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Food Security: AGRA Engages 1m Farmers In Kaduna, Niger States

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria
The Country Director Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Dr. Kayinde Makinde has said they have engaged about one million farmers in Kaduna and Niger states. He disclosed this at the AGRA/NAERLS Kaduna Consortium projects field visit and projects commissioning at NAERLS at Likoro, Kudan Local Government Area of Kaduna State yesterday. He said from 2017 to date, AGRA has transformed farmers through improved farming yield by using

quality and improved seed. Dr. Makinde said, the challenge is how to educate farmers on how to use new technologies with modern farming inputs. He said AGRA will still look for more partnership with Kaduna State Government because it has been supporting them. The Country Director expressed appreciation to NAERLS for impacting modern farming into smallholder farmers. In his remarks, the Kaduna State Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. Dabo Mohammed described Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) as agricultural

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AGRA team at one of the sites in Kudan LGA,. Kaduna State yesterday

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Delta Promises Youth Games Like Never Before

National Hospital Abuja Chief Pharmacist Bags Life Imprisonment For Raping Boy

**NAPTIP DG hails judiciary for doggedness in ensuring justice served unde*

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

In a historic ruling and landmark judgment in the implementation of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015, a former Chief Pharmacist of National Hospital, Abuja, Dr. Abubakar Mustapha Danraka Ph.D has been sentenced to life imprisonment for raping a boy. (Sodomy).

The convict, who was also a former Senior Special Adviser (Technical) to the Director of the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development was convicted by a High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, sitting in Kubwa, Abuja, presided over by Hon. Justice A. Akanbi-Yusuf on Monday 18th September, 2023.

The ruling ends the three-year-old controversies surrounding this celebrated case which had attracted much attention from stakeholders across the country.

This was contained in a statement by Adekoye Vincent Press Officer, NAPTIP, Abuja, made available to journalists yesterday September 19, 2023.

According to the statement, the convict was arrested on March 27, 2020, for defiling a minor (name withheld) his neighbour, who lived in the same estate with him in Abuja.

Adekoye explained that, "He lured the victim to his apartment and had anal intercourse with him after stupefying him with a drink.

"The suspect was charged to Court vide a Charge dated 9th August 2021, and was arraigned on 5th April, 2022 where he pleaded "not guilty.

"The Prosecution team from NAPTIP sufficiently proved the charge beyond a reasonable doubt which led to the September 18 2023 judgment".

Reacting to the judgment, the Director General of NAPTIP, Professor Fatima Waziri – Azi, Ph.D hailed the judiciary for its doggedness in ensuring that justice is served under the VAPP Act.

She said, "I want to specially commend the Judiciary for its sustained collaboration, and support in the implementation of the VAPP/Law in the Country which has culminated in this landmark judgment. This is a victory for us as a country.

"In our bid to make Nigeria a violence-free nation, in collaboration with all our esteemed partners and stakeholders, we will continue to scale our efforts in ensuring more convictions and less impunity" the NAPTIP Director General stated.

This is the third rape conviction and counting secured by NAPTIP in the FCT for the year 2023.



The convict

78th UNGA: Gombe Governor Seeks UNICEF Support To Address Menace Of Out-of-School Children

**Pledges To Support Tinubu in Addressing Challenges in Nigeria*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has sought the support of UNICEF and other agencies of the United Nations in addressing the issue of out-of-school children in his state and Northern Nigeria.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, yesterday, said that the governor highlighted that several factors, including poverty, insecurity, and cultural beliefs, have contributed to the high number of out-of-school in Gombe and other states of the federation.

He pointed out that accelerating investment in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal Four (SDGs4) which is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, would also aid and contribute to the fight against poverty.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya, who is on the Nigerian delegation at the ongoing 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, made the call while speaking with journalists after the SDGs' summit.

He spoke on efforts to bring down the number of out of school children in Gombe State, which according to him has been very difficult because of the surge in number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from neighboring states.

"By 2019, according to the UNICEF account, there were 550,000 out of school children in Gombe alone and as of today, the numbers have risen either because of the settlement or rehabilitation of some people from the displaced states.

"You know, we share a



Governor Inuwa Yahaya

boundary with the remaining five states of the Northeast.

"Therefore, most of them have relocated due to Gombe's security and safety, adding to our own issues, and we must choose where and how.

"There ought to be around 600,000 by now, in my estimation. But in the past three or four years, we have been able to accept 350,000.

"Our goal is to ensure that each child in Gombe receives free quality education.

"At the very least, up to the basic education, in accordance with the principles of universal free education as guided by the Sustainable Development Goals."

While the Governor outlined some strategies that his administration employed to tackle the issue of out-of-school children, he added that he had already met with some UN agencies including the UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund seeking support in

addressing the growing menace.

The Governor explained that his administration took some measures, including the establishment of community-based schools; construction, renovation and equipping of schools; distribution of learning materials to children, and sensitization campaigns to educate parents on the importance of sending their children to school.

While the strategies have yielded some positive results, Governor Inuwa acknowledged that more needs to be done, which is why he has sought the support of UNICEF and other international partners.

He expressed confidence in the ability of UN agencies to provide technical support, expertise, and resources to help address this critical issue.

"I have been able to meet with UNICEF, UNFPA, and other agencies of the United Nations to make

sure that we get the support required so that we can uplift the lives and livelihoods of our people. Especially in the Northern region where there are a lot of challenges with regards to insecurity and poverty. So, we are strengthening collaboration to address challenges in our state, region, and country," the Governor said.

Inuwa, who is also the Chairman of Northern Governors' Forum further explained that he was part of President Tinubu's delegation to the United Nations General Assembly to support the effort of the Federal Government to address critical issues in the country.

He said, "As a subnational, whatever affects the nation affects us all. It is the combination of the states that makes the federation. So we will be meeting and engaging other world leaders to support President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in order to deliver on the needs of the Nigerian people, and in particular, for Gombe state".

Oyo Obas To Obasanjo: No Regrets Supporting Tinubu, Makinde In Last Elections *Say their silence not act of cowardice

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Deputy Chairman, Oyo State Council of Obas and Chiefs, Oba Francis Olushola Alao, the Olugbon of Orile-Igbon yesterday, said traditional rulers in Oyo State have no regret in supporting Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and Governor Seyi Makinde in the last general elections. Oba Alao in a statement, declared that all the royal fathers involved understand the pain caused by the incident and appreciate the well-placed reactions.

The royal father pointed out that the silence of Oyo state traditional rulers on Chief Olusegun Obasanjo action of last Saturday "is not an act of cowardice".

"The outburst of former president Chief Olusegun Obasanjo against traditional rulers in attendance at the inauguration of the Iseyin Campus of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) on Friday September 15 has generated anger and varied responses from true sons and daughters of the society", he said.

Oba Alao added, "Let it, however, be well noted that traditional rulers in Oyo State have no regret in supporting Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and Governor Seyi Makinde in the last election, and will be willing to support them even in the future".

"First and foremost, I will like to emphasize that the

inauguration ceremony was a huge success while the road and campus projects represent another milestone in the development strides of Governor Seyi Makinde who has been working hard to take Oyo State to the next level of development".

The Olugbon stressed, "I wish to state that the incident is an internal affair which will be properly reviewed at the next meeting of the Oyo State Council of Obas and Chiefs.

"Let me assure all Yoruba, and other well-meaning Nigerians who have respect for the traditional institution, and who feel concerned about the incident that our silence since Friday is not an act of

cowardice. When we sit down with the Governor, and hold our next meeting, we will review and respond appropriately".

Oba Alao added, "Our Governor respects us, and traditional rulers in Oyo State also hold him in high esteem. I, therefore, sue for calm over this issue. We want everybody to apply decorum in line with the Omoluwabi ethos for which Yoruba are greatly respected. Ile Yoruba land shall remain peaceful. Our unity is sacrosanct. These ethos must reflect in our day-to-day activities.

"This is the clear position of monarchs in Oyo State. Any other information from anywhere that is contrary to this should be disregarded."

Peter Obi's Supreme Court Move A Political Mistake - Fadojoe

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

Former Labour Party Presidential Aspirant, Mr Faduri Oluwadare Joseph aka Fadojoe, has advised Mr. Peter Obi to handle the issue of the division in the party as a matter of urgency, before it will be too late and also commence preparation ahead of 2027 general elections.

Fadojoe gave the piece of advise when he made a broadcast on his official YouTube channel, calling on Mr Peter Obi to as a matter of urgency, focus inward on the issue of Labour Party, precisely to see to the issue of the warring factions bedeviling the party and commence the process of reuniting, rebuilding and reinvigorating the party ahead of 2027 general elections; targeting full taking over of power; by seizing power at the presidential level, having majority in the National Assembly, as well as getting more governorship positions.

The US based Nigerian, the leader of Rescue Movement For New Nigeria aka Rescue The Vulnerable Initiative, however, warned that to take any step otherwise is tantamount to chasing the wind. "And it will definitely result in another fatal defeat in 2027, despite that Mr Peter Obi is undoubtedly rated as the most popular presidential candidate in Nigeria so far," he submitted.

He added that before the February 25, 2023 presidential election, he spoke out; cautioning Labour Party and Mr Peter Obi over different loopholes that would result in not clinching the presidential power, but rather than taking precaution when it was still possible to make amends, many Nigerians were attacking him for calling attention to what could affect the victory of Mr Peter Obi in the presidential election and both Labour Party and the presidential candidate completely ignored his warning.

"And the same thing I said will happen has happened exactly as I said. We have lost the election and again lost at the Tribunal.

"We lost the election not because Tinubu was a better candidate, but he is a better player. And for the negligence on the party of

those concerned in Labour Party. I said it some time ago and everyone went 'gaga' on me. But today we can see that the 2023 presidential election is lost and lost forever. But instead of coming together to put our house in order on time, we are spending more time going to the Supreme Court. Even at the Supreme Court we are still going to lose." He stressed.

Lamenting that the system in Nigeria is so programmed that once a person has taken over power as a president, it is difficult for the court to remove him no matter the situation, he appealed to the National Assembly to further amend the Electoral Act so that all election petition cases will be concluded before the swearing-in, saying that, "may be that will strengthen our judges to give their verdict without fear or favour: not caring whose ox is gored."

He advised Mr Peter Obi to let go of the issue of going to the Supreme Court and leave Atiku to continue to the Supreme Court as it is obvious that the Supreme Court will still uphold the verdict of the lower court.

"Rather than heading to Supreme Court to waste energy and the resources that should have been used for something better, Mr Peter Obi should focus on the issue of the Julius Aburre Vs Lamidi Apapa saga that has divided the party into two. Though the issue of the division is as a result of greed and corruption, but if not quickly and effectively handled before it's too late, it will result in more disasters for the party".

He added that he hopes that his advice will not fall on deaf ears like before, as he stressed that he and his team had joined Labour Party and were reviving and rebuilding the party, before Mr. Peter Obi saw the party as a third force and came to the party to take the presidential ticket.

"A party I have invested so much resources on reviving and rebuilding before Mr Peter Obi came, I will still see what is going wrong and advise, yet they will still not only turn deaf ears to my advice, but even sideline me and members of the same team we have laboured so much to revive the party that was almost dying before we came in", he concluded.

NNPCL: Arewa Group Congratulates Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan Over Appointment

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Arewa Youth Assembly, has congratulated Mrs Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan following her meritorious appointment as the Executive Vice President (EVP) in charge of Upstream operations of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL).

A statement signed by the Speaker of Arewa Youth Assembly, Mohammed Sa li hu

Danlami, over the weekend in Kaduna, said, "Mrs Eyesan is a graduate of economics from the University of Benin with over 30 years of work experience that has gigantic impact

and significant contributions to stakeholder value in both private and public enterprises.

"Mrs Eyesan, a former Group General Manager, Corporate Planning & Strategy, was the Chief Strategy & Sustainability Officer of the NNPCL before her appointment as the Executive Vice President in charge of Upstream operations.

"We believe Mrs Eyesan is an excellent choice for

the EVP Upstream, an intelligent and hard working woman. She is capable and will deliver perfectly giving her excellent track record of performance, all that she has achieved and her desire to do more for the oil and gas sector. Her vision and passion for Nigeria and Africa to compete as an equal in the world stage in terms of energy is a quality that will guarantee her success as the EVP Upstream operations."

The group appealed to the management and staff of the NNPCL to accord all the maximum support and cooperation to Mrs Eyesan in the discharge of her duties to make her succeed as the new EVP Upstream operations.

The statement prayed God in his infinite mercy and wisdom will continue to protect and guide Mrs Eyesan to always do what is right by the NNPCL, Nigerians and Nigeria as a Nation. Congratulations once again.



Arewa Youth Group Presents Award Of Societal Development To Dankawu Universal Service CEO



By; **ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe**

A group of Youth in Gombe State, Arewa Youth Advocacy for Good Governance has presented an award of Icon of Societal Development to Architect Abdurrahman Musthapha Baba, who is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Dankawu Universal Service, a firm established in 2011, that has provided jobs to over 500 youth in Gombe.

In his remarks during the presentation, the Chairman of Arewa Youth Advocacy for Good Governance in Nigeria, Ambassador Abdurrahman Ibrahim, described Architect Abdurrahman Musthapha Baba as a humble in developing the society and nation in general.

He explained that the activities of Arewa Youth Advocacy include training the youth in leadership, entrepreneurship and fighting gender based violence in the society among others.

Ambassador Abdurrahman Ibrahim

also said they are partnering with Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and Industrial Training Fund (ITF) and any other organisation that has interest in moving the society forward to training the youth on various skills acquisition.

Ambassador Ibrahim, enjoined the Chief Executive Officer of Dankawu Universal Service to continue doing his good work in uplifting the lives of people in the community, especially the less privileged.

Architect Abdurrahman Baba said Dankawu entrepreneurship skills is focusing on training the youth which as a result of its commitment so far, trained over five hundred youth in different entrepreneurship skills.

According to him, they are train not less than 500 yearly, and also are engaging more youth in farming activities on more than fifty hectares in both dry and raining season.

He therefore, commended Arewa Youth Advocacy for Good Governance for their efforts.

Again, Kogi Wins Fiscal Transparency, Accountability Award

**Award underscores Gov Yahaya Bello's commitment to good governance - Commissioner*

By: **ADEBOYE ADO, Akure**

Kogi State has again won the 2022 Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Award in a survey conducted across the states in North Central Nigeria.

The first position award was presented to the state yesterday in Lokoja, during the launch of the 2022 North Central State Budget Transparency Survey Report carried out by the Social Economic Research and Development Centre (SERDEC).

The National Coordinator, State and National Budget Transparency Survey for the agency, Mr. Tijani Abdulkareem, who presented the report and the award, said the objective of the budget Transparency and Accountability Program was to promote focus and attention of Nigerian States towards the improvement of their budget performance in providing good governance to the people.

"Good governance starts from budgeting. This report and award are aimed at strengthening

fiscal transparency to help build trust in government, facilitate accountability in public resource management and ensure sustainability in the participating states," he said.

He added, "It is evident from the 2022 SNBTS on the public availability of budget document and transparency that there are positive changes. Most of the North Central states now publish their budget documents in 2022 compared to 2020.

"Nevertheless, in terms of state by state performance, none of the states provided extensive budget information to the public in 2022. Only Kogi State can be said to be significantly transparent and provide adequate amount of budget information to the public, as they score more than 60 percent."

Tijani explained that the reports were collated across the six states of the North Central zone between 2021 and 2022, adding that the states were judged based on parameters such as Public participation, availability of budget, oversight functions of the state

legislators and level of transparency of the procurement process.

He noted, "The survey was set up as a model to improve budget transparency amongst North Central states towards a better fiscal outcome.

"As in previous surveys, the SNBTS 2022 survey report employed a questionnaire approach like the International Budget Partnership, and Open Budget Survey questionnaires, which evaluate the availability of budget information (Transparency); Civic engagement opportunities in the budget process and methods; the strength of the legislature as well as the level of transparency of the North Central states' procurement process."

The report, however, said the states' legislators failed in their oversight functions.

"On Civic participation in the budget process, the 2022 survey reveals clear evidence of a poor level of engagement or interaction between the Legislature and the public in terms of the depth of scope of the public hearings," the report said.

"Consequently, on the issues of Audit, the 2022 survey reveals that not much effort was made by the states' Auditors General to involve the public in the Audit phases of the budget process," it added.

The state commissioner for Finance, Budget and Planning, Asiru Idris, said the award underscored the premium the state governor, Yahaya Bello, placed on providing good governance.

Asiru said, "The success of the state in the areas of fiscal transparency and accountability can be linked to self-discipline, as well as the institution of a transparent and accountable governance system by Governor Yahaya Bello from the inception of his administration.

"Kogi State is blessed with a Governor who provides leadership from all fronts, a professional to the core that has surrounded himself only with persons that have the capacity to deliver.

"The governor believes that governance is about the people and whatever you do must be open and transparent to the people.

Mr. Tijanni Abdulkareem presenting the award to Kogi Government, represented by Commissioner Finance, Budget and Planning, Asiru Idris in Lokoja yesterday.



FOI Compliance: Kaduna CSOs Score MDAs, Govt Parastatals Low

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

A conglomerate of civil society organizations (CSOs) rose from an impact assessment meeting in Kaduna yesterday, with a damning verdict on government's ministries, departments and agencies for consistent failure to comply with Freedom of Information Act.

The CSOs at the projects tracking meeting, included Local Government Accountability Mechanism (LGAM), Partnership To Learn and Reform (PERL) and EDGAM

among others.

Civil Rights advocates after a brainstorming session and progress assessments on budgets, projects and their execution and implementation to serve the end users, blamed officials and contact persons in contracts awarding desks for not allowing CSOs, the media and other watchdogs access to vital documents to scrutinize jobs done in communities for quality, service delivery and compliance to project specifications.

PERL Team Lead in Kaduna State, Abel Adejor lamented poor quality of jobs done on

health, education and road infrastructures in 23 local government areas in the state, blaming the unfortunate development on indifferent nature of officials in ministries and government agencies.

Adejor, however, expressed optimism in the ability of civil societies in partnership with the press to positively change the narrative for a better and prosperous society where accountability and transparency would count.

He charged the media and civil societies alike to consistently engage the communities to find

out quality of projects done in vital sectors so they could in turn expose infractions and hold governments responsible.

Dangwa Danjuma, a good governance advocate disclosed that 313 federal and state government executed projects across the 23 local governments had been tracked by community development champions in 2023.

He lamented the secrecy in which most of these projects were shrouded in, making the job of watchdogs of ensuring delivery of quality service very difficult.

Danjuma decried lack of awareness on the part of citizens to be conversant with their rights and responsibilities to engage policy makers with the view of compelling elected representatives to live up to their pledges and mandates.

He advocated a strong and enduring collaboration between civil society organizations and the media to achieve set goals of ensuring an accountable, prudent and transparent management of resources for growth and development of the society.



Political Analyst, Victor Bobai Scores Hon Ekene High On Governance

***Says he's a true legislator, rallies support for him**

By: AUSTINE AGBO EMMANUEL, Kaduna

A political analyst based in Sabon-Tasha Ward, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Honourable Victor Mathew Bobai, has described Honourable Ekene Abubakar Adams as a true legislator.

Bobai in his analysis on Monday, said the good deeds of the Federal lawmaker are felt by all asundry, cutting across all political parties regardless of tribe, religion, ethnicity or other differences.

Honourable Ekene Abubakar Adams is the lawmaker representing the people of Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency and Nigerians, under the Labour Party (LP) who was appointed the House Committee Chairman on Sports under the current Speaker, Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen.

According to Bobai, It is always great to have dedicated leaders who are focused on the betterment of their constituents, therefore It's important for members of his constituency to come together and support his efforts, regardless of party affiliations, as unity and collaboration are crucial for driving positive change.

The analyst further stressed that a true legislator is someone who actively represents and serves the best interests of constituents, adding that Hon. Ekene is dedicated to the responsibilities and duties associated with his position and

his actions are guided by the needs and aspirations of the people he represents.

While calling on relevant stakeholders to join hands and support the good works Ekene is doing, Bobai expressed optimism that the lawmaker has the potential to bring about significant development and progress to the constituency, haven seen how he has prioritized the needs of his community and is tirelessly working towards achieving uncommon development.

He said, "Few days ago, I witnessed how wonderful Honourable Ekene Abubakar Adams, performed his legislative duties at the constituency office in Kaduna.

"Ultimately, a true legislator is dedicated to serving the public interest and working towards the betterment of their constituents' lives. They prioritize the needs of their community, work diligently to enact positive change, and strive to be accessible and responsive to the concerns of those they represent.

"With his determination and commitment, Honourable Ekene Abubakar Adams, has the potentials to bring about significant development and progress to the Chikun and Kajuru Federal Constituency. It's inspiring to see leaders who prioritize the needs of their community and work towards achieving uncommon development.

"I encourage the members of his constituency to actively engage him, provide him with feedback, and share



their concerns and aspirations. By working together, he can better understand the needs of the people he represents and create a positive impact. "Overall, it's exciting to have a legislator

who is dedicated to improving the lives of the people in his constituency. Let us support Honourable Adams Ekene Abubakar in his endeavors and hope for a brighter future." He said.

Food Security: AGRA Engages 1m Farmers In Kaduna, Niger States

saviour in the state through its support programmes.

He said Kaduna State is excited with the support and it will continue to partner AGRA in promoting agriculture in the state.

While commenting on the efforts put in place by the AGRA/NAERLS Kaduna Consortium projects in various farmer groups across the state, the commissioner charged seed companies to produce quality seeds to farmers at affordable price.

According to him, this will definitely make farmers improve their productivity capacity.

Earlier in his remarks, the Executive Director National Agricultural Extension Research and Liason Services (NAERLS)

Professor Emmanuel Ikani lamented that agricultural

extension workers in some states have closed their offices.

He said, it is a sad situation that agriculture is being neglected by many state governments for no reason.

Prof. Ikani said, following this neglect, the institute introduced Community Based Advisors (CBAs) to complement the low numbers of extension workers in the farming community.

The Director appealed to Kaduna State Government to change its approach and face agriculture with all seriousness as well to employ more extension workers to help smallholder farmers.

During the event demonstration farm site was visited at NAERLS and Likoro and commissioning of Climate Smart Learning site at Likoro in Kudan Local Government Area.



AGRA team at one of the sites in Kudan LGA., Kaduna State yesterday

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



By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

As the world anticipates International Peace Day on September 21, 2023, several non-governmental organizations in Kaduna have embarked on a week-long journey to nurture hope and enlightenment among the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). From September 16th to the 21st, the Network of Peace Journalists (NNPJ) and Eko Smile Support & Empowerment Initiative (ESSEI), in collaboration with the Interfaith Mediation Center (IMC), orchestrated a series of events that ignited the spirits of young minds. One of the highlights of this initiative was a captivating reading and writing competition designed exclusively for IDP teenagers. This competition was crafted with the intention of sowing the seeds of literacy and fostering a culture of peace among the displaced youth.

The National President of the Nigeria Network of Peace Journalists (NNPJ), in a statement, underscored the significance of this endeavor. He spoke from the heart, emphasizing the importance of instilling peace education into the young souls inhabiting the IDP camp. His words resonated at the Maraban Rido Internally Displaced Persons camp, situated in the Chikun Local Government Area of

Kaduna State, North Western Nigeria.

In a heartwarming gesture, the NNPJ delivered an array of study materials and educational tools to the eager children. These resources were not merely symbols but practical instruments to strengthen and bolster their educational journey.

The vision of peace education is to kindle the flames of forgiveness and religious tolerance among these budding minds. It goes beyond imparting knowledge about a culture of peace; it equips these children with the skills and attitudes necessary to defuse conflicts, recognize potential discord, and actively promote a culture of peace and non-violence. The essence of peace education lies in its mission to counter the assumption that violence is innate to human nature. It strives to arm students with the capacity to resolve conflicts through dialogue and understanding rather than resorting to violence.

Miss Blessing Eko Sunday, the founder of the non-governmental organization Eko Smile Support, underlined the dire need to educate abandoned children in marginalized communities, equipping them with the beacon of peace education.

Her organization has taken a bold step by opening a classroom specifically for internally displaced persons, primary.

Kogi Speaker Inaugurates House Cttee On Water Resources

*Charges gov't on adequate quality water provision for citizens



By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

The Speaker of Kogi State House of Assembly, Rt. Honourable Aliyu Umar Yusuf has inaugurated the Assembly's Standing Committee on Water Resources and charged members to work towards ensuring provision of quality water resources for the people of the state.

It was made known in a statement signed by

Yabagi Mohammed, the Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker, Kogi State House of Assembly.

It said the committee was inaugurated on behalf of the Speaker by the Deputy Speaker, Rt. Hon Enema Paul, and is being chaired by the member representing Lokoja I State Constituency, Hon Bin-Ebaiya Shehu Tijjani (BEST).

The Speaker, who expressed confidence in

the ability of the committee to ensure problems associated with water provision are addressed, noted that the chairman, being a former Advisor to the Governor on Water Resources, is capable of justifying the committee's mandate.

In his own address, the Chairman of the committee, Hon Bin-Ebaiya Shehu Tijjani expressed gratitude to the

speaker for the opportunity to serve and promised to come up with ways to address the problems identified in the sector.

He appealed to stakeholders in the sector to give necessary support to his members at all times, so as to ensure they achieve the task of making quality water available to the people of the state.



Governor Inuwa Yahaya, Other Nigerian Delegates In Attendance, As 78th UN General Assembly Opens In New York

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON
The Chairman of the Northern States Governors' Forum (NSGF) and Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, attended the opening ceremony of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Monday. Governor Inuwa Yahaya, who is on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's entourage to the 78th UNGA, alongside some governors, ministers and other officials, will engage in discussions, and meetings with leaders from various nations and international organizations

on the sidelines of the global Assembly. As the Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum, Governor Inuwa carries the responsibility of advocating for the region's unique challenges, while also contributing to discussions on broader global challenges, such as climate change, peace and security, and sustainable development goals. These interactions provide a valuable platform for exploring areas of mutual interest and benefit, forging partnerships and also advancing Gombe State's developmental agenda.



Federal College Of Education: Gov Eno Grants N95m Waiver For CofO

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Akwa Ibom State government has announced waiver for fees amounting to 95 million Naira, required for the procurement of Certificate of Occupancy (CofO), to facilitate the immediate take of Federal College of Education, Ididep in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area of the state.

The state governor, Pastor Umo Eno while inspecting facilities at the Presbyterian Senior Science School, Ididep, the proposed site of the institution, promised that the CofO would be ready and issued to the school this week to aid its smooth take off.

According to Governor Eno, the gesture is deliberate, to demonstrate the state government's commitment to development and encourage deeper collaboration between the state and the federal government. "We have come today, we have seen. There are dues that the federal Government is required to pay which sums up to about ninety five million, I just waved it this afternoon. This is Friday, before the end of next week, the Certificate of Occupancy shall be presented to you at no cost to the Federal Government or to anybody.

"The state government has waved that and if there are bills to pay for the surface and all of that, we will handle that. This is

because we want to continue to encourage our collaboration between the state and the federal", he stated.

Governor Eno acknowledged that his visit to the school was to explore ways the state government can fast track timely commencement of academic activities in the institution.

He commended Senator Enang for utilizing his position to facilitate the siting of the Federal College of Education in the state, describing the gesture as an attribute of a true son, which is worthy of emulation by other sons and daughters of the state currently in positions of authority.

The governor, again reaffirmed



his commitment to serving the people of the state across party lines, devoid of biases and called on Akwa Ibom people to let go of all political misgivings and join hands with him in building a greater state.

The immediate past Senior Special Assistant to former President Muhammadu Buhari

on Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Ita Enang who received Governor Eno at the college, thanked him for his cooperation and support towards the speedy take off of the institution, assuring of equal support to the success of his administration.

Earlier, the chairman of Ibiono Ibom Local Government

Council, Mr. Ekpoimo Polycarp, appreciated the Governor for his commitment to developing Ibiono Ibom and his contributions to the commencement of the institution.

The council boss therefore, pledged unalloyed support to the Umo Eno-led administration.





[19/09, 10:28 pm] Jacob Dickson: L-R: Katsina State Governor, Malam Dikko Umaru Radda, receiving plaque of honour from Chief of Army Staff, Major General Taoreed Lagbaja when the governor paid a visit to the Army Chief at his office in Abuja yesterday. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS



From left: Osun State Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi; Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke; Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu and former Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Hon. Clement Agba @ the 22nd ceremony of National Council on Planning Development (NCPD) held at the Secretariat Osogbo. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Immunization: Ebonyi Govt Flags-Off 2023 Vaccination Campaign

By ; M K P U M A
ENYINNA, Abakaliki

In order to ensure quality health care delivery across the state, Ebonyi State Government has flagged off the 2023 vaccination campaign.

The Hon. Commissioner for Health, Dr. Moses Ekuma formally flagged off the 2023 Out Break Response (OBR) Vaccination campaign in Ebonyi State.

Flagging off the OBR at Maternal and Child Healthcare Center Azuiyokwu, Abakaliki, the Commissioner for health, Dr. Moses Ekuma said that the immunization was targeted at children under 0 to 59 months and advised parents to avail themselves the opportunity to vaccinate their children against poliomyelitis.

Dr Ekuma who eulogized Governor Nwifuru and his wife for their interest in providing quality healthcare to the people, said that the flag-off was going-on simultaneously in all the local government areas of the state.

While he enumerated the importance of the programme, he encouraged the local government overnment chairmen, stakeholders and caregivers to make sure that children within that range received the immunisation in the hinterland.

He stated that this first round of the immunisation would last till 20th of September, 2023

"Ebonyi State Government is determined to ensure that every Ebonyian or any person living in Ebonyi State has access to this vaccine. It is in these programmes of this

determination that we introduce the OBR mass vaccination strategy. The vaccine is now accessible in all public primary, tertiary and some private facilities", he said.

The health commissioner appreciated the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency, WHO, UNICEF and other partners for their various support to the state in improving maternal and child health.

Earlier, the special assistant to the governor on primary healthcare, Sabinus Nwibo and the executive secretary state primary healthcare development agency, Philip Emeka Ovuoba expressed readiness to fight poliomyelitis and other preventable diseases in the state.

In their goodwill messages, the State Coordinator of World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Vivian Ibezimako; UNICEF VSL, Miss Chiamaka Okafor; Quality Improvement Specialist (IHP), Mr. Obasi Chukwu; Solina Health, Mr. Samson Ugochukwu; UNICEF SBC, Mr. Pita Obam and representatives of other partners extolled the Commissioner for the flag off and called for its proper supervision in order to get the desired result.

They urged the targeted group to use the opportunity to boost the immunity of their babies.

The state Immunisation officer, Mr. Kalu Ogbonna while giving a vote of thanks, applauded everybody for their contribution and assured that they would achieve the best in the ongoing immunization in the state.

Foundation Tasks Media On Human Angle Reports

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Executive Director Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development, Hamsatu Allamin has called on the media to focus their reportage on human issues in the society, especially, transitional justice, peace building and reconciliation for victims of insurgency rather than celebrating individuals in communities.

She also lamented that women today are not only victims of crimes and violence, but perpetrators of known crimes and violence, while pledging to reach out to the media and involve them in publications of some of the narration of plights of victims of humanitarian crisis.

Hamsatu made the call yesterday at a one-day capacity building seminar for working journalists in Borno State with a theme, "Media Forum for Transitional Justice:

Strengthening Capacities and will for transitional justice and reconciliation in Borno State". She also said that the foundation was able to bring Network for Civil Society Organisations, Borno State into the transitional justice, peace building and reconciliation project hence it is not an individual struggle both a collective participation in the overall interest of peace and development.

The executive director further promised to impress in the government at all levels to continue to do the needful on transitional justice to victims and perpetrators of the humanitarian crisis while appealing to the media to also play their unique role as fourth estate of the realm through their social responsibility stance to avail government of the burning issues, problems and challenges of the insurgency victims and perpetrators.

Hamsatu appreciated the media and resources person as well as

the contributions and observations of the media during the interactions and discussions while inaugurating media forum for transitional justice and advocacy in the state that will work in partnership with the Allamin Foundation transitional justice and reconciliation project among others.

She further pledged to carry out campaigns across the women, youths, security, government, religious, community leaders and other relevant stakeholders



in all the books and crannies of the 27 LGAs and three senatorial districts of the state with a view to reconcile, broker peace and develop the state while urging the media to emphasize and focus on women and girls in the society who have been exposed, violated and victimized by the humanitarian crisis.

The Director added that there is need to for the identification of the victims and perpetrators of human crimes and violence to deradicalize, rehabilitate and before their reintegration back into the society, noting that, the issues, problems and challenges discovered with the victims of the Insurgency in the field by research consultants of Allamin Foundation on transitional justice and reconciliation informed the decision to engage the media team to brainstorm and make useful suggestions and recommendations for the foundation to chat a formidable and successful implementation process and plans.

She also said that the inputs from the media forum will create the opportunity for partnership and platform to strengthen capacities and strategies to ensure the project is tailored towards the targeted audience who mostly are the community members and leaders, victims, perpetrators, religious leaders, security agencies and other stakeholders. The Project Manager, Allamin Foundation, Mr. Samuel Orahi said the media forum will assist the foundation in developing a manual for engaging with the

groups and leaders in the society for proper and smooth reintegration of the victims through reconciliation and understanding where some can even become champions of the Advocacy and strategies through participation in the whole process or activity.

He also said that the major objectives of the media forum are to enhance stakeholders capacities and willingness to reconcile and accept the reintegration of women and girls particularly, influence government policies and practices to promote victims/survivors-centered approach in DORR processes. Others include to increase awareness, knowledge and capacities of stakeholders and communities in transformative and transitional justice and to promote sustainable peace and social cohesion as well as development with appreciable outcomes of activities.

The project manager added that media involvement and participation in the entire activities can never be over emphasized as the project will get a wide publicity and impact from the people and organisations even world wide but only in Nigeria and Africa hence some of these coy tries have similar issues, problems and challenges of humanitarian crisis or are affected directly or indirectly. While UN has severely raised eyebrow on such issues.

Highlights of the event include inauguration of the media forum partnership team, group photographs, comments and answers among others.

Verbal Assault: Apologize To Oke Ogun Obas Or Stay Away From Our Area, Group Warns Obasanjo

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Iseyin, Ebedi Frontliners, Iseyin (EFI) has asked former President Olusegun Obasanjo to apologize to traditional rulers in Oke Ogun area of Oyo State over his last Friday outburst at the commissioning of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho (LAUTECH)'s College of Agricultural Science and Renewable Natural Resources in Iseyin.

EFI in a statement by its Vice-President, Mr. Bambi Abiodun and Public Relations Officer, Alhaji Segun on Saturday, declared that the former President should forget about coming to any part of Oke Ogun should he fail to tender the apology to the traditional rulers. The group stressed that Chief Obasanjo's verbal assault on the traditional rulers was uncalled for, unwarranted and not expected from a Yoruba elder and traditional Chieftaincy holder, saying it has caused global disrepute to the images of the monarchs and affected their collective psyche.

"We on behalf of true Yoruba sons and daughters, are using this medium to call upon the former President of Nigeria to immediately apologize to



monarchs from Oke-Ogun zone for his undeserved remarks over his claim that they failed to stand up when the governor and himself climbed the podium at

yesterday's commissioning of the LAUTECH's College of Agricultural Science and Renewable Natural Resources, Iseyin", it said.

EFI added, "We understand that upon the arrival of the former President and the Governor to the event, all the people rose as a sign of respect to the duo and did

same when they climbed the rostrum to make their speeches, what made Chief Obasanjo barked orders at our monarchs to 'stand up and sit down' like a school headmaster to primary school pupils.

"We want it to be on record that with this action of the elderly politician and supposed statesman, we expect his apology soonest and if he fails to do so, we will want him to know that he is not welcome to step in any of the Oke-Ogun communities."

EFI said the former President dampened the joy of all Iseyin residents who all trooped out to welcome the governor for his good gestures over the development of the community and Oke-Ogun in general but took exception to the former President's attitude.

New Nigerian recalls that Chief Obasanjo last Friday in Iseyin, lashed out at traditional rulers in the area, accusing them of sitting down when he arrived the venue of the commissioning together with Governor Seyi Makinde.

Chief Obasanjo at the venue, ordered all the traditional rulers at the venue to rise up from their seats and quickly ordered them to sit down back.

Mohbad Death: Fish Out Killers, Deal With Anyone Found Guilty In Accordance With Law, Group urges IGP

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

A human rights advocacy group, Save The Poor And Needy Charity Initiative (SPANCI) has called on the acting Inspector General of Police, IGP Kayode Egbetokun to ensure that killers of the singer, Ilerioluwa Oladimeji Aloba known as Mohbad are fished out.

The advocacy group in a statement on Sunday by its President, Comrade Yemi Ezekiel Bello also demanded that anyone found guilty in connection with the death should be dealt with in accordance with the law.

Comrade Bello stressed that Ilerioluwa Oladimeji Aloba would not have died if the case of alleged threat and assault to his life was investigated and treated by the police

In the statement titled, "Justice for Mohbad", Comrade Bello urged the acting Inspector General of Police, Kayode

Egbetokun to critically and professionally handle the matter based on the allegations in his (Mohbad) earlier petition and many viral videos indicting some people.

"We in Save the Poor And Needy Charity Initiative (SPANCI) a human rights and charity organization based in Nigeria, send our heartfelt condolences to the wife, son and the entire family of Ilerioluwa Oladimeji Aloba a.k.a. MOHBAD who died in mysterious circumstances in which some NDLEA officers were alleged of giving him a white substance according to him in a viral video which many believed may have eventually killed him", he said.

Comrade Bello added, " We believe that no person has the right to violate another person's right to life according to section 33 of Nigeria 1999 constitution as amended. We thereby condemn the Act of threat to life, assault, drug abuse, and

negligence of the Nigeria Police Force Lagos State leading to the death of Mohbad and seek justice for him and his family.

"We want the federal government of Nigeria to look into the matter since some NDLEA officers were alleged and drugs abuse involved. We believe nobody is greater than the law and justice to one is justice to all. We believe if police institution has done what they are doing now when he wrote petition to the police alleging some people of threat to his life and their assaults on him was treated and the Lagos State Police did the needful at the right time, keeping to their constitutional duty which includes protection of life and property of Nigerians and also investigate crime, apprehend and prosecute offender in court of law MOHBAD would not have died.

"Though the IGP has given his directives, however, we want

them to critically and professionally handle the matter based on the allegations in his earlier petition and many viral videos indicting some people and the alleged NDLEA officers so that innocent person's will not be punished and offenders will be apprehended as we beg the family to allow law enforcement agencies to do their job even if the corpse will be exhumed for autopsy". Comrade Bello stressed, " We are of the opinion that Mohbad's death was planned in such a confusing way to affect prosecution and justice and that he was killed because he left some group of people for a better life of decency hence his death needs to be probed and thorough investigation be done so that any person found guilty



Mohbad

may be dealt with according to the law in the interest of justice to avoid a repeat of same in the future and protect the right to life of the people because when right to life is violated other rights cannot be exercised".

Addiction: How To Manage Cravings In Recovery

By: **BADIKO NEHEMIAH**
(Recovery Coach)

As recovering addicts, handling cravings in recovery is a great task and difficult to overcome. However, it is possible to manage and control. What Are Cravings? "Cravings is an intense desire to feel the effects of drug or alcohol. A mental state during which a person is focused solely on obtaining drugs or alcohol. A desire to use drugs or alcohol when presented with an opportunity". Alcohol or drug is powerful than you but you are powerful and stronger than your cravings. You can overcome your cravings if you work hard towards developing your spiritual way of life and selfless service of helping others achieve sobriety. You are not alone dealing with cravings in your recovery.

Everybody in recovery has dealt with or is dealing with cravings, and it is normal to experience stronger or obvious cravings at the early stage of your recovery. Cravings lessens over time as you keep working your recovery program and stay sober. Learn to resist your cravings no matter how overwhelming they come your way. "This too shall pass". Managing cravings in recovery is a hard work and it feels impossible to escape the temptation. But when you resist the feeling to use the drug or alcohol, help or victory over it becomes possible. You can take some actions or steps to control your cravings when they present themselves. In recovery, craving is as old as relapse. Because cravings can develop into relapse when not properly managed. "When cravings present themselves to you, you may be left with an option of using the substance but you can still resist the feeling without using". Thurga said. Old memories of active drinking and euphoria can produce cravings in recovery.

When you stop using drug or alcohol and the body is not getting the substance, the brain may experience intense desire to use these substances so it can relax but the drug or alcohol will not really give you the good feeling you desire. Cravings don't just happen. They are caused or prompted by situations or events, people, places, and things pleasing to



Badiko Nehemiah

you. Each recovering addict is always triggered by his or her own desires to use the substance. There are different triggers to substance use, but 4 are outstanding:

Social triggers, Pattern triggers, Emotional triggers, and Withdrawal triggers. When you learn how to manage and control your cravings it will help you to prevent relapse and provide you with basic knowledge and readiness to overcome your next cravings. Read ahead and learn new strategies and techniques of overcoming your cravings in recovery.

Here are 7 steps to assist you Manage your Cravings in Recovery:

1. Accept the Feeling

Cravings are normal feeling that occurs in recovery. The first thing to do when you face cravings is to accept the feeling as normal process of recovery. Having the feeling to use substance is not the same as using the substance. You are only challenged or confronted with the thought to use the substance and you have the willpower to resist the feeling to use. Remember, you are not alone dealing with cravings, everyone in recovery has dealt with or is dealing with cravings and it is not a relapse but a normal feeling in recovery. Don't mind the cravings but mind your recovery and accept it that you are having a strong desire to use. When you accept the feeling as normal process

does not mean you must use but is just to remind you that you have stopped using the substance and you are in recovery, this will help you to resist the urge.

2. Eat Fruit and Snack

Fruit is naturally the best option when you face cravings for alcohol or drugs. Fruit is "an extremely nutritious snack. It provides prebiotic fiber, antioxidants and beneficial plant compounds, all in very few calories". Eating fruit has been linked to better health and a lower risk of diseases like heart disease and obesity. One 2015 review found that "eating 300 grams (or 4servings) of fruit per day reduced the risk of heart disease". Also you can eat snacks like Yogurt, a hot tea or coffee, dark chocolate, potato chips, banana, ice cream, popcorn, soybeans milk, Coca-Cola and what have you. However, you will still need to watch your weight for good health. Balanced amounts of these snacks are connected to healthy living while large amounts will have negative effects on your health.

3. Distract the Feeling

Another step you need to take when you are facing a strong craving is to distract yourself. Find something to do and distract or stop the cravings at that point in time. Cravings come with overwhelming force, but they do not last longer as you think or feel. A research work shows that most cravings last for

15 minutes. So engage yourself in one activity or another for that 15 minutes. Thurga said that, "The reason cravings can feel like they last longer is because we keep them active or alive in our minds for longer period of time. We try to deny that the craving is happening in our minds because we refuse to divert it with extra activities". You can distract yourself from the feeling of cravings by engaging into doing something you are passionate about. Think about your likes or hobbies-what you like doing and get busy. What about playing your best game? What about reading your favourite book? What about eating your favourite food? I mean, do something crazy or funny to distract your attention from the cravings.

4. Analyze the Event

When you are facing a strong or obvious cravings that feels irresistible, assess the event or situation that led to it. Possibly there is an event or situation that triggered the cravings. Are you hanging around old friends who are still using and they are tempting you to use? Are you in a chaotic or drinking environment? Are you hungry or thirsty? Whatever situation you find yourself, press "escape" in your mind and change the event. Take note of the event that triggered your cravings to avoid further reoccurrence. Remember, your recovery is more important than your pleasure.

5. Change your Thoughts

The Holy book says, "...each man is tempted when, by his own evil desires, he is dragged away and enticed". Most times cravings come based on the constant thoughts you have about the substance in your mind. If you are always thinking about the substance in your mind, you are likely to face strong cravings and the desire to use. In this situation, you must change or switch your thoughts away from the substance to something meaningful that will help you control your negative thoughts. Examine your mind and identify where your negative thoughts are coming from. Replacing your negative thoughts about yourself with positive ones will help you escape the feeling of your

cravings. Learn to always have the mind of God in your general conduct or affairs.

6. Reflect on Negative Effects
Backward reflection is a powerful step in managing your cravings. When you are facing an overwhelming cravings, make backward reflection on the negative effects of drug or alcohol on your life during your active drinking or addiction. Backward reflection means bringing experience of the past into the present situation. Think about the bad things or situations you found yourself in the past during your active use and do everything possible to avoid making the same mistakes. Thurga adds that, "Playing the tape allows us to observe the negative things we would feel about ourselves if we were to use again. We think about how we would ruin our sobriety, or how we would let ourselves down. We may even think about how we may hurt the ones we love". Also reflecting on your blackouts is a powerful strategy to escape your cravings. Blackout is a "temporary loss of consciousness, sight or memory". You may experience blackout and never remember anything about the incident. So reflecting on past incidents of blackouts will help you resist your cravings.

7. Share how you Feel

A problem shared is a problem half solved. You need to share how you feel about your cravings with someone you trust can help you overcome them. Share how you feel with someone you know has experienced and dealt with cravings to help you handle your own cravings. When you keep how you feel to yourself, you might not succeed in dealing with your cravings. But when you share how you feel with a sponsor or someone in recovery like you, help becomes possible. Sharing how you feel about your cravings or urge with someone you trust can reduce the burden of struggling with them alone. In this step, you can use phone therapy to experience relief from your cravings. Call someone who's in recovery like you and share how you are feeling about your cravings. You may get help and escape the temptation to use

General Tukur Yusuf Buratai: A Dedicated And Accomplished Leader

By; **IBRAHIM DAHIRU DANFULANI**

General Tukur Yusuf Buratai is a highly respected and accomplished military leader, known for his dedication and commitment to serving his country, Nigeria. Throughout his career, he displayed exceptional leadership skills and made significant contributions to the Nigerian Army.

From his appointment as the Chief of Army Staff during the insurgency by Boko Haram at its peak, to his subsequent role as Nigeria's Ambassador to the Republic of Benin, General Buratai has consistently demonstrated his passion for Nigeria's progress and development.

One of General Buratai's most notable achievements was his leadership during the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram. Appointed as the Chief of Army Staff in 2015, he led the Nigerian Army to reclaim territories previously under the control of the insurgents. His hands-on approach, including visiting military formations at the warfront, showcased his commitment to the well-being and morale of his troops. Additionally, his strategic thinking led to the establishment of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTNF), a collaborative effort with neighboring countries to combat the insurgency in the Lake Chad region.

General Buratai's commitment to humanitarian causes is evident through his foundation, which sponsors the education of orphans and less privileged individuals, empowering them to build a better future. He has also provided support to widows, helping them start legitimate businesses and improve their livelihoods. These efforts demonstrate his dedication to the welfare of the Nigerian people beyond his military duties.

During his tenure as Chief of Army Staff, General Buratai prioritized the well-being of soldiers by providing housing, training opportunities, and improving the healthcare sector. These initiatives had a positive impact on the morale and effectiveness of the Nigerian Army. Additionally, he initiated the establishment of the Nigerian Army Farms and Ranches, further enhancing the welfare of soldiers and their families.

In recognition of his outstanding service, General Buratai has received numerous honours and awards, including the Commander of the Order of the



General Tukur Yusuf Buratai

Federal Republic (CFR). His close relationship with traditional rulers across the country further demonstrates the respect and admiration he has garnered throughout his career.

General Buratai's tenure as Chief of Army Staff was marked by his innovative approach to developing the Nigerian Army.

He established the Nigerian Army Institute of Technology and Environmental Studies, Command Secondary School (Boys & Girls), and the Nigerian Army Aviation hangar, among other initiatives. His commitment to completing projects as scheduled and his focus on establishing new Army divisions and bases in areas with recurring security challenges highlight his determination to tackle insecurity in Nigeria.

General Tukur Yusuf Buratai is an exceptional leader who has made significant contributions to the Nigerian Army and the fight against terrorism. His dedication, strategic thinking, and commitment to the welfare of his troops have earned him respect and admiration both within Nigeria and internationally. As he continues to serve his country in different capacities, his impact will undoubtedly be felt in various sectors, contributing to the growth and prosperity of Nigeria.

After an illustrious military career, General Tukur Yusuf Buratai voluntarily retired as the Chief of Army Staff, leaving behind a legacy of dedication and service to the nation. However, his retirement did not mark the end of his journey in public

service. Answering the call of duty once again, Buratai was appointed by President Muhammadu Buhari as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Republic of Benin.

Gen Tukur Yusufu Buratai's appointment as the Nigerian Ambassador to the Republic of Benin was a testament to his remarkable leadership and diplomatic skills. With his vast experience in military strategy and international relations, he was well-equipped to represent Nigeria in a foreign land. As an Ambassador, Buratai's primary responsibility was to foster strong bilateral relations between Nigeria and Benin, promoting cooperation in various sectors such as trade, security, and cultural exchange. His appointment reflects the trust and confidence placed in him by the Nigerian government.

During his term as Ambassador, Buratai embraced the challenges and responsibilities of diplomacy with the same dedication and professionalism that characterized his military career. He hit the ground running, engaging with key stakeholders in Benin and working towards strengthening the bond between the two nations. With his extensive network and diplomatic acumen, Buratai promote Nigeria's interests, advocate for increased collaboration, and seek opportunities for mutual growth and development. His presence as an Ambassador was a testament to Nigeria's commitment to maintaining

strong ties with its neighboring countries which yielded impactful results.

Buratai's appointment as the Nigerian Ambassador to the Republic of Benin not only showcases his expertise but also highlights the recognition of his contributions to national security and his ability to represent Nigeria on the international stage. As a respected leader, his transition from the military to diplomacy demonstrates his versatility and unwavering commitment to serving the nation in various capacities.

After his successful term as the Ambassador leaving behind a legacy of dedication and service to the nation. However, his resignation did not mark the end of his journey in public service. Answering the calls from various corners of the country, Buratai made a significant transition into politics, joining the All Progressives Congress (APC) and assuming the role of Deputy Director of Security in the Presidential campaign council. Gen Buratai remarkable political journey and his tireless efforts in promoting the success of the party.

Gen Tukur Yusufu Buratai's decision to join politics was met with enthusiasm and support from all corners of the nation. Recognizing his leadership qualities and commitment to the country's security, many believed that his transition into politics would bring a fresh perspective and contribute to the development of the nation. Joining the APC, a major political party and the ruling party in Nigeria, Buratai

embraced his new role with the same dedication and professionalism that characterized his military career. As the Deputy Director of Security in the Presidential campaign council, Buratai played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the APC in both the presidential and other political offices across the country. His vast experience in military strategy and security matters proved invaluable in formulating effective campaign strategies and addressing the concerns of the electorate. Buratai's presence in the campaign council instilled confidence and reassurance among party members and supporters.

Buratai's commitment to the success of the APC extended beyond the campaign period. He tirelessly worked to strengthen the party's structure and mobilize support at all levels. With his vast network and influence, he actively engaged with party members, stakeholders, and the general public, spreading the party's message and garnering support for its candidates. His efforts were instrumental in consolidating the party's position and securing victories in various political offices across the federation.

Throughout his political journey, Buratai remained true to his values of discipline, integrity, and service to the nation. He brought a fresh perspective to the political landscape, emphasizing the importance of security, development, and unity. His leadership and dedication to the party's cause earned him respect and admiration from fellow party members, political opponents, and the general public.

Gen Tukur Yusufu Buratai's transition from Chief of Army Staff to a Diplomat and a political leader has been nothing short of remarkable. With his vast experience, dedication, and commitment to the nation's development, he has made a significant impact on the political landscape. His contributions to the success of the APC and his tireless efforts in promoting the party's agenda have solidified his position as a respected leader in Nigerian politics. As he continues to serve the nation in his new role, Gen Tukur Yusufu Buratai's legacy of service and leadership will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on the political sphere.

Ibrahim Dahiru Danfulani is publisher Gamji Reporters

Essentials Of Institutional Effectiveness, Transparency And Accountability As A Panacea, For Good Governance.

By; PETERAMEH

Why would I think I can proffer a cure for the ailing systems in the governance of our great nation? At least a good man can try, I have for over period of time now perused the thought—consistently- of the possibility of good governance, at least good governance, not great or excellent governance- even though that is easily achievable using the same principles for good governance- but at least we would do well to appreciate good governance in our good homeland of Nigeria, before I go on ranting about my thoughts, my people let me be quick to return to the subject of our discuss; "the essentials of institutional effectiveness, transparency and accountability as a panacea for good governance".

Let take a deep breath as we explore this topic, the irony of the truth is that The *Panacea for good government is good governance,* there is no hard and fast route about it, here we have a few of its components in institutional effectiveness, transparency and accountability, Good governance is like the proverbial good deed you give it and it comes right back at you, what is governance? Governance is simply the manner or style of government practiced in a particular location; in this case (our case) it is democratic government, which is a government of the people for the people by the people so good governance would be a complete cycle of the being a government elected by the people and then the delivery of the goods of its governance for the people (who duly elected the ones in governance), which would have to take us back to an even more important question for good governance to be anticipated, are the people in government democratically elected?

This question alone helps us to see that institutional effectiveness is first of all key in attaining good governance, as the question poised above is in reference to institution the Electoral Body, in our case INEC.

So what are the essentials of effectiveness for institutions to live up to expectation?

1. Key and Competent Personnel: - not just getting the competent people but getting the right people for the right places.



Peter Ameh

2. Policy Guided operations according to the institutions' founding principles.

3. Ethical interpretation of Law and legal processes

4. Ethical Operations, Management and of all activities

5. Optimization of standards with International acceptable modus operandi

In addition to the above with the afore mentioned virtues of Accountability and transparency, good governance is left from aspirations to affirmative reality; Accountability is the act of being held responsible for your actions this helps to hold good governance players responsible for their actions in tandem with institutions, which is why the first factor is very important, and finally being transparent, being frank, firm

and open, saying exactly what one means and meaning what one says, this when institutions and people in them say what they mean and mean what they say, not with hidden motives or agenda.

When all the factors described above are bundled to form a complete system of governance; good governance is sure to thrive.

Finally in addition to all these my personal opinion rests upon the afore discussed as already known factors and processes needed for good governance, especially by the Nigerian institutions and people in governance, as we have notable institutions, what i think is that the Nigerian institutions and people in governance should 'Take Action' in doing the right thing!

All Nigerian institutions, people in

government have knowledge of all this factors, or at least moral inclination to do the right thing, but what we lack is the actual DOING, and if we as Nigerians, can cultivate the habit of DOING; then all our ideas, ideologies institutional effectiveness, transparency and accountability as well as every other factors that contribute to good governance would then become a conscious cultural norm of the Nigerian people which will necessitate the birth and practice of good governance in our nation.

So my dear fellow Nigerians' lets do the right thing, lets take action!

Peter Ameh was a 2019 Presidential Candidate, former National Chairman Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) and National Secretary CUPP

Nigeria: Stepping Back From A Major Blunder On World Stage

By Owei Lakemfa

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu on September 2, 2023 recalled all Nigerian career and non-career ambassadors across the universe from their duty posts.

His action, he said, is to transfuse his renewed hope agenda into foreign policy and ensure service delivery to all. He, however, made two exceptions: the country's United Nations (UN) Permanent Representatives in New York and Geneva.

Generally, foreign relations can be quite slippery, so an ambassador is the eyes and ears of his country. Therefore, his recall is a serious matter. But making two exceptions tells of the importance of both missions.

Doubtlessly, the most powerful and influential body in the world is the UN with 193 members. Only three countries are outside it: the Vatican and Palestinian States and Western Sahara.

So powerful is the UN that to be absent from it is like being a ghost gliding around unseen. To address the world from the UN podium in New York is the ambition of many Heads of State.

However, while the importance of the Nigerian UN Representative in New York is quite obvious, that in Geneva is less. It is beyond the fact that there are clusters of UN agencies in Geneva. There is the additional fact that our Representative in Geneva also leads the country's team at the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Perhaps next to the UN in terms of power, reach and acceptance, is the ILO. However, the latter has some unique advantages over the UN. First, having been established in 1919 as a global body, it is 26 years older.

Secondly, it has exhibited greater flexibility and resilience; although the membership of the UN and ILO are similar, while the League of Nations which was established along with the ILO collapsed under the weight of contradictory world politics, the ILO survived.

Thirdly, the ILO is a much more democratic universal institution; while the UN is only an assemblage of states, the ILO is a tripartite assembly of governments, employers and workers from all countries.

Fourthly, the ILO is an institution where people, be they employers or workers, can drag their home governments to and such complaints would be discussed by the whole world and the affected governments have no choice but to answer queries and put up their defence.

Fifth, the ILO, unlike the UN, routinely sets standards, call Conventions, which all member countries are expected to sign up to and domesticate. So, whoever occupies the Chair of the ILO would be one of the most powerful men on earth. It is this position Nigeria's Permanent Representative in Geneva, Ambassador Abiodun Richards Adejola, was elected into for a one-year tenure which expires in June 2024.

At first glance, it appeared the Tinubu administration is well-versed in international politics which is why in its clean sweep of the missions, it retained the two UN missions. But a glance at its reason for exempting these missions which is "...in view of the upcoming United Nations General Assembly, holding later this month", gives the impression that it may not have fully grasped the implications of yanking off the Chair of the ILO within three months of his 12-month tenure.

I was a member of the ILO Governing Board for three years. So, I know the enormous prestige its chairman confers on his country. I know the trust and confidence the rest of the world gathered under the ILO places on its chairman to deliver on its core mandate of promoting social justice, human and labour rights and ensuring universal social justice and lasting peace.

To date, perhaps Nigeria's greatest contribution to the ILO was at its very first attendance in 1961 as an independent country when it caught the world unawares by moving the motion to expel Apartheid South Africa from the world body. At the ILO Resolutions Committee meeting, 163 delegates voted for the Nigerian resolution, none against, while there were 89 abstentions. It was a long-drawn battle with most European government and employer delegates, including those of United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Australia, Italy, Spain, United States and of course, Apartheid South Africa opposing the motion.

Perhaps the Nigerian government needs to be reminded that the ILO is an essential element in the environment for human peace and development.



The ILO was established on June 28, 1919 under the Versailles Peace Treaty which ended World War I. Its establishment was based on the lessons learnt by humanity. These include the fact that "universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice". The second reason is the realisation that "conditions of labour exist involving such injustice, hardship and privation to large numbers of people as to produce unrest so great that the peace and harmony of the world are imperilled; and an improvement of those conditions is urgently required". Lastly, that "the failure of any nation to adopt humane conditions of labour is an obstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve the conditions in their own countries."

Twenty-five years later, under the Declaration of Philadelphia, humanity gave the ILO four additional tasks. These are to enforce the centrality of human rights to social policy, evolve international economic planning, build the consciousness that "labour is not a commodity" and, to ensure that "all human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity." It ended these with the famous declaration that: "Poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere". So, while the UN plays its politics, the ILO exists like the mythical Atlas carrying the world on his shoulders and ensuring the sky does not fall.

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independent country when it caught the world unawares by moving the motion to expel Apartheid South Africa from the world body. At the ILO Resolutions Committee meeting, 163 delegates voted for the Nigerian resolution, none against, while there were 89 abstentions. It was a long-drawn battle with most European government and employer delegates, including those of United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Australia, Italy, Spain, United States and of course, Apartheid South Africa opposing the motion.

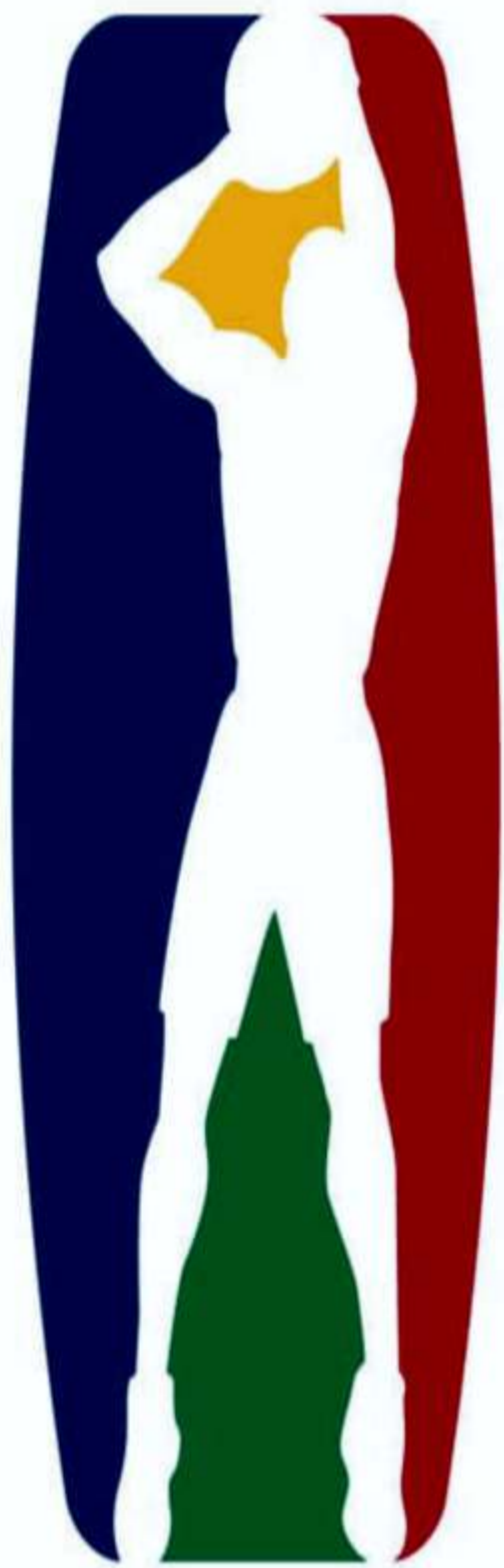
The Nigeria team that secured that monumental foreign relations victory was led by then Labour Minister, Chief Joseph Modupe Johnson (JMJ). Other members were government representatives: Tom Edogbeji, Aitkins Salubi and Tijani. M. Yusuf; Employer representative: Mrs. Moore, and that of Workers: Comrade Lawrence Borha.

Twenty-nine years after Nigeria moved that motion, Nelson Mandela, newly freed from apartheid jail after 27 years, stood before the ILO Conference on Friday June 8, 1990 to thank the ILO for that historic decision.

I, therefore, shudder that Nigeria would shoot itself in the foot by yanking off the Chairman of the ILO Governing Body who is just three months into leading that huge world assembly. I join other Nigerians and well-wishers knowledgeable on these matters in appealing to President Bola Tinubu to in the overall interest of our country, allow Ambassador Adejola complete his term as ILO Governing Body Chairman by leaving him in the Geneva Mission for the next nine months.

Culled from National Record.

2023 Basketball Africa League Champions Egypt's AL Ahly To Participate In FIBA Intercontinental Cup In Singapore



BASKETBALL AFRICA LEAGUE

By: **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

2023 Basketball Africa League (BAL) champion Al Ahly (Egypt) will participate in the 2023 FIBA Intercontinental Cup (ICC) at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore from September 21 to 24, 2023.

Al Ahly will compete in Group A alongside Brazil's Sesi Franca (BCLA champion) and NBA G League Ignite (NBA G League). Group B consists of China's Zhejiang Golden Bulls (CBA), Bahrain's Al Manama (WASL champion) and Germany's Telekom Baskets Bonn (BCL champion). The three teams in each group will

compete in round-robin play over the first three days of the tournament, with the top team in each group advancing to the finals on Sept. 24. Prior to the finals, the remaining four teams will play in the classification games.

Al Ahly earned a spot in the 33rd edition of the tournament after defeating Senegal's AS Douanes 80-65 to win the 2023 BAL Finals at BK Arena in Kigali, Rwanda in May.

Al Ahly's roster will be headlined by Ehab Amin, who averaged 12.7 points and 3.9 assists per game throughout the 2023 BAL season to help his team secure the championship. Al Ahly finished with a 7-1 record during the

Nile Conference group phase and playoffs, defeating Rwanda Energy Group and Mali's Stade Malien in the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively, to advance to the 2023 BAL Finals. Al Ahly will be coached by two-time BAL champion Agustin Julbe Bosch who won the championship in 2021 with Zamalek (Egypt) and in 2023 with Al Ahly. Bosch currently holds the best win-loss record (13-1) of any coach in the history of the league. In his first BAL season, Bosch's Zamalek finished 6-0, before leading Al Ahly to a 7-1 mark this season.

Former NBA Academy Africa

prospects Babacar Sane (Senegal) and Thierry Serge Darlan (Central African Republic) of NBA G League Ignite will also participate in the FIBA ICC. Sane and Darlan were part of the inaugural BAL Elevate program in 2022 and played for Senegal's Dakar Université Club (DUC) and Angola's Petro de Luanda, respectively.

This marks the third consecutive year that the reigning BAL champion participates in the FIBA ICC tournament, following Zamalek's (Egypt) participation in 2021 and US Monastir's (Tunisia) participation in 2022.

Delta Promises Youth Games Like Never Before



By: **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

With a few days to the opening ceremony of the 7th National Youth Games (NYG), the Delta State Government has promised top notch organisation and a sporting experience like never before for the participating athletes, officials and members of the public.

Chairman of the Delta State Sports Commission, Chief Tonobok Okowa, also Chairman of the Local Organising Committee (LOC), gave

the assurance in a world press conference in Asaba yesterday, disclosing that the state has planned a carnival-like opening and closing ceremonies with top musical acts, Ice Prince and Jaydee scheduled to entertain.

Okowa also informed that unlike previous editions of the games where the stands were virtually empty, the spectatorship in Delta is expected to be massive to fill the stands and cheer the athletes.

He assured that the over 23 competition venues are fully ready

except for minor finishing touches while equipment for the Gymnastic Centre has arrived and would be installed in a matter of days.

Okowa disclosed however, that there was a little challenge with accommodation occasioned by the postponement of the games into the period that schools have now resumed and most institutions are finding it difficult to make their hostels available as was contained in the initial plan.

Notwithstanding, he assured that improvisation has been made, including the procurement of fresh beddings, fans and other necessities for the comfort of the athletes.

All the 36 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory have entered for the games with over 4,500 participants who are expected to begin arriving Asaba from September 20 ahead of the opening ceremony on September 23.

2023 Basketball Africa League Champions Egypt's AL Ahly To Participate In FIBA Intercontinental Cup In Singapore

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Obasanjo's Verbal Assault On Oke Ogun Obas Despicable, Shameful - Chief Kuku

By ; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The founder of Odu Heritage International Organisation (OHIO), Chief Bolanle Amoke Kuku, on Sunday, said the last Friday verbal assault on Oke Ogun traditional rulers by Chief Olusegun Obasanjo was demeaning and shameful. Chief Kuku in a statement said the action of Chief

Obasanjo amounts to deliberate rubbishing of Yoruba's traditional institution and heritage, saying such shabby treatment of the monarchs was condemnable. "Former President Olusegun Obasanjo's disgusting order to Oyo Obas to stand up and sit down was denigrating and unjustifiable. As a Yoruba man, he has not only disgraced himself, but also lowered the esteem of our traditional rulers",

she said.

Chief Kuku added, "The question our former president of Yoruba extraction should answer is that can he publicly reprimand or address Emirs in the North like that or treat traditional institution in the South East or South-South the way he disgraced our revered monarchs on Friday during Iseyin-Oyo road project flag off?"

"You cannot decide to

sell your kinsmen cheaply in the market and turn around to buy him or her back in a princely sum. Relevant stakeholders in Yorubaland will soon take appropriate action on Chief Olusegun Obasanjo's gaffe". She stressed further, "The insult he meted out to the monarchs will be recorded against him in the historical annals of our race".



Chief Bolanle Amoke Kuku

APC To Obasanjo: Your Verbal Assault On Oke Ogun Traditional Rulers Premeditated, Uncalled For

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) on Sunday, described the Friday verbal assault on Oke Ogun traditional rulers by former President Olusegun Obasanjo in Iseyin as premeditated and uncalled for.

The party in a statement by its Publicity Secretary, Comrade Wale Sadare berated Chief Obasanjo for what it called his outburst on the traditional rulers and by ordering them to stand up and then sit down at a public function during the commissioning of LAUTECH campus in Iseyin.

Oyo APC emphasized that Chief Obasanjo's verbal assault against the traditional rulers was not

accidental or coincidental but premeditated, scripted and purposely delivered as a prize to people who had defied the former president on his mission to enthrone Mr. Peter Obi of the Labour Party against the popular choice of Sen. Bola Ahmed Tinubu of the APC in the last presidential election.

According to Oyo State APC, "It is evident that Chief Obasanjo used the avenue of his invitation to the road project commissioning to get back at certain individuals who openly rejected his presidential candidate, Peter Obi, in the build up to the last general election".

"We recall that one of the monarchs on seat appeared on some private radio stations during the electioneering and

mobilized support for Tinubu who won the election eventually. This did not go down well with the former president and he used the opportunity handed down to him by Gov. Makinde to hit back at his target", it said.

Oyo State APC added, "We condemn in strong terms the conduct of Chief Obasanjo who threw decorum to the wind on account of being a former president and chose to desecrate the rich culture and traditions of the Yoruba people.

"By assaulting the monarchs, who were at the occasion on invitation, the Owu-born former President had shown to the world that he was not worth his status as a statesman, title chief and leader on the African continent."

The party stressed, "It is on record that despite ruling Nigeria for a combined period of 12 years, Obasanjo did not make a significant impact on the lives of the people of Oyo State as the best he did (and still does) was removing an elected governor of the state and refusing to add value in the areas of infrastructure, wealth creation and empowerment of our people. " So, the good people of the Pacesetter State do not hold him in high esteem and they expect little or nothing from him even if has another opportunity to become president again in future. However, there is a pertinent question begging for answer regarding the choice of

Obasanjo as the chairman of the occasion at the instance of Gov. Makinde.

" The simple truth is that the whole scenario has further exposed the hypocrisy in Gov. Makinde who has done everything possible to claim the glory of President Bola Tinubu's victory in Oyo State in the February 25 presidential election".

Oyo State APC noted, "How can you be loyal to two opposing characters in a political contest at the same time? It is obvious, Obasanjo is anti-Tinubu and Makinde is also pro-Obasanjo while we watch keenly as the governor continues his tricky game in the political space".