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Suggests use of technology

*Wants corps members to serve in areas they hail from



From Second Right, Edo State Governor, Godwin Obaseki; commissioning the female wards @ Wesley Hospital Ilesa, Osun State on Tuesday. With them from left are CMD Wesley Hospital, Prof. John Okeniyi; Alh. Fola Sarumi and Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke. **Photo: AKINOLAARIYO**

By: **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

Pan Yoruba socio political organization, Afenifere yesterday, asked the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu-led Federal government to arrest the fast-degenerating security situation in Nigeria. The Pan Yoruba socio political organization in a statement by its National

Publicity Secretary, Comrade Jare Ajayi said in doing this, the time has come for security agencies in Nigeria to take more decisive actions in approaching the issue. According to Afenifere, reports from various parts of the country were indicating an upsurge in acts of banditry, especially kidnapping and that the terrorists are targeting

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*Eyes all year crop production in Nigeria

CP Orders Manhunt Of NYSC Corps Member's Killers In Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The brutal murder of a member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) member, Grace Chalya Silas, by yet-to-be-identified assailants in Kaduna State has been confirmed by the State Police Command.

The Command's spokesman, ASP Mansir Hassan, explained that the state Police Commissioner, CP Musa Yusuf Garba, has directed a manhunt for the killers of the Corps member. Chalya Silas, who is on her

one-year mandatory national service in the state, was reported to have been stabbed to death during her morning jogging at Barnawa, in Kaduna South Local Government Area of the state on Wednesday.

The deceased's friends and course mates at the University of Jos took to Facebook to mourn her.

The Kaduna Command's Public Relations Officer, ASP Mansir Hassan, while confirming the incident, described the death of the corps member as "tragic". According to him, the Commissioner of Police,

CP Musa Yusuf Garba, after an emergency meeting of the top hierarchy of the command, has ordered the Barnawa Divisional Police Officer and operatives to hunt for the killers of the corps member with a view of bringing whoever is involved to book.

He described it as a very tragic incident, saying that she was performing her early morning jogging (exercise) when some miscreants (phone snatchers) on motorcycles pounced on her. He explained, "The

victim's name is Grace Chalya Silas. She was a Corps member serving in Kaduna South."

When the case was reported to the police, he stated that the operatives responded swiftly and moved to the scene of the crime, where they saw the victim in the pool of her own blood, she was rushed to the clinic, where she was later confirmed dead. He said that following an emergency meeting with the top hierarchy of command over the matter, they have already gotten in touch with NYSC in the state on the issue.

Group Organizes Prayer Session For Peace In Zamfara

By; A D A M MUHAMMAD, Gusau

Group of concerned citizens in Zamfara State have yesterday, conducted spiritual prayers for the return of peaceful coexistence in the state. The group headed by Prof. Nasiru Anka yesterday, described the lingering insecurity as a result of the banditry as worrisome which needs total submission to Almighty Allah for sustainable peace in the state.

Prof. Anka said that similar prayers will soon be conducted across 14 local government areas in the state by the group.

"We decided to organize such prayer session in Gusau considering the

insecurity as a result of the activities of terrorists bandits in the state and similar prayers will be hold across 14 local government areas that we have in the state for peace to thrive".

Prof. Anka stated He enjoined religious leaders in the state to continue praying for relative peace to be returned.

He also called on federal government to as a matter of urgency deploy more security personnel to the state in order to fight against banditry.

"The call became necessary considering the fact that Zamfara state have been seriously faced by bandits attacks on innocent civilians for over a decade". He said

Gowon @ 89: Northern Governors Salute Former Head of State



Gowon

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum and Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya CON, has felicitated former Head of State, Gen. Yakubu Gowon, Rtd, on the occasion of his 89th birthday yesterday, October 19, 2023.

Governor Inuwa described General Gowon as an iconic figure in Nigeria's history, who played a significant role in unifying

the country and shaping the nation's destiny with his visionary leadership when he served as Head of State.

In a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, he noted the commitment of the former Head of State to peace building, noting that Gowon remains a shining example of a true patriot and elder statesman whose life is worthy of emulation.

"General Gowon's sustaining efforts in promoting harmony, fostering cohesion among Nigerians through his National Prayer Movement initiative and other endeavors continue to inspire understanding, good neighborliness and a high degree of unity and patriotism among the diverse people of the country. His dedication to the spiritual and moral wellbeing of the nation is highly inspiring".

"On this special day, the Northern Governors'

Forum, joins the nation in celebrating this remarkable and iconic statesman. We wish General Yakubu Gowon a very happy 89th birthday and continued happiness.

"It is our sincere prayer that Almighty God will continue to preserve this humble and great leader in good health so that his wisdom, vision, and love for our country will continually guide us in our collective pursuit of a better and more prosperous nation".

Kwara Gov Names Visitation Panels To State-owned CoEds

By; BILIQIS OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has approved the appointment of visitation panels to the three public-owned Colleges of Education (CoEDs) in the state, a new step to improve the standards of the schools and make them more efficient in the discharge of their mandates.

The affected schools are the Kwara State Colleges of Education Ilorin, Oro, and Lafiagi (Technical), each having its own panel.

Members of the Visitation Panel to CoEd Ilorin are: Prof. Kpotun Mohammed Baba (chairman); Alhaji Kuranga Omomeji Idowu; Mrs. Shera Kperogi; Dr. Zubair Ibrahim Tswachi; Dr.

Olayinka Olowonirejuaro; and Dr. Fashiku C.O. (Secretary). For CoEd Oro, the Governor has appointed the following: Prof. Ibrahim Jawondo (Chairman); Alhaja Raodat Omowunmi Yusuf; Mallam Umar Abdullah Sanda; Alhaja Rashidat Isiaka; Dr. Ajibola Abiodun Atoyebi; and Dr. S.O. Aboyeji (Secretary).

Lafiagi has the following as members of its own visitation panel: Prof. Ezekiel Tejumola (Chairman); Dr. Ameen Funsho Ahmed; Dr. Arinde Omotosho Williams; Alhaja Aminat Sulaiman Ibrahim; Mrs. Adejumo Christianah Bimpe; and Dr. Bashir Leke Ijaiya (Secretary).

The visitation panels have eight (8) weeks to submit their reports, beginning from when they commence sittings.

Alleged Illegal Duty/political Clash: Kogi Officer In Viral Video In Custody

*CP orders investigation

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja.

The Commissioner of Police, Kogi State Police Command, CP Bethrand C. Onuoha, has ordered an investigation into a trending video where an Assistant Superintendent of Police was seen in the pool of his blood as a result of a Political clash in Idah. This was contained in a statement signed by the Police Public Relations Officer, William Ovyeye Aya, made available yesterday.

The Commissioner of Police while condemning the incident, noted that the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Criminal Investigation Department has been tasked to commence investigation.

"The CP reiterates the Command's unwavering commitment to continue to

engage the critical stakeholders in Election Security Management to ensure a secure environment for electoral process," the statement said.

He added that, the command is ever determined in providing a level playing ground for all political parties as they embark on campaigns, rallies, procession among others.

He sternly warned would-be trouble makers who are hell bent on causing violence and to undermine the credibility of the electoral process in the state to stay away from such act as the Police in synergy with other Security Agencies on Election Security Management will not hesitate to deal decisively with anyone caught disrupting the electoral process.

Gov Uba Sani Approves N3.1bn For Gratuity, Death Benefits

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has approved the release of the sum of N3.1 billion for the payment of gratuity for retirees and death benefits for families of the deceased under the Defined Benefit Scheme and the Contributory Pension Scheme.

This announcement is in tandem with Governor Sani's commitment in easing the hardship faced by the elderly, who are among the state's most vulnerable.

A statement from Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State, Muhammad Lawal Shehu dated October 19, 2023, said, Governor Sani

remains committed to ensuring that upon retirement, workers who have served Kaduna State diligently, have full access to what is rightfully theirs.

The Kaduna State Government through the State Pension Bureau is resolute in ensuring the continuity of the release of these payments for gratuity and death benefits to beneficiaries in the state.

"The release of these funds will aid in ameliorating the ripple effects of current economic realities, especially for the elderly who have retired from active service.

"The full list and details of beneficiaries will be released by the State Pension Bureau in the coming days," the statement said.

Food Security: DAC/ABU Training Middle Level Manpower For Agricultural Sector Revolution - Director

*Eyes all year crop production in Nigeria

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Director Division of Agricultural Colleges (DAC), Ahmadu Bello University Zaria Professor Musa Abdullahi Mahdi has restated the commitment of the colleges to producing more trained middle level manpower for the agricultural sector to augment government efforts in achieving food security in Nigeria.

He stated this in an interview with journalists in his office yesterday in Zaria, noting that small holder farmers need the support of middle level manpower to deliver.

Professor Mahdi said, the division has commenced irrigation agronomy programme to improve all year crops production in the country towards enhancing food security in Nigeria".

According to him, irrigation agronomy means crop production with artificial supply of water and the programme has become imperative,



Professor Mahdi

considering the population explosion in the country vis-à-vis climate threats to the rain-fed agriculture widely practiced in Nigeria.

He said that the division is set to commence courses in irrigation agronomy at National Diploma and Higher National Diploma levels to expose students to the technologies of

irrigation farming to avert food shortage in the country.

He appealed to the government to provide more funding to enable the college execute more developmental projects. Mahdi said that it is becoming very imperative for governments at all levels to leverage on technology to beef up

agricultural production to prevent food scarcity as envisaged by some experts.

The director explained that three brand new tractors with implements procured under the 2022 capital development project were launched for teaching and research at the division.

"Two tractors were first procured in 2021 when the division marked the centenary anniversary of the Samaru College of Agriculture," he added. Prof. Mahdi explained that they have responded to the Vice-Chancellor's clarion call on the need to work hard for the improvement of teaching, learning, IGR and visibility globally.

Prof. Mahdi expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for his unflinching support towards the development of the division and assured him of their determination to continue to improve the system in the best interest of the university as a whole.

Afenifere Tells Tinubu To Arrest Fast-degenerating Security Situation In Nigeria

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farmers, road users, students, youth corps members, among others,

It however, gave ways of stemming the insecurity as, "immediate establishment of state and local government areas' Police Forces, boosting the morale of security officials in terms of remuneration, provision of modern equipment, proper kitting and technological innovations.

Afenifere noted that other ways included that 'Drones should also be deployed in various parts of the country while quick dispensation of justice for kidnappers and bandits too must be accelerated".

"All that is needed to be done are to constitutionally allow states and local government communities to have own security outfits empowered to carry out Police duties. They should be trained and equipped with modern technology

designed for security," it said.

The Pan Yoruba socio political organization added, "Those to be recruited should be indigenes of the locality who are familiar with the terrain and are known by those in the community."

"Without doubt, most of the nefarious activities (kidnapping in particular) occur with the knowledge, if not a tacit connivance, of some people within the locality. So, if the community is put in a position to be deeply involved in the security of its area, chances are that banditry, terrorism and sundry criminality would be brought to the minimum level".

Afenifere stressed "as the process of establishing community policing is started forthwith, government must also embark on enhancing the welfare of the people immediately", and that

"Specifics for realizing this include a drastic cut in the emoluments of political office-holders, provide highly subsidized vehicles for transport unions across the country to cut down costs of transportation"

Stressing further, Afenifere stated, "To put an end to the risks faced by youths, especially youth corps members, these youth be allowed to serve their fatherland within their localities, within their states of origin or within the state of domicile.

"This is to put an end to the corpsers being kidnapped in the process of making a long-distance journey as happened to the corpsers going to Sokoto from Akwa Ibom State. Ondo, Osun, Ekiti, Imo, Rivers, Niger, Nasarawa, Kaduna, Benue, Imo, Enugu and Katsina are among the hot spots for banditry, kidnapping especially!

Rivers Govt, NIS Organise Workshop On Benefits, Potentials Hidden In Deep Sea, Ocean

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Rivers State Command of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) in conjunction with the state government has organised a one day workshop on how to harness and benefit from the great potentials hidden in the deep sea and ocean, as part of its contribution to the development of government's policy on the Marine and Blue Economy.

Speaking at the workshop held on Monday in Port Harcourt, the acting Comptroller General of Immigration, Caroline Wuraola Adepoju emphasised that the Ocean holds vast opportunities for developing countries to build more innovative and resilient economies. She stressed that the world's Ocean Economy is estimated to be between \$3-6trillion, noting that it speaks volume on how human activities and multiple global crises have significantly affected different sectors, including fishing, Seafood, Shipping and Coastal tourism among others.

Stating that the Ocean Economy (Blue Economy) offers many opportunities, the NIS Boss added that stakeholders must strike the right balance between benefitting from the Ocean and protecting its resources.

She however lamented that climate change, environmental pollution and criminalities on the waterways are threats to the opportunities and the livelihoods of about three billion people who rely on the ocean for

food and income.

Speaking further, Adepoju posited that Global 'Blue Deal' could drive more investment into emerging sustainable sectors that could benefit developing countries.

Citing the Seaweed farming as an example among others, she hinted that the Global market for Seaweed has more than tripled in two decades according to reports, increasing from \$4.5 billion in 2000 to \$16.5 billion in 2020.

" Seaweed does not need fresh water or fertilizer to grow, it can be farmed in many developing countries for food, cosmetics and biofuels. It provides an alternative to plastic. 11million tones of which is said to flow into the ocean each year.

" Seaweed abounds as natural endowment and gift of mother nature. It is a source of many useful and sustainable materials that can be used to make eco-friendly versions of straws, food wrappings and other plastic products we use daily. Most materials that many coastal countries have in abundance like Bamboo, Coconuts husks, Banana Plants and other agricultural by-products, that are useful resources to the local communities who have a wealth of traditional and cultural knowledge in using these materials.

" Universities, governments and businesses can improved funding for the Research and Development of emerging sustainable sectors in the Blue Economy", she explained.

The NIS Comptroller General hinted that In 2020, an estimated

value of 1.3trillion dollars was put on Global export of ocean based good which include sea food, port equipment and services, including shipping and coastal tourism.

Exports category of Ocean-based goods and Services in 2020, goods included High Technology and Infrastructures, ships and Port equipment, Marine fisheries and Aquaculture, Seafood processing and Sea Minerals.

While presenting a paper at the occasion, one of the resource persons pointed out

that the Blue Economy has overwhelming relevance in national development, saying it covers a wide spectrum of maritime resources and activities ranging from Shipping, Oil & Gas, Renewable Energy, Offshore Power, Fishery to support services. According to him, there are indeed great potentials in the effective and efficient management of the multi-Billion Dollar Blue Economy and the sustainable exploitation of the sector can result in quick wins such as massive wealth and job creation, tourism and regular migration, infrastructural development, improved food security and green energy with their concomitant effect



Acting Comptroller General of Immigration, Wuraola Adepoju, representative of Rivers Governors, Dr. Tammy Danagogo and others at the event.

on the national economy.

He submitted that the Blue Economy has a bright future so long as all State and non-State actors as well as other stakeholders sustain the tempo of unwavering commitment to best practices in technological innovation, renewable energy, circular economy principles, sustainable tourism and provision of a wide spectrum of incentives to encourage massive investment with the attendant multiplier benefits.

According to him, continued strategic partnerships by the Rivers State Government as well as the Federal Government of Nigeria with both local and international

stake holders will go a long way to revamping the Blue Economy sector.

In his remarks, the Comptroller of Immigration Service Rivers State Command James Sunday, PCC said the organisers will come up with a white paper to help both the Rivers State and the Federal Government of Nigeria to harness and benefit from the great potential hidden in the deep sea and Oceans as a contribution to the development of government policy on the Marine and Blue Economy in Nigeria with the support of all relevant agencies, among the states in Nigeria.

\$4.8bn Missing Crude: Mele Kyari Should Resign, Allow For Transparent Investigation - Group

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) in conjunction with Allied civil society organizations under the aegis of coalition of national civil society organizations against inept leaders has called on NNPC/GCEO Mele Kyari to Obey Court order and publicly disclose the whereabouts of proceed of stolen 48 million barrels of Nigeria's Bonny light crude stolen and stored in china since 2015.

Professor Chris Mustapha Nwaokobia Jnr (Convener, Countryfirst movement) Comrade James Ezema (Deputy National Publicity secretary CNPP), and Alhaji Ali Abacha (National secretary, coalition of Nigeria civil society organization) while addressing journalist in a world press conference in Abuja, said the NNPC/NNPCL has been at the center of the illegal sale of 48 million barrels of Nigeria's Bonny Light Crude in China since 2015 valued at 4.8 billion dollars at \$100/barrel as leaked by a whistle-blower. Nwaokobia said beyond preventing lawmakers from carrying out their constitutional oversight functions of probing oil theft cases, using the former Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, the

NNPCL Group Chief Executive Officer, Engr Mele Kolo Kyari has also refused to obey the order of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to disclose and publish, in the interest of the public, the whereabouts of the proceeds of the sale of the 48 million Barrels of Bonny light Crude Oil Stolen from Nigeria and stored in china under his watch.

According to the Coalition, a federal high court Judge, Justice F.A. Aliyu, made an order on July 12, 2023 and Since the order was made, till date, Engr Kyari has carried on as though the court did not exist, let alone issuing an ordered.

In view of the refusal of the Mele Kolo Kyari-led management of the NNPC to obey the order of the Court and obvious

efforts to frustrate every process that could lead to unraveling the mystery behind the illegal sale of the 48 million barrels of Nigeria's Bonny Light Crude in China in 2015, valued at \$4.8billion dollars as leaked by whistle-blowers, the group demanded for the immediate suspension of the NNPC's GCEO to pave way for unhindered investigation into the matter.

The group also called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, as a matter of urgent national importance, to suspend Mele Kyari and carry out full forensic audit of the old NNPC and the new NNPC under his watch.

Recall that in February 2023, a Ad hoc Committee openly accused then the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), Abubakar Malami, as well as the INTERPOL, of interference in the committee's investigation regarding the Exposure.

The Chairman, House Ad hoc Committee on Oil Theft, Mark Gbilla had said, "There is a group called Advocacy for Good Governance and Free Nigeria. That is the so-called Civil Society Organisation that wrote to the Attorney General claiming there was this international gang of blackmailers trying to blackmail senior officials of the government.



Kwara Gov Exemplary In Nigeria's Fight Against Malaria: FG, Global Fund

*State reduces under-five malaria prevalence to 6%

*Gov demonstrates use, flags off distribution of 2.2m treated nets in Kwara

By **BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin.**

Kwara State Governor, **AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq** on Wednesday, came up for national applause by the Global Fund as the body rated the administration as one of the best in the fight against malaria.

The commendation came as Governor **AbdulRazaq** personally launched the statewide distribution of integrated Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention and insecticide Treated Nets (SMC/ITN) across communities in the state.

"Today's event again testifies to the commitment of our administration to the wellbeing of our people, especially in the fight against malaria. Our malaria elimination programmes and strategies are complementary to the multipronged approach we are using to address health care challenges in the state," the Governor said in Ilorin at the flag off ceremony of the integrated SMC/ITN campaign for 2023.

Dwelling on the huge success recorded by the administration during the implementation of 2020 ITN campaigns, **AbdulRazaq** promised to continue to pay prompt attention to the health needs of the masses. The Governor said the mosquito net is an effective tool to tackle the menace of malaria through the barrier it provides against mosquito bites, especially in the night when used as prescribed, urging Kwara residents to collect and put them to good use.

"The remarkable success of our last outing in November, 2020 was not limited to the 99% state-wide coverage and its attendant socioeconomic impacts. It also contributed to the overall improved health indices that we are celebrating and have been rewarded for in the state," he said.

"It has been established that these interventions have helped to bring the prevalence of malaria to as low as 20%. This is far from the 27% that was recorded in 2018 before we came on board and even below the current national average of 22%.

"The success in the implementation of the SMC strategy since 2021 where we



L-R: Commissioner for Health Dr. Amina El-Imam; Munirat Kudirat (Beneficiary); Folorunsho Falila (Beneficiary); Director Team Lead Global Fund Programs and Management Unit National Malaria Elimination Programme Federal Ministry of Health Dr. Issa Kawu; Managing Director Society for Family Health Dr. Omokhudu Idogho; Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON); Deputy Governor Kayode Alabi; Mogaji Are Alhaji Aremu Zubair; Secretary to the State Government Alhaji Mahe Abdulkadir; and Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health Dr. Abubakar Ayinla; during the flag-off of Mosquito Net distribution, in Ilorin, on Wednesday.

have been administering malaria preventive tablets to our under-5-year-old children has also crashed the incidence of severe malaria among this age group to as low as 6%."

He congratulated every member of the team and partners on the huge feats made, and pledged to continue to create an enabling environment to encourage and support partnership and collaborations to achieve a lot more.

The Governor had earlier on Wednesday received on a courtesy visit a delegation comprising representative of the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare and Team Lead for Global Fund Programme Management Unit for National Malaria Elimination Programme, Federal Ministry of Health Dr. Issa Kawu; Nigeria Country Manager for Global Fund Dr. Jean-Thomas Nouboussi; Managing Director Society for Family Health Dr. Omokhudi Idogho; and State Coordinator for World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Salihu Abdullahi; among other dignitaries.

They were received at the Government House alongside Deputy Governor Kayode Alabi; Secretary to the State Government Prince Abdulkadir Mahe Aliyu; and State Commissioner for Health Dr. Amina Ahmed El-Imam; Commissioner for Communications Hon. Bola Olukoju; Commissioner for Business, Innovation and Technology (BIT) Yusuf Damilola; Commissioner for Local Government, Community Development and Chieftaincy Affairs Abubakar Bata; and Commissioner for Energy Abdulganij Abdulazeez Kola; among others.

Dr. Issa Kawu, who represented the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, said malaria, according to the 2022 World Malaria report, remains a major public health challenge in Nigeria, with the country contributing 27% to the global malaria burden and 23% to malaria deaths globally. He commended the Governor for his proactiveness that has resulted in the huge success recorded in the state's response to malaria prevalence.

Dr. Kawu said malaria prevalence has dropped drastically in Kwara State under the watch of the Governor owing to his commitments to the antimalaria campaign in the state.

Dr. El-Imam, for her part, said some 2.2m nets worth \$11.6m and SPAQ (malaria preventive drugs) worth \$36.1m are to be distributed in this round for the benefit of the people.

She attributed the feat the government has recorded to the government's passion and responsiveness to the welfare needs of the citizens, hoping to achieve greater results for the current SMC/ITN campaign.

The Commissioner said the Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) activities are already ongoing in 11 LGAs of the state that were selected based on rainfall pattern information for 4 consecutive months.

Dr. Jean-thomas, country manager for Global Fund, hailed the Governor's leadership style and dynamism that he noted led to the state's landmark achievements in the health

sector.

He said **AbdulRazaq's** passionate drive of the health sector accounted for the choice of Kwara as the first state to receive the new and effective LLIN and SMC/ITN nets.

"Before the end of the year, our Executive Director will organise a mission to visit Kwara. He wants to visit Kwara because of all the successes that we have been telling. It is not only the Global Fund secretariat, but the whole world is telling good stories about Kwara, on the story of Kwara regarding the successes and elimination of Malaria in Kwara," he said.

"This (first-of-its-kind event) is to compensate your effort in mobilising your colleagues and health workforce in putting some resources in this campaign. Kwara is one of the best states playing its part by putting its counterpart resources as and when due. It has been quite exemplary."

Highlights of the event were the symbolic presentation of insecticide Treated Nets to some families in the state and the Governor demonstrating the use of the net by briefly sleeping in it."

Palliatives: Zulum Shares N125m, Food To 40,000 Families In Konduga

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, yesterday, supervised the distribution of N125m cash, food and non-food items to over 40,000 families in Konduga Local Government Area as part of the ongoing palliatives exercise.

The distribution which took place in three centres, is aimed

at reducing the hardship faced by residents as a result of fuel subsidy removal by the federal government in May this year.

The beneficiaries comprised 15,000 male heads of households each of whom received a 25 kg bag of rice and 10 kg bag of beans and there were 25,000 females who received N5,000 cash and a wrapper each.

“In continuation of our efforts to distribute palliatives to

vulnerable persons in Borno State, we are here in Konduga. In today's distribution, about 25,000 vulnerable women, each received a wrapper and N5,000 translating to about N125m. In addition to this, we also distributed a bag of 25kg rice and 10kg beans each to 15,000 male heads of households”, Zulum said.

Zulum began the distribution of fuel subsidy removal palliative

in July targeting about 300,000 households across Borno State with priorities on communities most affected by insurgency.

Zulum later scaled up the distribution from 300,000 to 400,000 households.

Over 2,000 vulnerable families have benefited in each of the 27 wards from Zulum's palliative in Maiduguri Metropolis and Jere Local Government area. However, every head of

households living in the rural communities of the LGAs affected by the insurgency will benefit.

Beside food distribution, Zulum introduced other measures including 80 buses conveying farmers for free to and from their farms, 30 buses for subsidized transport of civil servants to their offices and back as well as provision of subsidized metro city buses.



I Never Said I Won't Honour Police Invitation, AA Chairman Omoaje Declares

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

National Chairman of the Action Alliance (AA) Dr. Adekunle Rufai Omoaje has debunked reports that he refused to honour the invitation of the Police over a matter being investigated by the office of the Inspector General of Police.

Dr. Omoaje said he did not grant any interview to any reporter on the matter or any other matter affecting either him or the party and the Police.

The Police had through the office of Inspector General of Police (Monitoring) invited Omoaje to appear over a petition based on alleged impersonation on the petition filed before the National Assembly Elections Petition Tribunal in Abia State, which judgement was appealed against.

Omoaje in an interview with our correspondent, reaffirmed his respect for the law enforcement agencies and security agencies in the country, saying that he has no reason to run away from the police.

He said he voluntarily provided his office address in Abuja for the Police and also directed that the police invitation be sent to him electronically, which he acknowledged thereafter.

The AA national chairman also informed that he was outside Abuja when he got wind of the invitation, and directed that the invitation be sent to him electronically, an indication that he has the utmost respect for the Police and also willing to receive the invitation.

He said he has already reached an understanding with the police to appear on October 28, 2023 and the police agreed with him, adding that the date is yet



to elapse.

Omoaje said he was taken aback by the report in a section of the media, which erroneously alleged him not willing to honour the police invitation, saying that he did not issue any statement to that effect or grant any interview regarding such development.

He said the report was misleading and far from his personal wish, adding that it was aimed at painting him in bad light before the police and the public in particular.

The AA national chairman said he did not commit any offence, thus he has no reason not to honour the invitation of the police.

While recalling that he personally forwarded all the messages sponsored by the opposition against him to the police, Omoaje stressed that the impersonator in the matter affecting the party at the National Assembly Elections Petition Tribunal in Abia State was one Kenneth Udeze who he alleged of withdrawing the party's petition despite the fact that he is not a member of the party.

He said if there's anyone to be arrested for alleged impersonation, it should be Udeze as he allegedly withdrew the party's petition without being a member of the party.

Omoaje thereby, appealed to the police and the general public to discountenance the report sponsored by the opposition with the aim to malign his personality and integrity.

UI Senior Staff Club Celebrates Sanusi At 55

*Enjoins him to do more for humanity

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Senior Staff Club of the Premier University, University of Ibadan on Tuesday, congratulated the Jagun Olubadan of Ibadanland on his 55th year birthday, describing it as a celebration of services to humanity.

A statement signed by the President of the club, Dr Bisi Olawuyi, said Chief (Engineer) Dotun Sanusi has elevated service to humanity to another level tasking him to double efforts to empower more Nigerians at this critical time.

Dr. Olawuyi stressed that the Jagun Olubadan renders help to vulnerable individuals, weak communities, and even the state cannot be a thing happening by chance if not that the multi-billionaire is wired with

milk of human kindness.

While praying for sound health and mind for the business mogul, Dr Olawuyi prayed that Jagun Olubadan would live long enough to witness positive turnaround in the lives he has impacted.

While saying 55 years on Mother Earth is not a mean feat, the UI Senior Staff Club President advised other business moguls in the state to rise up and emulate the worthy contributions that Engineer Sanusi has been making to transform the poor, empower the weak and improve the internally generated revenues of Oyo State through his investments located in the state.

Dr. Olawuyi prayed to God to answer the prayers of the Chairman of Ilaji Hotel and Sport Resort as marches ahead in his life.



Chief Dotun Sanusi

APC-IGG Optimistic Of National Development Under President Tinubu



Tsoken

By: JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The National Council, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu would work Progressives selflessly towards the Congress Initiative For Good Governance, (APC-IGG) has disclosed that Nigeria would be great under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his lieutenants.

He stated this in a chat with our correspondent, adding that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is now set to make Nigeria great with the institutional cooperation as one of the most formidable APC support legislative arms in the present democratic dispensation.

In conclusion, the national President announced that APC-IGG, would continue to work for the success of the present administration as one of the most formidable APC support groups and commended the Secretary General of the Federation (SGF), Dr. Ambassador Musa George Akume for his contributions towards the progress of the nation.

Police Hosts Stakeholders, Strengthens Inter-Agency Collaboration For Secured, Credible Off-Season Elections

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Inspector-General of Police, Ag. IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun Ph.D, NPM, has, on October 17, 2023, convened a high-powered inter-agency consultative security meeting at the Louis Edet House, Force Headquarters Abuja.

The meeting was organized in preparation for the off-season elections scheduled for November 11, 2023, in Bayelsa, Kogi, and Imo states.

Representing the IGP at the event was the Deputy Inspector-General of Police in charge of operations, DIG Ede Ayuba, who underlined the paramount significance of cross-fertilizing ideas among various security and law enforcement agencies towards election security. In a statement by the Force Public Relations Officer ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, the essence of the meeting is to develop collaborative strategies that will ensure the upcoming elections are secure, free, fair, and credible.

In attendance were senior officers representing the

leadership of various security and law enforcement agencies involved in election security.

They include representatives of the Service Chiefs (CDS, CoAS, CoNS, and CoAFS) Chief of Defence Intelligence CDI, DG DSS, DG NIA, CG NIS, CG NSCDC, CG NCS, CG correctional Services, CG Federal Fire Service, and DG NDLEA.

Speaking at the occasion, DIG Ede Ayuba praised the collaborative efforts of the Armed Forces and other sister law enforcement agencies, highlighting their role in fostering unity and contributing to the success of past general elections. The meeting was identified as one among a series of brainstorming sessions outlined by the Force, aimed at securing the forthcoming off-season elections on November 11, 2023.

The meeting, which will be continuous till after the forthcoming guber elections in the 3 affected states, encompassed a range of topics, reflecting the diverse considerations of election security, including an in-depth



IGP Egbetokun

analysis of potential threats and vulnerabilities in Bayelsa, Kogi, and Imo States, Intelligence Sharing, Logistical Planning, Conflict Prevention, Technology and Innovations as well as manpower deployment. The DIG, while emphasizing the plans of the IGP to maintain law and order during the elections, at the meeting,

warned political gladiators, and their followers to be law-abiding and play the game according to the rules as the police and other security agencies will never allow any act of hooliganism, political rascality and lawlessness in any part of the affected States or in any other state across the country.

Goods Worth Millions Of Naira Destroyed In Ebonyi International Market Inferno

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Goods and properties worth millions of Naira have been destroyed by a sudden outbreak of fire at a section of Margaret Umahi International Market, Abakaliki.

According to the chairman of the Lot 1 Section of the market, Mr Peter Oba, the fire incident started around 2:00am Wednesday morning at one of the biggest warehouses, where they are storing cartons of noodles, biscuits, among other beverages, which were destroyed. He further explained that all efforts were made by men of the fire service and other security agencies to extinguish the fire, but it was difficult since it was spreading to others parts of the warehouse.

In a visit to the scene of

the incident at the international market, many fire fighting trucks were seen trying to quench the fire, while some of the affected traders were lamenting bitterly over the the incident.

In an interview with one of the traders, Mr Jude Okechukwu, he said that the fire which started in around 2:00am caused heavy damage and injury to them, since all efforts made to control it proved abortive.

He called on government to come to their aid and also provide adequate security to checkmate all the activities in the market to avoid further occurrence.

Meanwhile, various security agencies and fire fighting men were still battling to stop the fire from escalating to other places as at the time of filing this report.

Customs Holds Nationwide Promotion Exams To Enhance Transparency, Career Growth

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

In a bid to promote transparency and career growth, the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has conducted promotional examinations nationwide for officers and men of the service.

According to the National Public Relations Officer of the Service, CSC Abdullahi Maiwada, the examination, which started with the rank of Deputy Comptrollers, Assistant Comptrollers, and Chief Superintendent of Customs on October 16, 2023, at Sascon International School in Abuja, saw dedicated officers hailing from various Area Commands and Units showcase their intellectual prowess in line with the Standard Operating Procedure established to promote deserving officers based on merit.

The Ag Comptroller General of Customs, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, MFR, while noting that

the exams ensure transparency and fairness in the process, stressed that promotion is not just a welfare program for customs; it's essential to regenerate the service and ensure that those who are deserving of various positions are elevated.

"We had some pep talks with them to help them believe in the system and understand all the efforts that we have made to ensure that there is a lot of integrity in the process. We want them to know that promotion now is based on performance and not who you know.

"The report I got regarding the level of preparations attests to this fact that we are now reconciling ourselves to that reality; it's about what you know, how capable you are, and how you can demonstrate the knowledge of the job. So that's what should come out, and that's what we count for each of these officers writing the exams," Adeniyi explained.

Speaking with newsmen, an Assistant Comptroller of Customs, Odedeji Babajide, noted that the promotion would serve as an incentive to spur officers to perform more efficiently.

"Anyone granted the privilege of leadership should definitely know that to whom much is given, much is expected, and that means we should put in more than we have been doing before to make sure that the service is improved. We must ensure that there is value addition," he stated.

DC Oluremi Omisere, in her

remarks, noted that officers who gain promotion must ensure that the key primary role of customs, which is trade facilitation and border security, must be carried out judiciously.

"Officers must ensure that revenue targets set by the government are met, and every leakage in revenue is being controlled," she stressed.

Speaking on the examination, Deputy Comptroller Hussein Ejibunu said, "There's a lot of transparency in it. My expectation is high, and I hope to climb higher. Because to whom much is given, much is expected, this promotion will help me do better.

Deputy Comptroller of Customs Idris Abba-Aji said, "We give others the lead to follow. The examination was conducted with world-class standards. With the trend of development globally and the training we get, we will be able to withstand every challenge."



Acting Comptroller General of Customs Wale Adeniyi

Group Lauds Tinubu For Appointing Kaduna Ex-SSG Environment Minister

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Arewa Initiative for Good Governance (AIGG) has commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for appointing former State Secretary to the Government (SSG), Mallam Balarabe Abbas Lawal, as the Minister of Environment.

According to the group, the Ministry of Environment is a key department with responsibilities that include reclaiming and rehabilitating degraded land, conserving biodiversity, promoting eco-tourism, effective and efficient waste material management, mitigating the dangerous impact of climate change, among others.

In a statement issued to newsmen in Kaduna, Salisu Tanko Wusono, Convener of the group, described the appointment of Malam Lawal as an unprecedented development for the management, members of staff of the Environment Ministry, and Nigerians in general.

He said, "Considering Abbas's academic credentials, personal integrity, transparent leadership, patriotism, and a history of public service.

"As the former Secretary to the Government of Kaduna State from 2015-2023, serving multiple terms, Malam Abbas has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to the rule of law and public service conditions in the course of discharging his administrative responsibilities.

"We have no doubt whatsoever that Malam Lawal's wealth of experience in governance and administration positions him well for his new role as the Minister of Environment, who will steer

the affairs of the Ministry in formulating and implementing environmental policies, protecting and conserving the nation's natural resources, addressing challenges related to climate change, and ensuring proper waste management practices," he said.

Wusono added that with his proven leadership skills and deep understanding of environmental issues, Malam Lawal is well-equipped to tackle the pressing challenges faced by Nigeria in terms of environmental sustainability.

He added that, "His appointment comes at a critical time when the world is grappling with climate change and its adverse effects on ecosystems and human well-being.

"As a front-line advocate for good governance, we in Arewa Initiative for Good Governance wish to use this medium to applaud President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his astute decision in appointing Mallam Balarabe Abbas Lawal as the Honorable Minister of Environment.

"We believe that this appointment is evidence of the President's commitment to ensuring competent and capable individuals are entrusted with key positions in his administration," he said.

He also explained that as an organization committed to promoting good governance and sustainable development in Northern Nigeria, Arewa Initiative for Good Governance pledges its support to Malam Lawal and his team at the Ministry of Environment.

He said they are confident that his leadership will bring about positive change and contribute to the sustainable development of our nation.

I'll Revamp Education In Zamfara, Says Governor Lawal

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Governor Dauda Lawal has reiterated his administration's commitment to revitalising the education sector in Zamfara State.

On Monday, Governor Lawal conducted an inspection tour of the College of Nursing and Command Science Secondary School (Girls) in the state capital of Gusau.

According to a statement by the Spokesperson to the Governor, Sulaiman Bala Idris, the inspection tour was characterised by a meticulous assessment of the facilities, considering every detail to ensure that these educational

institutions meet the highest standards.

He added that throughout the tour, Governor Lawal demonstrated his commitment to education by closely examining every aspect of the facilities and leaving no stone unturned in his quest to identify improvement areas.

"The inspection tour began with Command Science Secondary School (Girls), where Major SN Odeh received and briefed the Governor and his entourage on the condition of the school and the management's prayers to the government.

"In his remark, Governor Lawal mentioned that he had met with the Commander of the Army

Education Corps last week and had promised to conduct an inspection tour of the army schools in Zamfara. The objective of the visit was to evaluate the schools and identify areas that needed improvement so that the government could enhance the education standard of the state.

"The Governor said he is with the Commissioner of Education, who has also seen and heard all the school's challenges. He promised to assist in ensuring that Command Science Secondary School operates effectively.

"Following a thorough inspection of the classrooms, dormitory, kitchen, and dining hall, Governor Dauda Lawal

firmly reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to enhancing the overall condition of Command Science Secondary School."

"At the Zamfara State College of Nursing Sciences Gusau, Governor Dauda Lawal was received by the provost, Zayyanu Muhammad Isa. The Provost acknowledged the Governor's past contributions to the college, including constructing 250-capacity hostels for males and females and other facilities before he was elected as the state's governor.

The governor vowed to do more in the college and other institutions of learning across the state.



Abuja Court Nullifies Kogi Bello's Arms Taskforce

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

AFederal High Court sitting in Abuja has declared that Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello has no constitutional powers to appoint any person charged with the responsibility of carrying arms or regulate arms ownership in the state.

Recall that on 9th May this year, Governor Yahaya Bello appointed a Special Task Force on gun control headed by Mr. Friday Makama as its chairman

and other members.

The Abuja Federal High Court judgment followed the case filed by a Social Democratic Party (SDP) chieftain, Hon. Ahmad Danjuma who, through his counsel, P. U Ogbadu Esq. approached the court on 18th May 2023 in suit No FHC /Abj/Cs/697/2023 for adjudication.

The suit sought to know whether a state governor has the constitutional powers to constitute such a task force and make such appointments when arms control is clearly spelt out

in the exclusive legislative list and within the exclusive powers of the federal government.

The applicant contended that the said Makama and his cohorts have, in furtherance of their appointments, acted as guns-for-hire and political thugs instituted within the sole aim of unleashing terror as a tool of political appointments in Kogi's Governorship election scheduled for November 11.

Delivering his judgement, Justice Omotosho of the

Court declared that the governor of Kogi state lacks the constitutional power to constitute any taskforce on fire arms or appoints Mr. Makama as it's Director General.

He therefore, voided the appointment of Mr. Friday Makama as chairman of the taskforce and ordered the police, Directorate of State Security, NIA and the Police to invite, investigate and interrogate Mr. Friday Makama and his cohorts with a view to retrieving, repossessing and receiving all arms in their possession.



Mallam Balarabe Abbas



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Dawakin Tofa LGA Organises Town Hall Meeting On 2024 Open Budget Policy

By: JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

A colourful Town hall meeting has been organised by Dawakin Tofa Local Government Council, where the general public, associations, groups and other relevant stakeholders participated on the 2024 open budget policy for the inclusion of citizens inputs towards annual yearly budgeting.

Our correspondent who witnessed the meeting which was held at Dawakin Tofa Local Education Authority's Conference Hall, reviewed how Dawakin Tofa Local Government Council remains the best in terms of excellent budget implementation, thereby executing so many meaningful projects in every sector and in accordance with the demands of their electorate.

Those who spoke at the occasion, include the representative of the Commissioner for Local Government, representative of the executive chairman of the council, Director Personnel Management (DPM), representative of the District Head and a representative of the non governmental associations. They commended the council chairman, Honourable Ado Tambai Kwa for his transparency and utilization of the council's resources in executing meaningful projects across the 11 wards of the local government



area. Other activities presented at the occasion include presentation of achievements so far recorded and presentation of scholarship payments to three institutions that accommodate the students sponsored by the local council.

Speaking to New Nigerian shortly after the occasion, the Executive Chairman of Dawakin Tofa Local Government Council, Honourable Ado Tambai Kwa reassured that his administration would continue to support education, healthcare services,

security and economic progress. He thanked the members of his legislative and executive councils and the people of Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area for the support they usually render to him. Most of the people that had chats

with our correspondent, said that the executive chairman of Dawakin Tofa Local Government Council deserves commendation, praise and respect for his efforts at bringing rapid development across the local government without bias.



Kaduna Govt, NDA Resolve Dispute, Rabah Road-Rigasa Highway Construction Resumes

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani yesterday, inspected the Rabah Road extension construction site, assuring that construction work is set to resume without delay.

The 9.65km stretch from Rabah Road to Nnamdi Azikiwe Road (the Western By-pass), with a link to the Rigasa Train Station and underpass on Western bypass, is part of Kaduna Urban Renewal Project.

Governor Uba Sani who went on inspection of the road, said in an interview with Government House Press Crew, that the road is one of the most important roads, in the state's urban renewal development drive.

According to him, "the road was started by the previous administration, unfortunately when we came in, there was a dispute between the Kaduna State Government and Nigerian Defence Academy, but today, I am happy to inform you that we have resolved all the problems," he informed.

He said, "we started this conversation with my brother, the Commandant, he is a Kaduna boy, he was born in Kaduna, he lives in Kaduna, today he is a Commander, he is someone who is also key about the development of the state."

"Because of his effort and understanding we sat down together and we have resolved the issue and you can see today, the road is one of the most important roads in Kaduna, that links through Rabah Road, passing through NDA to Rigasa Train Station, up to the airport."

He noted that, for the fact the road has been abandoned for almost a year, they resolved the issue and work has commenced.

He said the road will help and revitalise the economy of the people who live around there and by extension, the economy of the people who live within the local government areas.





Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke commissioning the civil - military school project Alusekere Ede, Osun State with him from right are Chief of Army Staff, Gen. Taoheed Lagbaja and Timi of Edeland, Oba Munirudeen Adesola Lawal @the occasion. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

FG To Collaborate With NUJ In Combating Menace Of Fake News, Hate Speech, Others - Information Minister

***Says Tinubu administration committed to free press**

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris Malagi has declared that Federal Government is ready to work collaboratively with the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) to enhance access to information.

Speaking in Ibadan on Monday at the opening of the 2023 Press week of the Oyo State Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), the minister said this is to combat the menace of disinformation, fake news and hate speech.

The minister who was honoured with Media Development Award by the Oyo State NUJ stressed that in ensuring this, the

President Bola Tinubu administration has no plans whatsoever to stifle press freedom.

Represented by the Director of Protocol, Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, Mrs Ebun Omolara Esan, Alhaji Malagi said the President Tinubu led administration is committed to free press.

According to the Minister, the present administration in its pursuit of media development, have strived to provide access to information, improve media infrastructure, and promote media literacy across the nation.

"These initiatives aim to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas, ensuring that every Nigerian has access to accurate and unbiased information. Moreover, we acknowledge that the media

landscape is not without its challenges, including issues such as the proliferation of misinformation", he said.

The Minister added, "In response, we will work collaboratively with the Nigeria Union of Journalists to enhance access to information in order to combat the menace of disinformation, fake news and hate speech. Just like I stated during the visit by the President of the NUJ to my office last week, the Bola Tinubu Administration has no plans whatsoever to stifle press freedom."

"This is in recognition of the fact that a free press is vital to the development of our democracy. Democracy is not an end in itself but a means to an end. As such, I will charge the media to continue to report the development currently

taking place particularly under the leadership of our President, who has taken some bold initiatives to ensure the prosperity of our citizens and the nation in general".

Alhaji Malagi stressed "in a world where information is the lifeblood of society the role of the media is paramount. It serves as the bridge between the government and the people, ensuring transparency, accountability and dissemination of accurate information".

"I am deeply honored to stand before you today as we gather to celebrate the remarkable achievements in the field of media development, most importantly as a recipient of the NUJ Media Development Award. This recognition holds a special place in my heart".

He maintained that "This award is not just a recognition of my efforts, but a celebration of the essential role the media plays in our society".

"The Nigeria Union of Journalists has consistently played a pivotal role in shaping the narrative of our nation, fostering dialogue, and championing the cause of the fourth estate. I must acknowledge the invaluable contribution of this great union, the NUJ".

Dotun Sanusi, An Uncommon Personality @ 55 - Senator Alli

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Senator representing Oyo South Senatorial District, Senator Sharafadeen Alli on Tuesday, described Chief Dotun Sanusi, the Chairman of Hotel and Sports Resort Dotun Sanusi, as an uncommon personality at 55 years.

Senator Alli said this in a congratulatory message to the renowned philanthropist who was recently elevated to Jagun Olubadan of Ibadanland.

In the congratulatory message signed by his Special Adviser on Media, Akeem Abas, the Senate Committee Chairman on INEC stated that Chief Sanusi has made impressive contributions to society and business world.

"It is with great pleasure that we celebrate the 55th birthday of Chief (Engineer) Dotun Sanusi, the Chairman of Ilaji Hotel and Sports Resort. As the Jagun Olubadan and Otun-Apesinola of Ibadanland, Chief Dotun Sanusi remains a role model to many. His commitment, dedication, and philanthropic actions are

commendable. We are grateful for all his great works," he said.

Senator Alli who is also the Maye-Balogun of Ibadanland, said Sanusi had through his uncommon contributions to the society, has made significant changes and that his immense contributions has impacted the lives of countless people positively.

Emphasizing that Chief Sanusi had been an inspiration and blessing to his family members, colleagues, friends, and all those whose lives he has touched in one way or another, he appreciated his philanthropic works, dedication to duty, and steadfastness in the pursuit of his goal.

"As we celebrate this your special day, Chief Dotun Sanusi, I extend my warmest congratulations to you. On behalf of the good people of Oyo State, I wish you sound health, long life, and strength, as you continue to impact the society positively", he said. "We are proud of your notable achievements, and we pray that God will continue to guide you in your future endeavours".



Awardees at the Oyo NUJ Press Week



Chief Dotun Sanusi

NDA Commandant Assures Of Adequate Security Ahead Kaduna Airport Flights Resumption

By ; F U N M I ADERINTO, Kaduna

In a bid to have a hitch-free resumption of flight operations into Kaduna International Airport on October 23, 2023, Governor Uba Sani on Wednesday, met with security operatives in the state.

The Commandant, Nigerian Defense Academy (NDA), Major-

General J.O. Ochai and his team, explained that security has been beefed up in areas surrounding the airport and along Mando Road.

The commandant reassured the governor of the military's commitment to working with other security agencies to ensure the safety and security of the airport general area.



Kano Electric Clarifies Reasons Behind Picketing Its Offices By Union

By JABURU A HASSAN, Kano.

The management of Kano electricity Distribution Company (KEDCO) has clarified that the industrial action embarked upon which resulted in picketing of its offices by the National Union of Electricity Employees

(NUEE) is due to lingering staff welfare issues which was accumulated over the last six years.

A statement issued by the KEDCO management to newsmen in Kano, said, "the current management since taking over in July 2022, has settled entitlements when due and robust plans have been

drawn and the outstanding is being paid in batches, due to inability to settle all at once, owing to current liquidity crises in the power sector".

The management assured all concerned that it is currently engaging with relevant stakeholders to resolve the issue and discuss lasting solution to

all lingering matters.

"While acknowledging that the Union are now keen to resolving these issues that have lingered for over 6 years, the current management remains steadfast in attending to all staff obligations," the statement concluded.

Notorious Land Grabber Nabbed After Stripping Victims Naked

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The long arm of the law has eventually caught up with a Lagos based notorious land grabber, said to be a specialist in forcefully dispossessing land owners of their property, following his arrest by operatives of the Lagos State Taskforce.

Identified as Saheed Abdulahi, popularly known as 'Ibile', the suspect was said to have been arrested following series of complaints and petitions to police authorities by residents, communities and landowners over his nefarious activities.

He was alleged to have sometime in July 2023, invaded a certain portion of land in Oke-Ogun area of Epe with some armed thugs, dislodged the workers on the site, blindfolded and stripped them naked, including subjecting them to other barbaric treatment.

The Director, Press and Public Affairs Unit of the Lagos State Taskforce Gbadeyan Abdulraheem, in a release on Monday, said the suspect was arrested in the early hours of Sunday and was coordinated by the Chairman of the Agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye.

According to him, the suspect is well known for his barbaric type of criminal activity and he has been doing it for quite a while, but luck ran out on him.

The statement reads, "Operatives of the Lagos State Taskforce have apprehended a notorious Land grabber, one Saheed Abdulahi also known as 'Ibile' who operates in Ibeju-Lekki and Epe axis of the state after a series of complaints and petitions were written to police authorities by residents, communities and landowners.

"The arrest which was made in the early hours of yesterday was coordinated by the Chairman of the Agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye after he had received series of complaints and petitions written to police authorities by residents, communities and land owners about Ibile's high degree of beastiality and crude manner of operation when trying to dislodge legal occupants from their legitimate property.

"Speaking at the Headquarters of the Agency, Jejeloye described Ibile as a repugnant entity not worthy of being in real estate business, talk more of evicting property owners unlawfully from their hard earned landed property.

"He is well known for this type of criminal activity and he has been doing it for quite a while but luck ran out on him

on the 8th of July 2023 when he swooped in on a certain portion of land in Oke-Ogun area of Epe with some armed thugs in order to dislodge workers who were carrying out construction works on the land. He rounded up everyone present and dehumanized them by blindfolding them and stripping them naked just to cow them into fear and submission."

Jejeloye further disclosed that the after stripping the workers naked, Ibile loaded them on a bus and drove them down to an undisclosed location where he further subjected them to more barbaric treatment not fit for print.

"It is quite appalling that with the level of development and enlightenment in a Metropolis like this, we still have people like Ibile who feel they can take laws into their hands by unlawfully arresting people, torture them and then take over their land. It is preposterous and unbelievable. We took it upon ourselves to get to the root of this matter and have arrested the main culprit who orchestrated the whole exercise. Going by his utterances, he believes he can bribe his way out of every situation but this time around, he will be prosecuted and made to answer for his crimes."

Jejeloye assured the good people of Lagos and workers who were made to go through such cruel experience that the Agency would leave no stone unturned till all other culprits who were involved in the activity of the 8th July are rounded up and made to answer for their heinous crimes.

He sounded a note of warning to all grabbers or intending Land grabbers in the State to either relocate from the metropolis or turn over a new leaf. Defying such warnings means he risks being prosecuted. "The days of every land grabber is numbered and i appeal to all Lagosians experiencing any activity that has the semblance of land grabbing in their vicinity to report such to the Agency. Together we will stamp out this menace of Land grabbing in Lagos". He concluded.

Meanwhile the suspect has been charged to court and court has ruled that he be remanded at Badagry Correctional Centre until he meets his bail conditions.

Consequently, the Chairman reiterated the Agency will continually key into the THEMES PLUS agenda of the State Government on the Lagos State Property Protection Law of 2016 in order to discourage any land grabbing occurrence in the State.



Ambassador Ajadi

2027: NNPP Future Is Bright - Ambassador Ajadi

*Felicitates party's S/West Zonal Secretary on birthday

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) governorship candidate in the 2023 polls in Ogun State, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Monday, declared that the future of the party is bright.

Ambassador Ajadi in a message to felicitate the South West Geo-political Zone Secretary of the party, Dr. Babatunde Oke on his birthday, said, "NNPP is going to be a party to beat in the 2027 general elections". The NNPP chieftain stressed that the time has come for the party and all

its members to double efforts and ensure that the party is "a force to reckon with both at the national level and in the various states in the South West."

Ambassador Ajadi noted, "As you know, the task ahead is huge. Ahead of next general election, we need to double our efforts and ensure that our party is a force to reckon with both at the national level and in the various states in the South West".

While congratulating the NNPP South West Secretary on his birthday, the NNPP chieftain tasked him to renew his energy, and be more dedicated against 2027, adding that his contribution to the

growth of the party is immeasurable.

"I felicitate with you on the occasion of your birthday today, Monday, 16th of October 2023. I wish you good health, more resources and sound mind to be able to coordinate our party in the South West region", he said.

Ambassador Ajadi added, "As you grow in age, I pray that God will give you more knowledge and understanding to pilot your family's progress and our party affairs in the South West region and the country as whole.

"So on behalf of our presidential candidate and party leader, Dr. Rabiu

Musa Kwakwanso and other Chieftain's of our party both in the South West and at the national level I congratulate you on the occasion of your birthday today.

"More importantly however, I call on you to dedicate your new age to the progress and development of our great Party, the New Nigeria People's Party, (NNPP)." Describing Oke as a patriot, a grassroots mobiliser, a trailblazer and a strong pillar of the party, Ambassador Ajadi said he has dedicated his energy efficiently in ensuring that the NNPP is well received by the teeming youth in the South West.

Trained Corps Deployed By Governor Radda Can Compete With Military Forces – Hon Kuraye

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI,
Kaduna

The Community Watch Corps that was trained and inaugurated by Katsina State Government under Governor Dikko Umar Radda, to complement efforts of conventional security agencies in the fight against banditry in the state, has been described as more effective than the existing security forces, from the Army to the Police and other officials.

Member of the Katsina State House of Assembly representing Charanci Local Government Area, Honorable Lawal Isa Kuraye, who spoke to our correspondent in Kaduna, described the members as the ranks of professionals who have received more training and experience, assuring that the outfit is safe.

Kuraye added that the volunteer security officers have received special training on combat tactics from the gallant security personnel as well as retired officers and experts from Katsina State, who are passionate and steadfast in ensuring security in the state. According to him, "Governor Dikko Radda has long been worried about the deteriorated security system in Katsina State, which made him make the security issue the cornerstone of his campaign; and that is why he is already recording success in his administration at this early



Honorable Lawal Isa Kuraye,

stage.

"He started with boldly tackling the security issue headlong and solving it together with the people of Katsina State, which Nigerians as a whole can testify to today". He said.

The House member said, during the inauguration ceremony, security officials from in and outside the state attended the launching ceremony, which included former President Muhammadu Buhari and the governors of Sokoto, Zamfara, Niger and Kebbi states, who are also experiencing security

problems as well as the leaders of the entire Nigerian security chiefs, who all praised the governor's hard work.

"This made the Government of Sokoto State to send its representatives to Katsina, where they met with the Speaker of the Katsina Assembly and the members of the Assembly to acquire the knowledge on the ways that the state followed towards successfully launching the security outfit.

" In this regard, the House of Assembly gave them the draft law that they used to achieve the

success of the programme, which they returned to Sokoto State to also emulate". He informed.

Lawal Kuraye described Governor Dikko Radda as a role model for his colleagues, especially the Northern Governors, saying that as long as there will be cooperation in providing internal security officers in every state in the 19 states of the North, there is no doubt that the security problem will soon be a thing of the past.

Regarding the complaints made by some people who

attribute the creation of security outfit with politics, Kuraye said that those who say this are only making broad statements, because according to him, the governor was also affected by the security problem, whereby his constituency was attacked by the bandits who kidnapped his brother and who subsequently lost his life; because of this, the situation has been bordering him for long.

And that is why he made it his priority to solve the problem

even before he took over power and since then, he has began the implementation of his plan towards tackling the insecurity bedeviling the state.

According to him, "The security outfit's operatives were recruited from all the 34 local government areas of Katsina State, adding that most of them have experienced several insecurity issues from the bandits, with some having had their families killed, some have had their wives abducted, some have had their towns destroyed, all because of this.

"I can assure you that they all have this desire in their hearts to revenge these atrocities, and when the government came into the situation, it gave them more motivation. So they will face the terrorists with passion, which will achieve great success". He assured.

The House member called on the people of Katsina State to give more support to Governor Dikko Radda, by including him in their prayers to take the state forward and achieve the desired success. It would be recalled that the Katsina State Government, last week, deployed 1,466 newly-trained community watch corps officers to seven frontline local government areas of the state to tackle security challenges along with conventional security operatives.

Lagos Govt Enforces Vacation Order To Motorists, Commercial Bus Drivers On Bridges

By; RAYMOND
TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Following the expiration of a 7-day vacation order served on owners of commercial buses and other vehicles that have turned bridges in Lagos as parking lots or loading bays by the state government, enforcement has begun.

At the expiration of the ultimatum, which started on October 16, 2023, any vehicles which contravene would be immediately charged to the Lagos State Mobile Court for prosecutions.

The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Transportation Hon. Sola Giwa gave the warning in a statement on Monday.

According to the statement by Adebayo Taofiq, Director Public Affairs and Enlightenment

Department of Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), the 'Vacation Order' is based on the need to remove every infraction impeding free flow of traffic on bridges across state.

It reads, "The Lagos State Government today issued a 7-day 'Vacation Order' to motorists/commercial bus drivers operating on top of bridges across the State.

"The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Transportation Hon. Sola Giwa today issued this 7-day 'Vacation Order' based on the need to remove every infraction impeding free flow of traffic on bridges across state.

"Hon. Giwa disclosed that despite several warnings, motorists/commercial bus drivers have continued to defy government order and causing

serious obstructions around these bridges with great negative impacts on the integrity of the bridges and traffic.

"He confirmed that the present administration is expending huge resources for constructing standard bus terminals/garages in every part of the state.

"According to the Special Adviser " Every motorist/commercial bus driver operating along 'Apongbon' and 'Idumota' (Cater) Bridges, 'Elegbata:', 'Ebute-Ero' and 'Ejalonibu' must as a matter of urgency vacate these areas as LASTMA would commence strict enforcement operation immediately after the expiration of this ultimatum until zero tolerance is achieved across the state.

"He added that activities of these motorists/commercial bus



Vehicles on Idumota bridge

drivers on bridges are contrary to provisions of the Lagos State Transport Sector Reform Law 2018 as amended.

"Hon. Sola however, affirmed that after the expiration of the ultimatum, any vehicles contravened would be

immediately charged to the Lagos State Mobile Court for prosecutions.

"This 7-day 'Vacation Order' takes immediate effect from Monday, 16th of October, 2023".

Governor Uba Sani Celebrates Farmers, Promises Access To Clean Water Across Kaduna State

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani, has joined the world to mark "World Food Day 2023," with the theme "Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind."

He expressed this in a statement he personally signed, made available to our correspondent.

"On World Food Day 2023, we recognize the critical role that water plays in ensuring food security in Kaduna State and across the world.

"Water is a vital resource, constituting over 50% of our bodies and covering 71% of the Earth's surface. However, according to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, only 2.5% of this water is freshwater suitable for various uses, such as for drinking and agriculture.

"This year's theme, "Water is Life, Water is Food. Leave No One Behind," conveys a potent and succinct message. It underscores that water is the essence of life itself.

"Without access to clean and safe water, human survival is at risk. Water isn't just a resource; it's fundamental for our existence. Also, it highlights the intricate

connection between water and food security. Adequate water resources are crucial for agriculture and food production, emphasizing that water is, essentially, food." Governor Sani stated in his remarks.

"Our administration is committed to providing communities, especially our rural areas with access to clean water and food.

"In proactive efforts to achieve this, the Kaduna State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (KADRUWASSA) is implementing programmes such as the Partnership for Expanded Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (PEWASH) and Sustainable Urban and Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (SURWASH) to provide Water, Sanitation, and Health (WASH) services.

"The Kaduna State Government is committed to attaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) status by 2024, one year before the national deadline. In August 2023 during a visit by UNICEF's Chief of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Kaduna state was lauded for its proactiveness as 7 LGAs have already been declared free of open defecation by UNICEF.

"Water pollution has far-reaching impacts on our food, environment, the economy, and health this is why in partnership with UNICEF, we recently constructed ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines and hand wash stations across the State. We have also undertaken borehole construction and rehabilitation projects" Gov Sani explains.

"Additionally, efforts have been made to ensure the sustainability of WASH facilities. Continuous training and retraining programmes for Local Area Mechanics have equipped them with the skills to repair broken-down boreholes in communities. This has resulted in the rehabilitation of numerous boreholes, benefitting thousands in our rural communities."

"On World Food Day, we pay tribute to our Food Heroes – our Farmers. Their dedication and resilience, despite numerous challenges, are commendable. They are the backbone of our food security, providing sustenance and supporting our local and national economies.

"In line with Governor Sani's SUSTAIN manifesto there are plans for massive agricultural improvement, innovation and sustainability while improving



Governor Uba Sani

market access. We are dedicated to addressing the challenge of producing more with less water, ensuring equitable water distribution, preserving aquatic food systems, and leaving no one behind," he said.

Governor Sani urged the people of Kaduna State to "adopt water-conscious practices, choose

local and fresh foods, reduce food and water waste, and find safe ways to reuse water while preventing pollution.

"Water is life, water is food, and together, we leave no one behind. Happy World Food Day!" He declared.

Crime: Kano Gov. to Empower Repentant Youth

*Re-introduces Security Communication Centre

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Kano State Governor, Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf has restated the commitment of his administration to empower repentant youth for them to be re-integrated into the society and become self-reliant for the betterment of their future.

According to a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, the governor made this known on Tuesday at Sani Abacha Stadium during a hangout event with 222 repentant thugs organized by Kano State Police Command in collaboration with Aminu Garba Magashi (AMG) Foundation.

According to the governor, plans have been made for the repentant empowerment through skills acquisition and education and for those willing to further their education, will enjoy

scholarship and sponsorship from the government and those who want to acquire skills or go to legitimate businesses, would receive the full support of the state government.

Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf expressed happiness that what happened is a clear testimony that Kano has regained its lost glory as a haven for human development and it also showcased the effort of the State government to ensure security of lives and property, a situation that will make investors feel free to partner with the government for mutual benefits and socio-economic development.

He commended the efforts of the State Commissioner of Police, Muhammad Usaini Gumel for organizing the training of the repentant out of which 50 are constabulary volunteers who were selected from the crime-prone local government areas of Fagge, Gwale, Dala,

Nassarawa, Ungogo and Kano Municipal. The governor added that apart from provision of the needed logistics, a security Communication center was re-established that was established during the administration of His Excellency, Senator, Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso but was abandoned and vandalized by the immediate-past administration.

"The centre was established to serve as a Quick Response Centre (QRC) that was designed and equipped with modern Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras and manned by various security personnel and it was covering ten identified locations in the metropolis.

"There is no gainsaying the fact that abandonment of this very facility contributed largely to the rising spate of phone snatching and other violent crimes that took the tolls on our streets become we came in on May 29, 2023," explained

the governor.

Kano State Commissioner of Police, CP Muhammad Usaini Gumel said adopting community policy approach in reducing crimes greatly assist in tackling the spate of crimes in the state, called on all to show the repentant sense of belonging and engage them in life-changing programs.

CP Gumel tasked the repentant to remain steadfast and committed in their engagements pledging to open his door always for advice and guidance whenever the need arises for them to forge ahead.

The Emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero expressed delight as the teaming youth had change for the better and urged them to seek for knowledge and conduct their lives in the right path and commended the efforts of the state government of reducing crimes in the State.

Political Discourse: The APC Reaction And Its Castigation Of My Person

*APC now Islamic Party - EX SGF

By; BABACHIR DAVID LAWAL

I woke up this morning to a very pathetic social media trending write-up apparently, a response to my article on the current political discourse by one Felix allegedly of the APC. I suspect he was assigned this role because it is in the nature of sycophants and people consigned to second class status to be assigned roles that their masters are wary of taking on. Usually, the dirty, unsavoury jobs are contracted out to such. In the bible, a certain Felix (after which this Felix was probably named), was a freed slave who had a reputation of cruelty as the ruler of Judea in order to please his master, the emperor Claudius (of whose mother Felix was a slave).

I really do sympathise with a Christian (or is he not?) who finds himself in an Islamic party and is desperate to please his masters and probably to be noticed when the next round of political appointments come. When we founded APC way back in 2013/2014, we envisaged it will be a national party that will carry along all the different socio-political and religious tendencies of the nation. In those days, we were careful not to side-line any of the religions or tribes of the country in the composition of the membership and leadership of the party. We wanted a party that will embrace all Nigerians. It was this that informed the principle that both the National Chairman and Secretary will not be of the same religion, tribe or region. Sadly, APC has now transited in to an Islamic Party of Nigeria. All the members of the NWC from the North and some from the South are Muslims. They campaigned on an Islamization platform and are striving hard to run the government as such but for the resistance of the other religions. All that is now left for the party is a change of



Babachir Lawal

name, but even this may not take long since it already has the Kadmul Islam as its National Chairman, and a Muslim as National Secretary. The Deputy National Chairman North (who acts in the absence of the Chairman), National Organizing Secretary, National Legal Adviser, and three National Vice Chairmen and more, are Muslims. Good for them. And talking of electoral value, both the National Chairman and the National Secretary just dramatically lost in the May election. I suspect Mallam Felix didn't do well in his own constituency either. It is based on these considerations that I pity a Christian who finds himself in the position of a spokesperson of an Islamic party. Mark my words, all critical decisions will be taken behind his back during the afternoon prayers sessions which he will be unable to attend.

As to the substance of the response itself, I find it deliberately obtuse, skating around the real issues raised in

my press statement. It was empty of substance and logic; a true product of a sycophantic mind that has no capacity to understand the subtle nuances underlying a message delivered to an discerning audience. Mallam Felix, your masters got the message loud and clear because some of them have reached out to me for dialogue on the issues raised. But in line with your lower status in the scheme of things you are not aware that all the issues I raised were designed in a manner to deliver a message to a discomfited government that is populated by longstanding friends of mine who appear to have abandoned common sense and patriotism for unbridled personal goals and filthy lucre. And they got the message; which you can not. In this discourse, you are a remote outsider, so shut up. We want a Nigeria that works for all. We want a Nigeria that even sycophants can relate to and in which every one is free to pursue their ambitions in

peace in pursuit of prosperity and the good life. We want a Nigeria that guarantees freedom of speech for its citizens just as you and I are doing right now. If as Bola Tinubu claims he fought Abacha on the side of democracy and free speech, it is unbecoming and unacceptable that the NBC should threaten journalists under his watch; so is it indefensible to keep the EFCC Chairman and the CBN governor under arrest for extended periods of time without or before trial, just as it is also unacceptable that political parties are used to intimidate and harass citizens exercising their opinions in the public domain. I am sure even you and the APC can relate to this. I am also sure that but for their blind hatred of other Nigerians not of their tribes or religion, even the Islamists that you serve and desperately seek to please can relate to this. I am sure that no Nigerian is enjoying the national shame and

embarrassment we are going through as a result of these unending revelations as who or what our "president" actually is; or that most Nigerians cannot be sure of at least one meal a day anymore; or that we can no more attend wedding ceremonies in Imo or Zamfara States due to insecurity.

Know what you may, say what you may; I hold firmly to my assertion that Peter Obi had the majority votes in the May 23 presidential election. That was why both INEC and APC had to go rogue in the election; and they know this fact even if they will not admit it. After all the thief knows who stole the item.

"The man dies in all who keep silent in the face of tyranny..." Wole Soyinka
You have my sympathy.

Lawal was Secretary to the Government of Federation (SGF) under ex President Muhammadu Buhari

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

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

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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

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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

2023 International Day For Eradication Of Poverty: Gov Uba Sani Calls For Synergy

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has urged leaders in the public and private sectors to synergise and come up with long lasting and proactive strategies to alleviate poverty and its ripple effects in Nigeria.

Governor Sani made this call on Tuesday October 17, 2023, while commemorating of the United Nations Day for the Eradication of Poverty with the theme, "Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting dignity in practice for all".

He said that as leaders, they must as a matter of urgency, review social and economic policies to reflect the current realities of the most vulnerable and underserved communities especially those in the rural areas.

"The public and private sectors must partner and come up with lasting solutions to end poverty and hunger". Governor Sani said.

He added, "An illustration of this effective public-private partnership is the Qatar Sanabil Project for the Construction of Kaduna Economic and Mass Housing for the Less Privileged

at Millennium City, Kaduna. When completed, the Economic City will provide world class infrastructure and make Kaduna a reference point in modern and affordable accommodation, adequate security and conducive atmosphere for business activities. The Economic City will facilitate international trade. In the Economic City, there will be houses for the poor, clinics, shops, poultry farms, farmlands for rainy season and irrigation farming.

"The mass housing project for the less privileged is a major contribution towards putting roofs over the heads of the poor, underserved and vulnerable in our state. Other empowerment programmes that the poor, underserved and vulnerable in Kaduna State will benefit from Qatar Charity include, scholarships for orphans and children of the poor, distribution of sewing machines, welding machines, irrigation pumping machines, salon kits, and drilling of hundreds of boreholes across the 23 local government areas of Kaduna State.

"The Kaduna State Government remains focused on the poor, underserved and vulnerable

who are the most affected by economic policies such as the removal of fuel subsidy and the rising cost of inflation.

"Upon his assumption of office in May 2023, interventions were put in place to this effect.

"These interventions include: the creation of a palliative committee with leaders of the organized labour, the creation of a central committee for the distribution of grains and fertilizers across the 23 LGAs of Kaduna State, to benefit 210,000 households and over one million residents, with special consideration given to people living with disabilities, widows and the elderly.

"Additionally, KDSG is procuring buses for subsidized transportation by the State Government, fertilizers to be distributed to small-holder farmers across Kaduna state, providing financial support to Micro, Small and Medium Businesses.

"Similarly, tuition fees in Kaduna state-owned tertiary institutions were reviewed downward in alignment with the SUSTAIN-manifesto. This was done to increase the level of student-enrollment while



Gov Uba Sani

cushioning the effect of the rising cost of living in the polity.

"Other interventions include the donation of 50% of Governor Sani's monthly salary to a Trust Fund and the signing of Governor Sani's first Executive Order for "Financial Inclusion in Kaduna State".

"Governor Uba Sani took a significant step by issuing the inaugural Executive Order on Financial Inclusion and inaugurating the Financial

Inclusion and Literacy Committee, acknowledging that government assistance often eluded the unbanked rural population.

"Under his leadership, the Kaduna State Government is collaborating with financial institutions to facilitate bank account access for the less privileged, ensuring their eligibility for government support programs and fostering financial inclusion."

World Day: Embrace Modern Practice To Ensure Food Security, Oyo Govt Urges Farmers

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Government on Tuesday, charged Nigerian farmers to embrace new farming methods to ensure food security in Oyo State and the country at large

The State Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Barrister Olasunkanmi Olaleye gave the charge, while speaking with journalists as part of activities lined up to celebrate 2023 World Food Day.

He emphasized that the only way to improve farm yield, (crops and livestock), is for the farmers to embrace modern forms of farming, as there are improved seeds that can bring quality yields more than the ancient practices.

Barrister Olasunkanmi maintained that the Governor Seyi Makinde-led administration has invested in training

and retraining of Agricultural Extension Officers and farmers in various capacities through collaborative efforts to enhance food security.

Speaking on the efforts of the Oyo State Government through his ministry on food security, he said about 285 farmers were trained on Emergency Training and Demonstration of Climate Resilient Practices in Maize, tomatoes, cassava, yam and cowpea to enhance increase yield.

The Commissioner added that about 135 farmers were empowered with 1 bag each of NPK fertilizer, adding that about 95 youths and women farmers were equally trained on processing, packaging, value addition and utilization of yam and cassava.

According to him, 80 of the above mentioned were also trained on all season

tomatoes - tomatoes that would bring yield all round the year adding that an example of this was in Awe Rural Community Development Centre, which is now Oyo State-IITA Youth Agribusiness Incubation Park Centre, Awe.

"We have equally distributed poultry feed to 2022 flood affected poultry farmers in collaboration with Federal Government. 250 farmers were trained in collaboration with Elyson Gold Consultancy EGC on mushroom production, Animal feed quality control on feed mill system has been introduced through feed analyzers to prevent sales of poor quality feeds to the farmers, most especially poultry farmers", he said.

Barrister Olaleye added, " Also, we have established Pasture Growers Association to prevent future clashes between herders

and farmers. This will help in full implementation of Grazing Control Law". Stressing that training is ongoing on artificial insemination on local breeds such as turkey, sheep, goats and cattle, He explained that this would improve quality, weight size of animals making animal production more profitable within short period for farmers. All these are modern ways of farming which government has put in place to ensure food security in the state".

Urging farmers to toe the path laid by the government on the need to enhance food security, saying part of government's responsibility is to create conducive environment, the commissioner said the introduction of modern ways of farming would enhance productivity, and that all these efforts of the government would be revealed in the next farm harvest season.

Grassroots Development: LG Affairs Commissioner Mamman Lagos Bags Nigeria Councillors' Forum Award

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Kaduna State Commissioner For Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Hon Sadiq Mamman Lagos has begged an Award of Excellence for standing out among other appointees in grassroots development, upliftment and mobilization.

While conferring the award on Mamman Lagos, delegation from National Councillors Forum of Nigeria (NCFN) led by Hon. Auwal Muhammad said the Commissioner was chosen and singled out for recognition for his passion and zeal for growth and development of people at the grassroots.

"We have watched with keen interest players and political

actors in our society under the present democratic dispensation and come to the conclusion after a painstaking research and observation that Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos as the Commissioner for Local Governments and Chieftaincy Affairs.

"The Commissioner has distinguished himself among other political appointees in

ensuring that dividends of democracy get to people at the grassroots who should be beneficiaries of governance in a representative democracy as ours.

"We by this award pass our vote of confidence as a collection of all councillors in Nigeria in Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos as an effective Commissioner among others in the country," he stated.

While commending the Councillors' Forum for finding him worthy for an award, Mamman Lagos assured of continuous demonstration and implementation of people oriented projects by the Uba Sani led administration.

He said the Governor would continue to prioritize security as a fulcrum of socioeconomic growth and prosperity.



Stoking The Fires In The Time Of Human Slaughter

By Owei Lakemfa

THE human slaughter going on in Israel and Palestine are horrendous. In the first five days of the conflict, over 2,500 human beings were slaughtered. That is 500 per day. The Israelis tried to find their feet with many taking shelter in bunkers while the Palestinians whose food, fuel, water and electricity supplies have been cut off, have plenty supply of bombs from the skies.

Such a time of mass suffering and sorrow calls for empathy and demands of all to work for peace. Tragically, this is the time chosen by some political and religious leaders to take sides in the conflict and pour petrol in the raging fires.

With thousands dying and many more injured, Adeboye said: “We are praying we will get very, very good results very soon...” What good results can he be praying for? The annihilation of the Palestinians? Can the mass slaughter of human beings over land and politics bring “good results”? Adeboye needs to ask for forgiveness and pray for peace for all humans impacted by this unnecessary conflict, be they Israelis or Palestinians.

The Bible proclaimed in Mathew 5:9: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” It is a declaration that anybody who wants to be Christ-like must work for the peaceful resolution of conflicts whenever they occur. The peacemaker is the one working to reconcile human beings with others and with God. It is an emphasis that He we serve is “The God of peace” (Romans 15:33). While men like Pope Francis mourned the many killed and prayed for their families, and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) took a similar line for peace, men of God like Dr. Enoch Adeboye, who leads the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) took sides, praying for one of the sides in the conflict to triumph.

Adeboye, with a PhD in Mathematics, said he and his followers are praying for the victory of their “Beloved Brothers in Israel”. What gibberish is this? Who are his beloved brothers in Israel; the 73.6 per cent that are Jewish, the 18.1 per cent that are Muslims, 1.9 per cent that are Christians or the 1.6 per cent Druze? Who told him that Israelites are Christians or that it is a Christian State? Adeboye prayed that: “The Almighty God, the only one of Israel will give you absolute victory and give you permanent peace from now...” Can there be permanent peace anywhere? In all these,

I am ashamed that Adeboye did not consider the Palestinians or rather, does not think they and their children are human beings.

With thousands dying and many more injured, Adeboye said: “We are praying we will get very, very good results very soon...” What good results can he be praying for? The annihilation of the Palestinians? Can the mass slaughter of human beings over land and politics bring “good results”? Adeboye needs to ask for forgiveness and pray for peace for all humans impacted by this unnecessary conflict, be they Israelis or Palestinians.

Any one conversant with the history of the Middle East knows that at that time, Jewish immigrants who came from Europe and were trying to set up a Jewish State, were involved in armed conflicts against their Palestinian neighbours and the British colonialists. One of the most infamous acts of this group was the July 22, 1946 bombing of the King David Hotel in which 91 died, including 25 Britons, 41 Arabs and 17 Jews. The bombing was by the Irgun terror group led by Menachem Begin who became the Prime Minister of Israel from 1977 to 1983.

He should also realise that as the General Overseer of the RCCG, his words carry weight, therefore, he needs to weigh before uttering them. These were times that call for statesmen who can work for a quick ceasefire, bring both sides to the table and fashion out a programme to end the 80-year conflict. Tragically, what we find mainly are leaders whose primary objectives are taking sides and stoking the fires.

When renewed hostilities broke out on September 7, 2023, the first reaction of President Joe Biden was not how to bring the conflict, which is eight decades old, to an end, but how to further prolong it. He assured Israel of rock-solid support and military supplies. An old man like him ought to have learnt the good lessons of one of his predecessors, President Bill Clinton, for whom the eruption of fresh conflicts between the two sides meant that there was little or no time to resolve the conflict. That was why he convened the 2000 Camp David Peace negotiations.



One of the men stoking the fires is American Republican politician, David Bog, whose mainly false claims “Five times Palestinians rejected Israel's olive branch – Time to rethink?” have gone viral. He purports to be a researcher but his main book 'Standing With Israel' has been found to be quite unreliable. In a review of the book in the Journal of Church and State, Nikolas K. Gvosdev wrote that the book: “suffers from the fact that its author wants to make definitive statements on a variety of issues while ignoring inconvenient details.”

In the said video, Bog claims that Israel has offered the Palestinians a state of their own five times and that five times have the Palestinians turned it down. He claimed the first time was in 1936 when Arabs rebelled against the British colonialists who had seized the areas from the Ottoman Empire. If the areas were colonised by the British, and there was no Jewish state, how could the Jews have been in a position to offer the Palestinians a state of their own?

Bog claimed the fourth time was the Camp David Accord. Anyone can google this. There was no agreement at Camp David, so there could have been neither an offer nor rejection of statehood. The only Bog claim that is correct is that in 2008, Israel offered the Palestinians statehood, but their leader Mahmoud Abass declined on the basis that he should be given the chance to study the map produced by Israel before accepting the offer. This to me was a sensible demand.

The second instance he claimed, was in 1947 when the United Nations suggested a two-state solution. In other

words, such an offer came either from the UN or the British colonial masters, certainly not from Israel. Any one conversant with the history of the Middle East knows that at that time, Jewish immigrants who came from Europe and were trying to set up a Jewish State, were involved in armed conflicts against their Palestinian neighbours and the British colonialists. One of the most infamous acts of this group was the July 22, 1946 bombing of the King David Hotel in which 91 died, including 25 Britons, 41 Arabs and 17 Jews. The bombing was by the Irgun terror group led by Menachem Begin who became the Prime Minister of Israel from 1977 to 1983.

At the time of the bombing, the hotel's southern wing housed the headquarters of the British Colonial administration. The bombing was part of the attempt by the Jewish group to force the British out. So how could Israel have offered the Palestinians a state and how could the latter have declined the offer? He said that after the 1967 war, the Arab states ruled out negotiations with Israel. How does this tantamount to an offer and rejection of statehood by Palestinians?

Bog claimed the fourth time was the Camp David Accord. Anyone can google this. There was no agreement at Camp David, so there could have been neither an offer nor rejection of statehood. The only Bog claim that is correct is that in 2008, Israel offered the Palestinians statehood, but their leader Mahmoud Abass declined on the basis that he should be given the chance to study the map produced by Israel before accepting the offer. This to me was a sensible demand.

Transportation Of Food Items From North To South Booming At Badume Market - Report

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Transportation of food items from the Northern part of Nigeria to other sections is becoming a pillar of economic progress, where trucks loaded with farm produce usually convey commodities from local markets to other parts of the country successfully on daily basis.

Our correspondent who took a look at this development, reports that despite the current fuel

subsidy removal, trucks fully loaded with food items, mostly vegetables were seen going southwards, conveying different kinds of items which is a testimony that national economy is in the path of growth.

At Badume Market in Bichi Local Government Area, New Nigerian gathered that vegetables like tomatoes, onion, peppers and sweet pepper were mostly exported to Southern parts of Nigeria and some neighbouring

countries like Cameroon, Ghana, Chad, Benin Republic and some parts of Niger Republic.

In his remarks about the transportation of food items, the Kano/Jigawa States Caretaker Committee Chairman of the Vegetables and Fruits Dealers Association, Alhaji Usman B. disclosed that despite the present economic hardship and the issue of fuel subsidy removal, they are trying their best to ensure that

Nigeria's economy is booming through food items transportation and exportation.

He commended Bichi Local Government Council, under the leadership of Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Sabo for being vigilant at Badume Market, which indicates that the local council leadership is making efforts at promoting the economy and providing good avenue for seasonal businesses to progress.



Loading of onions for transportation to other parts of the country at Badume Market.

NDE Trains 42 Persons On CBTS In Zamfara

By; ADAM MUHAMMAD, Gusau

The National Directorate of Employment (NDE), through its vocational skills development department, has trained 42 participants on community based training scheme (CBTS) for them to be self-reliant in Zamfara State.

Declaring the orientation, induction course and life skills training open at Malam Yahaya Gusau Federal Secretariat on Wednesday, the director general of the NDE, Malam Abubakar Nuhu Fikpo said that, the

trainees were selected from all 14 local government areas in the state.

The NDE Director General who was represented by the state coordinator of the agency, Hajiya Hamza Kolo Hadiza hinted that the trainees comprising male and female, will undergo training on different skills which include, knitting, fashion designer, GSM repairs, computer and makeup respectively.

According to her, the 42 participants undergoing the training will be each paid N5,000 monthly within three months of

their training period.

"The trainers will be paid N5,000 each for their services per trainee in each month, depending on the number of trainees attached to the trainer". She reemphasized.

She also enjoined trainees to be steadfast in their training wherever they are posted and to remain committed to the training.

"There will be a routine monitoring and supervision by both staff from the state office and the headquarters to ensure quality training delivery," she added.

Hajiya Hamza Kolo Hadiza cautioned that the

Directorate under her watch, will not tolerate any act of indiscipline from any trainee, adding that where such case exists, she will not hesitate to take appropriate action, including withdrawal of a trainee from the programme immediately.

In a goodwill message, the National Coordinator in charge of vocational skills development department of the NDE who was represented by Hajiya Lauratu Muhammad Abdullahi, charged the participants to be good ambassadors and pay attention to their training during the period.

We Are Losing N3bn Monthly To Electricity Theft, IBEDC Raises Alarm

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC) on Wednesday, alerted that the company is losing over N3 billion monthly to electricity theft.

IBEDC Head Customer Support, Mr Ayoola Adio who raised the alarm in Ibadan at the Electricity Consumer Complaint Resolution Platform, said the electricity theft are some of its customers.

Mr Adio pointed out that the affected customers are those not making payment on their bills or are not paying actual amount on their bills, those who bypass their meters, and some surcharge IBEDC among others.

Represented by the IBEDC Managing Director, Mr Adio stressed that IBEDC run on deficit every month and that this is preventing the company from serving its amiable customer better.

"We are handling our customers well, we feel pains whenever customers come for complains because our duty is to serve them better, the major complains from our customers is over billing and the only solution to that is metering but we are trying to bridge the gap", he said

The IBEDC Head Customer Service added, "We want to sensitised our customers to desist, they should know that there is

now a provision under the law that punish violators or defaulters."

Appealing to people to pay their bill promptly, report any defaulter, and support IBEDC so as to have money to resolve issues affecting its customers, Mr Adio said the development is worrisome, and this necessitated cooperation between the company and electricity users to curb the menace.

Speaking, the Executive Vice Chairman/CEO, Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), Mr Babatunde Irukera urged electricity consumers to contribute their quota towards ensuring adequate electricity supply.

Mr Irukera while describing the event as right step in right direction, maintained that the platform would give consumers opportunity to pour out their mind, interface with IBEDC on challenges facing them.

"This platform will make the service providers to understand that their business is not just provision of electricity, but feedback from customers and demonstrate empathy, it is in face of this we get better interaction on both side. Customs experience in electricity has not improved over the years, if we fail to do the needful, we won't be able to find solutions to challenges facing them."



Nigeria's Wrestling Will Soon Produce Olympic, World Champion - US Educator Zac Dominguez

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

As the IOC Coaching Course for the Nigeria Wrestling Coaches/Referees intensifies, American facilitator, Zac Dominguez has expressed satisfaction with the attitude of the coaches towards improving their technical skills, game strategy, injury prevention, and player development.

According to the US-based wrestling instructor in statement made available by the Media

Assistant of the Nigeria Wrestling Federation, Promise Okotoko in day-3 of the training on Tuesday, Zac Dominguez noted the reception of the coaches/referees has been impressive with the aim of improving their coaching and strategies for the next generation of talented players.

"The officials are eager to learn and they are doing a fantastic job, I know you can't see it, but I can tell you that they've poured their heart out to being coaches.

"I can tell you that better coaches bring better

athletes and then Nigeria will have stamp on the map that will produce Olympic and World champions.

"I think this is the beginning of something great for Nigeria." The statement said.

The American facilitator heaped praises on the hospitality of the Nigerian people, especially with the supply of some local delicacies.

"The environment is good, although a little hot for my taste, but I will get better," said Zac Dominguez.

"But I must say I didn't know Nigerians like hot

food spicy food. I love it because I'm a bit spicy food guy and the people here have been unbelievably nice," he said.

Meanwhile, the President Nigeria Wrestling Federation, Daniel Igali who took an inspection earlier, commended the level of work put in place by the internationally approved facilitators.

The world and Olympic champion, asserted that the training will have a lasting impact on the coaches, which will in turn, reflect on the athletes.



The wrestling instructor (right).

CSOs Harp On Approval Of WASH Policies, ODF Roadmap To Ensure Basic Hygiene In A'Ibom

"The report also indicates that about 69% of households do not have handwashing facilities available on premises, 8% of households have handwashing stations within households, while only about 4% of the population are likely to practice proper handwashing with water and soap at critical times." Mbobo said.

The commissioner maintained that poor hand hygiene practices have played a significant negative role in health, livelihood, and sustainability for the lives of millions, especially children and vulnerable groups with limited access to WASH facilities.

"Children are kept out of schools, preventable deaths in medical centers occur and millions of girls and women suffer in shame as a result of not being able to manage their menstrual hygiene needs." She said.

Mbobo explained that handwashing with soap habit to advocate for as it is linked to about 48% reduction in the risk of endemic diarrhea: 16-21% reduction in risk of acute respiratory infection, 50% reduction of pneumonia, and substantial reduction in neonatal infections.

She expressed optimism that with strong political leadership demonstrated through improved budget and visibility; strong enabling environment resulting in strengthened systems as well as increased supply and demand through public awareness and behaviour

change, the gaps in access and practice to achieve hand hygiene for all could be closed soon.

"Everyone needs to be reminded that clean hands are within reach. That is, it is available and affordable. The burden of poor hygiene practice is for everyone as when women and children take ill, men bear the burden.

"To achieve hand hygiene for all in line with SDG 6, our health, education, correctional, entertainment facilities as well as households and other public places should be equipped with basic hygiene facilities and put to use.

"The Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation under my watch is ready and available to work with CSOs, NGOs, Development partners and all other critical stakeholders to upscale hand hygiene and other WASH services in order to achieve our desired SDG 6." The commissioner concluded.

IbomWASH+ is a cluster of 6 civil society organizations led by African Human Development Centre (AHDC). Other members include Akwamfon Sustainable Community Association (ASCA), Community Partners for Development (CPD), Society for Water and Sanitation in Nigeria (NEWSAN), Akwa Ibom Chapter, Better Future Initiative (BFI) and Gender Advocacy and Rural Development Education in Nigeria (GARDEN) Initiative.

NNL Constitutes Standing Committees

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, LAGOS

The board of the Nigeria National League (NNL) has approved the constitution of various standing committees to ensure the effective running of the league which will kick off on October 28.

The committees constituted are, Disciplinary, Finance, Media and Technical.

The Disciplinary Committee will be headed by Yakubu Sarma, while his members include, Prince Momoh

Muhammed, Emeka Iwuagwu, Barrister Abdul Ibrahim and Ayo Abdulrahman, who will serve as the Secretary.

Emmanuel Attah will be the Chairman of Finance Committee, with Yusuf Baba Abdullahi, Yusuf A. Danjuma, Ezeocha Nzeh as members, while Abideen Fasasi will be the Secretary.

The Technical Committee has Donald Ikpe as Chairman, Sani Mohammed as Vice Chairman, Diewaighat Ikpechukwu as member

and Nicholas Akujobi will serve as the Secretary.

Veteran broadcaster, Emeka Odikpo will be Chairman of the Media Committee, with Patrick Ngwaogu, Adekunle Salami as members while Amar Ignis will serve as the Secretary.

The appointments, the Chief Operating Officer of the League, Ayo Abdulrahman said, is in consideration of their enormous experience and expertise in the field of football administration.



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Appeal Court Verdict: Adamawa APC Congratulates Babazango As He Reclaims Mandate

By; TOM GARBA, Yola
The leadership of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Adamawa State Chapter has congratulated Hon. Abubakar Babazango Abaza, who got judgment to represent the people of Yola South/Yola North/Girei Federal Constituency over their victory at the Abuja Court of Appeal yesterday. The party leadership also congratulated the people of his constituency and the entire APC family in the state for the victory.

A statement signed by Mohammed Abdullahi, the party's Publicity Secretary have urged Babazango to use his position as member of the National Assembly to positively impact the people of his constituency

and the party at the state level. The victory of Babazango witnessed wild jubilation in Yola as constituents took to the streets of Jimeta, celebrating. When contacted to comment over the court's judgment, Babazango said the appellate court has truly done what is justice, by upturning the decision of the lower court which initially favoured Abba Girei. He thanked the appellant court for being a voice for the voiceless and appreciated his party men both at state, federal even at the local level for standing by him to victory. He enjoined both APC and none party members to support work for Nigeria, Adamawa State and the people of his constituency.



Hon. Abubakar Babazango

CSOs Harp On Approval Of WASH Policies, ODF Roadmap To Ensure Basic Hygiene In A'Ibom

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo
Cluster of six Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) under the auspices of IbomWASH+ have rekindled calls to Akwa Ibom Government to approve its Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) policies and M&E Frameworks in order to improve access to water and basic hygiene in the state. This became necessary as the state government has expressed disappointment over the 17% access by Nigerians to basic hygiene and hand washing facilities. According to WASH National Outcome Routine Mapping (WASHNORM, 2021) Report. Project Director of Ibom WASH+, Prof Gabriel Umoh who made the call

during the celebration of this year's Global HandWashing Day in Uyo, however, said the goal required strong leadership as well as well coordinated effort, based on well articulated policies and frameworks. Umoh said that the overall goal of IbomWASH+ remained to improve the performance of the state's WASH sector hinted that the cluster has continued to engage relevant stakeholders to formulate and pass gender-sensitive and inclusive WASH Policy for the state, develop Open Defecation-free Roadmap for the state; formulate WASH Monitoring and Evaluation framework, push for increase in budgetary allocation and ensure timely release of same to WASH sector. "These facts informed all

the efforts we have made for the past 2 years and counting, to work with other stakeholders to put together important WASH policy and frameworks for Akwa Ibom State. "These policies and frameworks are: Akwa Ibom State WASH Policy; Akwa Ibom State WASH Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and; Akwa Ibom State Open Defecation-Free Roadmap. These are necessary supporting documents to give effect to the Akwa Ibom Water Sector Law. "The approval of these important documents is of crucial importance and, we want to use this opportunity to call on the Akwa Ibom State Executive Council, to give approval to these documents without further delay. And we hope that

the State Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation will give sufficient push to get the State Exco to approve the documents." The Project Director explained. State commissioner for Water Resources and Sanitation Mrs Enobong Mbobo in a keynote address expressed disappointment with the 17% access to basic hygiene and hand washing facilities in Nigeria. "From available statistics, access to basic hygiene services (handwashing facilities on premises with soap and water) in Nigeria is very low. According to WASH National Outcome Routine Mapping (WASHNORM, 2021) Report, the national average in Nigeria is barely 17%.

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Nigeria's Wrestling Will Soon Produce Olympic, World Champion - US Educator Zac Dominguez

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Stakeholders Strategize To Consolidate On Transparency Around Kaduna "Sustain" Agenda

*Assembly pledges to reintroduce Bill

By ; A L E X UANGBAOJE, Kaduna
As part of strategy to consolidate on transparency around the Kaduna State "Sustain Agenda", Transparency and Accountability in Totality Initiative (TinT), has held an interactive session with stakeholders. The engagement which held on Wednesday, was aimed at co-create and co-adopt a roadmap to achieve the "Sustain" manifesto to build an equitable, responsive, collaborative, accountable and beneficial relationship between government and communities.

The stakeholders reaffirmed the importance of the Kaduna State House of Assembly to pass the Freedom of Information bill, that will give citizens access to information. Responding to questions during a panel discussion, Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, Hon. Magaji Henry, assured that the house will reintroduce the bill and ensure it's passage and domestication in the next few weeks. According to him, passing the bill into law is an obligation that the house has to meet because it is crucial to the harmonious relationship between the government and the citizens. The stakeholders emphasized the need for the house to continue the process from where the last assembly stopped rather than starting all over again which could take a longer time. They appealed to the Assembly to fast track passage of the bill to give citizens the legal backing for requesting for information before Kaduna State is already practicing the tenets of FOI.

They resolved to set up a committee to further the discussion and follow up on the process to ensure the bill is domesticated. Earlier, the Project Officer, Musa Sulaiman, explained that TinT, is the parent organization of Follow Taxes and Shin Kun Sheda? and a member of the steering committee, Open Government Partnership (OGP), Kaduna. For over Nine years, in 10 Nigerian states, they have supported the efforts of non-state and state actors in strengthening public transparency, accountability, effectiveness and citizens' engagement especially around Public Finance Management (Fiscal Planning, Domestic Revenue Mobilization (DRM) / Tax Administration, Budget, Procurement, and Audit) which has improved service delivery in Agriculture, Basic Education, Healthcare and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) with governments more accountable, responsive and capable. He said the interactive session was organised line with the Kaduna State Government SUSTAIN agenda manifesto points 3 and 7 (Strengthening Institutions and Nurturing Citizens' Engagement) and in accordance with the Open Government Partnership commitment of the State. TinT is being supported by Palladium through USAID SCALE (Strengthening Civil Society and Local Engagement) project to advocate for enabling laws, policies, and regulations that expand the civic space for increased citizens-state collaboration.