and secretary respectively, urged members to comply with the directives by withdrawing their services and to stay at home throughout this period.

The two days national warning strike is as a result of the Federal Government's failure to address the challenges caused by the removal of fuel subsidy.

Consequently, upon this, the National Leadership of SSANU directed all branch leadership to mobilized members to fully participate in the 2 days national warning strike organized by the NLC.

All Federal and states owned institutions, KEDCO and banks were closed, while union members were busy patrolling to ensure total compliance all over. However, at the Kaduna State owned Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, Zaria, lectures and other activities were witnessed going accordingly because the institution has not registered with any union nor the NLC for over two decades.

*Socio-economic activities in Akwa Ibom paralysed, Banks shut down

Socio-economic activities in Akwa Ibom State were paralysed following the two-day warning strike embarked upon by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) over the fuel subsidy removal.

Government offices at different locations, including Idongesit Nkanga Secretariat along Abak Road and Dakkada Secretariat, Udo Udoma Avenue, Uyo when visited, were under lock.

It was gathered that only skeletal services were being carried out by key offices in Government House, Uyo while

the rest are under lock.

Some commercial banks whose staff were seen reporting for duty were forced out of office by NLC monitoring team, offices closed except their ATM outlets and POS were open to customers.

Chairperson of Nigeria Labour Congress, Akwa Ibom State Council, Comrade Sunny James said that the strike in the state was successful as the body has mobilized all the units to observe the strike.

On the non-participation of Trade Union Congress (TUC), he called off the bluff of the body that, "I do not have business with them and I know that they do not have business with us."

He, therefore, called on all NLC members to ensure strict compliance with the directive of the national body and the public to cooperate with NLC to finding lasting solutions to the economic hardship facing Nigerians based on the fuel subsidy removal.

Meanwhile, the National Union of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions Employees (NUBIFIE) has joined the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) to draw the attention of the Federal Government to the "punishing" economic situation in the country.

The union expressed this in a circular dated September 2, 2023 signed by its General Secretary, Mohammed Sheikh, and addressed to "All Zonal Councils / Domestic Committee".

According to the bank employees, the industrial action was in line with the communiqué issued after the meeting of National Executive Council (NEC) of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC). The NLC executive committee meeting held last Thursday, directed that all affiliates should direct all its members to commence two days' withdrawal of services on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"The directive is imperative to get the needed attention of government and warn it of its newfound love of meddling in the internal affairs of unions rather than address the punishing economic circumstances we find ourselves.

"We hereby, direct all our organs to comply with this directive by ensuring all our members stay

off-duty for the two days. Your cooperation in this regard will be appreciated." the statement stated.

Recall that the NLC President, Joe Ajaero, had declared the industrial action last Friday.

President Bola Tinubu announced in his inaugural speech on May 29 that "fuel subsidy is gone", which has since led to fuel prices as much as tripling nationwide and a

rising cost of living.

The labour union is accusing the Federal Government of abandoning the negotiations and failing to implement some of the resolutions from previous meetings with the government.

The organised labour unions are demanding among other things, the immediate reversal of all anti-poor policies of the federal government including the recent hike in PMS (Premium Motor

Spirit) price, increase in public school fees, the release of the eight months withheld salary of university lecturers and workers."

The union also demanded an upward review of the minimum wage from N30,000 to N200,000, saying that since the President's "subsidy is gone" inauguration speech of May 29, 2023, the peace of mind of Nigerians has gone.

We'll Transform Plateau To A State Of Religious Harmony - Governor Mutfwang



Governor Mutfwang (left) in a warm handshake with Reverend Panya Baba.

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

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, has expressed commitment to transforming Plateau into a state known for religious harmony, with the aim of fostering peace and unity within Nigeria.

Governor Mutfwang stated this during a courtesy visit by the leadership of New Life for All, led by the President, Rev. Panya

Baba, at Government House in Little Rayfield, Jos.

He said his administration has taken deliberate measures to ensure inclusivity of all faith and ethnic groups within the government, with the goal of building a united and prosperous Plateau.

Governor Mutfwang also recalled the security challenges that plagued the state before his formal inauguration on May

29, and highlighted the purposeful efforts his administration has made to restore the state's lost glory.

Acknowledging the church's significant role in nation building, especially in areas like health and education, he praised New Life for All for their contribution to uniting the Christian community.

President of New Life for All, Rev. Stephen Panya Baba extended condolences to

Governor Mutfwang over the unfortunate attacks on the people of Mangu and other parts of the state.

He commended the governor for addressing the security situation and offered prayers for divine intervention.

Rev. Panya, who also serves as the President of ECWA, assured the Governor of New Life for All's continued support for the government and the people.

CDS Urges Religious Clerics To Promote Peace, Unity In Nigeria

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Nigeria's Chief of Defense Staff (CDS), General Christopher Gwabin Musa has urged Nigerian clergymen to always preach peace to their congregations during church services and order programs.

The CDS made the call when he paid a courtesy visit to the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) at its Headquarters in the Federal Capital

Territory (FCT) Abuja.

The Military Chief said the visit is aimed at building mutual relationship between the military and the religious leaders in promoting unity, progress and development of the country.

General Musa further appealed to the association to pray for the military to succeed in the tasks ahead of them, especially in this critical time when the country is being bedeviled by the activities of bandits,

insurgents, and other criminal elements disrupting peace and economic stability of the country.

While appreciating the military chief for the visit, the President of CAN, Arch Bishop Daniel Okor, said CAN remains committed to supporting the Nigerian Military in all ramifications.

The Bishop said the association will not relent to always come up with suggestions to strengthen their relationship with the

military and to foster peace, unity, and National cohesion among the ethno-religious groups in Nigeria.

It would be recalled that the CDS, General Christopher Musa Gwabin less than a week ago, visited the Supreme Council of the Islamic Affairs of Nigeria at the Abuja Central Mosque all aimed at fostering understanding, peace, unity and security in Nigeria.

INEC Gombe Commends Staff For Outstanding Performance

By: ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe

The management of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Gombe State has rewarded its staff for outstanding performance, before, during and after the 2023 general elections.

In his address during a brief ceremony in honour of the recipients at the INEC headquarters in Gombe, the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), Alhaji Umar Ibrahim appreciated staff for their hard work and sacrifices which contributed in no small measures to the success of the 2023 General Elections in the state.

He presented letters of commendation to some staff who distinguished themselves in various assigned duties.

The REC, noted that out of the pool of dedicated staff, the recipients were selected by the management for their

exceptional performances while discharging their scheduled of duties as well as other assigned responsibilities during the period under review.

He also said that the gesture is meant to encourage the recipients to continue to put in their best in the service of the commission and also spur others to be diligent in the discharge of their responsibilities.

The recipients included, Engr. Saidu Bappah, Head of Unit (HoU) Maintenance, Abubakar Jadda, Executive and Personal Assistant to REC. Others include, Ibrahim Sabo, HoU Personnel; Saidu Umar, HoU Accounts and Mohorret Bigun, HoU Public Affairs & Protocol.

Responding on behalf of the recipients, Saidu Umar appreciated the REC and management for the recognition and pledged to even do more for the commission.



The CDS with CAN officials when he paid them a courtesy visit in Abuja.

Kaduna Guber: Conflicting Results Came From INEC, Ashiru Tells Tribunal

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Kaduna State gubernatorial candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the March 18, 2023 general elections, Isa Ashiru has alleged that two conflicting election results emerged from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in the state.

Speaking at the tribunal sitting in Kaduna on Monday, he said that election results were changed in favour of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state.

After adopting his final written address before the three-man panel of the tribunal, Ashiru through his lead counsel, Oluwale Iyamu, explained that INEC is responsible for the manipulation of

election results.

In his final written address, Ashiru also alleged over voting and abuse of electoral processes, while calling for the reversal of the INEC declaration that produced the incumbent Governor of Kaduna state, Senator Uba Sani.

On the issue of not being able to call polling unit agents as one of the witnesses, Ashiru's lead counsel further explained that manipulation of election results were not done at the polling units, but within INEC, therefore, there was no need calling any agent as a witness.

Iyamu (SAN) explained, "Election results were not changed at the polling units, but that was done outside the polling units before they were declared at the INEC in favour of

APC. Our agents at the polling units of other parties were all given their duplicate copies from which we confirm that the Petitioners actually won the election. Neither INEC nor Uba Sani produced contrary original or duplicate copies respectively to disprove our agents certified duplicate copies. We have conflicting results both from INEC, and all were signed by the same INEC." In their separate submissions, the counsels to the 1st (INEC), 2nd (Uba Sani) and 3rd (APC) respondents applied that the written addresses of Ashiru and his party; PDP be dismissed.

Chief Duro Adeyele (SAN), the counsel to Governor Uba Sani argued that the written addresses of Ashiru and PDP are

incompetent, adding that, it is a violation of the law.

He added, "My submission is that filling three separate addresses is an abuse of the court process. The only alternative left for the petitioners is to pick one out of the three."

In his counter, the lead counsel to Ashiru and PDP, Iyamu urged the tribunal to discountenance the applications of the respondents, arguing that their claims are not supported by any law.

Meanwhile, upon adoption of the final written addresses by all parties, the tribunal adjourned for final judgement, to a date that shall be communicated to the counsels to the petitioners and respondents respectively.

Katsina Governor Mourns Nigerian Flag Designer

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has extended condolences to the Government and People of Oyo State over the death of Nigeria's flag designer, Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi who died recently at the age of 87 after a brief illness.

Governor Dikko Radda in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed, expressed heartfelt condolences to the family of Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi, the renowned designer of the Nigeria's flag, emphasizing that, "late Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi was a proud indigene of Ogun State."

"It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to a man who contributed significantly to our nation's history and identity," Governor Radda said.

Mohammed Kaula explained that, Governor Radda, on behalf of the Government and People of

Katsina State, extends his deepest sympathies to the bereaved family and the Government of Ogun State during this difficult time.

He said the governor acknowledged the profound impact of Mr. Akinkunmi's work in designing the nation's flag, which symbolizes the unity and diversity of the Country.

Similarly, Kaula said Governor Radda emphasized the importance of honoring the legacy of Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi and preserving his contributions to our great nation's heritage.

Consequently, he said Governor Dikko Umaru Radda offered prayers for the departed soul and comfort to the grieving family.

"The people of Katsina State join in mourning the loss of a remarkable Nigerian, and we stand in solidarity with Oyo State and the Akinkunmi family as they navigate this period of grief and remembrance," Governor Radda said.

Health: FG Urges States LGs To Enforce Self Care Guidelines, Inaugurate State Network



By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Director and Head of Department, Family Health, Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), Dr. Stella Nwosu has called on stakeholders, state and local government areas, individuals, families and groups to endeavour to have adequate information and knowledge of self care guidelines and healthcare facilities around them for better health.

She also advised people to have access to the primary and secondary healthcare facilities for proper and improved health instead of engaging in self administration or medication to treat themselves as recommended guidelines for self care interventions by the World Health Organisation (WHO) which is being practiced globally.

Dr. Stella expressed this yesterday, while declaring open a one-day meeting on the Orientation and Dissemination of the National Guidelines on

Self Care for Sexual Reproductive and Maternal Health in Borno State held at Pinnacle Luxury Hotel Maiduguri Banquet Hall while wishing the participants truthful deliberations.

Represented by the Director, Vesico Vaginal Fistula (VVF), Federal Ministry of Health, Mrs. Remi Bajomo, she said the meeting was to disseminate the National Guideline on Self-care for Sexual Reproductive and Maternal Health (SRMH) in Nigeria as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Dr. Stella also reiterated that self-care is the ability of individuals, families, and communities to promote health, prevent disease, maintain health, and cope with illness and disability with or without the support of a healthcare provider, stressing that, self-care has become more important with the rapidly growing population of Nigeria and the consequent pressure on the limited conventional healthcare facilities.

The director further explained that FMOH, Pathfinder International and WHO collaboration is aimed at orientating media organizations as part of the Self-Care Advocacy Network on the contents of the Self-Care Guidelines for Sexual Reproductive and Maternal Health and their role and responsibilities in its implementation to contribute to successful implementation of self-care at state and community levels through their existing structures to ensure access to quality health services.

She added that it will be recalled that during the early stages of COVID-19 pandemic, the limitation of conventional health services was made more obvious with the disruption of health service delivery in some health facilities, self-care intervention through community pharmacy and PPMVs were helpful to sustain health services.

She further noted that, self-care aims to reduce unnecessary overdependence on health

facilities for services which individuals or families could provide for themselves. It is an integral and complementary component of the overall healthcare system.

While the benefits of self-care to the health system has enormous benefits such as reduced workload on healthcare workers and increased access to sexual and reproductive health services in a safe and private space leveraging innovations and digital platforms to access or deliver safe and appropriate health care services.

In a slides presentation of an overview of self care guidelines and implementation, Mrs. Remi Bajomo said that June 2019, witnessed the release of the World Health Organization Consolidated Guideline on Self-care interventions for Sexual and Reproductive Health.

She added that the Federal Ministry of Health through consultative process, adapted the guideline, culminating to the development of the National Guidelines on Self-care for

Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health and a costing implementation plan which was officially launched in March 2022.

While Dr. Stella also said that the Federal Ministry of Health is deliberate and committed to achieving universal health coverage through self-care interventions, pointing out that, in line with this commitment, the FMOH and Partners have systematically engaged and disseminated the self-care guideline in over 23 states of the federation.

Namely: Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Cross River, Edo, Enugu, Gombe, Kano, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Oyo, Osun, Ondo, Ogun, Plateau, Rivers and Lagos States. Plans are ongoing to carry out same advocacy and engagement visits in the remaining states of the federation.

She further said that the Federal Ministry of Health and partners have developed the Demand Generation Strategy for Self-care

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Lagos Boils As Security Operative Allegedly Kills Truck Driver

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Pandemonium erupted at the Mile 2 axis of Apapa - Oshodi Expressway at the early hours of yesterday, following the alleged killing of a truck driver by gunmen suspected to be security operatives.

Consequently, touts and miscreants were said to have attacked the security operatives believed to be officials of the Lagos State Taskforce, leading to disruption of lawful activities on the road.

It was learnt that the taskforce drivers left the scene after they realised that the driver had died and more hoodlums were about joining their colleagues to attack them.

Following the exit of the security operatives, the hoodlums took over the entire stretch of the road leading to Apapa, leaving commuters stranded, as many commercial bus operators who have been alerted of the development avoided the route.

Our correspondent gathered that the miscreants blocked the road, setting bonfire, creating fear and tension.

While confirming the incident, the Lagos State Police Command Spokesperson SP Benjamin Hundeyin said the Commissioner of Police, Abiodun Owohunwa, has

ordered a thorough investigation into the death.

He noted that the order was given during the inspection of the scene of the clash by Owohunwa to ensure normalcy returns to the axis.

In a terse statement released on his official Social Media handle, Hundeyin disclosed that a patrol team was still on ground to prevent any breakdown of law and order.

"CP Idowu Owohunwa is on ground at Mile 2 to assess the situation. Total normalcy has been restored. Meanwhile, investigation into the killing of a driver has commenced", he said.

Meanwhile, the Lagos State Taskforce on Environment and Other Offences has distanced itself from the incident, saying non of its operatives was deployed to the axis.

In a statement by its Director of Public Affairs Unit, Abdul-Raheem Gbadeyan, the Agency noted that the Taskforce being referred to by residents could be those set up by other arms of government.

According to the statement, the Chairman of the agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye said that the agency is usually mistaken for other enforcement units, adding that taskforce personnel are clearly adorned in tactical jackets with the word "Taskforce" clearly inscribed in



Scene of the incident in Lagos yesterday

front and behind with unique identification numbers.

It reads, "The attention of the Lagos State Taskforce has been drawn to a report making rounds that officials of the Agency were involved in the killing of an unidentified individual along Mile 2 axis this morning.

"The Agency would like to clearly state that none of its personnel were posted out for operations today except for officers posted to Freedom Park, Ojota, and Maryland to maintain peace and orderliness where a rally by the Nigerian Labour

Congress has been scheduled.

"The Agency is usually mistaken for other enforcement units, but he stated that taskforce personnel are clearly adorned in tactical jackets with the word "Taskforce" clearly inscribed in front and behind with unique identification numbers.

"None of our men were posted out today for environmental and traffic operations, rather they were only posted to freedom park to maintain peace and orderliness during the planned NLC rally so that miscreants and other sinister forces do not hijack

the protest. Our operational jackets are clearly branded with unique identification numbers for members of the public to recognize during our operations" The chairman urged those pointing accusing fingers at the agency to further beam their searchlight at other public or private establishments who branded their enforcement units as taskforce.

He also said that the agency will do all within its power to get to the root of the matter and ensure that perpetrators of the heinous crime are brought to book.

Health: FG Urges States LGs To Enforce Self Care Guidelines, Inaugurate State Network

interventions to create awareness and change the social perception and behaviour around self-care interventions while a monitoring and evaluation framework has been developed to monitor the progress of the implementation of self-care intervention in Nigeria.

The director added also that the Federal Ministry of Health appreciates the strong collaboration with development partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO), John Snow Incorporated, White Ribbon Alliance Nigeria, Pathfinder International, and Society for Family Health.

Others include, International Rescue Committee (IRC), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH) who have continuously worked collaboratively with the Government right from the commencement of the process of developing the National Guideline on Self-care to ensuring seamless and effective implementation.

According to her, In order to set up a platform for coordination of self-care interventions in Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Health approved and set up the National

Self-care Coordination Committee and the Self-Care Advocacy Network which feeds into the Coordination Committee in July 2023.

"I would like to specially appreciate the support of donors namely the Children Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), Swedish International Development Agency, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and USAID who have provided funding for Self-Care interventions.

"I urge all stakeholders in Borno State and in particular the various media outlets in the print and electronic media here present to within their wide sphere of influence play their roles to achieve successful implementation of the National Guideline on Self-Care for Sexual, Reproductive and Maternal Health in Nigeria," Stella said

Earlier, the Borno State Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Pharmacy Aliyu Atabo welcomed and appreciated the FMOH, collaborating partners, participants and all stakeholders at the meeting before inaugurating the Borno State Network on Self Care Guidelines Planing and Implementation Committee on behalf of the Borno

State Commissioner of Health and Human Services, Processor Baba Mallam Gana for the active and proper domestication of the Self Care Guidelines across the state

He charged the network members to promote and ensure access and patronage of healthcare facilities by the people ensure quality and affordable availability of self care products and services in public and private health facilities across the state and Nigeria at large

He also urged them to dedicate themselves to the mandate and be accountable as well responsible to their responsibilities while discharging their duties as critical stakeholders and advocates of public health.

The Country Programme and Advocacy Manager, The White RIBBON Nigeria, Jennifer Adebambo in her remarks said, "Together, we can create a world where every individual has the knowledge and resources to make informed choices about their health".

She added that this meeting signifies our commitment to ensuring that the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is achieved through Self-Care adoptions and interventions in Borno State. Since the domestication of the

National Self-Care Guidelines for Sexual, Reproductive, and Maternal Health in 2019 by the Federal Ministry of health with support from WRA Nigeria and other partners, WRA Nigeria has supported the Federal Ministry of Health in coordinating a National network of self-care partners who promote self-care.

"As part of our mandate to promote self-care in Nigeria, White Ribbon Alliance Nigeria in collaboration with International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Federal Ministry of Health has convened the Self-Care Advocacy Network (SAN) with the aim of bringing together key state actors across CSOs, professional groups, and other key organizations with roles that promote self-care in Borno State.

"Sexual and reproductive health is a fundamental aspect of our lives, influencing not only our physical well-being but also our emotional and social experiences. Maternal health, in particular, is a topic that touches us all, as it is integral to the well-being of mothers and the future generations they bring into this world.

"In many ways, this orientation meeting is an opportunity to equip ourselves with knowledge and

understanding that can transform lives. It's about ensuring that every individual, regardless of their gender, age, or background, has the tools and information needed to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.

"Today, we are honored to have all of you here to share knowledge, experiences, and insights. Your dedication to this cause is an inspiration to us. Let us not forget that the real change-makers in this journey are all of you.

"Your active participation, your questions, your willingness to share your experiences will make this orientation meeting truly impactful. Together, we will break down barriers, dispel myths, and champion the cause of Self-Care for sexual, reproductive, and maternal health.

"I encourage you all to engage fully, ask questions without hesitation, it is through dialogue that we can make lasting change. As we begin this empowering journey, let's commit ourselves to promoting Self-Care for sexual, reproductive, and maternal health in our communities and beyond," Jennifer said.

100 Days In Office: Governor Dikko Radda Squarely Tackling Insecurity - Youth Group

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State in his first 100 days in office is addressing security issues with unprecedented energy and ideas to tame criminality and criminal activities in the state.

Chairman of Garkuwan Gwagwaren Katsina Youth Solidarity Movement, Alhaji Muhammad Nura Dyola stated this while speaking to journalists in Katsina.

Alhaji Nura Dyola noted that, the primary responsibility of any government is to firstly tackle matters concerning security of lives and property of its citizens.

emphasizing that, "the current administration of Malam Dikko Umaru Radda doesn't joke with the delicate responsibility."

The Ruling All Progressive Congress (APC) Chieftain said "Security is one of the main pillars of the Governor Dikko Radda led administration. In the last 100 days he has invested so much money in providing the necessary equipment to the security agencies to carry out their duties in Katsina State."

Alhaji Mohammad Nura Dyola said government of Malam Dikko Radda has also employed various strategies to tackle security challenges in the state including initiating measures for more effective intelligence gathering and policing the entry and exit points of the state.

Alhaji Nura Dyola who was speaking to Journalists in Katsina reiterated that, "Governor Dikko set the ball rolling by establishing a Ministry of Internal Security. Prior to this, he had visited the National Institute for Security Studies in Abuja aimed at building security-centered synergy on how banditry and other kidnapping-related activities in Katsina State would be brought to an end."

Alhaji Dyola disclosed that, "determined to fight security challenges in the state headlong the state government sent an executive bill, the Katsina Community Watch Bill. The bill when signed into law will enable the government to recruit 2400 Security corps that would be sent to

the frontline local government areas to maintain peace and order."

He however, said a committee was set up to handle the entire process of recruitment and it was headed by a retired general and former GOC, Major General Junaid Bindawa, and it has commenced work.

Alhaji Dyola further said, Governor Umaru Radda as part of his good work has also visited the Defense Headquarters, Abuja where he interfaced with the Chief of Defense Staff and Chief of the Naval Staff and discussed vital security issues that affect Katsina and its people.

"Governor Radda's continuous selfless service to people has convened stakeholders, peace and security meetings with traditional rulers, village heads and religious leaders as well as heads of security agencies to discuss effective feasible approaches to ending insecurity in the state," Alhaji Dyola said.

Alhaji Mohammad Nura said the "Radda government within this period under review also approved an unprecedented sum of N7.8 billion for the purchase of security equipment to combat banditry and other criminalities in the state."

Alhaji Nura Dyola said determined to fight Insecurity in the state, Governor Radda should be commended for signing the Security Challenges Containment Order. adding that, "the order banned the movement of commercial motorcycles and tricycles in the state from 8 pm to 6pm in 19 local government areas prone to terrorist attack."

"The order also includes that all lorries and trucks carrying firewood and cattle from the forest are banned while the sales of cattles at Safana, Batsari, Faskari, and Sabuwa local government areas are suspended indefinitely.

He also personally led security operatives to raid criminal hideouts in the state capital," he said.

Alhaji Mohammad Nura Dyola called on people of the state to pray and support Governor Radda in his effort to change the narratives of governance in Katsina State.

Annual Budget: My Administration Will Continue Engaging Residents - Gov Makinde



Gov Seyi Makinde at the Budget stakeholders meeting

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde has declared that his administration would continue the tradition of engaging residents of the state on the making of the state's annual budget.

Speaking on Monday at the Stakeholders' Consultative and Engagement Meeting on 2024 Budget, held at the Gamaliel Onosode Hall of the International Conference Centre, University of Ibadan, the governor said this would help the government to serve the people better.

He disclosed that his administration began the tradition in 2019 after noticing that the budgetary performances of the state were abysmally low before he assumed office and that the initiative had resulted in better budget performances and

development.

Governor Makinde emphasized that his administration would continue to put the interest of Oyo State people first in everything it does, adding that the 2023 budget performance of the state would have reached 80 per cent by the end of the year, as it is already at 75 per cent, which he described as a pass mark.

The governor then tasked the people of Oyo state to take the engagement meetings, which would be held across the seven zones of the state seriously as inputs from the meetings would be captured in the budget.

"We are here again to kick off another stakeholders' meeting and this time, it is for the 2024 budget.

Like some of the goodwill messages already pointed out, we have held this conversation since 2019 when we assumed office.

It is not just a yearly ritual; it is an exercise that is extremely important", he said.

The governor added, "Before we came in, budget performance was like 30 per cent and sometimes, you just look at the budget and you see that they are just overblowing what they did".

"We are not coming around for this exercise just for the fun of it. The Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning said we are at 75 per cent performance and before the end of the year, we will surely go beyond 80 per cent. I believe this is a pass mark".

Governor Makinde stressed further "Thoughtfully, the people of Oyo State gave us an opportunity to serve them better. So, we will continue to hold this stakeholders'

engagement under my watch for another three years".

"For those who are familiar with this meeting, you know there was a time when we consulted stakeholders in the five zones now broken into seven zones, as we have Ibadan Main City and what I will call Ibadan Greater City and not Lesser City. And we also have Oke Ogun Zones I and II. The inputs we get from all these places are extremely important, because anything that you can put in the budget, if you are getting 75 to 80 per cent performance, it means you have 75 to 80 per cent chances that whatever you put in there will get done.

"So, we must let our people know that this is not a jamboree. It is an avenue for our people to let us know what they want us to do for them."

The governor then tasked the people of Oyo state to take the engagement meetings, which would be held across the seven zones of the state seriously as inputs from the meetings would be captured in the budget.

75th Anniversary: UI Appoints Gov Makinde Ambassador Extraordinaire

BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan
The University of Ibadan on Monday, appointed and decorated Governor Seyi Makinde as the University's Ambassador Extraordinaire ahead of its 75th anniversary. Presenting the governor with a plaque and a garland of honour, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Kayode Adebowale, who led the management of the university and members of the anniversary committee to the Governor's office in Ibadan lauded the governor for contributing to the development of the university over the years, even before he became governor of the state. The Vice-Chancellor stressed that the university appreciates the governor's efforts, saying, "UI is grateful to you as a wonderful governor and it is obvious that our

university has been a great beneficiary of your good service, "On behalf of the management, staff and students of the university, I congratulate you on your outstanding victory at the polls", he said. Professor Adebowale added, "Your reelection is a testament to your sterling performance and very humane policies in your first term. It is our prayer that your second term will be far more impactful than the first term even as we pray for good health and God's wisdom for you and those working with you. Governor Makinde while speaking after receiving the team, lauded the university for the honour bestowed on him, stressing that he would continue to work with the university because the institution has continued to be helpful to the state in terms of human capacity

development and other areas. "It is a very close family. Over the years, the University of Ibadan has always been there with the resources to help the state. For this administration, you will probably say we have been poaching talents from the institution. What we have done basically are things that should have been done a long time ago", he said. Governor Makinde added, "This is because we have the resources right there and what to do is to leverage the closeness of the institution to the government. "We have had Professor Adeyemo, Professor Omole, Prof Babatunde, even the DG Protocol is also from UI. So, we will continue to come and knock on the door of UI to support the state." Speaking further, the

governor said his administration would, as part of the constructions and improvements of junctions being carried out by the administration, reconstruct the Orogun-Ajibode-Sasa Junction and embark on junction improvement at the frontage of the University of Ibadan, to give the institution a better ambience.

"Let me specially thank you for the honour of making me an Ambassador Extraordinaire for the UI at 75th Anniversary. That is a significant milestone. I will do my best to provide support for the anniversary and the university." [05/09, 4:54 pm] Jacob Dickson: Gov Seyi Makinde being decorated as UI 75th anniversary Ambassador extraordinary.



Don't Drag Us Into Politics, Kogi Police Command Warns SDP Candidate

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Kogi State Police Command has advised the governorship candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Alhaji Murtala Yakubu Ajaka and his campaign team to focus on his campaign as he cruses the state for support. A statement issued on Monday by the Police Public Relations Officer, SP William Ayah and made available to newsmen, observed that the party should focus on issue-based campaigns and solicit support from the electorate, instead of embarking on falsehood for political sympathy from the public. The command said that it was not satisfied with the malicious and misleading allegations making the rounds by one Faruk Adejoh-Audu, Director Communications, Murtala Yakubu Ajaka Gubernatorial Campaign Organization to the effect that the Commissioner of Police, Bethrand Onuoha plans an attack on Ajaka supporters in Kogi LGA. "The Command wishes to emphatically state that the statement is the figment of imagination of Faruk Adejoh-Audu and his

Political Candidate Yakubu Ajaka, who has mastered the art of political gimmickry. "To him, the Commissioner of Police who, upon assumption of duty one month ago, has so far demonstrated high level of professionalism by providing a level playing ground for all political parties and their candidates to operate in the state, should not be dragged into politics," it said. The statement described the entire narrative to injure and embark on character assassination to malign the hard-earned reputation and integrity of the Commissioner of Police, as the height of callousness and desperation. "In democracy, freedom of expression is a right, but it must be jealously guarded by responsibility and not to hide under its guise to churn out lies, innuendos and sensationalism. "The Commissioner urges the people of the state to discountenance such information, and to be wary of being hoodwinked by merchants of violence but should gravitate towards issues that unite the state rather than those that divide them," the statement said.

Ebonyi People's Mandate To Nwifuru Is Sacrosanct - APC

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

In a bid to clear the rumors on the alleged jubilation that People's Democratic Party (PDP) will soon takeover the leadership of the state, the Ebonyi State chairman of All Progressive Congress (APC), Chief Stanley Okoroemegha has re-affirmed the commitment and dedication of the party to move the state forward, stating that Ebonyi people's mandate to governor Francis

Nwifuru, is sacrosanct and nothing will happen to it. The state APC Chairman, Chief Stanley Okoroemegha stated this in a press conference in Abakaliki, the capital of Ebonyi State. The party chairman said that the PDP Guber candidate of the 2023 elections, Chief Ifeanyi Chukwuma Odi should concentrate on his business and come after 16 years because power belongs to God. According to him, re-run election

can only be conducted in Ebonyi South Senatorial as a result of the resignation of the former Senator David Umahi, who is now Minister of Works, saying that the Senatorial seat is for APC as the party will do everything possible to fill a popular candidate that is widely acceptable to the people in order to win. He further explained that they are waiting for INEC to fix a date for the re-run. "The people's mandate has been

given to Ogbonnaya Nwifuru and it is sacrosanct, nothing will happen to it. There is nothing wrong about one making himself to be happy. Petty politicians are like 419 people; if they hook on you and are eating you, they will continue. "The man called Anyichuks, is a novice in the business; he is a very good businessman, but the unfortunate thing is that, he would have concentrated on his business until when he gets such a call

coming from God because power belongs to God. The people milking him are those that can't do any other thing. They saw him as an avenue of making bread. "Anyichuks should go back to his business and wait for the next 16 years, if he is fit, he should come and run for governorship in this state. For now, the god of Ebonyi has spoken and it is final," he declared.

Delta Police Recovers Firearm From Cable Vandal, Rescues 2 Kidnapped Victims

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Police operatives in Delta State have cracked a notorious cable vandal, with a Beretta Pistol recovered from him. Also, one magazine, some vandalized cables, two ATM Cards, and one steel pair of scissors were recovered from him.

This happened, as two kidnapped victims were also rescued unhurt in a bush.

Giving a breakdown of the arrest and recovery, the Delta State Police Command Spokesperson DSP Bright Edafe said the breakthrough were recorded by operatives attached to Oghara Division, Anti-Cult Unit, SIB Unit, local vigilante group and Delta Safe Squad.

His words, " In a similar momentous effort, the SAFE DELTA SQUAD recovered a Beretta Pistol from one Michael Danjuma 'M'. On 1/9/2023 at about 0735 hours, while acting on a complaint received from a distress caller (name withheld).

" The Commander of the Safe Delta detailed operatives who stormed the Ogbezoma qtrs, Okpanam where the aforementioned suspect, Michael Danjuma was arrested.

" :Upon investigation, it was revealed that the 23-year-old suspect who is a native of Latang in Plateau state but resides in Hausa Market by Custom Okpanam majors in vandalizing cables.

" A Search Warrant was promptly executed at his premises; and upon a thorough search of his place of residence, the following exhibits were recovered: One Beretta Pistol, one magazine, some vandalized cables, two ATM Cards, and one steel pair of scissors.

" The suspect is in custody and will be charged to court upon completion of investigation".

On the rescued kidnapped victims, he said, " :On 30/8/2023 at about 1.30pm, the DPO Oghara division received a distress call that two persons were suspected to have been kidnapped at Oghara-Ugbenu link road and their whereabouts not known.

" In an ingenious display of crime fighting craft, the Divisional Police Officer of Oghara CSP Olasunkanmi Musiliu, while working on credible and technically generated information, led a combined team of police operatives of the Division,

Anti-Cult Unit, SIB Unit, and the local vigilante groups into Oghara-Ugbenu Forest on the 31st of August 2023, at about 11:30 am.

" The operatives relentlessly combed the forest which forced the kidnappers to abandon the victims and escaped.

" The operatives rescued the two kidnapped victims unhurt and have since reunited with their families.

" Four live cartridges; one Tecno Spark phone; one ATM card; and three sim cards of different telecommunication networks were recovered from the scene.

" Regardless of the victim's rescue, efforts are on top gear to ensure the arrest of the fleeing suspected kidnappers".

Edafe added that, " In another development, while adhering to the directives of the Commissioner of Police CP Wale Abass psc, to maintain alertness, adopt more visibility patrol and proactive policing within the command, a team of Eagle Net Special Squad Operatives on the 31st of August, 2023, at about 0900hours acting on credible information, stormed a hideout at Isieke Quarters, Asaba, and arrested one Chimuanya Francis Onwusonye 'M'.

" The 30-year-old male suspect who resides in Onitsha, Anambra State was searched on the spot and One Beretta Pistol with four rounds of live ammunition was recovered from him.

" The suspect was immediately taken into custody, and investigation is ongoing.

In light of these achievements, the Commissioner of Police, CP Wale Abass reiterates that the command will not fold its arms and watch miscreants break the law.

Knowing the ember months are usually marked by an increasing spate of crime, he appeals to the general public to be very alert, and that security is everyone's business.

The Commissioner of Police further reassured the effective dedication in curbing the measure of crime in the state.

CP Abass consequently solicits support from the entire citizenry by way of giving useful information to the Police, reaffirming that the command is proactive and working tirelessly to protect the lives and properties of the inhabitants of Delta State.

Tinubu's Administration Committed To Peace, Unity Of Nigeria - Malagi

**Visits Ibadan, commiserates family of late Pa Akinkunmi, Oyo State Government*



Minister of Information and National Orientation (middle) during the visit to Ibadan.

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris Malagi on Monday, declared that the administration of President Bola Tinubu is committed to peace and unity of Nigeria.

Alhaji Malagi made this known in Ibadan, during a visit to the family of the late designer of Nigeria's national flag, late Pa Taiwo Akinkunmi at Elebu area of Ibadan, alongside other Federal Government delegation.

He stressed that towards doing this, the President Tinubu-led administration will continue with its determination to sustain the peace and stability bestowed on Nigeria by its past heroes.

The minister pointed out

that without doubt, late Pa Akinkunmi represents the unity and oneness of the country with the legacy he left behind through the design of national flag which signified unity and peace of Nigeria.

Alhaji Malagi stressed that the Federal government appreciates the efforts of the deceased, especially with the design of the flag which signifies existence as a country.

"We are here to console the family on behalf of Mr President. Pa Akinkunmi's roles cannot be forgotten. It is a symbol that we are yet to find a replacement for. He designed it when he was in his 20s and he lived for more than 60 years after he designed it. Mr. President received the news of his death with deep regret but we thank

for his life well spent", he said.

Alhaji Malagi added, " We want to identify with the family and the people of Oyo state. We came to tell them that the federal government identify with them and the people of Oyo State and to say that Nigerian government will stand by them.

Also speaking at a courtesy visit to the office of Gov Seyi Makinde, the Minister disclosed that the visit was on the behest of President Bola Tinubu who wants to assure the family of the deceased and Oyo State as a whole of sharing in the pain caused by the death of the icon.

Describing late Pa Akinkunmi as a very important icon for existence as a nation, saying he was a nationalist, patriot, one who believes in ones of

Nigeria and gave us symbol of existence, he lauded his commitment to the growth of Nigeria

" We know that he is such an iconic individual. He designed one of the most powerful symbols of our collective existence as a country and a nation. Therefore, Mr President has asked that we come to commiserate with the family and the state and also tell them that Mr President shares with them in this grief, and the FG is with them throughout this period and whatever the request the family puts forward, the FG will look into it."

Representative of the Akinkunmi family, Mrs Remi Akinkunmi while welcoming the Federal government team, lauded the President Tinubu led administration for the visit to the family of late Pa Akinkunmi.

EFCC Arrests 20 Alleged Internet Fraudsters In Ibadan

**Recovers 3 Toyota Camry cars, unregistered grey-coloured Toyota RAV 4, laptop computers, several mobile phones, among others.*

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

Twenty suspected internet fraudsters are now in the custody of the Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

According to a statement by the EFCC on Monday, the suspects were arrested on September 1, 2023 at

Ologolo and Idi – Ishin areas of Ibadan, Oyo State following intelligence on their fraudulent activities. It stressed that items recovered from the arrested suspects include three Toyota Camry cars, unregistered grey-coloured Toyota RAV 4, laptop computers, and several mobile phones, among others.

EFCC in the statement,

gave names of the arrested suspects as, Mustapha Adeyemi Afeez, Olu y o m b o T u n d e Ayomide, Ayanwola Tobi, Oni Joseph Promise, Osifeso Tijesunimi David, Anthony Lucky Daniel, Olanrenwaju Selim Adebawale and Ezekiel Olawole Kolawole.

Others include Abaka Clitus, Adeyinka Wande Ajayi, Gbolahan Lanre

Ayinde, Abee Rilwan Bidemi, Augustine Okoh, Ayanwonla Omotayo Olaoluwa, Azeez Ibrahim Olamide, Ayanwola Segun Victor, Onifade Ridwan Olabisi, Abaka Moses, Aladelusi Adeyinka Temitope Mathew and Abolaji Muiz Ajibola.

EFCC maintained that the arrested suspects will be charged to court as soon as the investigation is concluded.



The arrested suspects

Lagos Blue Rail Lines Begin Operations

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

The much publicised Lagos Blue Rail line began operation on Monday, with the governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu taking the first ride.

He took the ride from the Marina station to Mile 2 around 9:00a.m.

Prior to his boarding, Sanwo-Olu explained to his co-passengers the requirements to board the train.

The governor was accompanied by his wife, Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, the Deputy Governor, Obafemi Hamzat, Secretary to the State Government, Mrs. Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin, former Deputy Governor, Femi Pedro; an ex-Speaker of the House of

Assembly, Adeyemi Ikuforiji, Senator Musiliu Obanikoro among other government officials.

The Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) has announced that in the first month, the train would run only 12 trips with the locomotive system.

LAMATA Managing Director Abimbola Akinajo said the agency will begin the electric-powered train operation with 76 trips. An estimated passenger capacity between 150,000 and 175,000 are expected to take rides from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

It would be recalled that former President Muhammadu Buhari has flagged off the project early this year before exiting office.

Operation Safe Haven Troops Neutralise 6 Kidnappers, Nab Gunrunners, Others

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

Troops of Operation SAFE HAVEN (OPSH) on Operation HAKORIN DAMISA IV from 28 August to September 4, 2023, have arrested 54 criminal suspects in connection with kidnapping, farm destruction, armed robbery, gunrunning and illicit drugs trafficking amongst others.

The troops in conjunction with the Nigeria Police and local hunters neutralised five suspected kidnappers at Tahuwa Community and recovered three AK 47 rifles, one SMG rifle and 105 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition.

Troops also carried out a sting operation across Plateau and Kaduna states, during which three kidnappers were arrested

and a suspected bandit, Dauda Tahiru was also arrested in connection with the last attack at Heipang Village in Barkin Ladi LGA of Plateau State.

Similarly, following actionable intelligence, troops tracked down and arrested a notorious gunrunner, Da Nyam and one other at Kwang/Kafanchan communities of Jos South/Jama'a LGAs of Plateau and Kaduna states.

During the operation, troops recovered one AK 47 rifle, 55 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, one DICON graded AK 47 rifle with registration number 563706042 and one magazine. Suspects are currently undergoing interrogation.

Troops also conducted clearance operations at Alaghom village/Maijuju

forest, Anguware hills and Fofur general areas in Mangu LGA and recovered one motorcycle and one AK 47 rifle loaded with rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition.

OPSH also handed over suspects and recovered truck load with vandalised railway slippers to the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Plateau State Command for further action.

Following a distress call, troops thwarted a criminal attack around Rokwat and Mararaban Kantoma villages in Barkin Ladi LGA and also contained a reprisal attack in Ruga Fulani at Danhausa village.

Troops also rescued kidnapped victims Alhaji Buba Musa, Friday Luka, Joy Sunday, Amarachi Chimezie and a

pregnant woman at Munguna/Kuba/Kagoro/ Igai villages in Plateau and Kaduna states respectively.

In the same vein, troops apprehended one Mr. Ibrahim Mohammed for car theft at Kamuru Village in Zango Kataf LGA of Kaduna State. Troops also recovered 11 empty cases and rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, while responding to a kidnap incident at Angware village in Jos East, Plateau State.

Additionally, troops arrested two herders, Musa Mamuda and Musa Alhaji for farm destruction at Yagbak village in Zango Kataf, while 27 cattle were recovered for grazing on a farmland at Bot village in Bokkos LGA of Plateau State.

Furthermore, 41 drug dealers were arrested at Congo Russia

in Jos North and are currently in custody for further action to NDLEA.

A total of 54 arrests were effected, six kidnappers neutralised, seven victims rescued from kidnappers, two gunrunners arrested and two attacks on vulnerable communities deterred within the period, while responding promptly to a total of 13 distress calls.

The Commander OPSH Major General A.E. Abubakar appreciates the good people of Plateau, Bauchi and Southern Kaduna for the cooperation so far enjoyed and urges citizens to continually providing actionable information to troops, as they work tirelessly and professionally to get rid of all criminal elements operating within these communities.



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Kofar Jatau Community In Collaboration With IPSS Rejuvenates Neighborhood Watch Office.

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

Kofar Jatau and Unguwar Fatika Communities in Zaria Local Government Area of Kaduna State in collaboration with International Peace and Secure Society (IPSS) has officially opened its office of Rejuvenated Neighborhood Watch at Kofar Jatau Zaria City,

Speaking at the commissioning of the office at the weekend, the Zaria City Divisional Police Officer, CSP Kasimu Abdul charged communities around to make use of the opportunity to make the area crime free.

CSP Kasimu warned that they will not allow any kind of interference by women in the name of bail, stressing that henceforth, such behavior should be stopped.

He congratulated Kofar Jatau Community for the efforts they put in making the office a reality.

Earlier in his address, the Director General of International Peace and Secure Society (IPSS) Comrade Yahaya Danjuma said, it is a collective decision with the community to have full control as well as to curtail the escalation of crime in the community, especially by some unknown faces in the area.

Dr. Danjuma said the community Rejuvenated Neighborhood Watch volunteers in Kofar Jatau have been coopted into the collaboration of Community Based Security Organization (CCBSO) Kaduna.

According to him, IPSS is aimed at human skills society, peace building, non violent education, promoting safety and security, advocating for

community policing, among other issues that may arise.

The IPSS D/G emphasized that this effort is to curtail the frequent escalation of crime within the Kofar Jatau and Unguwar Fatika axis as well as to chase away all sorts of criminal activities which attracted some unknown criminal faces that turned the area to their crime zone in connivance with some perpetrators from the communities.

The occasion had the attendance, NDLEA, NSCDC, Peace Corps, JTF Hisbah and Divisional Police Officers of Danmagaji and Zaria City respectfully.

During the occasion, some personalities were honoured with fellowship of IPSS Certificates.



100 Days In Office: LG Affairs Commissioner Says Greater Kaduna Achievable Under Governor Sani

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

As congratulatory messages continue to flow in from across the country and beyond, Kaduna State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos has joined other prominent Nigerians to felicitate Governor Uba Sani for clocking a milestone of 100 days in office.

Mamman Lagos in a statement, expressed optimism in the ability of Gov. Uba Sani to transform the state beyond expectations, saying a greater Kaduna would be achieved under the present administration. The commissioner gave glad tidings to Kaduna people of good things and better days ahead, assuring electorate once more that Uba Sani would not let them down in fulfilling his campaign pledges by bringing succour to all in the state.

He listed humble achievements of the Governor within three months to include; recent reduction in fees charged by state-owned higher institutions, dolling out three Billion Naira to primary health centres, recruiting of over 700 youth into vigilante service to curb insecurity, commissioning and awarding roads contract, increasing allowances of traditional heads so they could perform their roles effectively among other human developmental strides.

"Governor Uba Sani has begun on a very positive note by hitting the ground running where he ensured basic necessities of citizens' welfare were given utmost priorities.

"He has raised the bar of leadership by disappointing the doubting thomases who thought he would not deliver on his mandates.

"He has been able to prove beyond doubt that performance is not all about noisemaking and beating your drums.

"His leadership philosophy has been let your good work speak for you rather than engaging in rhetoric and subterfuge as arts of governance.

"He detests seeing people in hardship, especially his subjects whom he believes should be beneficiaries of dividends of leadership and democratic experiment," he said.

The politician enjoined the people of the state to support the administration of Uba Sani to deliver his mandates of providing relief to the masses through policies with direct impacts on their welfare.

"I can vouch for the Governor anytime, anywhere that he is a good man with lofty ideas to transform lives of his subjects positively by ensuring they benefit directly or indirectly from government.

"He has always contended that basic needs of the people must be catered for and should be the primary concern of the authorities.

"If you like call him a socialist, but the fact remains indisputable that the governor is unsettled whenever he's informed that welfare of his subjects is in jeopardy," he stated.



Kano Governor Flags-Off Palliatives Distribution to 500,000 Households

*Agricultural intervention to 9,857 beneficiaries

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Determined to ease the effects of economic hardship occasioned by the removal of fuel subsidy and fullfil campaign promises, Kano State Governor, Alh Abba Kabir Yusuf has on Monday, launched the distribution of palliatives to 500,000 households and agricultural intervention programme at an occasion that was held at the headquarters of Kano State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (KNARDA).

A statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa made available yesterday, said that the governor said the two programmes are for the benefit of the less privileged in both rural and urban areas of the state and the gesture would not only help in cushioning the effects of the subsidy removal and ameliorating the economic conditions, but strengthen the government's fight against poverty in the state.

According to the governor, " 2,357 women were supported with ram/sheep

and goats to engage in fattening and reproduction through Kano State Agro Pastoral Development Project (KSADP) based on the confidence that healthy and productive small ruminants play a key role in supporting women's livelihood in low and middle-income communities.

In addition, 6,000 small holder farmers were supported with agricultural inputs and technologies including, Climate Smart pumping machines, power tillers, hammer mills, rice mills, rice hullers, rice threshers and maize threshers to improve agricultural productivity under the KSADP/ SaSakawa Africa Association Crops Value Chain intervention." Said the Governor.

Also, 1,200 Groundnut farmers were given "Aflasafe" under the KNARDA legumes value chain programme to prevent post-harvest losses and the state government procured 2,050 units Tradable water pumps which will also be given to farmers as a motivation stimulus. Under the Agro Processing and

Productivity Enhancement and Livelihood Support (APPEALS) project, the state government is providing input support to 300 farmers across the value chain of rice, wheat and tomato in order to encourage farmers to grow more food, improve livelihood and create jobs for the teeming youth men and women in the state.

On the palliatives, the Governor went on, " our government is using this occasion to commence the distribution of 297,000 (10kg bags) of Rice and 160,000 (10 kg bags) of maize to the poor and vulnerable in the 44 local government areas of the state.

To ensure these items reach the intended families, they would be distributed across the 484 wards in the state. Each ward shall receive a share of 565 bags of 10kg rice and 330 bags of 10kg maize.

The distribution will also take place in the following identified and selected groups: all rehabilitation homes, all social welfare homes, persons with special needs,

selected Tsangayu/Isلاميyya schools and selected hospitals in the state as well as junior cadre from the civil service. On the whole, a total of about half a million households will benefit from the various agricultural interventions and palliatives distribution in the state." Explained Governor Abba Kabir.

To ensure justice and fairness in the distribution, compliance committees at the state, local governments and wards levels were approved to ensure that the palliatives items are appropriately distributed accordingly and reach the intended beneficiary households.

Those who spoke at the occasion include: the managing director of KNARDA, Dr Farouk Kurawa, State Project Coordinator of KSADP, Alh Ibrahim Garba Gama, his counterparts of N-CARE, who was represented by Naziru Datti Kura, APPEALS, Hassan Ibrahim and the representative of country director of SaSakawa Africa Association, Abdulrashid Kofar Mata.



Kano Governor Flags-Off Palliatives Distribution to 500,000 Households



APC Patriots From North, Wants Minister Picked From Southern Kaduna

**Says Durunguwa a good choice*

**Insists Southern Kaduna not carried along for 8 years*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A group, All Progressives Congress (APC) Patriots Zone 1 Kaduna State, has appealed to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to fill the state's ministerial slot from Southern Kaduna.

They expressed this in a statement jointly signed by Chairman All Progressives Congress Patriots' Zone 1, Kaduna State, Musbahu Adamu Gimi and Secretary, Malam Nasir M. Dahir Soba, made available to our correspondent in Kaduna yesterday.

"The vacuum created in the ministerial slot of Kaduna State has been generating unprecedented reactions from several theaters. However, knowing the meticulous nature of Mr. President, His Excellency, Bola Tinubu who is keen in identifying an bringing on board season and accomplished personalities has never been in doubt.

"Recognizing this fact, the All Progressives Congress Patriots in Zone 1 of Kaduna State has rummaged through the vast human potentials of various political and technocratic personalities in Kaduna State.

"We therefore, have a personality who

is exceptionally versatile, accomplished and politically tested in all his activities and body language for the position of a Minister of the Federal Republic.

This personality is no other than Dr. Abdulmalik Durunguwa," the group said.

According to them, in pedigree, Durunguwa has carved a niche for himself in the political and personal firmament of Kaduna State politics in particular and Nigeria in general.

"Dr. Durunguwa has equally garnered exceptional and rare pedigree in human relations engagements, grassroots involvement and his undeniable contributions and sacrifice made during the tremendous electioneering CAMPAIGN for the eventual victories of President Asiwaju Bola Ahmad Tinubu and His Excellency, Senator Malam Uba Sani of Kaduna State.

"It might sound absurd for people to liken our decision to support a Southern Kaduna indigene for the position of a minister of the Federal Republic instead of some one from Zone 1. Squarely and fairly, the Zone 3 has not had the opportunity of

producing a minister for over eight years.

"However, in the spirit of inclusiveness and common destiny coupled with shared degree of togetherness, we will not oversee or overlook competence for trivial ethnic considerations," they pointed out.

According to APC Patriots, productivity, delivery, capacity and effective developmental pointers do not recognize ethno centric issues.

"Accordingly, there is every opportunity that Dr. Abdulmalik Muhammad Durunguwa when eventually nominated as a Minister of the Federal Republic, will definitely match his words with actions in the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Asiwaju Bola Tinubu administration," they asserted.



Durunguwa

Uba Sani Approves Implementation Of Consolidated Medical Salary For Kaduna Resident Doctors

**Announces other interventions in health, security, infrastructure*

*By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Governor, His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani has approved the full implementation of the 2014 Consolidated Medical Salary Scale (CONMESS) for the Association of Resident Doctors working under the Kaduna State Ministry of Health. The governor made the announcement during a media chat on Sunday September 3, 2023 as part of activities marking his first 100 days in office.

He used the opportunity to address a wide range of issues across different sectors, notably health, security and infrastructural development issues among other concerns. Following the recommendation

of a committee led by the Kaduna State Head of Service, negotiations were held with striking doctors in August 2023, where it was revealed that resident doctors in Kaduna State Ministry of Health receive 75 per cent of the 2014 CONMESS, while their counterparts working at Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital received 100 per cent of CONMESS.

Consequently, commencing from September 2023, the approved 100 per cent CONMESS will bring Resident Doctors in the Ministry of Health at parity with their counterparts at Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital.

This step, the governor added, will further boost productivity and attract more doctors to the state.

Similarly, the governor announced during the live media chat broadcast across major radio stations in Kaduna, that approval has been granted for the continuation of the recruitment of 89 medical doctors to address the staffing gap identified in 2017, as recommended by the committee.

"This initiative amongst others was designed to enhance doctors' morale and improve access to quality healthcare for Kaduna residents. You will recall that we recently flagged-off the distribution of advanced medical equipment to our upgraded primary healthcare centres.

"This reflects our administration's commitment to ensuring that every citizen/resident has access to a primary healthcare center within

a kilometer of their residence," the governor added.

During the media chat, Governor Sani also responded to questions from Kaduna residents, submitted via phone calls.

He underscored the positive results of his interactions with development partners, noting that the increase in investors attracted to Kaduna was due to the business-friendly environment created by his administration.

Addressing the issue of uncompleted projects inherited from the immediate past administration, Governor Sani reassured the people of Kaduna State that all projects will be completed, adding that this time around there will be a renewed focus on transforming the rural areas in the coming months.

Speaking on security, Governor Sani expressed his appreciation to the security agencies in Kaduna State for their support in training old and newly-recruited 7000 men and women of the Kaduna State Vigilance Service. He also stressed the urgency of effective policing and recognized the necessity for State Police Force to complement the efforts of national security agencies.

The governor thanked the good people of Kaduna State for the trust and confidence reposed in his administration and called for their continued support and cooperation as the administration moves into top gear in its quest to leave a legacy of peace, ethnic and religious harmony, and even development.

Kwara Gov Names Prince Mahe New SSG, Inaugurates Cabinet

*Gov appoints two PLWDs Perm Secs *Gov holds inaugural meeting with cabinet
*Commissioners get portfolios *Says Kwara road design to change

By: **BILIQIS ONAOLAPO
OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin**

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq on Monday, inaugurated members of the state executive council, along with five new permanent secretaries and a member of the Civil Service Commission. The cabinet contains some 50 per cent of each gender, boasting, as of today, the highest number of female commissioners in the country.

The inauguration came with another first for the Governor as he swore in two Persons Living With Disabilities (PLWDs) as Permanent Secretaries — yet another marked show of his inclusive policy that is meant to mobilise every segment of the society for collective growth.

The inauguration came a few minutes after the Governor announced Abdulkadir Mahe Aliyu, a prince of Ilorin Emirate and former permanent secretary, as the new Secretary to the State Government (SSG). Mahe, as is popularly known, was sworn in along with the Commissioners.

The Governor, similarly, swore in Jamila Bake, a former commissioner, as a permanent member of the Kwara State Civil Service Commission. She represents Kwara North at the statutory body.

Mahe, from Ilorin South, holds a Master of Business Administration, a postgraduate diploma in Business Administration, Higher National Diploma in Marketing, and Ordinary National Diploma.

He was variously educated at LGEA Bode Sa'adu Primary School in Bode Sa'adu; Government High School Ilorin; Kaduna Polytechnic; Kwara State Polytechnic; and University of Calabar.

He is an accomplished bureaucrat who retired as a permanent secretary. He was a Clerk of the Kwara State House of Assembly and a part-time lecturer at Federal Training Centre Ilorin.

Mahe is a member of several professional bodies, including the Nigerian Institute of Management, Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria, British Institute of Sales and Marketing Management, and a Fellow of the Nigeria Institute of Business Managers and Administrators.

The Governor, who later had a brief inaugural meeting with the new SSG and commissioners, charged them to work as a team and be responsive and mindful of public good in their duties.

At the brief meeting, he asked cabinet members to pore over the different projects and assignments in their ministries and advise the government on areas that need improvement, adding specifically that government will change how road projects are designed in the state for better quality.

"We have to review our rates to reflect the current realities, attract Grade-A contractors, and greatly improve the quality of project delivery and value for money. For example, we have to start designing and building road with stone



L-R: Commissioners Hon. Afolashade Opeyemi (Social Development); Hon. Abubakar Abdullahi Bata (Local Government); Hon. Abdulquawiy Olododo (Solid Minerals); Representative of the State Grand Kadi Justice Sharafdeen Anafy; Secretary to the State Government (SSG) Alhaji Mahe Abdulkadir; Speaker Kwara State House of Assembly Rt Hon. Salihu Yakubu Danladi; Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON); Kwara State Chief Judge Justice Abiodun Ayodele Adebara; Hon. Abdulganiyu Abdulazeez (Energy); and Hon. Shehu Ndanusa Usman (Environment); during the swearing-in of SSG, Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries, and a member of the Civil Service Commission, at Government House, Ilorin, on Monday.

base to allow for better durability. This will of course affect the cost of our road projects, going forward," he said.

Earlier at the inauguration, the Governor said: "The last four years have seen us stabilising and repositioning different sectors of our society. Our achievements are boldly written in education, urban renewal projects, rural development, healthcare delivery, provision of potable water, gender mainstreaming and youth empowerment, and general welfare of the people especially through the safety net programmes and other interventions. The Kwara socio economic climate has proven resilient against all odds.

AbdulRazaq said their choice as cabinet members and public servants is a product of wide consultations, merit, and careful consideration for public good.

He congratulated them for being part of his new team who are entrusted to work for the public good.

"With prudence and blockage of wastes, we have grown internally generated revenue to a height never seen before. Similarly, several projects of huge socioeconomic impacts have been initiated to bridge existing infrastructural gaps and make Kwara the go-to place in Nigeria amid improved access to basic amenities and better welfare for the public workforce," he said.

"But we are now faced with a new set of challenges. With fuel subsidies gone and the government mobilising resources to

stabilise the system amid rising cost of living, we are committed to helping the people cope through empathy and creative solutions.

"As cabinet members and senior bureaucrats, you are to join the government to make life a lot better for the people through the design and implementation of various policies and programmes and exemplary conduct in public leadership. Neither waste, abuse, sabotage, nor intentional disregard for public good will be tolerated. Our appetite and public appearance must also reflect the current realities of our country.

"I therefore congratulate all of you for being part of this important team. Endeavour to be good team players who would collectively and individually earn the trust and respect of the public with exemplary conduct and commitment to the larger interest of our state and country."

The ceremony was attended by the Speaker Kwara House of Assembly Rt Hon. Yakubu Salihu Danladi; State Chief Judge Justice Abiodun Adebara; representative of the Grand Kadi Justice Sharafdeen Anafy; Chairman Kwara State Civil Service Commission Hajia Habeebat Anike Yusuf; Permanent Secretaries; State APC Chairman Prince Sunday Fagbemi and party leaders; Chairman KAM Wire Holdings Dr. Kamaru Yusuf; and some family members

of the commissioners.

Permanent Secretary, Establishment and Training in the office of SSG, Alhaji Ibrahim Muhammed, in his introductory remarks, said the new commissioners had, upon their appointment, gone through necessary training on good governance.

He thanked the Governor for equipping the team with adequate expertise and expressed confidence that the administration and the state will be better for it.

Portfolios of the new commissioners are as follows: Abdulganiyu Abdulazeez Kola (Energy); Aliyu Kora Sabi (Planning and Economic Development); Shehu Ndanusa Usman (Environment); Afolashade Opeyemi Kemi (Social Development); Dr. Segun Ogunsola (Housing and Urban Development); Abdulquawiy Olododo (Solid Minerals); Senior Ibrahim Suleiman (Justice); Hauwa Nuru (Finance); Damilola Yusuf (Business, Innovation and Technology); Oloruntoyosi Adebayo Thomas (Agriculture and Rural Development); and Bola Olukoju (Communications).

Others are Abubakar Abdullahi Bata (Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Community Developments); Bello John Olarewaju (Special Duties); Dr. Amina Ahmed el-Imam (Health); Dr. Mary Arinde (Tertiary Education); Olaitan Buraimoh (Women Affairs); and Usman Yunusa (Water Resources).

Hajj Reporters Annual Lecture, Awards Holds September 21

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The annual public lecture and awards ceremony by Independent Hajj Reporters (IHR) is billed to hold on September 21, 2023 in Abuja.

The event is expected to hold at the auditorium of the National Mosque.

A statement on Monday by the National Coordinator of IHR, Ibrahim Mohammed said the event, which holds between 10am to 1pm will have the immediate past Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Zubairu Dada as the chairman of the occasion.

According to Alhaji Mohammed, this year's lecture will dwell on Hajj and Umrah policies and its impact on successful Hajj operations.

The Chairman of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), Alhaji Zikirullah Kunle Hassan is the Chief Host of the event.

"IHR will also be honouring Hajj institutions, officials and

Tour operators who stood out in terms of hajj activities throughout the 2023 hajj season. Such services include effective education and enlightenment of intending pilgrims as well as service provision to the pilgrims during this year's Hajj exercise," the statement said.

Professor Ismaila Shehu of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria will deliver the public lecture.

The speaker, who was a veteran journalist, academic and an administrator of repute with vast experience in Hajj matters spanning over three decades, will look at how the existing policies around Hajj administration Vis a Vis the roles of officials and how they impact on successive Hajj operations.

The event will also give special recognition to some governors who did extremely well for their states Muslim Pilgrims Boards and Hajj pilgrims.

Highlight of the event will be the award for Hajj Governor of the year.

TY Buratai Foundation Commends Kaduna Govt For Inaugurating Mobile Medical Trucks

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Tukur Yusuf Buratai Humanity Care Foundation, has commended the Kaduna State Government for inaugurating mobile medical trucks meant for providing healthcare services to women and children in the state.

Addressing newsmen on Sunday in Kaduna, the Chairman of the foundation, Ibrahim Dahiru Danfulani, the Sadaukin Garkuwan Keffi, said provision of the mobile medical trucks is a remarkable initiative, aimed at prompt delivery of healthcare services to women and children in the state.

Danfulani added that TY Buratai Humanity Care Foundation, under the Grand Patron of Lt. Gen. Tukur Yusufu Buratai (Rtd), has always been committed to caring for the well-being of women and children especially those who are less privileged.

"We firmly believe that access to quality healthcare is a fundamental right for every individual and we

are delighted to witness the Kaduna State Government's efforts in making this a reality.

"This five state-of-the-art mobile medical trucks will play pivotal role in closing the geographic action gap for healthcare services in Kaduna State. We applaud the Kaduna State Government for recognizing the need to reach out to hard-to-reach communities, where healthcare services are often limited or inaccessible," he said.

Speaking further, the chairman noted that with the trucks, screening and diagnosis of ailments would be brought directly to the doorsteps of the citizens of Kaduna State, thereby, ensuring that no one is left behind.

He noted that the initiative aligned perfectly with the Ideology of Lt.-Gen. Tukur Yusufu Buratai, adding that he had always emphasized the importance of caring for the well-being of women and children particularly those who are less privileged.

He therefore, said that inauguration of the mobile medical trucks a testament

to the commitment of the Kaduna State Government in upholding the ideology and ensuring the welfare of its citizens.

Speaking further, Danfulani extended their appreciation to the Kaduna State Government for commissioning the Women and Children Shelter at Katuru Road, Kaduna.

He explained that the shelter would provide essential accommodation and services to victims of gender-based violence (GBV) and other abuses.

"It is a commendable effort to protect and support vulnerable individuals who have experienced traumatic situations, and we applaud the government for their dedication to addressing these critical issues," he

said.

He expressed gratitude to the Kaduna State Government for their unwavering commitment to the well-being of women and children, noting that inauguration of the mobile medical trucks and establishment of the Women and Children Shelter are significant milestones in their collective efforts towards ensuring accessible healthcare and support for all citizens.

"We firmly believe that by working together, we can bridge the healthcare gap and create a brighter future for the people of Kaduna State," Danfulani said.



Council Chairman Installs Over 500 Solar Powered Street Lights In Ebonyi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

As part of efforts to bring democracy dividends to the grassroots, the Executive Chairman of Afikpo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, Hon Uchenna Nnaji for Ibiam has installed over 500 street lights.

According to a statement issued by his media aide, Mr Sunny Nkama, the council chairman has improved the aesthetic nature of the area, saying that the installation of the solar street lights has

significantly helped in curtailing criminal activities as well as ensuring that residents can move around freely, even at night, without fear of being attacked or robbed by hoodlums.

He also expressed satisfaction with his style of leadership, adding that his emergence as council chairman has brought hope to the less privileged and the downtrodden.

Mr. Nkama also appreciated the efforts of Governor Francis Nwifuru in restoring the lost glory of Ebonyi state.



From left: Deputy Group Managing Director, Meristem Securities Ltd, Sulaiman Adedotun; Meristem GMD's Wife Bisola Abegunde; Group Managing Director, Oluwale Abegunde; and the Representative of Lagos State Governor, Gboyega Soyannwo; during Meristem Securities 20th anniversary and launch of the company's book, held recently in Lagos. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Kogi Guber: Disregard SDP's False Alarm Of Planned Attack – Police

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The Kogi State Police Command has refuted claims of an attack on supporters of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) governorship candidate, Murtala Ajaka, describing it as “fake, incendiary, perfidious, malicious and misleading”.

The Murtala Yakubu Ajaka Campaign Organisation had accused Governor Yahaya Bello of plans to attack supporters of the SDP in the Kogi Local Government Area (LGA) of the state amid the kickoff of campaigns for the November 11 Kogi State governorship election.

Adejoh-Audu alleged that the governor, faced with mass rejection leading to a gale of defections from the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kogi State, allegedly recruited the police commissioner to unleash a campaign of intimidation on Ajaka's

supporters.

But the Police Public Relations Officer, SP William Ovyé Aya, in a statement written on behalf of the Commissioner of Police in Kogi State, declared “*emphatically*” and “*categorically*” that the statement was a figment of the imagination of Faruk Adejoh-Audu and his political candidate Yakubu Ajaka.

The police spokesman argued that the CP since assuming office one month ago had demonstrated a “high level of professionalism by providing a level playing ground for all Political Parties and their Candidates to operate in the State” and that his principal should not be dragged into politics.

“The SDP Candidate and his Campaign Organization should leave the Police alone and focus on issues-based Campaigns and soliciting for support from the electorate instead of resorting to cheap blackmail, bullying and



arm-twisting for Political sympathy from the public who already know their tricks, gimmicks and antecedents,” the statement read.

“The entire narrative to injure,

assassinate and malign the hard-earned reputation and integrity of the Commissioner of Police is the height of insensitivity, callousness, self-serving and emblematic of desperation,

vindictiveness, a Propensity for destructiveness and to salivate the insidious and vaulting Political ambition of a psychopath.”

Desist From Throwing Mud On Works Minister, Liba Tells Chikwendu, Cohorts

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Critics have been advised not to distract the Minister of Works, Engr. David Nweze Umahi from delivering on the goals of the ministry to Nigerians, even as he is an engineer that cannot be dictated upon, on how to run his ministry.

Hon. Suleiman Liba, in a statement, called on one Mr. Vitalis Chikwendu and his cohorts in the guise of contractors of the Federal Ministry of Works, to desist from their antics of trying to tarnish the image of the Hon. Minister of Works, H. E. Engr. David Nweze Umahi and thereby, distracting him from delivering on the goals of the ministry to Nigerians.

Liba said that he wonders how people could, “become so shameless that they now hawk corruption on a tray in market places with impunity, how can you come out to make such derogatory statement against a man whose actions in the past couple of weeks after assuming office as the Honorable Minister of Works shown a clear path to

how things can work.”

Hon. Liba further said that somehow, he understands why Mr Vitalis Chikwendu and his group of friends were behaving in such ways, “it has become very clear to all of them that it is no longer business as usual, the era of brown envelope contractors who stall Federal Government projects is over, it's

new dawn for the ministry and there's a new Sherrif in town and things henceforth must be done properly.

“It's a shame that these so called conspirator in chief are calling on Mr President to redeploy the Hon. Minister and bring in, according to them, people who are well proven, in a field where

Engr. David Umahi has no point to prove to anyone again?

“A Civil Engineer of repute who as Governor of Ebonyi State, turned the entire state into Mecca and a haven of tourism.

“The statements by Mr Vitalis is not only malicious but also shows how blinded and uninformed a people can still be in a generation where we have

information at our finger tips.

“You cannot dictate to the Minister how you want him to run the ministry, how would you ask a man who really wants to work by firstly trying to get inner understanding of the problems to just sit in his office and treat files, a man who in

his inaugural speech stated it clear that he is more of a field person.

The big question i have for Mr Vitalis Chikwendu and his co travelers are: Are they staff of the ministry? How did they know that the Minister is not relating with staff at the ministry? Why are they jittery if they have no skeleton in their cupboards?

“Asking Mr President to redeploy the Minister of Works is the most vague statement i have heard in recent times, the appointment of Engr Dave Umahi as minister of works couldn't have come at a better time than now, a time where our infrastructure is at an all time high in terms of decay, urgent solution is required at this point and Engr. David Umahi is the answer, go to Ebonyi State and see for yourself the magic he performed there.

“Mr President knows better by appointing him as Minister of works. You all should brace up, it is time to truly work for Nigeria and deliver on Mr President's campaign promises to the people, Engr Umahi is here,” Liba stated.



Engr. David Nweze Umahi

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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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TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Kaduna Govt Committed To Taking Necessary Steps To Making Significance Progress - Uba Sani

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani on Sunday, said that the mobile trucks that were commissioned are fully fitted with medical diagnostic equipment to render integrated health services in hard-to-reach and underserved communities across Kaduna State.

He expressed this while represented by Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe during the commissioning of five state-of-the-art-mobile diagnostic trucks purchased by Kaduna State Government.

The commissioning, which was part of the activities marking 100 days of Governor Uba Sani in office, was done at Abakpa Health Clinic in Kaduna North LGA.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Governor extended Governor Uba Sani's goodwill wishes for a very successful event.

According to her, "this truck will boost outreach service and enhancing the wellbeing and survival of our people.

She said, this truck will further serve to close geographic access gap to healthcare services.

"Also, with these medical trucks, screening and diagnosis of ailments will be brought to the door steps of the citizens of Kaduna State," she assured.

Dr. Balarabe said, Kaduna State is committed to taking all necessary steps to making significance progress towards achieving universal health coverage.

"Our vision is to build and strengthen a healthcare system that is adequately equipped and staffed with comprehensive accessible and avoidable services that are oriented to delivering decent standards of care.

"To this end, we undertook an innovative approach to boost all our state's health care system, among the initiative we took, we have procured state-of-the-art health mobile diagnosis clinic.

"This mobile unit will offer a range of services including maternal, new born and child health intervention, radiology services and also boost facilities for the laboratory diagnosis of ailments such as malaria, HIV, Hepatitis B, tuberculosis and many more.

"It will provide a platform for regular advocacy social and community mobilisation activities campaign.

"It is our believe that this initiative will result in substantial improvement in our health indicator, it will position us to be among the top subnational government striving to achieve universal health coverage and the

sustainable development goals," she said.

She extended gratitude to those who contributed to the noble endeavour.

"I pray for Allah for continuous guidance and direction on this road to progress and those propelling the state to achieve on its human capital development vision," she prayed.

Similarly, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, proceeded to commission the renovated Women and Child Shelter at Katuru Road.

The center which is fully equipped with modern facilities, will serve as a transit home for children and women who are subjected to violent abuse by offering them medical, psychosocial and legal support.

The Deputy Governor who lamented that women and children are still subjected to violations in the society, said Kaduna State Government has to take urgent steps to address the menace.

While noting that most victims of Gender-Based-Violence (GBV) are women, the deputy governor stressed that Kaduna State Government will ensure that its laws serve as a platform to prosecute violators of women and children's rights in the state.

According to her, the center will be operated and managed collaboratively by relevant MDAs and partners under the supervision of the Office of the Deputy Governor.

Earlier, the Commissioner, Ministry of Human Services and Social Development, Hajiya Rabi Salisu appreciated the governor for addressing needs and challenges faced by all, especially women and children across ages, sexual orientation, sexual/gender identities, gender equality social protection, inclusive response and integration.

"Some of our strategy response focuses on education, scale up on awareness creation/ campaign, establishment of more safe spaces (such as this), support services as well as quality service delivery.

"Most times, women and children experience unwanted pregnancies, exposure to HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted infection.

"These, greatly have serious impact on Human Capital Development as they limit their ability to complete daily tasks and have suicidal thoughts which are common features of GBV effects, severe physical injuries.

"The menace of GBV cannot be overemphasized, so all hands must be on deck and with our collective efforts will bring it down to zero," she appealed.



Africa and the Grand Return of the Military

By Jibrin Ibrahim

THE COUP in Gabon this week is most unlikely to be a regime change. Gen Brice Nguema, the head of the junta is a relation of the Bongo family and started his career as body guard to Omar Bongo, the father of the deposed President who had ruled for 42 years.

Post-colonial Africa has seen over 200 coup attempts, with roughly half seeing the leader successfully removed. The democratic transition of 1990 to 1994 led to a dramatic decline of unconstitutional seizure of state power. This trend has now been reversed over the past three years with the new wave of coup d'état on the continent. The current trend is however different from that of the 1970s and 1980s. Today, we are witnessing the grand entry of politics by the gun.

The coup occurred minutes after President Ali Bongo had been declared winner of a rigged election. He had been incapacitated since he suffered a stroke in 2019 and the optics of a president without the capacity to govern has been an issue. The symbolism of someone who is incapable of exercising power rigging election after election posed the question of how much longer can the charade last. When there was an attempted coup in January 2019, the army responded immediately rounding up the culprits. As everyone knows, Gabon is too precious for France to allow regime change. In the coming days, it will become clearer who allowed this coup to succeed.

Now all attention is on Cameroon where once again it has been clear that 90-year old Paul Biya is too old, weak and sick to govern. Immediately after the Gabon coup, significant changes were made to the military command structure. With the grand return of military takeover, France might very well be engaged in cosmetic changes to its most beloved colonies that are rapidly falling out of their control.

The shock of the coup in Niger was massive for France. Their lackey regime lost power in a country where the optics looked good with elections, power alternation and improved combat against violent extremism and yet a coup to throw out France occurred. What does the future hold for President Ouattara of Cote d'Ivoire?

When the military seized power in Burkina Faso last year, ousting the country's democratically elected President, Roch Marc Kaboré, it was already public knowledge that it was coming. There were widespread conversations that the military had decided to seize power in the country and the only question was when not if they would. The main issue was the government's failure to stem jihadist attacks that have destabilised broad swathes of Burkina Faso, displaced 1.4 million people, and caused 2,000 deaths that year. The general feeling in the country was that the time has come to try an alternative government.

The Burkinabe coup was therefore similar to the one in Egypt in 2013 when the coup was announced on national television months before it happened. The politics of Africa has been changing dramatically in recent years propelled by the return of the

military to power and that would clearly occupy the terrain for some time.

The military coup in Zimbabwe in 2017 signalled the institutional return of military high commands to power. This was followed by the 2019 military coup in Sudan and the 2020 military coup in Mali. The military was active in assisting power takeovers in Tunisia and Algeria in 2020. The military strongman in Mali was not happy with the limited powers he was constrained to take in 2020 and did another coup in 2021 giving himself full powers. The same thing happened in Sudan in 2021 as the military staged another coup to take on full powers and break the bonds with their civilian collaborators. In Chad, the 2021 coup was to keep power in the family following the killing of strongman Idris Deby.

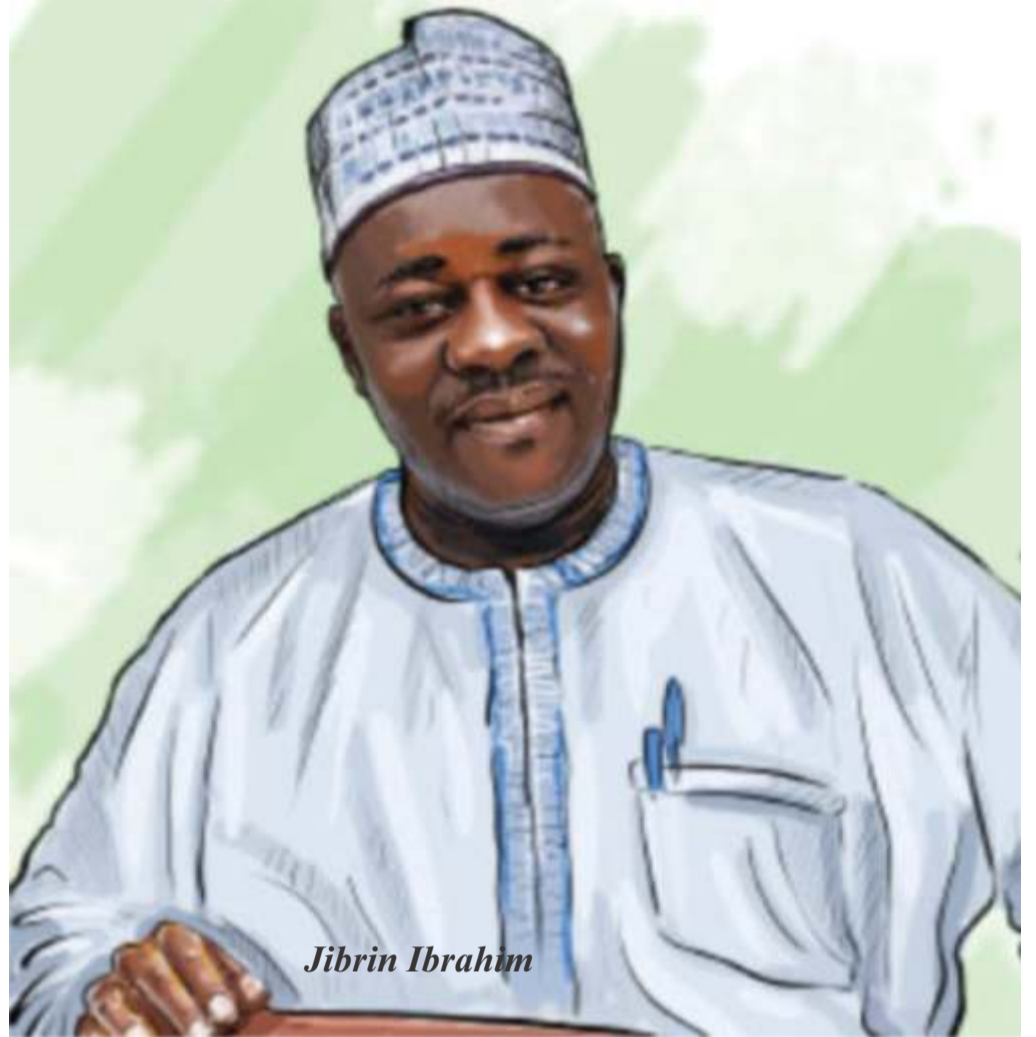
The military have been complaining in loud whispers that the corrupt democratic administrations have not been supplying them adequate weaponry to deal with insurgents, jihadists and armed bandits. The response is that deep corruption has also penetrated the military itself and they often misappropriate the funds given to them to execute the war. A war economy has developed in which officers are massively enriching themselves from the war effort and thereby sabotaging it. The winner, as it were, is corruption.

As was the case in the 1970s and 1980s, military coups in Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Niger and Gabon, civilians have demonstrated in favour of military rule and have been ready to collaborate with them. Clearly, there is a new generation in Africa that has no memories of the terrible impact of military rule and in their naivety think military rule can be a political solution to the crisis generated by poor democratic practices.

Post-colonial Africa has seen over 200 coup attempts, with roughly half seeing the leader successfully removed. The democratic transition of 1990 to 1994 led to a dramatic decline of unconstitutional seizure of state power. This trend has now been reversed over the past three years with the new wave of coup d'état on the continent. The current trend is however different from that of the 1970s and 1980s. Today, we are witnessing the grand entry of politics by the gun.

In the Sahel, as well as other parts of Africa, numerous non-military groups have acquired guns and are engaged in armed struggle for power or sometimes just armed banditry. Generalised insecurity has become the political reality in many of our countries – Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mozambique, Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo and so on. The military has completely failed to contain the armed combatants and reduce insecurity.

This situation has created two narratives in an emerging blame game. The military have been complaining in loud whispers that the corrupt democratic administrations have not been supplying them adequate weaponry to deal with insurgents, jihadists and armed bandits. The response is that deep corruption has also penetrated the military itself and they often misappropriate the funds given to



Jibrin Ibrahim

them to execute the war. A war economy has developed in which officers are massively enriching themselves from the war effort and thereby sabotaging it. The winner, as it were, is corruption.

The more profound narrative is that the African situation today is characterised by three types of coup d'état. The first is the constitutional coup in which serving presidents recklessly tear the normative framework they had themselves developed and engage in tenure elongation beyond constitutional limits thereby destroying the legitimacy of the political system. The second coup is engaging in massive electoral fraud to change electoral outcomes. There have been at least thirteen African countries, where the leaders have used various legal devices and political manoeuvres to extend their tenures beyond two terms since 2012.

The time has come for Africans to reopen the debate on the best pathways of deepening democracy in our countries. The contemporary African must learn to read the tea leaves. Apparent democrats win elections with the promise of democratic consolidation and when they get the power, they work on dismantling the democratic system. We know from our past experience that the military cannot be the solution to our democratic and developmental needs. What we need to reinforce in our political systems is early detection of democratic derailment so we can put the system back on course.

Often, it is the experience of these forms of coup d'état that creates the conditions for the third type, which is the military coup d'état. The result is that Africa's robust normative frameworks for deterring unconstitutional changes of government and for advancing democracy, elections and governance have been considerably weakened. The norms codified in Article

30 of the African Union Constitutive Act, 2002; and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, 2012 have gradually lost their meaning.

It is for this reason that the condemnation of military coups by the African Union or by ECOWAS have very little resonance because people always ask what these institutions did when democratically elected leaders were messing up the constitution and/or the electoral system. Democratic culture has therefore been weakened considerably through anti-democratic practices by ruling parties. Repeatedly, ECOWAS, the African Union, and the United Nations Security Council have strongly condemned coups and called on the military to reinstate the deposed leaders and restore constitutional rule with no effect. Even the imposition of sanctions has had very little effect on the emerging juntas.

The time has come for Africans to reopen the debate on the best pathways of deepening democracy in our countries. The contemporary African must learn to read the tea leaves. Apparent democrats win elections with the promise of democratic consolidation and when they get the power, they work on dismantling the democratic system. We know from our past experience that the military cannot be the solution to our democratic and developmental needs. What we need to reinforce in our political systems is early detection of democratic derailment so we can put the system back on course.

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

Nyesom Wike: In Abuja, Use A Machete, Not A Sword

By Owei Lakemfa

MINISTER Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, I join many Nigerians in welcoming you to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) as its minister. You are no stranger to the country's capital, having been a minister under the Jonathan administration.

Talking about cows, you announced that open grazing will no longer be allowed inside Abuja City, which is good news. But you sadly added that "they can be outside the city". Why should open grazing be bad for Maitama and Asokoro but be good for Bwari and Kubwa? Why would it be bad for the National Assembly but good for the University of Abuja?

You arrived at the FCT last Monday with a bang, and since then, the mass media have not stopped buzzing, with some predicting that with you as Minister, the FCT will be 'hot'. Brother Wike, do not be a conventional Nollywood character whose notions and moves are predictable. Don't be an archetypal Patience Ozokwor in Nollywood or Clint Eastwood in Hollywood. Rather, be a governor in the FCT whose primary duties are the well-being and security of all Nigerians.

Portfolios were not previously affixed to ministerial nominees, so nobody would accuse you of not having a plan for the FCT. Therefore, what I advise you to do is sit down with your aides and staff to write a programme, and most importantly, get the buy-in of the people.

A lot of things demand your quick attention. Many schools in the FCT, especially outside the inner city, are in need of rehabilitation with broken walls and fences. Homeless children in their hundreds of thousands roam the streets. Many out-of-school children populate the FCT. Your administration needs a quick programme for these, as it does for the internally displaced peoples (IDPs) camps dotting the FCT. Can some mass shelter suitable for human habitation be arranged for them?

Talking about shelter, Abuja is perhaps the most expensive city in the country in terms of accommodation. Can mass housing projects like those of Lateef Jakande and Shehu Shagari be executed? Please don't forget that those leaders built for the lower class, not the upper class. Can every major community in the FCT have access to an affordable primary healthcare centre?

Before you dismiss my suggestions as wishful because there might be no funds to execute them, learn from Lateef Jakande in Lagos. He had a dream, followed it with a plan, and then sat down with his aides to work out creative ways in which this could be implemented.

Government officials and security agencies are seizing parks and green areas

and building on them. Minister Nyesom Wike, if you are to be taken seriously, let me throw a public challenge: the Nigeria Police Force has just seized the beautiful Berger Junction/Wuse Zone 6 public park and commenced massive construction. Can you check this rape of the environment by sending the violators packing?

Talking about cows, you announced that open grazing will no longer be allowed inside Abuja City, which is good news. But you sadly added that "they can be outside the city". Why should open grazing

be bad for Maitama and Asokoro but be good for Bwari and Kubwa? Why would it be bad for the National Assembly but good for the University of Abuja?

As you might know, the FCT and its satellite towns harbour some of the most reckless drivers in the country, with no care for traffic lights and a strange sense of road ownership. A good electronic traffic system can catch many of these and rake in lots of money for the FCT. This will also eliminate the menace of the vehicle inspection officers who refuse to embrace technology but would prefer in their dozens, to erect roadblocks on the roads.

Your vow to remove illegal structures is good, but you need the political will to do it. On sidewalks, even in the inner city, lots of illegal structures litter the landscape. It is not uncommon to find homeless people building structures on walkways and street corners and calling them places of worship.

You proclaimed your admiration for the work of one of your predecessors in the FCT, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, and wished to walk in his stead. Certainly, his tenure would not be forgotten for his alleged zeal to restore the Abuja Master Plan. But you should learn and modify, not ape his style. El-Rufai took over the FCT Ministry with the mindset of a man going to war.

Government officials and security agencies are seizing parks and green areas and building on them. Minister Nyesom Wike, if you are to be taken seriously, let me throw a public challenge: the Nigeria Police Force has just seized the beautiful Berger Junction/Wuse Zone 6 public park and commenced massive construction. Can you check this rape of the environment by sending the violators packing? The frenzy with which this construction by the Police Property Development and Construction Company



has gone on since President Tinubu was sworn in gives the impression that the builders want to present your office with a fait accompli. So, should Nigerians join you in this pointed fight, or are you backing down because the violator is the Nigeria Police?

About two decades ago, Abuja was like some heaven; insecurity was so unknown that people left wares on the road unattended without fear of their being stolen! Abuja has fertile soil, and a lot of farming went on until about a decade ago, when a combination of bandits and unrestrained herders made farming meaningless. While the former freely harvested the crops, sometimes in broad daylight, the latter allowed their cows to freely rummage through people's farms.

Talking about cows, you announced that open grazing will no longer be allowed inside Abuja City, which is good news. But you sadly added that "they can be outside the city". Why should open grazing be bad for Maitama and Asokoro but be good for Bwari and Kubwa? Why would it be bad for the National Assembly but good for the University of Abuja?

Rather than see the FCT as a war zone in which even the pronouncement of the courts will not matter, regard it as a large farm for which you have been hired as the farm manager. So, you do not need a sword to tend it and clear the weeds, which are admittedly growing wild. What you need is a machete, which, even if it is very sharp, would do the work it is intended to do.

Honourable Minister, can I whisper something into your ears? As governor of Rivers State, a main environmental challenge your administration faced was the black soot that darkened the skies due to the operations of illegal refineries. In Abuja, which as a consumption and

national wealth-sharing centre, virtually has no factories, the major pollution is noise. Noise is mainly blaring from loudspeakers hoisted by operators of the two main religions as they compete to wake up citizens at 4.00 a.m. There is also the noise, mainly at markets and motor parks, announcing unverified cures and medicines for all ailments, including those yet to surface on earth. Can your administration do something about this?

You proclaimed your admiration for the work of one of your predecessors in the FCT, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, and wished to walk in his stead. Certainly, his tenure would not be forgotten for his alleged zeal to restore the Abuja Master Plan. But you should learn and modify, not ape his style. El-Rufai took over the FCT Ministry with the mindset of a man going to war.

He, therefore, wielded a sword, cutting both ways. In the process, he cut both sides — the guilty and the innocent. He was like Ogun, the Yoruba god of iron, who, in a blind war after killing the enemies, also turned on those he was fighting to protect.

Rather than see the FCT as a war zone in which even the pronouncement of the courts will not matter, regard it as a large farm for which you have been hired as the farm manager. So, you do not need a sword to tend it and clear the weeds, which are admittedly growing wild. What you need is a machete, which, even if it is very sharp, would do the work it is intended to do.

As you know, we do not harvest cocoa the same cavalier way okra is harvested; don't treat the populace the same way you would the people of your class, who have a sense of entitlement and impunity. I will also make a prayer for you: that after your tenure, you will not flee the country as Mallam el-Rufai did. Ameen!

Gabonese Coup: The Fault Is Not In The Electorate

By Owei Lakemfa

THE scenario has various strands of familiarity. I mean the military coup of Wednesday, August 30, 2023 that removed Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba. An elected African dictator in a well-fortified Presidential Palace finds his palace has become his prison. It is like the fish realising that the water it is swimming in is boiling.

The Praetorian Guards who swore an oath to defend him even if it means losing their lives, are the same arrow head of the coup. The coup leader is, of course, the Head of the Presidential Republican Guard who only yesterday saluted the President, and today, he is the Head of State with the President as his Prisoner-in-Chief.

The new Head of State, His Excellency, General Brice Clothaire Oligui Nguema, is of course the cousin of the deposed President. Former President Bongo and his late father, Omar Bongo, had ruled the country for 56 years, now his cousin takes over to continue the extended family line. Meanwhile, the masses who are impoverished in a country so rich, take to the streets in celebration of Bongo's ouster. In fact, their newest boss is carried on the streets being tossed into the air. One dictator goes, another comes; heads of state come and go, but the Presidential Palace remains to welcome its latest tenant.

We may shout against coups, but democracy would be unsustainable if it does not translate to dividends for the people and does not lead to development. It is only if it does, and the people can assert their sovereignty over all powers, that the citizenry would be willing to defend democracy if it comes under attack.

It is difficult at this time to say why the coup was executed, but suffice it to say, Bongo,

who is now wailing in his presidential prison, is sick, has had at least a stroke which makes it difficult for him to even stand, has obviously over-stayed his welcome in office, and is a serial election rigger. It is inconceivable that a man who claims to have secured 64.27 per cent of the votes on the eve of the coup, has nobody to stand up for him. So rather than appeal to the two thirds of the nation's voters who allegedly gave him a renewed seven-year presidential mandate, he appeals to his foreign friends to make loud "noise" on his behalf.

The succession from Bongo the President to Nguema, the cousin, reminds me of a similar situation in 1979 involving another set of Nguemas. That scenario was in Equatorial Guinea when on August 3, 1979, President Francisco Macias Nguema, in his eleventh year in power, was overthrown by his nephew, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. Unlike the Gabonese one we are witnessing, that in Equatorial Guinea was bloody as Macias Nguema put up a stiff resistance before he was captured trying to flee to Cameroun. He was sentenced to death and executed on September 29, 1979 by firing squad.

Macias Nguema had ruled the country without any challenge by declaring he is God. In 1993, Mbasogo also declared

himself as God. Then in July 2003, about a quarter of a century after his coup, state radio informed the populace that President Mbasogo was now the "country's God...with all power over men and things". You will consider this lunacy, but there are many African leaders that are on the verge of lunacy otherwise, how can a man steal so much like Mobutu Seseseko did in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Bongo in Gabon, that people wonder who was richer, the President or the country?

The reaction of the international community was also predictable: condemnation of the coup. The European Union went further to say its foreign ministers meeting in Spain would discuss the Gabonese coup and a similar one on July 26, in Niger to fashion out a response. What exactly is their business? This is the same club whose members colonised Africa, are exploiting it, making development virtually impossible, and coups on the continent, attractive.

The African Union (AU) which like most of Europe refused to condemn the coup in Chad, has condemned the one in Gabon. Perhaps what the AU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) need to do is not so much to bemoan the spate of military coups in

Africa which include those of Egypt, Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Chad, Niger and now, Gabon, but to take steps to stop new ones.

First, it will be wishful thinking that there would be no new coups on the continent, and it will be myopic not to see that some countries may be ripe for coups. Who would be surprised if a coup uproots Cameroun's Paul Biya who has been in power for 41 years, is visibly sick, would not allow open elections, represses opposition, throws perceived enemies into prison and is grossly incompetent as a leader?

We need a democratic system in which the power of the state cannot subjugate the power of the people. We need to work out and build an African Democracy just as Europeans and their North American first cousins established Western Democracy and the Chinese conceptualised their democracy or socialism with "Chinese characteristics".

I will not be surprised if a coup removes Alassane Ouattara of Cote d'Ivoire who was imposed as President by the bayonets of French soldiers on December 4, 2010. After the constitutional two terms in office, he changed the constitution to give himself a third term, killed dozens of his countrymen who protested his coup against the country's constitution, and awarded himself 94 per cent of the

October 2020 votes.

I will not be shocked if Oatara's side-kick, Macky Sall of Senegal who was forced to back down from attempts to impose himself as the unconstitutional third term President only after shedding the blood of the innocent, leads his country to the coup path. If this were to happen, a main regret I will have is that Senegal, the only country in West Africa that has never been ruled by the military, would have joined the coup circle.

We may shout against coups, but democracy would be unsustainable if it does not translate to dividends for the people and does not lead to development. It is only if it does, and the people can assert their sovereignty over all powers, that the citizenry would be willing to defend democracy if it comes under attack.

To me, the main challenge the AU has is to re-assess a system of democracy which emphasises elections that are almost always flawed, in which the winner takes all, the poor is repressed, minorities are grinded into the dust and the people have no power or sovereignty over those in government. Serious peoples have their own system of democracy that takes into consideration their culture and tradition, peculiarities and interests.

We need a democratic system in which the power of the state cannot subjugate the power of the people. We need to work out and build an African Democracy just as Europeans and their North American first cousins established Western Democracy and the Chinese conceptualised their democracy or socialism with "Chinese characteristics".

We should not forget the 1962 admonition of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy that: "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable."

"The African Union (AU) which like most of Europe refused to condemn the coup in Chad, has condemned the one in Gabon. Perhaps what the AU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) need to do is not so much to bemoan the spate of military coups in Africa which include those of Egypt, Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Chad, Niger and now, Gabon, but to take steps to stop new ones."

AFCON 2024: Coach Peseiro, Others Arrive Uyo

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Super Eagles Coach, Jose Peseiro and three assistants have arrived Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, ahead of the AFCON Qualifying Match between Nigeria and Sao Tome, Principe on Sunday.

They arrived yesterday, September 5, into a warm embrace of Akwa Ibom State Government delegation before they visited the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium where the match will be played. It would be recalled, the state government on Monday, held a technical meeting being part of government efforts to put together a hitch-free football match.

Commissioner for Youth Development and Sports, Sir Monday Ebong Uko during the meeting, thanked the Governor, Pastor Umo Eno, for accepting the responsibility of hosting the match.

The meeting which was held at the VIP Lounge of Godswill

Akpabio international stadium was attended by the Commissioner for Culture and Tourism - Sir Charles Udoh, Commissioner for Transport - Mr. Orman Esin, Commissioner for Internal Security - Rtd. General Koko Essien who was represented by DSP Monday Ndueso and the Commissioner for Information and Strategy - Comrade Ini Ememobong who was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Akparawa James Edet. Mr. Uko announced that the Super Eagles' camp had already opened in the state with the arrival of players, technical crew members and officials expected from today, Monday. While assuring that everything bordering on the successful hosting of the match has been taken care of, the Commissioner also called on Akwa Ibom people and Nigerians to turn up en masse to cheer the Super Eagles on to victory.

Also in attendance were:

Executive Board Member of Nigeria Football Federation and South-South representative, Otuekong Nse Essien, the Chairman of Akwa United Football Club and General Coordinator of the State Organizing Committee, Elder Paul Bassey, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth Development and Sports, Mrs. Beatrice Udoinyang, the state Director of Sports, Elder Ifiok Duff as well as the Chairman and members of Akwa Ibom state Football Normalization Committee, among others.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, CP Olatoye Durosinmi has pledged the full support of the command for the successful hosting of the match.

CP Durosinmi said he was not surprised that the Godswill Akpabio International, Uyo was selected to host the match following the high maintenance culture of the state government as well as Akwa Ibom which he



Super Eagles Coach Jose Peseiro with Akwa Utd FC of Uyo Chairman, Paul Bassey in Uyo.

described as the most peaceful state in Nigeria.

He said the police remains committed to protecting lives and property, assuring that the

command will deploy the necessary manpower to ensure a hitch-free outing and to maintain peace and order, before, during and after the match.

Emeka Agba Joins Professional Boxing Promotion

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Nigerian professional boxing promotion has received a big boost following the decision of Chief Emeka Agba to join the list of boxing promoters.

In order to achieve this noble dream, he has set up Emeka Agba Boxing Promotions, a subsidiary of Chief Emeka Agba Foundation, charged with promoting Nigerian fighters to become world champions.

As a first step in this direction, his boxing promotion outfit has already put modalities on ground to organise a boxing championship at the National Stadium Surulere Lagos on November 11.

According to the fight fixtures, the boxing extravaganza tagged "Ring Matardos" and sanctioned by the Nigeria Boxing Board of Control (NBB of C) will have a cruiserweight challenge contest between Muritador Monyashau and Godwin Ambrose serving as the main bout.



Chief Emeka Agba

Other fights on the card of the championship are; national super welterweight fight between Henry Abolokeji and Segun Afikun while Muyideen Ijalo will face Hammed Adedokun in a national lightweight challenge contest. Also, Lucky Oyibo will slug it out with Ibrahim Shobusi in a national light welterweight challenge contest with Ezekiel Etukeren meeting Sunday Igiebor in another national lightweight fight, just as Dimeji Salami will be up against TBA in a national super middleweight challenge contest.

According to the Secretary General of Nigeria Boxing Board of Control (NBB of C), Remi Aboderin, Emeka Agba Boxing Promotions has put all modalities on ground for a successful championship that will announce their arrival in boxing promotion in the country, assuring that fans will be treated to the best of professional boxing on that day.

"The boxers we have lined up are worthy fighters who will give fans value of their money. It will also enable the boxers get more experience and exposure in their quest to progress further in the paid ranks.

"I must also commend Emeka Agba Promotions for joining the list of boxing promoters in the country which will help in giving our boxers hope and greater opportunity to have regular fights and be in a position to get good rankings and progress further in the profession.

"It's equally a thing of joy that we're now having many promoters coming around to invest in professional boxing which is an evidence of the transformation the NBB of C is bringing to bear on the sports", he stressed.

Aboderin also announced that the championship will be used to celebrate the birthday of the promoter whom he described as very passionate about boxing.

AFCON 2024:
Coach Peseiro,
Others Arrive Uyo

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Makinde's Approval, Appointment Of New Soun Of Ogbomosho, Flagrant Disregard For Rule Of Law - Ex Oyo Attorney General

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

A former Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice in Oyo State, Aare Abdullah Abdusalam has described the appointment of Prince Afolabi Ghandi Olaoye as new Soun of Ogbomosho by Governor Seyi Makinde as flagrant disregard for the rule of law.

Aare Abdusalam in a statement on Monday, alleged that Governor Makinde disregarded the rule of law over the selection and approval of Prince Afolabi Olaoye as Soun-elect of Ogbomosho.

According to the former Attorney General of Oyo State, there are pending cases in court on the subject matter, saying the appointment of a new Soun took place when multiple cases were pending in court challenging the purported and arbitrary selection of the Soun-designate to the

vacant throne of the Ogbomosho monarch.

He stressed that among the related court cases "is the one challenging the constitutionality of the Ogbomosho Chieftaincy Declaration in Suit No: HOG/27/2023 wherein the Governor of Oyo State, Attorney General of Oyo State e.t.c. are defendants.

Aare Abdusalam maintained that Governor Makinde action has exceeded the bounds of civility and drawn the state to the Hobbesian state of nature.

"Notwithstanding the blatant breach of law and order, the Laoye Ruling Family of Ogbomosho must refuse to be provoked. The Laoye Ruling House should live as an indivisible and indissoluble family", he said.

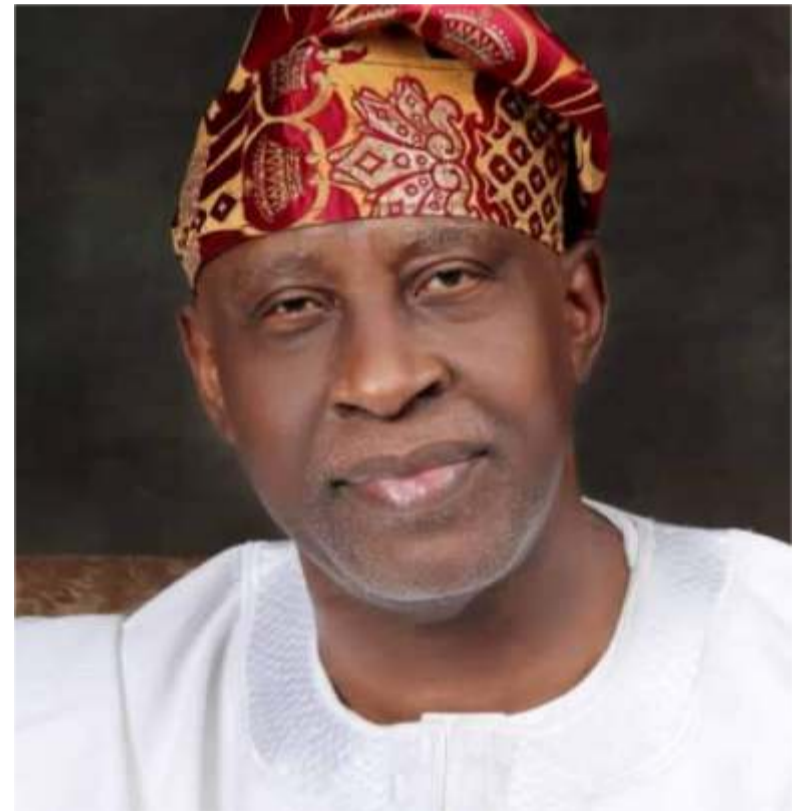
Aare Abdusalam added, "The Ten (10) units that consist the Laoye Family of Ogbomosho have common ancestor and any

stranger or group of strangers within and outside Ogbomosho who tries to interfere and or cause disharmony within the Laoye Family will be disappointed at the end of the day".

"The family must remain united in love and fraternity to withstand the test of time. The pursuit for justice has just begun until fairness and equity are restored in the selection processes.

He stressed further, "We must ensure the sanctity of our traditional institution and resist invasion of our custom and tradition".

According to the former Attorney General of Oyo State, "The Laoye Family must not sit on the fence and have its fingers crossed without pursuing the matter to its most logical and legal conclusion", saying, "The struggle has just begun within the context of legality."



Prince Afolabi Ghandi Olaoye

Navy Foils Plans To Swindle Victims With Name Of CNS, Apprehends 3 Suspects

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Moves by some imposters at deceiving the public with a false collaboration between an illegal outfit and the Nigeria Navy (NN) in order to swindle unsuspecting members of the public has been thwarted, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt.

Our correspondent gathered that three members of the syndicate have been apprehended by officials of the Nigeria Navy Ship (NNS) BEECROFT and have been handed over to the police in Lagos for further investigation.

According to a statement by the spokesperson of the NNS BEECROFT made available to journalists yesterday, the suspects were arrested within Isolo area of Lagos on January 1, 2023 by its patrol team in response to alarming reports of fraudulent individuals featuring the image of Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral EI Ogalla in printed posters being circulated.

Identified as Oladele Opeyemi Daniel, 23, Eriwole Ogunlana,

The advert rolled out by the impostors

24, and Mubarak Mayegun, 24, the suspects were alleged to have sought to deceive the public into believing there exists a false collaboration between an illegal security outfit, tagged Gallantry Intelligence Corps of Nigeria and the Nigerian Navy.

It reads, "In a significant development to prevent swindling the general public, the Nigerian Navy Ship (NNS) BEECROFT patrol team apprehended 3 impostors within the vicinity of Isolo, Lagos State.

"This operation, conducted on 1 September 2023, was initiated in response to alarming reports of fraudulent individuals featuring the image of Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral EI Ogalla in printed posters being circulated. The impostors sought to deceive the public into believing there exists a false collaboration between an illegal security outfit, tagged Gallantry Intelligence Corps of Nigeria and the Nigerian Navy.

"The arrested suspects identified as Oladele Opeyemi Daniel (23), Eriwole Ogunlana (24) and

Mubarak Mayegun (24), are in custody and would be handed over to appropriate agency for in-depth investigation and prosecution.

"The Nigerian Navy appeals to the public to be mindful of unscrupulous elements, who want to inflict unnecessary hardship by using unpleasant means to lure innocent youths to commit resources for illegitimate employment.

"The Nigerian Navy Under the leadership of Vice Admiral EI Ogalla, reaffirms its commitment to thwarting all forms of illegality and remains resolute in providing conducive employment for law abiding citizens to go about their business as well as ensuring safety and security of the public, which is essential for the economic prosperity of our nation.

"The Navy also urges citizens to remain vigilant and report suspicious activities promptly, as this is crucial in preserving integrity of our defence forces and safeguarding the public from potential scams and fraudulent activities".