

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

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L-R: Permanent Secretary Ministry of Establishment and Training Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed; Secretary to the State Government Prince AbdulKadir Aliyu Mahe; Kwara State Deputy Governor Mr Kayode Alabi; Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON); Commissioner for Planning and Economic Development Hon. Kora Sabi; Hon. Ganiyu Gabriel (Representing Speaker Kwara State House of Assembly); and Commissioner for Finance Dr. Hauwa Nuru; during 2024 Budget Policy Direction Hangout, in Ilorin, yesterday.

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

While stressing that the quest to ensure democracy and truth prevail in the country, former Vice President, Alhaji Atiku ABUBAKAR has called on Labour Party Presidential Candidate, Mr. Peter Obi and his counterpart from the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso to join him in his campaign on ensuring probity and accountability in the country.

Atiku made the call at a world press conference in Abuja yesterday.

"It is not for or about Atiku Abubakar. It is a quest for the enthronement of truth, morality, and accountability in our public affairs. In line with this, therefore, I am calling on all well-meaning Nigerians, leaders of thought, our religious leaders, our traditional leaders, our community leaders, our political leaders, and in particular, Governor Peter Obi of the Labour Party and Governor Rabiu Kwankwaso of the NNPP and, the leaders of every political party in Nigeria, and, indeed, every single person who loves this

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country, as I do, and who wishes nothing but the best for the country, as I do, to join me in this campaign to enshrine probity, accountability and the basic principles of justice, morality and uprightness in our country and in our government. This is a task for each and every one of us," he declared.

Atiku GCON, Waziri Adamawa, who was Vice President of Nigeria (1999-2007) and Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (2023), spoke at the Shehu Yar'Adua Centre on the 5th of October 2023.

He said that he considers it important to address and report to you today on issues that define the future of elective government and legitimate leadership in our country.

"Political leadership and active citizenship matter because they are ways through which we all work together to build a country that works for all who live in it. Our country is bigger than any of us, and its standing in the world affects the fate of all who come from or live in it. As leaders, it is our duty to advance the well-being of all our people and of the country.

"For this purpose, my generation worked hard to return the soldiers to the barracks and to defend the right of the people to

elect and establish for ourselves a legitimate government. Our elections are established and governed by law and founded on the constitution from which leadership and government in Nigeria alone derive their legitimacy.

"The people look up to us as leaders to respect these rules and, where necessary, to defend them. This is what brings us here," he said.

According to him, "we are called upon again as a people to uphold and defend the ground rules of elective government in our country. The constitution prescribes the requirements for those who seek the highest elective office in the land.

"It should not take months or, indeed, decades, for the institutions concerned to be able to do their work in establishing the credibility of any certificates presented by candidates for public office.

"We undertook this journey at great cost and for important reasons. The ground rules for legitimate governance in our country need to be upheld, and the reputation of our country is at stake. That affects everyone, Nigerians everywhere.

"I am a democrat by conviction and a citizen of a country that I love. The issues at stake in this case require us once more to re-

dedicate ourselves to both the country and our constitution.

"Now, we entrust these facts to us all as citizens and as leaders of the institutions charged with interpreting our constitution. I should thank the lawyers both in Nigeria and in the United States, who have assisted us in bringing clarity and definitive answers to these issues that appear to have defied our institutions for nearly a quarter of a century. I also want to extend my gratitude to Nigerian citizens and friends of Nigeria both within and beyond the shores of our country for their patience as we have sought to find the facts and establish the truth," he said.

He paid glowing tributes to the late human rights activist, Chief Gani Fawehinmi, SAN, whom he said, inspired them on this path of discovery.

"Now, he can truly rest in peace in the assurance that what he started about 23 years ago has come to fruition. Gani's vindication today gives credence to the saying that no matter how fast a lie runs, the truth will someday overtake it.

"Former American President Thomas Jefferson once said, "If I had to choose between government without newspapers, and newspapers without government, I wouldn't hesitate to choose the latter".

From exposing the Watergate scandal and unravelling the dubious certificates of politicians, journalists have maintained eternal vigilance by bridging the gap and stepping in when other arms of government failed.

"It is for these reasons that commendation must be given to David Hundeyin, an independent journalist whose extraordinary work and those of many more young people like him has become a source of inspiration. Special thanks must be given to the millions of Nigerian youths and citizen journalists too who continue to put out the truth online even when no one is listening. Indeed, the price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance.

"They have put the country first



Atiku

in their firm commitment to unravel the truth and hold leaders accountable. This gives me the hope that we have worthy partners in the struggle to reclaim the country we call home," he said.

Police Allegedly Led Thugs To Attack Bullion Hotel - Ambassador Ajadi

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bullion Go-Neat Global Limited, owner of Bullion Hotel and other investments, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo yesterday, alleged that the political thugs that carried out an attack on his Bullion Hotel located in Simawa Area of Ogun State on Tuesday, were allegedly given cover by men of the Nigeria Police.

Addressing journalists yesterday, Ambassador Ajadi said the Tuesday attack was the

second one after the first on September 5, 2023, when a group of thugs, some masquerading as soldiers, stormed the Bullion Hotel.

The NNPP Chieftain pointed out that the information he gathered and the attitude of the men of the Police in the ongoing investigation has shown that the political thugs are being aided by the Police from Shimawa Division as many of them have not been arrested despite committing heinous crime.

Ambassador Ajadi stressed that during the September attack, a

Security Guard in the Hotel, Taiwo Lawal, sustained severe injuries while attempting to protect him, adding the turn of events since the attack started in September has shown that the political thugs are given cover by the men of Nigerian Police.

The New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) governorship candidate of the party in the 2023 election in Ogun State said it was unbelievable that the hotel's intelligence officers who played pivotal role in the arrest of one of the assailants who attacked the hotel in September, Nwokpar

Offor were detained by the Police and later charged to Court. Stressing that instead of detaining the thug, Offor, the security personnel responsible for his capture were arrested and charged by the Police, saying, before leaving the scene, Officer Lawal who came along with Officer Kenny hit one of the hotel's officers, John Osita, in his chest twice.

Alleging that some thugs came and started shooting guns at the Bullion's security officers immediately after the police vehicle left the Bullion Hotel

premises for their station, Ambassador Ajadi said the attack of last Tuesday took place around 8 a.m., saying the assailants, identified themselves as Alowonle's Boys, who is the Chairman of Okada Riders in Simawa Area of Ogun State.

Ajadi said what made Tuesday attack worrisome and more distressing, is the alleged involvement of Police officers who not only protected the thugs, but also physically assaulted two hotel security personnel who were simply watching television in the hotel.

UNN Graduate, Accomplice Land In Police Net Over Alleged Romance Scams, Identity Theft

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Operatives of the Nigeria Police Force National Cybercrime Centre have apprehended a graduate of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and an accomplice over their alleged involvement in criminal conspiracy, identity theft, and romance scams.

Identified as Jerry Okoye and Ifeanyi Nwosu, both resident at Panasonic Estate in Idu, Abuja, the arrest of the duo may not be unconnected with a romance scam with a 69-year-old white woman, known as Winnie, who has been defrauded of huge sum. The Force Public Relations Officer ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, in a statement, disclosed that substantial evidence from the electronic devices recovered from the suspects has shed light on their criminal activities.

He therefore, urged members of the public to remain vigilant and cautious when interacting with individuals online, especially those they have not met in person.

The statement reads, "In furtherance of the matching order of the Inspector-General of



The suspects

Police, Ag. IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, Ph.D, NPM, to bequeath to Nigerians, a safer cyber space, the Nigeria Police Force National Cybercrime Centre recently apprehended two individuals involved in criminal conspiracy, identity theft, and romance scams, while efforts are in top gear to apprehend others who are on our radar.

"These suspects, namely Jerry Okoye and Ifeanyi Nwosu, both

residents of Panasonic Estate in Idu, Abuja, have confessed to their participation in computer-related frauds associated with romance scams and identity theft. Substantial evidence from their electronic devices has shed light on their criminal activities.

"Jerry Okoye, a former student of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), claimed to have been in the music industry since 2016 and operates a public relations company.

"However, he confessed to engaging in fraudulent activities dating back to 2014, primarily through Facebook. The investigation also uncovered compelling evidence, linking him to fraud and romance scams, extending up to the present day.

"Similarly, Ifeanyi Nwosu, a close associate of Jerry Okoye, who was arrested along with the first suspect, claimed that his visit to the residence was for music recording purposes.

"However, he admitted to having a unique connection with a 69-year-old white woman known as Winnie, whom he identifies as both a fan and a friend.

"This connection goes beyond casual friendship as evidence indicating a series of cash exchanges between Ifeanyi Nwosu and the elderly woman have come to light.

"The Nigeria Police Force remains unwavering in our commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our citizens by relentlessly cracking down on criminal activities such as identity theft, romance scams, sextortion, and other cyber-related crimes.

"We urge members of the public to remain vigilant and cautious when interacting with individuals online, especially those they have not met in person.

"We call upon all Nigerians and residents to actively collaborate with the Force in securing our cyber-space and protecting our communities from these menaces. Safeguarding Nigeria is a collective responsibility that must not be trivialized".

CSU: Action Alliance Knocks Agu Over Disparaging Comments On Tinubu

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Action Alliance (AA) has taken a knock on Barr. Kalu Kalu Agu over his alleged disparaging comments about President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, over his Chicago State University (CSU) certificate, declaring that his comments on the President shows that he lacks courtesy.

Describing Agu as an impersonator, the party said the outburst of the politician in an interview was uncouth and expressed worries about why a man who has shady records and questionable precedence would result to public harassment on the person of the President.

National chairman of the AA, Dr Adekunle Rufai Omoaje in a statement made available to the media in Kaduna yesterday, said the outburst of Agu was unexpected of a man whose records are full of shady deals.

According to Omoaje, "A situation where you have an undercover and supposed legal mind getting himself involved in unprofessional acts of cutting corners with abuse of court processes involving

filing cases in the name of clients without briefs, then interrogation of such conducts deserves diligent attention."

He described him as an impersonator, saying that in an interview with a frontline television station attempted to feign the ubiquitous mind of justice in an attempt to earn pounds for porridge cashing in on the trending news in town.

According to the statement, "Watching a presumed legal mind disparaging the president, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu riding at the nonexistent time and resource wasting matters concerning the Chicago State University saga, we were appalled at the level of deception displayed in that interview.

"We in Action Alliance can say without mincing words that Barr. Kalu Kalu Agu does not and has not earned any level of moral pedigree to go to the marketplace like he did tell the world that he has an understanding of moral values. This is the same man who used various unprofessional sharp practices to file cases in the name of our party without briefs from us, only to go and withdraw

the same having negotiated for undue and undeserved sleaze, and proceed like a quisling.

"It was our findings that a team of unprofessional, confused, and desperate lawyers filed frivolous suits against President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Senator Kashim Shettima on grounds that they are not qualified candidates worthy of being on the ballot.

"Given the dubious acts of Barr Kalu Kalu Agu, we filed various applications in the Federal High Court (Abuja Division) as interested parties and got judgments against him.

"Just to mention a few. Barr. Kalu Kalu Agu filed a Federal High Court case no: FHC/ABJ/CS/1256/2022, Action Alliance vs. INEC, APC & BOLA TINUBU and ors, without any brief from the Action Alliance. In another matter also at the Federal High Court in suite no. FHC/ABJ/CS/1154/2022 Action Alliance is being. INEC, NNPP, RABIU MUSA KWAKWANSO, and ors without any brief from the party as well. He filed these

cases to win personal aggrandizement from respondents at the expense of the party without being engaged.

"It took the last-minute effort of the party upon getting wind of the suite there pendency to get the cases struck out based on submission that he was never briefed by the party to file such matters. The same Kalu Kalu Agu whom the court slammed punitive cost of 1,000,000.00 (One million Naira only) at the court of Hon. Justice Binta Nyako in Action Alliance vs. INEC & 6 ors (FHC/ABJ/CS/1256/2022) to be paid on the Treasury Single Account as the punitive cost for the frivolous suits being filed by him and his cohorts in court, the court went further to state that he should be mindful of how he is being used by desperate politicians. As we speak, he has not paid the cost against him, Omoaje added."

He therefore, urged members of the public to be wary of the activities of Agu and called on security agencies to beam their searchlight on him.

Kwara Gov, MDAs Hold Policy Talks On 2024 Budget

*Human capital devt, economic growth, improved welfare top agenda

*Gov says new budget will prioritise ongoing projects

By; BILIQIS
ON A O L A P O
OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq yesterday, led policy direction talks with top officials to guide government's ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) as different stakeholders commence preparations for the 2024 budget.

This is coming ahead of the citizens' budget engagements, which are due to begin shortly.

The governor said the budget will prioritise the completion of the ongoing capital projects and inauguration of same to improve living standards and create more jobs for the people of the state, as well as on social protection to support the vulnerable.

He also said that the government will continue to prioritise the workers' welfare, including making provision for discussions around the new minimum wage.

The Policy Direction hangout for Kwara State 2024 Budget Preparation was attended by Deputy Governor Kayode Alabi; Hon. Gabriel Ganiyu Abolarin, who stood in for

the House of Assembly Speaker Rt. Hon. Yakubu Danladi Salihu; cabinet members led by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) Prince AbdulKadir Aliyu Mahe; Permanent Secretaries; and directors of planning.

"In the new year, our focus will be to complete and inaugurate many of our projects, thereby creating jobs for the people. Workers' welfare and social protection for the vulnerable will remain a top priority," the Governor said.

"The government will also make provision for discussions around the new minimum wage. We will also strengthen our efforts through advocacies, legislations, and collaboration with all players in the economy.

"The direction of our administration has been clearly outlined in the Sustainable Development Plan (SDP: 2021-2030). The 10-year economic blueprint detailed our policy objectives and priorities. I urge every cabinet member and government official to familiarise themselves with this key document, along with a few others like the Agricultural

Transformation Plan.

"Our projects, programmes, policy pronouncements, and other priorities as an administration have been inspired by the visions expressed in these documents. For that reason, the 2024 budget will be tailored to the same objective.

"On top of this agenda is human capital development which include access to quality education, sanitation facility, infrastructural upgrade and expansion, improved and diversified economic base and revenue generation, strong fiscal base, youth empowerment, social protection, and gender inclusion, sustainable environment, sustainable energy, sports development, food security through promotion of smallholder and commercial agriculture, safety of lives and property, and create the right environment for capital investments."

He charged all government officials in the state to act in their various duty posts in line with the current economic reality, as the government continues to meet obligations and impact the

lives of Kwarans.

Prince Mahe, for his part, said the 2024 budget policy direction hangout was an important moment for the state to discuss the financial roadmap that will guide it in the coming year.

He encouraged all key stakeholders to engage in constructive dialogue and provide valuable insights in the course of deliberation on the budget. Hon. Sabi, in his introductory remarks, said the event was aimed at providing step-by-step directions to make the 2024 budget preparation task easier and implementable.

He thanked AbdulRazaq for his outstanding leadership style and support for the Ministry, especially the approval to train officers on zero-based budgeting systems and processes.

The event also devolved into a question and answer session during which permanent secretaries sought clarifications and made observations on different developments affecting their ministries, including the need to adopt the new Energy Act and some current economic trends in the country and how to mitigate them.

ABU Alumni Urges Members To Contribute Financially As University Marks 60th Anniversary



ABU Alumni Urges Members To Contribute Financially As University Marks 60th Anniversary
By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The newly elected National President Worldwide of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria (ABU), Alumni Association, Malam Adamu Kontagora has encouraged the alumnus to participate in the endowment contributions as the university celebrates 60 years of existence.

He made the call in a statement distributed to journalists in Abuja, in respect of 60 years anniversary of ABU Zaria. Malam Kontagora said the alumni is in partnership with ABU Zaria under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, Professor Kabiru Bala to ensure the success of the project as the university attained six decades in existence.

Malam Adamu Kontagora who was confident with the leadership of former Secretary to the Government of Federation, Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, appointed as the Chairman of Board of Trustees with other illustrious alumni, said that they would deliver positively.

He appealed to the alumni not to relent in ensuring they contribute to the development of their alma

mater.

Also in a letter to the Alumni, the Vice Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Professor Kabiru Bala explained that the foundation is intended to give the university the much needed financial stability, flexibility and confidence to make capital improvements, build capacity in emerging academic areas.

Also expected, is cutting edge research and adapting to the changing needs of ABU Zaria.

Professor Kabiru Bala explained that the foundation has launched annual alumni and friends giving for the university and suggested that a minimum of twenty five thousand Naira for graduates of five years and above, while its optional for graduates of less than five years to give what they desire.

"I am by this letter, appealing especially to you, our alumni and friends to contribute financially to the Annual Giving starting this year, 2023 and continually, thereafter, for sustainability employed by major universities the world over.

"The Endowment Foundation account is U.B.A 1023243258," he said.



L-R: Permanent Secretary Ministry of Establishment and Training Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed; Secretary to the State Government Prince AbdulKadir Aliyu Mahe; Kwara State Deputy Governor Mr Kayode Alabi; Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON); Commissioner for Planning and Economic Development Hon. Kora Sabi; Hon. Ganiyu Gabriel (Representing Speaker Kwara State House of Assembly); and Commissioner for Finance Dr. Hauwa Nuru; during 2024 Budget Policy Direction Hangout, in Ilorin, yesterday.

London Protesters Patriotic Nigerians -- NNPP Spokesman

*Opposition tasks judiciary on independence

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) has said that those who staged a protest at the Nigeria High Commission in London on the nation's independence day, are patriotic Nigerians resident abroad who only expressed their outrage over what they see as injustice.

Some Nigerians had protested in London on the Kano tribunal judgement, which was criticized

by a body known as APC Stakeholders.

However, in a statement by the NNPP spokesman, Barrister Ladipo Johnson, made available to the press in Abuja on Tuesday, the party said the protesters are patriotic Nigerians and noted that their action is an expression of their outrage over the injustice they noted in the judgement on the Kano governorship election matters.

Johnson stated that the APC should begin to understand that

protest, even by one person, is important and should take note of such legitimate concerns and messages in such protest as freedom of speech, expression, and protests are essential parts of democracy.

"As far as we know those protesters are Nigerians resident abroad who merely denounced what they see as an act of injustice as they proclaimed in their placards.

"Obviously, they are not the usual rented crowd like we see

by the APC but true patriots who drew our attention and that of the global community to a sense of injustice. It is only reasonable to take into account their messages for redemption", he stated.

The statement also refuted any claim to fight the government or agencies of government, but that the protesters only made the case that the judiciary needs help in order to be truly independent.

"The truth is that the protest obviously touched the nerves of

the APC and we could see that in their negative reactions.

"However, the protest by those patriotic Nigerians has brought to the consciousness of the global community the fact that the Nigerian judiciary now needs help to be truly independent. So contrary to such negative colorations by the APC, the protesters only stressed this point rather than fighting the judiciary or any agencies of government".

Ododo Suspends Campaign, Pays Condolence Visit To Koto As Khadijat Dies Of Thuggery Attack

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The All Progressives Congress (APC), in Kogi State has suspended its campaign activities for the November 11 Governorship Election in the state indefinitely.

The decision of the party was taken as a mark of respect for a member, Ms Khadijat Yahaya, whose source of dastardly murder in Koton Karfe is being traded between APC and SDP.

While the All Progressives Congress (APC) is pointing accusing fingers at the Social Democratic Party (SDP) for the gruesome murder, the Social Democratic Party is accusing its rival party of maliciously labelling the party to cover up their misdeeds after an attack by suspected thugs fielded

by them.

Only recently, spokesperson for the state APC Campaign Council, Mr Kingsley Fanwo who doubles as the State Commissioner for Information, told journalists at a press conference that it was a malicious attack on the party by the opposing party.

In turn, the leader of the Social Democratic Party, Hassan Enape accused APC of fielding the thugs to disrupt the well organised rally in the town and wondered why "the hell" the thugs armed to the teeth were assigned to carry out the attack.

Khadijat allegedly lost her life after a clash between supporters of Social Democratic Party and those of the APC in Kotonkarfe on September 29, when the later took her campaign train to the ancient town.

Meanwhile, the state APC governorship candidate, Alhaji Usman Ododo has humbly visited the family of the deceased in Kotonkarfe on Tuesday to empathise with them over her demise.

Ododo expressed shock at her demise and prayed God for the repose of her soul, while Malam Saliu Akawu, thanked Ododo for the visit.

Akawu said the conduct of Ododo showed that he is a compassionate leader who will always identify with his people.

He said that Khadijat was a very peace-loving person whose life was brutally terminated by the bullets of the gun.

Ododo also visited the Palace of the Ohimege of Koton Karfe, Alhaji Abdulrazak Koto, where he expressed sadness over the death of Khadijat whom he described as a woman of peace.

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

Some members of staff of Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) have been suspended for allegedly negotiating with passengers onboard Lagos-Ibadan Train Service (LITS) to pay fare without obtaining official boarding ticket.

Deputy Director, Public Relations of NRC, Mr. Yakub Mahmood, disclosed the development in a statement titled, "Railway Suspends Erring Staff."

"This misconduct is regrettable and unacceptable as it negates the tenets and norms of the Corporation. The Corporation has therefore placed the identified erring officers on immediate suspension pending the outcome of the in-depth investigation already ongoing by the Management Committee set up to look into the issue," Mahmood wrote in the statement made available on Wednesday.

NRC meted out the suspension to the workers following a viral video on various social media platforms showing the workers negotiating with passengers to pay without obtaining official boarding ticket.

The Corporation condemned the misconduct, describing it as "a flagrant disobedience to

Fraudulent Fare Collection: Nigerian Railway Suspends Employees, Deploys Electronic Ticketing System

the laid down rules and utter betrayal of the confidence reposed on such workers, especially at this time that the federal government is making efforts at revitalising and modernising the corporation."

The Corporation assured that disciplinary proceedings in line with the extant rules citing relevant sections of the NRC General Rules and Public Service Rules (PSR) will be visited on those found wanting or connected with irresponsible act.

The Management of Nigerian Railway Corporation therefore enjoined passengers to demand and insist on being issued boarding tickets after making appropriate payment at designated stations or book online appropriately.

"Please note that the electronic ticketing system is been deployed and will be available on both the Lagos-Ibadan Train Service and the Warri-Itakpe Train Service (WITS) by end of October 2023," Nigerian Railway Corporation announced.



Plateau: Troops On Special Tracking Operations Recover Remains Of Missing ARDO

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

Following a Special Forces Tracking Operations conducted by troops of Operation SAFE HAVEN based on credible intelligence from well meaning locals, the remains of a missing Fulani leader, Ardo Adamu Idris Gabdo, the Ardo Panyam have been discovered and recovered for burial

The troops conducted the operations in the early hours of Thursday October 5, 2023 and were able to identify and recover the remains of the body of the missing Ardo around Boi along Pankshin - Bauchi Road in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

The body has since been handed over to the family for proper burial.

This breakthrough was made possible through the continued community engagements employed by OPSH.

This remains key to the search operations, as troops worked closely with community leaders and critical stakeholders as well as family members of Ardo Adamu Gabdo to gather vital information and coordinate the search efforts.

The steadfast collaboration between the leadership of Operation SAFE HAVEN and communities also demonstrates the commitment and

determination of both parties to ensure justice is served on the perpetrators.

Consequently, the recovery of Ardo Adamu Idris Gabdo's remains marks a significant step forward in unravelling the circumstances surrounding his disappearance.

The investigation will now proceed with renewed vigor to identify and apprehend those responsible for the heinous crime and quickly bring them to justice as directed by the Chief of Army Staff.

OPSH will continue to work tirelessly and stop at nothing to bring the perpetrators of all evil acts to justice and ensure security of lives and property on the Plateau especially and the entire Joint Operations Area.

The General Officer Commanding 3 Division Nigerian Army and Commander Operation SAFE HAVEN, Major General A.E. Abubakar while commending the special operation, extended his heartfelt condolence to the family and loved ones of Ardo Adamu Idris Gabdo.

He urged the general public to remain vigilant, cooperate with security agencies and provide any relevant information that may assist in the ongoing investigations.

He further enjoined law abiding citizens to join hands together to



create a safe and secured environment for all residents devoid of criminal elements as he assured that justice will be served on anybody found culpable.

It would be recalled that the Ardo Adamu Idris Gabdo reportedly went missing on Sunday September 24, 2023 when he left Bauchi State on a visit to his siblings and friends residing in Panyam of Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State.



Governor Inuwa Yahaya Swears-in Head Of Service, 17 Commissioners, 12 Perm Secs

*Urges appointees to uphold highest standards of ethics, integrity

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has sworn in 17 newly appointed commissioners, urging them to uphold the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, said that also sworn-in, were the Head of Civil Service, Alhaji Ahmed Kasimu Abdullahi and 12 newly appointed Permanent Secretaries.

While performing the ceremony at the new Banquet Hall of the Government House, the Governor emphasized that his administration has zero tolerance for corruption and incompetence, maintaining that his focus is on delivering results to the people of Gombe State.

Governor Inuwa outlined his vision for the state, which is centered around improving infrastructure, boosting agriculture, promoting education, and enhancing healthcare delivery, urging the cabinet members to support him achieve the goal.

He said, "I would like to remind you that your appointments go along with important responsibilities. You are entrusted with the task of serving the people of Gombe State with integrity, transparency, and accountability. The decisions you make will have a direct impact on the lives of our citizens, and I have every confidence that you will approach your roles with a great sense of duty and highest ethical standards".



Gov Inuwa

"Let me also remind you that our administration has zero tolerance for corruption and incompetence. As members of the Executive Council and as leaders in the civil service, you are expected to be diligent in your duties and be prudent in the management of the scarce resources to be placed at your disposal. You must be ready to put the collective interest of Gombe State at the forefront of every decision you make. As a servant of the people, your objective should always be about the progress of our dear state and the welfare of its people," the Governor warned.

He added that his administration has in the past 4 years, introduced various reforms as part of efforts to transform the civil service and place it on a part to achieve greater efficiency and improved service delivery. "This includes the establishment of the Bureau of Public Service Reforms to reposition the civil service. We also settled over N7.9 billion in gratuity obligations inherited from the

previous administration, ensured timely payment of pensions, and implemented the new minimum wage at the state level since February 2020," Governor Inuwa Yahaya stated.

He reminded the new executive Council members that engagement of relevant stakeholders in running governance is crucial to successful implementation of institutional developmental agenda.

The Governor described the posts of commissioners and permanent secretaries as two important positions that are crucial in the successful implementation of the development agenda for the state.

The Governor noted that their appointment was informed by their qualification, dedication, loyalty, and commitment to the progress of the state.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya noted that the State Executive Council which comprises of the Governor, Deputy Governor and commissioners, plays a vital role

in formulating policies, implementing programmes and ensuring the translation of the administration's vision into tangible results for the people.

"In the same vein Permanent Secretaries as fulcrum that form the back bone of the Civil Service as they came in providing administrative expertise in executing government programmes and continuity that is needed for effective and efficient governance".

"The decisions you make will have a direct impact on the lives of our citizens, and I have every confidence that you will approach your roles with great sense of duty and highest ethical standards."

Earlier in an address of welcome, the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi described the swearing-in of members of the State Executive Council, Head of Civil Service and 12 Permanent Secretaries as clear testament to the Governor' deposition as a political icon whose footsteps are worthy to be followed by men and women of goodwill in the State.

He noted that the reappointment of some members of the State Executive Council justified their hard work, dedication and commitment to duty which ultimately impacted on the incredible performance of Governor Inuwa Yahaya in the last four years.

In his vote of thanks on behalf of the newly sworn-in commissioners, Barrister Zubair Muhammad Umar, thanked the governor for finding them worthy to serve the state, assuring of their total commitment to service,

dedication and loyalty.

"We pledge and give you our words that we know your vision, we know your aspirations, and we know where you want to take Gombe State to, and inshallah Allah we will go with you, we will accompany you; and we will serve you with all honesty, loyalty and dedication", he affirmed.

Those sworn-in as members of the state executive Council are: Abdulkadir Mohammed Waziri (Local Government and Community Development), Adamu Inuwa Pantami (Youth and Sports Development), Barr. Zubairu Mohammed Umar (Attorney-General/Commissioner for Justice), Dr. Abdullahi Bappa Garkuwa (Science, Technology and Innovation), Dr. Aishatu Umar Maigari (Education) and Dr. Barnabas Malle (Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperatives).

Others are : Dr. Habu Dahiru (Health), Dr. Usman Maijama'a Kallamu (Works, Housing and Transport), Hon. Asmau'u Mohammed Iganus (Women Affairs and Social Development), Lt. Col. Abdullahi Bello, Rtd (Internal Security and Home Affairs) and Mijinyawa Ardo Tilde (Information & Culture).

The rest are Mohammed Shetima Gadam (Higher Education), Mohammed Gambo Magaji (Finance), Mohammed Saidu Fawu (Water, Environment and Forest Resources), Nasiru Mohammed Aliyu (Trade, Industry and Tourism), Salihu Baba Alkali (Budget and Economic Planning) and Sanusi Ahmad Pindiga (Energy and Mineral Resources).



Zulum Affirms Administration's Commitment To Addressing Humanitarian Issues

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Engr Babagana Umara Zulum, has affirmed his administration's commitment to addressing humanitarian issues and ensuring meaningful development in communities across Local Government Areas, especially those affected by the over a decade old insurgency.

Zulum made this known on Wednesday in Abuja, during a meeting with a delegation from the EU led by the Director of European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), Dr Andrea Koulaimah.

The EU team comprised of the Deputy head of delegation EU, Zissimos Vergoo, Head of Office ECHO Abuja, Bart Witteveen, and the Head of human development, EU delegation, Leila Ben Amor. "Whether humanitarian or

development, we are all working towards a common goal of a peaceful Borno State, Northeast of Nigeria and the world at large. Borno State Government is not against any partners and we welcome all", Zulum said.

Zulum's administration since 2019, constructed over 12,000 resettlement houses with thousands of others rehabilitated and people being resettled with livelihoods to enable them to pick up the pieces of their lives.

Modern health and educational facilities were constructed with over 7,000 teachers and medical personnel including doctors and nurses were recruited.

The meeting was attended by Senator Kaka Shehu Lawan, the APC chairman Hon. Bello Ayuba, Amb. Adamu Abbas and the Principal Secretary, Government House, Barrister Mustapha Ali Busuguma.



FHANI Urges Uba Sani To Redeem State Over N250m FP Fund



By ; A L E X

UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Family Health Advocates in Nigeria Initiative (FHANI), on Wednesday, appealed to the Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani, to redeem the integrity of the state by cash backing the N250m Family Planning (FP) fund approved by his predecessor, Nasir el-Rufai.

FHANI, a leading organization of the Kaduna State Advocacy working group on FP, made the appeal at a press conference in Kaduna to orient journalists on the current situation of FP in the state, led by its Vice Chairman, Dr. Suleyman Tanko and Secretary, Benjamin Maigari.

According to FHANI, "the State government was then celebrated and commended by local and international organizations for being the First State in Nigeria to make that commitment which set precedence for other States to follow.

"Kaduna State is an acclaimed pace-setter in all policies and programs in this country which we strongly believe will not be derailed by the present Administration of Mal. Uba Sani."

They noted that the procurement of FP commodities became imperative because of the high demand for FP services in the state and the resultant effects for lack of it.

They further noted that due to the economic situation in the state and the country, the state can decide to be releasing the funds in instalments to make it easier.

By so doing, they said the state will be able to reduce the burden of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity by 30% through child birth spacing thereby improving the health indices of the state as well as maintaining the integrity of the state

government at both local and international community.

They explained that the delay in making the funds available is now making Kaduna a laughing stock because states like Ogun, Lagos and Gombe which copied from Kaduna State have since paid-in their money into the basket and procurement made on their behalf.

"During conferences and international gatherings on Family Planning, Kaduna State continues to become a laughing stock due to its inability to cash back the money despite being the first State to be internationally recognized in Nigeria to be given a go-ahead.

"As an organization based in Kaduna State we understand the current economic situation of the state and as such, we are calling on the Kaduna State Government as a matter of urgency to Cashback the 250 million Naira this year in installments, instead of the lump sum taken into consideration, the many demands chasing the meager resources available to Government." They added.

Meanwhile, the Executive Secretary (ES), Kaduna State Health Supply Management Agency (KADHSMA), Aisha Isyaku, said the idea to make FP fund available in instalments as suggested by FHANI is a welcome development.

According to the ES, when she received the State Advocacy Working Group on FP, on Wednesday, the new approach will make it easy for the government. She promised to write Planning and Budget Commission to break down the cash backing into N20m monthly installments, urging FHANI to continue its advocacy to the commission and ministry of finance.



Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke and Timi of edeland, Oba Munirudeen Adesola Lawal, Laminisa 1 @ the 2023 Sango Timi Festival held @ Timi Palace, Ede, Osun State. Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO

Nasarawa APC Faults Tribunal Verdict, Backs Appeal Move

By; SAMSON YAKI, Lafia

The State Executive Committee of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Nasarawa State has backed Governor Abdullahi Sule over his decision to appeal the majority decision of the Governorship Election Petition Tribunal (GEPT) that annulled his election and sacked him from office.

According to the party in a statement signed by its Chairman, Hon. Aliyu Bello, the Justice Ezekiel Ajayi-led Tribunal erred in arriving at the decision.

The Tribunal on Monday, sacked Governor Sule and declared David Ombugadu of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) as the authentic winner of the March 18 gubernatorial election in the State.

Reacting however, the party said the Tribunal committed a monumental error in declaring 45-year-old PhD holder in Development Economics, Ombugadu as the winner of the election.

"We identify ourselves with the dissenting judgment which is firmly rooted in Law, facts and logic. This further strengthened our resolve to pursue the appeal.

"The facts and arguments presented by our Legal team and that of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), against the petition of the PDP and its candidate, David Emmanuel Ombugadu are overwhelming and incontrovertible. We are therefore in awe as to how the Tribunal arrived at its puzzling decision," the party, said.

"However, as a law abiding people oriented political party that believes in the rule of law, the APC in Nasarawa State hereby appeal to all the good people of the State, especially our teeming supporters, and well-wishers to remain calm, and await the pursuit of justice, by our

hardworking Governor, His Excellency, Abdullahi A. Sule, to take its course.

"Meanwhile, we reassure His Excellency of the party's support and loyalty. We are very optimistic that the inadvertent decision of the Tribunal is only a drawback, which will be redressed at the Appeal Court.

"We also wish to urge His Excellency not be perturbed by this political blink, but to remain focused, and ever preoccupied with the task of providing good governance to the State, which he has been doing over the past years," the statement reads further.

They however warned the opposition party in the State against "harassing and intimidating people in the guise of celebrating the spilt judgment".

"Decorum and sense of responsibility should be employed to avoid breakdown the law and order," they added.

On the economic hardship being faced by Nigerians following the removal of fuel subsidy by the Federal Government, the party sympathised and commend them for their endurance and patience.

"We are confident that both the Federal, and Nasarawa State Governments will as promised, provide more palliatives to Nigerians, especially to the vulnerable people and the civil servants, a view to caution the economic hardships in the country.

"We are also happy to note that the Organized Labour and the Federal Government has reached an agreement which has averted the planned strike action, which would have brought more hardship to Nigerians.

The APC in Nasarawa State wishes to commend the Organized Labour for its understanding and patriotism, just as we are optimistic that the Federal Government its side of the agreement," the party further stated.

Mohbad: Police Declares Primeboy Wanted, Places N1m Reward

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Lagos State Police Command has declared wanted one Owodunni Ibrahim over his failure to honour invitation in connection with the ongoing Investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of a Lagos based hop artiste, Ilerioluwa Aloba a.k.a Mohbad.

In addition, the Command has resolved to reward any one with useful information that can lead to the arrest of Ibrahim popularly called Primeboy.

Spokesperson of the Lagos State Police Command SP Benjamin Hundeyin in a statement on Wednesday, said Owodunni was declared wanted following his failure to honour police invitation successfully sent to him since commencement of investigation into the cause of the death of the artiste.

It reads, "Following his failure to honour police invitation successfully sent to him since the commencement of investigation into the

circumstances leading to the death of Mr Ilerioluwa Aloba aka Mohbad, the Lagos State Police Command hereby declares wanted Owodunni Ibrahim aka Primeboy.

"Ibrahim is approximately 1.64-m tall, male, dark-complexioned with tribal marks and Yoruba by tribe. His last known address is 3rd Power, Oke Eletu, Ikorodu.

"If seen, contact the nearest police station or call 0803 688 5727. The Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, CP Idowu Owohunwa, hereby offers a handsome reward of N1,000,000 (One Million Naira Only) to anyone with useful information leading to his arrest".

It would be recalled that the duo of Samson Balogun popularly known as Sam Larry, show promoter and a popular afrobeat singer Azeez Fashola a.k.a Naira Marley have been arrested for questioning by the Police over the death of the 17years old artiste.

While Sam Larry was arrested last Thursday, it was learnt that Naira Marley was arrested at the



weekend, hours after returning to the country from his foreign trip, a journey he claimed was to boost his music spread globally.

Mohbad's was pronounced dead by medical experts last month and was hurriedly laid to

rest by his father, who claimed that his actions were part of the Yoruba customs and traditions.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Police exhumed the singer's corpse for autopsy, to unravel the major cause of Mohbad's death.



Commissioner for LG Affairs, Kaduna State, Saddiq Mamman Lagos performing his function recently

Zone 2 Police Busts Sim Card Money Transfer Syndicate, Arrests One

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

Detectives attached to the Zone 2 Command of the Nigeria Police Force, Onikan Lagos, have reportedly arrested a member of a syndicate that specialises in stealing people's phones and using their SIM Cards to transfer money from victims' respective bank accounts. The suspect, identified as Ogbonnaya Jnr Duru, as learnt, was apprehended by detectives attached to the Zonal Inquiry Bureau (ZIB) Unit of the Command.

Our correspondent gathered that the arrest of Duru followed complaints from victims to the Assistant Inspectors-General of Police AIG Muhammed Ari Ali in charge of the Zone on the criminal activities of the syndicate.

While confirming the arrest in a statement on Wednesday, the Zonal Public Relations Officer, SP Hauwa Idris Adamu, said Ogbonnaya Jnr who originally trained as a Trailer Mechanic, claimed he was introduced into the crime by one Kareem who lives in Ajegunle.

According to the release, the suspect said he had been in the business since 2019 and had associates across the country.

SP Hauwa added, "Upon intelligence received by the Assistant Inspector General of Police Zone 2 Command, AIG Ari Mohammed Ali, that there is a syndicate of young Nigerians who specialize in stealing phones from members of the public and further transferring monies from their BVN/Bank linked SIM cards.

"The AIG then detailed operatives of the Zonal Enquiry Bureau to discretely investigate and apprehend the syndicate.

"Based on the directive of the AIG one Ogbonnaya Junior Duru 'm' was arrested after serious efforts had been made.

" Ogbonnaya Junior Duru 'm' who hailed from Orlu Local Government Area of Imo State is a Trailer Mechanic by profession and he has his workshop along Trinity Area of Berger Cement, Apapa Lagos.

"When asked about his

involvement in the alleged crime; he confessed to being introduced to the criminal act by his friend one Kareem 'm' who lives in Ajegunle Area of Apapa Lagos in the year 2019 and he has been in the business of criminality since then.

"His Modus Operandi: When other members of the syndicate (Praise 'm', Emmanuel 'm' and Osaron 'm') whose areas of specialization is to steal mobile phones from members of the public either by Pick-Pocket, one-chance robbery and other means have stolen the phones, they bring the SIM cards to Ogbonnaya Junior Duru 'm' who finds out which bank (s) is/are the SIM cards linked to, check the account balance, reset the USSD pin and transfer funds from the owner's account to accounts provided by a member of the syndicate (one Joshua 'm' a.k.a. ALERT) currently at Large who takes 20% of the proceed and returns 80% either in cash or transfer to Ogbonnaya Junior Duru 'm' who takes 40% of the proceed and delivers 40% to whoever brings the BVN/Bank linked SIM card.

Continuing, Hauwa said, "The Zone 2 Command spokesperson added that the suspect further confessed that there are other suspects who consult him from Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States who later send him consultation fees and that the least he has transferred from an account is One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000:00k) while the maximum he has transferred is One Million, Four Hundred Thousand Naira (N1,400,000:00k).

" He added that the said Joshua 'm' (popularly known as ALERT) operates many accounts with different banks and as such will make the funds available for sharing the same day; No Delays."When asked how many SIM cards he has fraudulently transferred monies from? He said he averagely works on 5-6 sim cards in a week and after the did had been done he returns the sim cards to whoever brought it but he cannot recollect the number of sim cards he

has transferred money from",Hauwa said.

Ogbonnaya Junior Duru 'm' listed Union Bank, First Bank of Nigeria, Fidelity Bank, Ecco Bank, Wema Bank and Sterling Bank as banks that are difficult for him to transfer monies from while he listed United Bank for Africa UBA, First City Monument

Bank FCMB, Polaris Bank, Access Bank, Guarantee Trust Bank GTB and Stanbic IBTC Bank as banks very easy for him to transfer from.

The Command therefore, advised members of the public to beware of these criminal elements in the society and ensure they secure their valuables very

well while criminals are warned to relocate from Lagos and Ogun States which form the Zone 2 Command else the long arm of the law will catch up with them soonest



AIG Ali Muhammed

Governor Mutfwang Increases Salaries Of Widows Sweeping Jos Streets

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

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, has approved a salary increase for widows and women sweeping the streets of Jos and Bukuru metropolis.

Governor Mutfwang has also expressed his administration's commitment to sustaining these payments and clearing all arrears.

Governor Mutfwang announced this on Wednesday, when he halted his convoy to greet

the widows sweeping the streets of Rayfield in Jos, Plateau State.

He encouraged the women to remain patient with the government and requested their support for policies aimed at improving the living conditions of the people.

Governor Mutfwang reiterated his administration's dedication to building a united and prosperous Plateau and ensuring that every individual and group conduct their activities without harassment.



Attack On My Hotel Won't Stop Me From Speaking Truth To Power - Bullion CEO, Ajadi

*Says justice must be served

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Achieftain of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo has vowed to continue championing the welfare of Nigerian youth.

Ambassador Ajadi while speaking with journalists declared that the Tuesday attack on his Bullion Hotel located in Simawa area of Ogun State, demands prompt investigation into the persistent attacks on his hotel and his person as well as an investigation into the alleged role of the Shimawa Police Division in the Tuesday attack.

He alleged that over 20 political thugs, allegedly led by three men in uniforms stormed his hotel on Tuesday morning, attacking guests as well as staff and that the incident allegedly took place around 8a.m, leaving both

staff and guests at the hotel traumatized.

"There was a similar attack on September 5, 2023, when a group of thugs, some disguised as soldiers, stormed the Bullion Hotel. They can never stop my action as the voice of the Nigerian youths and I will continue to work for the progress and welfare of the poor and the vulnerable youths in Nigeria", he said.

Ambassador Ajadi added, "The Police officers that allegedly slapped the security guards while watching television should be penalized for such action. These boys are always gathering within the secondary school in Shimawa initiating themselves into nefarious activities and terrorising innocent people in the town".

The NNPP governorship candidate in Ogun state in 2023 general elections stressed that these incidents would not deter his efforts in championing the welfare of Nigerian youths as well as saying the truth to the power that be.

According to Ambassador

stressed that these incidents would not deter his efforts in championing the welfare of Nigerian youths as well as saying the truth to the power that be.

Ambassador Ajadi said the CCTV footage shows clearly how the men allegedly in Police uniforms were molesting, harassing and taking away valuables belonging to the hotel and the hotel security, adding. the assailants during the attack identified themselves as boys from Shimawa.

"One of the thugs issued a chilling warning, saying, "We are still coming back to fight you, and we must kill at least three persons. Shimawa belongs to the APC (All Progressives Congress), and anyone opposing this political party, including the hotel owner, Ajadi, should leave the area".

According to Ambassador

Ajadi, the items looted during the attack to include handsets, substantial sum of money, and numerous Power Banks used for charging mobile devices", and that "Shockingly, five hotel security personnel were arrested during the commotion"

Speaking at the Press conference, the Legal Adviser to Bullion Company's Legal Adviser, Barrister Isaac Izunya demanded investigation into the alleged attack condemned the alleged support given to the political thugs by some men in Police Uniforms.

Barrister Izunya said, "In order to save the integrity of the Police, I am calling on the Commissioner of Police in Ogun state, and the Police Service Commission to investigate the alleged activities of some men in Police uniforms in the attack".

Female Socialite Bags 12-yr Jail Term, N24m Fine For Human Trafficking

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

An Edo based socialite, identified as a high profile human trafficker has been sentenced to 12 years Imprisonment by Hon. Justice Geraldine Imadegbello of the High Court, Criminal Division, Benin City for being guilty of trafficking 12 Nigerian girls to Belgium for sexual exploitation.

The Benin city based convict, named Felicia Osaigbovo, was also fined the sum of N24 million by the court.

This was contained in a statement made available to journalists by Adekoye Vincent, Press Officer of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

It reads, "The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) remains resolute in its mission to combat human trafficking and bring offenders to justice.

"In another significant victory, NAPTIP has secured the conviction of a well-known socialite in Benin City and high-profile trafficker, Felicia Osaigbovo, also known as Mama Masha. She has been sentenced to 12 years in prison and fined N24 million by Hon. Justice Geraldine Imadegbello of the High Court, Criminal Division, Benin City.

"Felicia Osaigbovo, a 62-year-old member of a human trafficking syndicate, was involved in the recruitment and trafficking of 12 Nigerian girls to Belgium for sexual exploitation. Notably, 12 collaborators, including three of the convict's children, have already been convicted in Belgium.

"The case against the convict commenced on July 1, 2021, with a 24-count charge that included assisting the activities of persons engaged in trafficking in persons and organizing foreign travels that promote prostitution, in violation of the Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Enforcement and Administration Act (TIPPEA), 2015.

"The defendant pleaded not guilty to all counts. The prosecution presented three witnesses, including a Belgian Chief Inspector of Police and submitted 13 exhibits as evidence.

"Following a thorough trial, the court found the convict guilty on all 24 counts, leading to a sentence of 12 years in prison and a fine of N24 million.

"In response to the judgment, Prof. Fatima Waziri-Azi, PhD, Director General of NAPTIP, expressed her appreciation for the verdict by the judiciary, emphasizing that it represents an appropriate and significant punishment. She lauded the collaborative efforts of the Belgium Police Authorities, the Federal Ministry of Justice, the UK National Crime Agency under the Joint Border Task Force Initiative, and UNODC in ensuring justice for the victims.

"Upon assuming office in September 2021, the Director General pledged to pursue high-profile traffickers vigorously. This conviction underscores NAPTIP's determination to send a clear message to those involved in this heinous crime.

"NAPTIP shall continue working tirelessly to ensure a safer and better society," affirmed the Director General."



Scene of the attack outside Bullion Hotel

A'Ibom PDP Debunks Social Media Report On Gov Eno

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Akwa Ibom State Chapter has said that the Social Media news making the rounds that Governor Umo Eno was secretly lauding Alhaji Atiku Abubakar's efforts in exposing President Tinubu's alleged fake certificate emanated from the rumour miller, purposely meant to create disaffection.

PDP in a statement made available to journalists on Wednesday, signed by its State Publicity Secretary, Mr Borono Basse, described the state governor, Pastor Umo Eno as a law abiding citizen who would not do anything to dishonour

the party, presidential flag bearer, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar nor President Bola Tinubu.

The statement reads, "The attention of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Akwa Ibom State was drawn earlier today, to an obviously fake news item being circulated on Social Media, alleging that our party and His Excellency, the Governor of Akwa Ibom State and Leader of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Pastor Umo Eno was secretly celebrating Alhaji Atiku Abubakar's efforts in exposing President Tinubu's alleged fake certificate."

Stating the position, PDP image-maker

explained, "The matter which is the subject of the fake news is in court and therefore Subjudice. By that very fact, neither the Governor or the Peoples Democratic Party at the state level is competent to comment on it.

"The Governor, His Excellency, Pastor Umo Eno as a law abiding citizen, who believes in the supremacy of the law, has tremendous respect for the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Alhaji Bola Tinubu, the PDP whose platform Pastor Umo Eno was elected as Governor, and the Presidential candidate of the Party, His Excellency Alhaji Atiku Abubakar.

Kogi SDP Accuses Police Commissioner Of Complacency.

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Kogi State Social Democratic Party (SDP) Governorship Campaign Council of Muritala Yakubu Ajaka on Tuesday, accused the State Police Commissioner, CP Onuoha Bertrand of being complacent in investigating the political rift between the party and the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state.

Speaking at a media conference in Lokoja, the Kogi East Director-General of the campaign Council, Alhaji Hassan Enape said that the press statement from the commissioner's office on the campaign brouhaha at Koton Karfe is to say the least, a contradiction of a security officer of his standing.

"The Commissioner of Police in his recent statement signed by the Police Public Relations Officer, William Aya, said he has set up an investigating panel to root out the cause of the political fight between the APC and our party, but again went ahead to indict our governorship candidate, Alhaji Muritala Ajaka as the conveyor of crises, accessing him of moving about with thugs."

This, Alhaji Enape said, has clearly exposed exposed him as being biased even before his midwived investigative panel commenced its job.

Disturbed by the inconsistency emanating from a security Officer of his calibre, "We want to categorically state that we have no confidence in the so-called panel constituted by the police commissioner."

While calling on the Inspector General of Police, to disband the ill fated Mr Bertrand's constituted panel and set up independent one, he was optimistic that a true investigation on the Koton Karfe political upheaval would expose the true conveyors of crises and their collaborators.

Je said that the SDP governorship candidate has zero tolerance for thuggery, and has no hand in the crises that rocked Koton Karfe on the fateful day.

Speaking on the double standard of the Police Commissioner who claimed that his party did not get permission for the rally, Enape said the campaign council had earlier sought the permission of the Police and DSS through a letter, which was granted by the two security agencies.

"Here is the copy of the letter we sent to the Police and DSS and they endorsed it and granted us, we will make copies available to you all."

"We wish to state categorically that it is not true that the Commissioner of Police and other relevant authorities in the state were not aware of the SDP rally in KotonKarfe on that fateful day.

"What is true is that the APC ambushed the good people of Koton-Karfe to cause panic and deter their resolve for the candidacy of Muritala Yakubu Ajaka.

This they failed to achieve because, after the attacks and destruction, the people still came out to receive Muritala Yakubu Ajaka, confirming their support for him."

"On the sad issue of Koton Karfe, the SDP and her supporters were peaceful, uncompromising, and law-abiding but were wickedly attacked by thugs working for the APC".

"There is video evidence of the peaceful gathering of SDP supporters before APC thugs invaded the venue with guns and machetes, destroying the venue, injuring our supporters, and shooting sporadically at our convoy to the claim of APC..

"It is already evident that the APC unleashed terror on the peace-loving people of Koton Karfe because of their love for Muritala Yakubu Ajaka.

Come to think of it, "what is an APC supporter doing in an SDP rally? This is the question that must be answered and not to misinform the world that we did not get permission from the police", he asked.

"There was never a time that our principal either privately or publicly called any ethnic group "a common enemy". The video clip of his outing on Channels Television is on the internet for everyone to listen to and watch.

"In that interview, Muritala Yakubu Ajaka harped on "Governor Yahaya Bello as the common enemy of the people. Indeed, he is the common enemy of the people because he deliberately divided the Kogi political environment across ethnic lines," Enape added.

The SDP campaign boss said the people of the state will resist any attempt to rig the November governorship election and therefore urged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ensure free, fair and credible governorship election in the state.

Yahaya Bello Appoints 215 More Aides

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State has appointed additional 215 aides to boost his administration in the Confluence State for the next two months.

A breakdown of the appointment comprises 26 Special Advisers ,128 Senior Special Assistants and 51 Special Assistants. The Secretary to the State

Government (SSG), Dr. Folashade Ayoade disclosed this in a statement made available to newsmen on Tuesday in Lokoja, spelling out the number and categories of the appointees.

The Secretary to the State Government said their appointments take effect from September 29, 2023.

Some of the newly appointed Special Advisers and their portfolios are, James

Modu Kaura (Steel Development); Siaka Ibrahim (Kogi State Indigenes in Diaspora); Nusa Yahaya (Local Government Matters Igbalamela/Odolu LGA); Abdulhai Yunusa (Local Government Matters, Ofu LGA).

Others include, James Babatunde (Energy); Odoh Akowe (Political Education); Umar Isah Edibo (Mentoring); Oluwakayode Emmanuel

(Girl Child Education); and Onu Salifu (Cultural Integration).

Mohammed Attai Yusuf, Senior Special Assistant on Job Creation (Kogi East); Nuhu Isa Alifia (SSA, Human Capital Development II); Atule Amedu (Cooperatives II); Mumin Suleiman Ahmed (Road Maintenance); and Siaka Alih (Industrial Management), among others.



How Bus Crash In Italy Claims 21 Lives

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

More details have emerged on how 21 passengers, said to be tourists, perished in Italy. Authorities in Italian city of Venice have put the number of casualties at 21 in a Tuesday night carnage

involving a tourist bus. Eye witnesses said the bus plunged over bridge and caught fire on impact against surface of the underlying carriage highways.

Causes of the accident could not be immediately ascertained as the bus,

according to local authorities in Venice, was new and the road leading from island to mainland districts had not been an issue for a very long time. Ukrainian and German citizens, including two children were among the dead.

Italian prime minister and

mayor of the ancient city of Venice, have since expressed sadness over the event, many described as modern apocalypse.

Public prosecutors in the city have immediately launched investigations into the accident as families of the victims await result.

Kaduna LG Affairs Commissioner Mamman Lagos Charges Media Team To Project Gov Uba Sani's Human Development Programmes

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Kaduna State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos has charged members of his media team to always strive to project good policies and human development programmes of Governor Uba Sani.

He described the Governor of Kaduna State as a man of the people, with a compassionate heart and desire to uplift living standard of the masses in order to make the society a happy place for all.

Mamman Lagos made the statement while distributing working tools and gadgets to his conventional and new media team at the ministry's complex in Kaduna.

He said governor Uba Sani had already made the job of his admirers easy by performing within a short time beyond the expectation of many, including critics of the present administration.

"Just take a tour round the state and sample people's opinion, you will be amazed at the response you will get from the masses.

"More and more people are saying

positive things about our Governor who has won over the hearts of individuals, including those in the opposition parties who were skeptical at the initial stage.

"He has demonstrated that governance is all about service to the people by ensuring they are of primary importance in any policy muted and initiated to deliver dividends of democracy to the masses who are the end beneficiaries of gains of representative governance like ours.

"The Governor has often stressed the need and imperative to touch every facet of governance for the benefit of the people

and he has gone all out to ensure that his policies are masses-friendly and they make impact on the downtrodden," he stated.

The commissioner assured of more glad tidings from the government, adding that Uba Sani would not relent until all campaign pledges have been fulfilled.

Laptops, android phones, tablets and accessories among others were handed out to members of the media team to aid the job of informing, enlightening and mobilizing the public towards understanding policy direction of the Uba Sani administration.



Plateau: Commander Operation Safe Haven Meets Fulani, Mangu Stakeholders Over Missing Ardo Panyam

By: BUARI B. BELLO, Jos

The Commander Operation SAFE HAVEN (OPSH) and General Officer Commanding 3 Division Nigerian Army (NA), Major General AE Abubakar on October 3, 2023, met with Fulani and Mangu stakeholders at Headquarters 3 Division, over the missing Ardo Adamu, the Ardo of Panyam in Panyam District of Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Addressing the stakeholders during the meeting, the Commandant OPSH/GOC, said the stakeholders' engagement was necessary to improve security within OPSH Joint Operation Area.

He described the incident as unfortunate and warned the people not to take the law into their hands, while Operation Safe Haven continues to work assiduously to unravel the circumstances and bring all perpetrators to book.

General Abubakar disclosed that there must be sincerity of purpose for peace to be achieved. He maintained that criminality should be jointly condemned if a peaceful society is to be established. While underscoring



the importance of Operation Hakorin Damisa IV, the commander said the ongoing operation has achieved significant successes in Mangu general area and Plateau State at large.

The Comd OPSH/GOC called on leaders at all levels to work closely with security agencies in ridding the communities of criminal elements and external

forces bent on wrecking havoc in the State. He reassured the stakeholders that OPSH will continue to be just and fair to everyone as far as maintaining peace on the Plateau was concerned.

In his remarks, the Special Adviser to Plateau State Governor on Security, Brigadier General DD Shippi (Rtd), said the circle of violence in Mangu

general area must stop for the peace process to yield good results. He reiterated that the Government of Plateau State was committed to a peaceful society and as such would consider every comments from the stakeholders helpful as inputs to the government's agenda of policing the State effectively.

Key stakeholders who spoke

during the meeting agreed that grass-root engagement must be employed to solving the security challenges facing the state.

They also agreed that reorientation of the people will help significantly in addressing the challenges, while leaders continue to preach peace to their subjects and in respective localities.

Some of the dignitaries present at the meeting include; the Chairman Mangu LGA Transition Committee, Honorable Markus Artu, Special Adviser to Plateau State Governor on Security, Brigadier General DD Shippi (Rtd), Member Representing Mangu South in the Plateau State House of Assembly and Chief Whip, Honorable Bala Fwangje and Hon Member Representing Mangu North. Others include the Chairman OPSH 26-Man Peace Committee, Justice Daniel Longji (Rtd), Representative of Mishkaghham Mwaghavul, State Chairman Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association, Chairman Mwaghavul Development Association amongst others.

Highlights of the meeting included comments from Fulani/Mangu stakeholders and group photographs.

GOTV Boxing Night 29: NBB Of C Reviews Sifon Best/ Omo West Fight, Declares It A Draw

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Following a petition by the camp of Yusuf Olalekan 'Omo West' Mohammed against the decision of ring judges in his Flyweight challenge contest fight with Sifon 'Best' Iwatt at the GOTV Boxing Night 29, the Nigerian Boxing Board of Control (NBB of C) after a careful review of the fight has declared it a draw.

Mohammed's Coach, had petitioned the sanctioning body on the decision of the judges which awarded the closely contested fight to his boxer's opponent, describing it as a miscarriage of justice and calling for a review; insisting his boxer won the fight.

This prompted the board to constitute an independent arbiters who after watching a replay of the

fight declared it a draw.

Speaking on the decision, President of Nigerian Boxing Board of Control (NBB of C), Dr. Rafiu Oladipo said the board decided on the review because it wanted to give both parties fair hearing, positing that by the decision, both boxers will now meet in a title fight at the next GOTV Boxing night just as he commended the petitioner for following due process in pursuing their case instead of instigating their fans to cause mayhem after the fight.

He promised that the board will always be fair to all boxers as that will help the growth of the game.

"When we received the petition, we decided to invite independent arbiters who after watching a replay of the fight gave us their judgement which guided us in our decision.

"The decision we took was in the best interest of the game as it was fair to both boxers and I'm happy that all the parties were satisfied with our decision.

"Coaches of the two boxers in their separate remarks, commended the boxing body for the bold decision; saying that it will help to build confidence on the boxers and coaches.

"We're really happy with the way the board handled the petition and the decision taken.

"This has shown that the board is not biased and has the interest of the game at heart and we want to appeal to coaches to always follow due process in registering their grievances instead of resorting to self help or instigating their fans which is not good for the game", they chorused.



NBB of C President

Normalcy Returns To Ebonyi After Suspected IPOB Attack



By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Economic activities have resumed in Ezzangbo junction after suspected IPOB attack on Monday.

In a visit to the area, yesterday morning, many people were seen displaying their goods and foodstuff, while customers were seen patronizing them.

Many vehicles, motorcycles, and tricycles were moving to different locations for their businesses.

In an interview with Mr. Ede Chukwuma, who operates a commercial motorcycle service, he said they don't operate on Monday's because of the insecurity in the area, calling on government to do everything possible to ensure security of lives and property.

Another man, who doesn't want his name in print, explained that the fear of insecurity has really affected their businesses as many customers don't come out on Mondays, lamenting that

many vehicles, shops and tricycles were destroyed during the Monday attack.

He therefore, called on government to come for their rescue.

It would be recalled that on Monday, during the attack, no fewer than three vehicles and four motorcycles were burnt down. Also, shops were torched during the attack.

An eyewitness who wouldn't want his name on print, said that the attack was carried out by

suspected hoodlums that were trying to enforce sit-at-home in the area around 9:00am.

Reacting to the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, SP Onome Onovewakpoya said the suspected IPOB hoodlums during the attack, burnt three commuter buses, four motorcycles and one tricycle, but no life was lost.

On 02/10/2023, Armed men suspected to be IPOB/ESN members in a sienna car attacked

commuter buses, tricycle and motorcycles at Ezzangbo junction.

'They burnt down 3 commuter buses, 4 motorcycles and 1 tricycle.

No life was lost.

"Operatives of the Command have been dispatched to the scene and it environs to fish out the perpetrators.

'And we believe that the perpetrators will be apprehended.

Nurses In Kaduna General Hospital Embark On Indefinite Strike Over 12 Months Power Outage

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Nurses in General Hospital Sabon Tasha, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State have begun an indefinite strike following a yearlong blackout in and around the health facility.

A visit by our

correspondent to the health center after nightfall revealed that nurses and other supporting staff on duty had to improvise by using the light of their mobile phones as substitutes for electricity, a situation the health workers said would not be condoned henceforth.

A nurse who pleaded for anonymity explained to our correspondent the genesis of their travails, saying trouble began way back in August 2022.

"When the transformer servicing the centre located opposite KRPC Quarters developed fault and

became unserviceable.

"Weeks have grown into months and it's now one year of darkness in the hospital to an extent we have to use phone torch lights to stitch women after deliveries and perform other essential duties.

"If this facility were privately-owned, it wouldn't have been

neglected like this.

"The hospital management has several times written to the state ministry of health for their action and intervention, but to no avail.

"As last resort, we have decided to withdraw our services until power is restored to the hospital," she said.



Chicago University Certificate Saga: Five Killer Punch Atiku Plans To Use Against Tinubu

By: IBRAHIMADAMU, Kaduna

Barring any change in strategy, former vice president Atiku Abubakar has mapped out concrete five legal evidences to present to the Supreme Court in the ongoing legal tussle on the 2023 presidential election won by Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Abubakar lost round one at presidential election petition tribunal when the legal

luminaries hearing the case struck out his case and affirmed the election of Bola Ahmed Tinubu. The people's Democratic Party (PDP) presidential flag bearer took his case overseas by questioning the authenticity of the Chicago State University's (CSU) certificate presented by his political foe while standing for Nigeria's number one seat election.

It was a win for Atiku when the U.S. District Court in Northern Illinois ordered the CSU to immediately release Tinubu's academic record within 48 hours.

The development came after a U.S. judge, Nancy Maldonado adopted all the ruling of Magistrate Judge Jeffery Gilbert of the American District Court. Tinubu had earlier objected to Atiku's

request for making his academic record public, saying it was his private affair and had no relevant in the ongoing case at the election tribunal.

The five prayers of Atiku before the magistrate court which he intends to use in nailing Tinubu at the Supreme Court are;

An example of CSU diploma issued in 1979.

Google Partnering Kaduna Govt To Train 5,000 Women - Uba Sani

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani on Monday, said that Google which is one of the leading companies in the world, has decided to partner with Kaduna Government by training 5,000 women.

The governor stated this when he met with the Senior citizens who came to Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, in Kaduna to discuss matters that bring growth and development to the state.

Senator Uba Sani thanked the respected elders for taking their time to be there, saying, "this is our second meeting, the first meeting was two months ago, we had a very frank discussion here, and after that meeting, we became extremely committed to most of the things we resolved." According to him, "that meeting gave us some of the encouragement and also addressing some of the key problems our state is facing at the moment.

"I will like to share with you some of the steps we've taken in various areas from education to healthcare, security, our promise to address rural infrastructural development in our state, as well as supporting our small businesses.

"Generally, we also look at the position of Kaduna State in terms of the statistics and how we can be able to address the problem of poverty in our state," he said.

Senator Uba Sani pointed out, "we believe the current statistics is unacceptable, our rural areas at the moment are facing serious crisis, 85 per cent of those living in the rural areas are living below the poverty line and that is unacceptable in a state like



Kaduna.

"Consequently, for us, we alone in government cannot address it, we need the support of everyone, most especially our elders to put heads together with government in addressing those problems.

"After our meeting, I proceeded by being the first governor in Nigeria to sign executive order to be able to address financial inclusion in our state.

"The statistics from the Central Bank and NDIC clearly show that, in Kaduna, about 70 per cent of those living in rural areas are financially excluded and by implication, we are having about 2.5 million people that are vulnerable, who are underserved because they are financial

excluded completely.

"Certainly it is the reason why we are having 85 per cent of people living below poverty line, and because of that, we became very proactive and I signed executive order to ensure that at least one million are captured.

"If we don't do that, most of the social support, federal government approach to looking at social register, they will miss out.

"The social intervention by the federal government which of course in the past, the record before us clearly shows that most of this interventions went to the wrong people, because the right people are financially excluded.

"In the next few weeks, we will come up with those captured as they will benefit from all the support from the state and federal government.

"How do we address the SDGs goals. When I accompanied Mr President to the United Nations, I was fortunate to be among the two governors in Nigeria that sat by the president, I took that as an opportunity to also make case for Kaduna State with President Bola Tinubu. Virtually all the developing countries in the world have similar problems that is why the leaders spoke in one voice.

"We as the sub national, governors and presidents believe that we have to look at

how we will partner to bring investments into our own state, because of the efforts here in Kaduna, some of the partners have began to support our own state particularly the Qatar Charity fund, they have decided to build economic city in Kaduna at least 500 thousand underserved, underprivileged and poor will benefit with houses free and they are going to build two boreholes in every ward, 255 boreholes that translate to 600 boreholes built free.

"Also, they are going to sponsor 5,000 orphans. I am calling on you our elders that the right people are to benefit, hence government will share most things with you.

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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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- All adverts are expected to be prepaid in cash or bank draft in favour of New Nigerian Newspaper's Limited.
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- Advertisers/Agencies are to provide their Camera ready artwork in electronic copies, in e.g. PDF, or JPEG format.
- Advertisers will be surcharged 20% of the applicable rate where artworks are not provided.
- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
- Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing at least 24 hours to desired alteration date.
- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
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Depth	38.1 (CM)	Depth -	15 (Inches)
Width	25.4 (CM)	Width -	10 (Inches)

POLITICAL RATE

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

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

Gov AbdulRazaq Excited As Kwara Sugar Film Factory Takes Shape

***Kwara to be go-to place for creative industry, more jobs, says Gov**

By **BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin**

Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq on Wednesday, inspected the trendy sugar film factory, one of the administration's iconic projects which seek to refocus the state's economy for job creation, youth empowerment, and improved standard of living.

Designed to make Kwara a major hub in the last mile movie production and creative industry in west Africa, the facility earned its name from the nostalgic Tate and Lyle Sugar Factory which collapsed in the 1990s, in what underscored the Governor's rich sense of history.

The project is one of those being funded from the bond the state accessed in 2021. In a brief interview with reporters at the project site, AbdulRazaq noted that the contents of Nollywood are increasingly dominating the world but that efforts must be geared towards improving production quality for them to compete with Hollywood and Bollywood.

"Our huge investment in the creative industry is to expand the economic base of the state and deepen the creative industry. That's the way to go. Everyone sees our state as a civil service state. We want to change that. We want to make this state a destination for high-quality movie production," he told journalists shortly after he was conducted round the facility by Project Manager Kamaldeen Abolarin.

"It is about thinking outside the box. You've seen how Nigeria's music has dominated the world. You've seen how Nollywood has dominated the world. It is important for Nollywood to move from what some may call videos to cinematography. It is about expanding the quality of what we produce. So that Nigerian movies can feature more on the international scene. We have very rich contents, but we need to invest in the quality of our production. Our facility offers this.

"Gradually, we are getting there. You've seen our films on Netflix and other global platforms but we want more of our films there. What India has done is to improve the quality of



L-R: Project Manager Abolarinwa Kamaldeen; Alhaji Abdulrazaq Jiddah; and Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON); during a visit to the new Sugar Film Factory in Ilorin, on Wednesday.

films, that's what we want to offer here in Kwara."

He expressed satisfaction at the progress of work done, hoping that the contractor will deliver it for operation in the next few months.

"So far, so good. I am impressed. More equipment are coming in. Very soon, we will start film production in the state, and people will be coming in from outside the state to

do the last-mile production of their movies in the state. And that means a great boost to the economy," he added.

"We are open to partnerships, and we, of course, invite film producers and others in the creative industry to work with us."

The facility, which is the first phase, has been furnished to taste as contractors commence

installation of different high-tech gadgets and world-class sound stages and studios.

The film factory, specifically, is equipped with cyclorama studio; 2 TV production studios; large independent film production studio; Green Rooms; makeup facilities; training rooms; photography studios; co-working offices; buildings suites; and large canteen.

Like the innovation hub, international conference centre, industrial park, garment factory, and others, the sugar film factory is carefully linked with the visual arts centre whose components include a Dolby-fitted studio, indicating an emerging local economy built around creative industry, innovation, and enterprise, and dominated by young people.

Hon Tambai Kwa Congratulates Saleh Marke On Tribunal Verdict

By: **JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano**

The Executive Chairman of Dawakin Tofa Local Government Council, Honourable Ado Tambai Kwa has facilitated with the member representing Dawakin Tofa Constituency at the Kano State House of Assembly, Honourable Saleh Ahmed Marke on his recent tribunal victory over his

opponent.

Speaking to our correspondent, Ado Tambai Kwa stated that the judiciary is the shepherd to democracy, especially when there is an electoral petition that awaits judgement at both levels, adding that the recent court verdict in favour of Honourable Marke is a testimony that APC won the state assembly polls with wide margin in Dawakin Tofa



Local Government Area.

Honourable Ado Tambai Kwa said that judiciary in Nigeria is becoming straight forward in making a verdict to all aspects of election petitions that are subjects to judicial intervention like what is being witnessed today in every level of elective positions.

"On behalf of the executive and legislative councils of Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area, I wish to congratulate our able legislator, Honourable Saleh Ahmed Marke on his recent victory in tribunal and together, we would make Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area greater in a collaborative efforts without bias," he concluded.

Stop Inciting Crisis In Imo, APC Group Cautions Alex Otti

*Says Uzodimma won't handover to Labour Party

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Ahead of November 11 governorship election in Imo State, a group of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) on the platform of the Progressives League of Youth Voters (PLYV) has called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to caution Abia State Governor, Alex Otti against inciting comments.

The group also warned the governor to perish the thought that the Labour Party governorship candidate in Imo State will take over from Governor Hope Uzodimma.

The APC group was reacting to comments made by Governor Alex Otti during a flag off campaign of his party in Imo State, where he asked Governor Hope Uzodimma "to write his handover note."

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday in Abuja, National Coordinator of the APC group, Amb. Audu Usman Shuaibu, urged Governor Uzodimma not to be distracted, even as he commended the administration for the courage he has demonstrated in defending his people.

According to Shuaibu, Governor Otti's statement during the about Party's gubernatorial campaign flag off in Imo state shows that the neighbouring Governor was set for war.

While calling for a peaceful election in the state, the APC group said: "How can a newly elected Governor who is yet to acclimatize himself with the doings of the office openly declared that the workaholic Governor of Imo State should prepare his handover note? Here is a man whose victory is facing

serious legal battle at the governorship election petition tribunal, instead of facing his challenges, Otti decided to stir up the polity by indirectly calling non state actors to invade Imo State.

"We are using this medium to tell governor Alex Otti that governor Hope will only hand-over to himself and not Labour Party.

"We are citizens of Nigeria first before becoming members of political parties, as members of formidable support groups whose interest is the development of Nigeria, we are aware that the future of Imo State is been toyed with by highly placed politicians who want to use the influence of their offices just like Governor Otti of Abia State to force a regime change in the South East State.

"We feel concerned because Governor Otti's home state is the International Headquarters of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and that of the dreaded Eastern Security Network, ESN."

Shuaibu expressed confidence that if the election is free and fare, Governor Hope Uzodimma will cruise to victory, adding that Uzodimma's works are ther to speak for him.

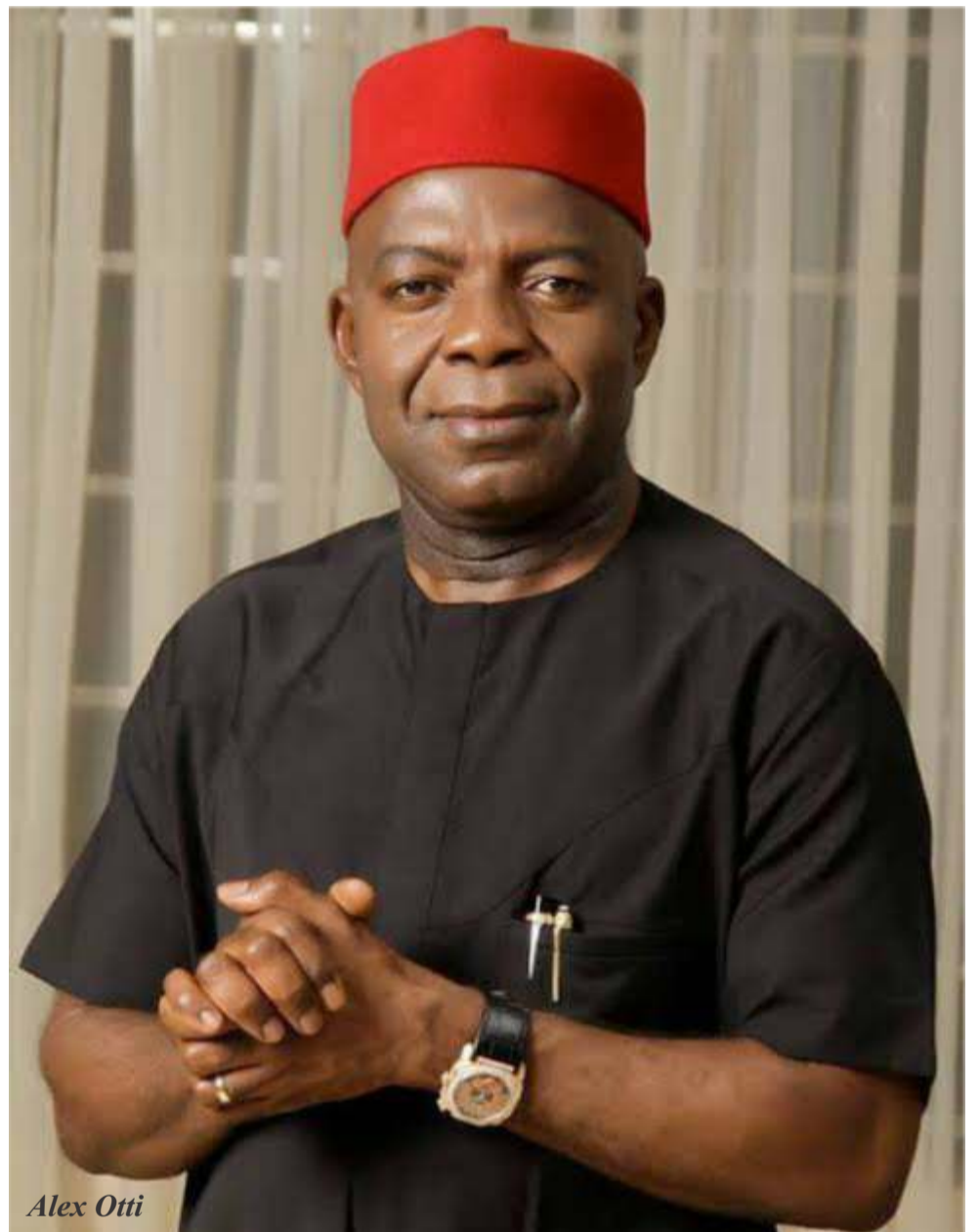
"The APC led Government of Imo State has shown clearly, the difference between good governance and mal-administration, it would be wrong to fold our arms and watch a Governor from another State cause chaos in Imo State.

"It is only in Abia State under the current Governor that already dualised road is being dualised, Sea Port is being built where there is no river, Lake or dam instead of executing peoples oriented projects that will better

the lots of Abia people, Governor Otti is middlesome interloper in Imo State Governorship elections.

"Mr President must remember his statement that he won't interfere in any democratic process any where in the county. Therefore, the President must caution the irate Governor of Abia State against statement that are capable of causing crisis and not to meddle in the affairs of other states. It is not enough for the President as an individual to simply pledge non-interference. He should take a step further to warn the Governor to follow example as a statesman.

"We maintain that the good people of Imo State should be allowed to choose their Governor in the coming elections. Our people must not be intimidated or coerced into accepting a governorship candidate imposed on them by enemies of imolites. We will resist any form of imposition or plot to cause political instability in Imo state. We would resist with equal vigor, any attempt to influence the gubernatorial elections to favour the Labour Party.



Alex Otti

"We assure the people of Imo State that we are on alert monitoring activities of their enemies and the people aligning with them. We shall address Nigerians at the appropriate time and expose those colluding with killers of the South East people to effect a change of leadership in Imo state

"For Governor Otti and his co-travelers, the plan to change the

political leadership in Imo State come November 11th 2023 will fail just like the plan to surrender South East to unknown gunmen also failed. Governor Hope Uzodimma has stood firm with his people in ensuring that security is provided by the Federal Government, his effort is commendable and he deserve re-election."

2024 Intending Kaduna Hajj Pilgrims Advised To Deposit N2.5m

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Kaduna State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Agency has advised intending pilgrims for the 2024 Hajj to make an initial deposit of N2.5 million.

In a statement signed by the Public Relations Officer, Yunusa Muhammed Abdullahi, made available yesterday, the Executive Secretary of the agency, Dr Yusuf Yakubu Arrigassiyu who

gave the advice on Wednesday, further advised them to pay an additional N4.5million by 31 December.

According to him, these deposits should be made pending the announcement of Hajj fares by

the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON).

The Executive Secretary who briefed reporters in his office, also counseled intending pilgrims to present themselves physically at the various

registration centres across the state because registration by proxy will not be allowed.

Dr Arrigassiyu also called on the registration officers to give priority to first time intending pilgrims during the exercise.

Kano Civilian Coup D'etat And Forces Behind It: Another Explanation

By: ABDULLAHI MUHAMMAD

In the last few days, the judgment delivered by the Kano State gubernatorial election petition tribunal, overturning the election of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf of the NNPP in favour of that of APC, Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna has generated critical comments from the cross-section of the society.

That judgment perhaps in recent history more than any other has brought ridicule to the judiciary as an independent body saddles among others with the responsibility of adjudicating election matters in Nigerian political landscape.

Taking clues from the comments made by reputable legal luminaries consisting of Professors of law, senior practicing lawyers, serving and retired judges as well as other public commentators had faulted the judgment on many grounds most importantly from the point of law, inherent contradictions and inconsistencies.

It is widely believed that the judgment was premeditated and secured in favour of the ruling party at the center.

Much has been expressed through divergent perspectives and earlier expressions by others but the most eclectic interpretation is that the judgment is to say the least an attempt to subvert the will expressed by Kano people during the 18th march gubernatorial election using the judicial institution through invisible manipulation by shenanigans tactics.

This article will attempt to explore other explanations that seek to expose the role of some dunderhead and cynical personalities who planned and executed this monumental judicial tragedy.

It is sad to recall that few months before the election the overbearing and powerful wife of the head of a federal security establishment of Kano extraction was involved in a commotion with the then NNPP Gubernatorial candidate Gov. Abba Kabir Yusuf.

This incident that was widely reported by the mainstream and social media occurred at the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport where she showered vituperation, spurious and nasty comments on Abba Kabir Yusuf and sworn that he will never be a Governor of Kano State as long as the husband is on that seat.

Since then, it was strongly suspected that the head of that establishment actively engaged in subterranean moves using the instrumentality of the apparatus of state coercive power to ensure that NNPP lost the gubernatorial election in fulfillment of his wife's pledge.

Another invisible hand is discernable to a King maker in Kano Emirate who performs the role of go in-between for the principal characters directly involved with the issue.

The role of the acting chairman of the ruling party in this saga is very obvious, he was reported to have played a central role in mobilizing massive resources and identifying key targets, strategies and final implementation of the entire operation, little wonder therefore, the man is widely believed to be a master in this game of the Dollar stuffing if video is anything to go by.

Also, a member of the Federal House of Representatives from Kano State and who is currently holding forte as a chairman of



an influential House of Representatives committee was also identified to be oscillating between various elements involved to strike a deal which also involves blackmail and heavy financial inducement.

To this moment, this group having realized that the judgment had elicited National and global condemnation on account of its heist nature had quickly taken another heinous step to see to its imposition in the appellant courts.

They continue to hold clandestine meetings at the instance of the APC National Chairman who is allegedly desperate to dictate the composition of the appellant judges with the intention of repeating the same travesty of justice committed by the lower court in Kano.

To the leadership of the judicial arm of Government, let it be on record that the 20th September judgment delivered by the Kano state gubernatorial petition Tribunal has sent shock waves that rock the foundation of justice across the globe.

The decision to snatch away the hard-earned victory of Abba Kabir Yusuf and handed same to a "bitter loser" (to borrow a leaf from Justice Benson Anya) who never petitioned against the victory has made nonsense of democracy and replace it with totalitarian system of governance through Judicial fiat.

If the judiciary cannot nurture and sustain the sanctity of democratic institutions like free, fair and credible elections expressly and succinctly won and declared by a constitutionally empowered electoral umpire, then we are in for a deep sheet.

The judicial system has thus replace democracy with the worse form of dictatorship, more nefarious than a military coup d'état. Furthermore, the judgment raised serious concerns about the impartiality and independence of the judiciary.

It confirms the suspicion of the utilization of the state apparatus of power to manipulate the power game through undemocratic means. The outcome therefore of that judgment calls into

question the integrity of the entire judicial process seemingly bastardized by the tribunal.

To salvage the image of the judiciary therefore, it is crucial to investigate any potential interference or undue influence exerted upon the tribunal members, ensuring that justice is not compromised for political expediency.

The foregoing advice is anchored on the principle of transparency and accountability that are the cornerstone of a just and functioning judiciary. Regrettably, the judgment in question failed to meet these fundamental standards.

The tribunal's decision lacks transparency in every sense as it does not provide a clear rationale for its deduction of over 165,000 votes from the votes of Abba Kabir Yusuf and thus her verdict. This lack of clarity and particularization undermines the verdict and public trust which also raises serious concern about the fairness of the entire electoral dispute resolution process.

To President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, it is incumbent upon him to tenaciously uphold, preserve, and protect democratic principles when and wherever is subverted and violated in the whole of the federation.

The sacred mandate freely given to Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf by the citizens of Kano state is sacrosanct, and therefore be defended by all true democrats.

The President's credentials as a democrat are impeccable and too much to be sacrificed on the altar of few minority who lost election and now desperate to reclaim power by all means possible including judicial manipulations.

The president may recall that under the era of PDP centrally controlled government in Nigeria, states like Ekiti, Osun and Edo as represented by governors, Rauf Aregbesola, Kayode Fayemi and Adams Oshiomhole of the then ACN, reclaimed their mandates through the fairness of the appellant courts.

As such, the judiciary under his administration should be seen to be truly independent to discharge justice no matter whose ox is gored.

Furthermore, the president may recall that he is presently rallying coalition of West-African Military, Diplomatic and Economic fronts to confront the military Junta in neighboring Niger Republic who ousted the democratically elected government of President Mohammed Bazoum, therefore under no circumstance should a civilian coup d'état be tolerated in Kano, Nigeria.

On this note, let it be reiterated that if Ganduje happens to successfully install Gawuna as a governor of Kano State; he will take the advantage of altering and distorting the power configuration under Tinubu's Presidency, thereby perfecting the plan of displacing the trio of Shettima, Ribadu and Gbajabiamila out of relevance within the power circle.

Mark this; this is part of the intrigues of power game in political science.

Lastly, but most importantly, President Bola Tinubu should draw lessons from history as any further attempt to entrench a civilian coup d'état in Kano State as being stage managed by the election petition tribunal through its judgment, there are high possibilities for the eruption of civil strife in the state and the spillover effect would spell doom for democracy in Nigeria.

This is reminiscence of the then ruling party NPN's attempt in 1983 general election to impose Mr. Akin Omoboriowo and Omololu Olunloyo as governors of Ondo and Oyo states respectively, all through electoral rigging and manipulations.

This amongst several other factors, precipitated the December 1983 Military Coup d'état that brought in General Muhammadu Buhari as the Head of State.

Mine here is a word of caution and circumspection by all public policy actors in Nigeria to save our democracy through entrenching democratic values and cultures.

Abdullahi Muhammad, a policy and security analyst is based in Kaduna

IAR Inspirational To Students, Professionals, Fast Tracking Agricultural Development - Borno SSG

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria
The Secretary to the Borno State Government (SSG), Alhaji Bukar Tijjani has described the Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR) as an inspiration to students, junior professionals, policy makers and fast tracking agricultural development.

Tijjani stated this at the IAR Centenary celebration held at Balarabe Tanimu Conference Hall, IAR/ABU, Zaria, as a guest lecturer.

He said, the institute has contributed immensely to the development of not only Northern Nigerian, but the nation as a whole. According to him, IAR alongside other research institutes are the ones that made Nigeria a commercial agriculture giant in the 70s when groundnut, cotton, cocoa, palm oil, hides and skin and Arabian Gum among others, were sustaining the economy.

Alhaji Bukar Tijjani said, as an agricultural professional and a global expert, he consider IAR as an agricultural revolution institute.

He called on government to adequately fund research institutes for more technology to be discovered. In his welcome address, the Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, Professor Kabiru Bala called on the Federal Government through the National University Commission (NUC) and Federal Ministry of Education to adopt the IAR and Faculty of Agriculture model of research and teaching/training by introducing the research and teaching/training components to all tertiary institutions, especially universities, for effective learning by the students.

Professor Kabiru Bala also wants all research institutes

to be affiliated with universities and the universities should go and learn how the relationship will be sustained symbiotically.

According to him, the value of the arrangement is immensely effective utilization of resources, research for teaching students and lecturers for research development.

Earlier in his address, the Executive Director Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR) Professor Muhammad Faguji Ishiyaku said in a bid to set target for the IAR, the Federal Government as well as expectations of teeming farming communities nationwide, the institute has been developing and releasing almost on a yearly basis, new crop varieties of their mandate crops to suit different ecologies, bearing in mind the changing climatic conditions.

Faguji said, their current drive is to continue with developing drought tolerant, flood resilient and nutrition varieties to mitigate effects of climate change and nutrition security among Nigerians.

According to him, the institute is working assiduously together with their collaborators to put in the hands of Nigerian farmers, crop varieties that can withstand or tolerate flood to minimize losses often experienced in the face of flash floods across the country as well as those that can tolerate the other extreme conditions of drought and extreme heat.

The director added that, IAR's output has culminated in the release of over 200 improved crop varieties for agricultural development and improvement of farmers lot for enhanced access to food by Nigerians.

35 Illegally Parked Vehicles Impounded As Taskforce Clears Illegal Garages, Obstructions In Lagos

unnecessary discomfort to road users is arrested and charged to court”.

Jejeloye sounded a note of warning to transporters and operators not just in Yaba but in other parts of the State who are fond of such actions to make use of designated parks and garages to carry out their businesses, vowing that traffic build up caused by illegal garages and parking will no longer be tolerated.

He concluded that traffic bottlenecks is not natural, neither is it created by God but is caused by human activities which has to be regulated and checkmated.

Zamfara Governor Chairs Security Council Meeting, Inaugurates Community Protection Guard

By ; I M R A N A ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Governor Dauda Lawal, on Wednesday, presided over the Zamfara State Security Council meeting.

The meeting convened at the council chamber of the Government House in Gusau was attended by the heads of the state's security agencies.

A statement by the spokesperson to the governor, Sulaiman Bala Idris, noted that Governor Lawal also inaugurated the steering committee of the Community Protection Guard (CPG).

He added that the council deliberated on various strategies to tackle the disturbing cases of banditry, kidnapping, and other criminal activities in the State.

The statement read in parts, “At the State Security Council meeting, Governor Dauda Lawal commended the effort of the security forces who put their lives in line to ensure a peaceful Zamfara.

“Governor Lawal was given a comprehensive update on the status of the remaining kidnapped victims and the measures



Zamfara Governor

implemented to guarantee their safe return.

“The heads of the security agencies also reviewed the progress made so far in implementing previous security measures and made recommendations for further improvement.

“Similarly, at the end of the security council meeting, Governor Dauda Lawal inaugurated the Steering Committee for the Establishment of Community Protection Guards.

“The Committee has been constituted and entrusted with the primary

responsibility of devising an implementable framework that will enable the immediate commencement of the activities of the proposed Community Protection Guards.

“The Committee is under the chairmanship of His Excellency, the State Deputy Governor, Malam Mani Malam Mumini, and its members selected from relevant stakeholders and organisations.

“The committee would study the problems experienced as a result of the activities of the banned

‘Yan Sa Kai’ and the suggestions outlined in the reports of the security agencies. To develop implementable ways of establishing the Community Protection Guard in the State.

“Furthermore, the committee is expected to propose the structure, Standard

Operating Procedure (SOP), enabling law and remunerations of the Community Protection Guard at State, Local Government, and Wards levels; To recommend best ways of recruiting the personnel to avoid engagement of unmerited persons in the job.

“To take any other measures deemed necessary for the successful conduct of the assignment; To Conclude the assignment and submit a report within 30 days.”

Ebonyi Assembly Calls For Calm Over Breach Of Agreement By Foreign Miners

By ; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Ebonyi State House of Assembly Committee on Solid Minerals, has appealed to the General Assembly of Ezillo Autonomous Community, Ishielu LGA to maintain calmness while the committee engages the management of Jin-Ziang Quarry Company which they accused of breaching the terms of their agreement.

The committee chairman, Mr Ifeanyi Nwakpu made the appeal at the Legislative Complex Nkaliki Road Abakaliki, when the host community and landlord of the quarry

company visited to solicit help from the state lawmakers.

Mr. Nwakpu representing Ikwo North State Constituency in company of other members of the committee, including Mrs. Chinyere Nwogbaga, representing Ebonyi North East, Mr. Henry Eze of Ishielu North, and Mrs. Esther Agwu representing Ohaukwu North thanked the representatives of the community for their thoughtfulness to seek help instead of resulting to self-help which he said would have truncated the peace of the state and reassured of the determination of the committee to ensure that

amicable resolution of the matter is reached in no distant time.

Earlier, the President General of Ezillo Autonomous Community, Mr. Michael Igwe-Okechi, and the Chairman Executives of Landlord Ishimkpuma Quarry Ezillo, Mr. Innocent Oje said their visit was aimed at averting possible crises that would erupt in the area if the matter remains unattended to.

The duo narrated how the Jin-Ziang Quarry Company in connivance with some members of the community deliberately robbed them of their due compensation for so long to enrich themselves. They

maintained that the Community and Landlord representatives involved in the matter were all elected members and therefore deserved the right to demand full payment of royalty for the mining sites.

In a vote of thanks, a stakeholder from the community Chief Godwin Eze-Anyim thanked the Committee members on Solid Minerals for assuring them of expedient action toward the peaceful resolution of the misunderstanding and promised to remain law abiding until the matter receives a logical conclusion.

NPFL: Stakeholders Rally Support For Kwara United, Call For Adherence To Rules

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Football stakeholders in Kwara State have all resolved to fully support Kwara United Football Club, as the team braces up to take on Abia Warriors in its first home match in the 2023-2024 Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL), scheduled for Sunday October 8, 2023, at the Main-Bowl of the Kwara State Stadium Complex, Ilorin.

The stakeholders meeting, staged as part of the annual pre-season activities by the Kwara State Football Association held at the Indoor Sports Hall of the Kwara State Sports Commission, and chaired by the Executive Chairman of the State Sports Commission, Mallam Bola Mogaji.

The Executive Chairman of the Kwara State Sports Commission, Mallam Bola Magaji, while appealing to fans, supporters and spectators to be disciplined, reiterated state government's support to the team.



"No team pushed out of its domain does well, and the experience of last season has shown us this. So, let us all join hands to ensure we have a successful season.

The Chairman of the Kwara State Football Association, Mallam Idris Abdullahi Musa, popularly known as Thuraya said that the essence of the meeting was not for Kwara United alone,

for for all issues relating to all clubs, irrespective of their cadre, ahead of the football season.

He said that Kwara FA has not recorded any problem as it relates to hosting of league matches owing to the adoption of the pre-season gathering, which he says, is being sustained, to ensure a hitch-free season.

He advised all the stakeholders to respect the restrictions that would be adopted at home games in Ilorin, as they are all geared towards implementing the rules already laid down by the league bodies.

"We have received several commendations from the NPFL in the last five seasons because of the way we handle proceedings during home matches in Ilorin, and we want to sustain that momentum, for the sake of all.

The stakeholders, especially the Supporters and Fans Club of the team, called for total adherence to the rules, especially as it concerns crowd control, sitting arrangements and observance of NPFL match protocols.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman of Kwara United, Kumbi Titiloye calls for total support for the team, pointing out that the team represents the aspirations of the whole of the indigenes of the state, beyond him as the Chairman, just like for everyone.

"We should see the team as our own. I am the Chairman today, and it would definitely be the turn of another set of Kwarans tomorrow. Let's avoid the experience of last season, especially now that we are back at home. We need to be united for the team.

Among those present at the gathering are the former Director of Sports, Mallam Tunde Kazeem, Retired Permanent Secretary, Alhaji Gesinde Adedeji Fregene, Chief Alloy Chukwuekema, the Nwachigoziri One, Alhaji Owolabi Agbaji Wopa, Kwara FA Board members and Football Council Chairmen, as well as other stakeholders.

2023 International Day Of Non violence: Hayab Urges Nigerians To Foster Culture Of Peace

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Country Director, Global Peace Foundation Nigeria (GPFN), Rev John Joseph Hayab, has called on Nigerians to emphasize their collective responsibility to foster the culture of peace for the development of the country.

Speaking while commemorating on this year International Day of Nonviolence, the Country Director also enjoined Nigerians to delve into the transformative power embedded in the philosophy as the world commemorate this day in memory of Mahatma Gandhi, the architect of nonviolence.

According to him, "Nonviolence is not a passive stance; it is an active force capable of healing wounds, mending divides, and constructing societies rooted

in genuine cohesion. Mahatma Gandhi's timeless directive, you must be the change you want to see in the world."

He observed that their collective vision in Global Peace Foundation is One Family Under God, stressing that it is a call to unity, transcending boundaries of religion, ethnicity, and nationality—a recognition of the shared humanity, bound together by common principles and values that form the foundation for lasting peace.

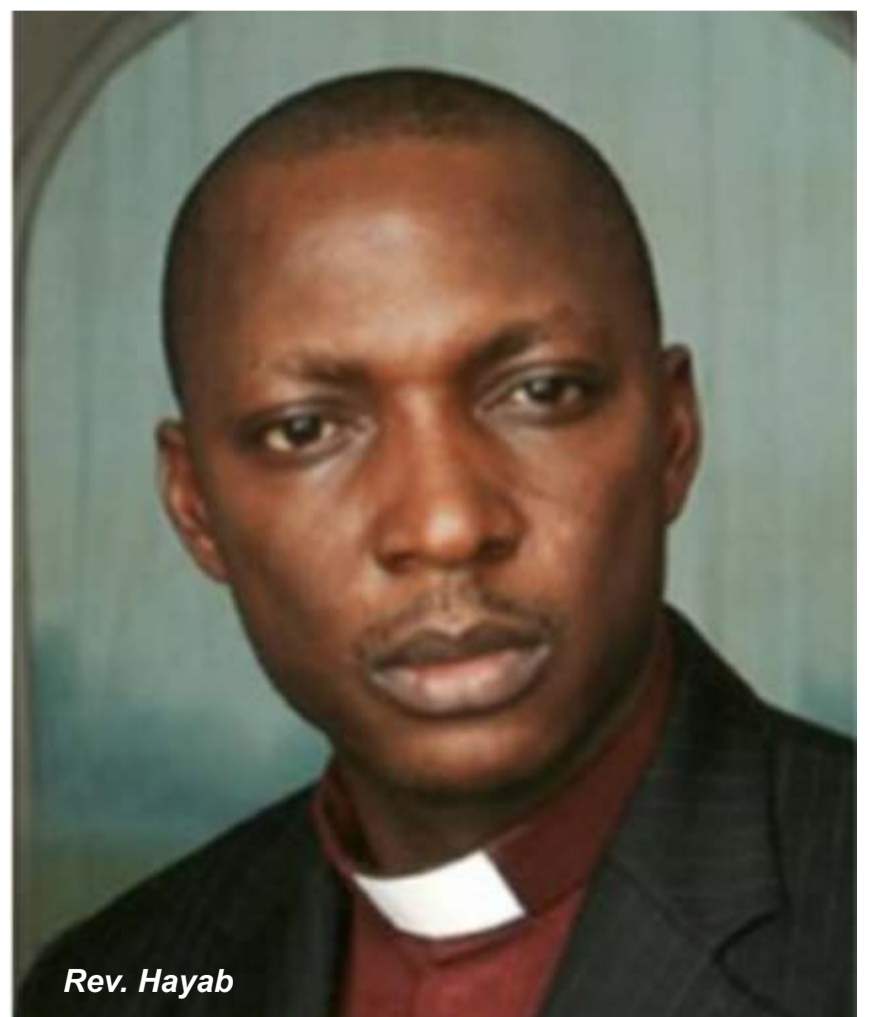
He added, "In the spirit of nonviolence, the Global Peace Foundation Nigeria has been actively intervening in regions that have experienced conflict, aiming to promote peace and social cohesion. Our efforts extend to diverse groups in Kaduna, Zamfara, Niger, Plateau, Rivers states, and the Federal Capital Territory

Abuja."

He explained that the benefits of nonviolence are profound and far-reaching that is not merely about conflict resolution but about building a sustainable foundation for enduring peace, saying that Nonviolence fosters understanding and reconciliation among diverse groups.

"It is a powerful force that, when embraced, creates a ripple effect, positively influencing individuals, communities, and entire nations," he stressed.

He called on Nigerians to carry with them the spirit of nonviolence, committing themselves to actively contribute to a more peaceful and harmonious world—one where the vision of One Family Under God becomes a lived reality.



Rev. Hayab

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Maternal Mortality: MRHRC Plans To Raise N100m In Aid Of Pregnant Women, Enhance Safe Delivery

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

No fewer than 82,000 Nigerian women die annually due to pregnancy-related problems and child bearing difficulties, a group, 'Maternal and Reproductive Health Research Collective (MRHRC), yesterday. Its founder and chairperson, Prof. Bosede Afolabi, described the mortality rate as the highest in the world, urging government and other stakeholders to intensify reproductive health campaigns to sensitise women, particularly rural communities. Afolabi, a professor of Gynecology, said: "These distressing figures continue to rise each year, despite the fact that the majority of these deaths are preventable."

"This year, we have developed an intervention aimed at combating this crisis, and with support, we aspire to provide safe delivery for 5,000 pregnant women in Lagos. By doing so, we can collectively reduce maternal mortality by five per cent within the coming year."

Afolabi spoke with reporters in Lagos on the NGO's plan to raise N100 million between now and month end in aid of pregnant

women and to enhance safe delivery. With her at the press conference were other medical experts and partners, including Dr. Mobolanle Balogun, Prof. Abide Gbadegesin of the University of Lagos, Akoka, Abena Annah, Sterling Bank Head of Retail Banking, Temitayo Etomi, founder of Redwire Marketing Group, and Seyi Oyewoye of I-Fitness.

Afolabi, who said the group's goal is to reduce maternal mortality in Nigeria by 30 per cent by 2030, added that donations from public spirited individuals, organisations and government will be used to train health care workers and pay for consistent antenatal care and safe delivery.

Balogun, an associate professor of Public Health, University of Lagos, lamented that the country has an abysmally high rate of mortality, standing at 30 per cent, which is the highest in the world, adding that the gap between Nigeria and others is wide.

She said: "Pregnancy should not be a death sentence. High mortality is a great loss to the community and the nation which is endangered."

Highlighting the causes, she

attributed the high statistics to haemorrhage during delivery, obstructed labour, infection after delivery and high blood pressure.

Balogun added: "Access to health facilities is a problem in rural areas, contrary to WHO'S recommendation. People trek far distance to get health care. The quality of care is a problem. There is lack of skilled birth attendants at home and hospitals. Also, cultural reasons prevent women from seeking care. Poverty is a problem; 70 per cent of Nigerians live below poverty line. It affects their ability to access healthcare. Lack of information is a problem about preparation for pregnancy, what to eat during pregnancy and where to go."

MRHRC Executive Director, Funke Iroko, said the focus of the



initiative are indigent women and girls who should have access to quality health care.

She stressed: "The focus are indigent women with low economic status. We will approach it with research, advocacy and intervention. The research should be participatory, working with stakeholders who are direct beneficiaries. On intervention, we work on solutions, based on research."

Prof. Gbadegesin said illness and death resulting from child

delivery has been worrisome, adding that it is unacceptable.

He disclosed that the association of gynaecologists has been organising seminars to update the knowledge and skills of members on the best way of reducing the high mortality.

Gbadegesin said: "People should be urged to make use of facilities provided by the government at the local government. Government should also take care of roads in the communities to facilitate access."

35 Illegally Parked Vehicles Impounded As Taskforce Clears Illegal Garages, Obstructions In Lagos

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

No fewer than 35 vehicles illegally parked and causing traffic obstruction were impounded during an endorsement for compliance operation in Lagos by the Taskforce.

The vehicles were said to have been parked at an unapproved garage in Jibowu area of the state, causing major obstruction on the Jibowu corridor of Yaba axis in the state.

The operation which took place at night, was coordinated by the chairman of the Agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye who described the actions of some transport operators as self-centred due to



Lagos Taskforce chairman CSP Jejeloye leading an operation

the way and manner in which they deliberately occupy a large portion of the road to load goods on their vehicles and also pick up passengers.

In a release by Gbadeyan Abdurraheem Director, Press & Public Affairs of the agency, Jejeloye disclosed that residents and commuters who ply that axis, especially after the close of work complained bitterly to the State Government concerning the activities of bus operators at Jibowu who convert those areas to road side courier stations and mini garages.

"It is sad to see these transport operators move their business

from their premises down to the main road meant for free vehicular movement just for their selfish gains. Their actions cause increased travel time and unnecessary chaos once it gets dark".

The chairman further disclosed that the vehicles impounded have been booked and the owners of the vehicles will be made to face the full wrath of the law.

"It is high time we put a stop to this inhumanity to Lagosians plying that route. We will ensure constant patrol and monitoring of Jibowu corridor especially at night when such infractions usually occur and make sure any one caught inflicting

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