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**Says "we must build a Nigeria free from corruption, inequality, injustice"*

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NDLEA Apprehends Wanted Drug Kingpins

Intercepts large quantities of assorted illicit drugs in Bayelsa, Borno, Lagos, Kwara, Enugu, others

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The long arm of the law has caught up with a fleeing drug baron as he was successfully arrested while attempting to smuggle another tranche of 2.00kg concealed in cartons to the airport for shipment to the UK. The suspect, identified as Obiorah Chigozie Samuel has been on the wanted list of the Agency since 15th September 2023 when a consignment of 1.500kg skunk concealed in flour going to London, UK was intercepted at the SAHCO export shed of the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, MMIA Ikeja Lagos, and his freight agent, Nworah Adaugo Precious arrested. The Director Media and Advocacy of the Agency Femi Babafemi, who made the disclosure in a statement yesterday, said the arrest of the drug kingpin led to the seizure of four tonnes of illicit substances in the past week.

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Protesting Nigerian in London.

63rd Independence: Renew Commitment To Cause Of Nationhood, Adelabu Tasks Nigerians

***Says "we must build a Nigeria free from corruption, inequality, injustice"**

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu yesterday, called on Nigerians to renew their commitment to the cause of nationhood by striving to build a Nigeria free from corruption, inequality, and injustice.

The minister who made the call in a statement personally authored by him on Nigeria's 63rd Independence anniversary, said, "Together, let's continue striving for a Nigeria that we can all be proud to call home"

According to Chief Adelabu, there is the need for Nigerians to "embrace our

diversity as a source of strength, unity, and progress", saying, "as we celebrate our 63rd independence, let's also remember our responsibility as citizens.

"We must strive to build a Nigeria free from corruption, inequality, and injustice. Let's empower our youth, invest in education, and create an environment where innovation and entrepreneurship thrive", he said.

The minister added, "Nigeria is a land of rich cultural heritage, diversity, and immense potential. Let's embrace our diversity as a source of strength, unity, and progress. Together, we can build a nation where every citizen has equal

opportunities, justice prevails, and peace reigns.

"On this Independence Day, let's renew our commitment to the values that define us as Nigerians: resilience, resourcefulness, and community spirit. Together, we can overcome challenges and achieve our collective aspirations.

Chief Adelabu stressed further, "Today, we salute the men and women who've contributed to our nation's growth and development. We celebrate our vibrant culture, achievements in various fields, and the unwavering spirit of Nigerians, both at home and abroad."

He emphasized that Nigerians should

reflect on the sacrifices of the nation's founding father and the resilience of Nigerians in the pursuit of freedom and self-determination.

"On this special occasion, let's remember the struggles and triumphs that have shaped our nation. We honor the visionaries who tirelessly fought for Nigeria's independence, paving the way for a brighter future.

"Today, we celebrate the remarkable journey of our great nation, Nigeria. Let us reflect on the sacrifices of our founding fathers and the resilience of our people in the pursuit of freedom and self-determination." He said.

NDLEA Apprehends Wanted Drug Kingpins

***Intercepts large quantities of assorted illicit drugs in Bayelsa, Borno, Lagos, Kwara, Enugu, others**

According to the release, convinced that the 1.500kg consignment had sailed through, Obiorah walked into the Agency's dragnet on Thursday 28th September when he personally brought another tranche of 2.00kg concealed in cartons to the airport for shipment to the UK.

In his interview, Obiorah was said to have claimed that he was into shoes sales in Lagos before venturing into the illicit drug business.

Meanwhile, operatives of the Federal Capital Territory Command of the Agency on Friday 29th September intercepted a container truck with registration number BD G41 XM coming from Lagos to Kano at the Gwagwalada area of the FCT.

"No less than 1,188 kilograms of skunk loaded at Owo, Ondo state and hidden under cartons of tooth paste were recovered from the truck and its driver, Amafan Fattison, 28, arrested.

"In the same vein, NDLEA officers in Bayelsa state on Wednesday 27th September seized 432kgs of the same substance from an abandoned J5 bus along Saipem road, Opolo, Yenagoa.

"The vehicle was equally recovered from the scene for further investigation", Babafemi stated.

In Kano, a septuagenarian grandpa, Ado Mai Uguwa, 70, was arrested on Saturday 30th September with 143.2kgs skunk in Dindere village, Tofa LGA, while operatives in Enugu same day recovered 110.6kgs of same substance from a locked-up shop at Aria new market. According to Babafemi, operatives in



The wanted kingpin and other suspects apprehended by NDLEA.

Lagos also on Saturday 30th September stormed the notorious Idi-Oro drug enclave in Mushin where they seized 212.5kgs of cannabis sativa belonging to a wanted drug lord.

"This is even as NDLEA officers in Kwara state recovered 104kgs of skunk from a Toyota camry car in Offa area of the state, while a Chadian, Mohammed Ibrahim, 25,

was nabbed at Mafa check point, Borno state with 11.8kgs of same substance on Monday 25th September.

"In Plateau, the state police command in the spirit of inter-agency collaboration transferred four suspects: Yusuf Akim; Frank Gah; Jackson Ejeh and Joseph Utsu, and 1,978kgs cannabis recovered from them to the state command of NDLEA,

while in Cross River, operatives on Monday 25th September seized 40,000 ampules of pentazocine injection from two suspects:

Fajulugbe Adeshola Temitayo, 35, and Nnaorji Agwe Solomon, 54, at Mobil by MCC road, Calabar.

"Also in Kogi state, NDLEA officers on Wednesday 27th September arrested a suspect, Ifeanyi Odoh, 25, with 59,867 pills of opioids including Tramadol and 4.03kgs cannabis sativa at Idah area of the state.

"War Against Drug Abuse, WADA, advocacy activities equally continued across the country in the past week. Some of them include: WADA advocacy visit to the Director/CEO, Nigeria French Village, Badagry, Lagos, Prof. Lateef Babatunde Ayeleru by the Seme Special Area command of NDLEA; WADA sensitisation lecture at Ar-Rahmania College of Health Sciences, Minna, Niger state; WADA advocacy lecture at Pentecostal Academy, Aba, Abia state and WADA sensitisation lecture for students and staff of School of Nursing, Eket, Akwa Ibom state among others.

"While commending the officers and men of the MMIA, Lagos, FCT, Bayelsa, Borno, Kogi, Kwara, Cross River, Borno and Enugu Commands of the Agency

for the arrests and seizures of the past week, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) equally praised their counterparts in all the commands across the country for ensuring a fair balance between their drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction efforts", Babafemi stated

Stop Funding Peter Obi's Case With Abia Money, Group Tells Alex Otti

**Condemns sack of 10,000 civil servants*

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

The national body of the All Progressives Youths of Abia, on the platform of Abia Youths Interest Group (AYIG), has warned the state governor, Alex Otti to stop funding presidential court case of Labour Party's presidential candidate, Peter Obi.

Mr. Otti is the only serving governor on the platform of the opposition Labour Party (LP).

Peter Obi, who came third in the 2023 presidential election is challenging in Court the victory of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Addressing a press conference at the weekend, leaders of the Abia Youths Interest Group said if the state governor continue the funding of the presidential case it will have negative effect on the economy, welfare and development of the state.

A speech read by the head of media AYIG, Henry Chigozie, said the funding of Peter Obi's case has led to the retrenchment of about ten thousand civil servants in the state, thereby depriving Abians of the dividends of democracy.

The statement read said: "We, the Abia Youths Interest Group, a National Umbrella Body of all



progressive Youths of Abia irrespective of political affiliation, has observed with dismay the following dangerous developments, that if not immediately checked will plunge our dear state into avoidable socio-political crisis and financial quagmire:

"That Mr. Alex Otti is funding the Presidential Court case of Mr Peter Obi with Abia money leading to massive retrenchment

and sacking of citizens thereby depriving Abians of the dividends of democracy. So far, in less than 3 months, over 10,000 Abia workers have been retrenched. This is unacceptable. "In Otti's Abia, transparency and accountability have been relegated to the background. No one knows the costs of projects nor contractors working on projects in Abia. This is to continuously siphoned and

inflate projects cost so that Mr Alex Otti can be using Abia funds to sponsor Labour Party operations across Nigeria in his nefarious desire to destabilize the progressive government of Nigeria under the able leadership of President Asiwaju Ahmed Tinubu.

"That Mr Alex Otti is creating crisis and instigating political unrest in Imo state thereby creating political instability in

the South-east. By asking a sister governor to immediately write his handover note, such unguarded and reckless statement which is capable of creating disunity amongst these states, can also lead to crisis amongst unsuspecting citizens.

"In view of the foregoing we wish to draw the attention of the nation, well meaning Abians and the relevant security agencies to these sinister activities and urge all concerned to take necessary steps to ensure that the interest of our great State and Nation is not jeopardized."

Also speaking, Spokesperson of the group, Dr. Stephen Ukpai Ukwa, said the Labour Party-led Abia government should bear in mind that the youths of the state are watching and will resist any act that will endanger the wellbeing of Abia people.

"Mr. Governor should know that Abia youths will resist any act that will cause problem between we and the President of Nigeria. We will resist any act that will endanger the lives of Abia people. So, any act that will lead to the mismanagement of Abia state fund should stop forthwith."



Gang Up Against Accountant General Won't Stop Routine Posting In Treasury House

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A Civil Society Organization, under the auspices of Pro-Impact Initiative has raised the alarm over what it termed, "Calculated attempts by few sit-tight Directors to blackmail the Accountant-General of the Federation, Mrs Oluwatoyin Sakirat Madein.

Saying, the attempt can derail her from carrying out much needed reforms and cleansing in The Treasury House.

The group pointed out that these few directors who were largely affected and displeased by the recent posting exercise which was with the noblest of intentions and in compliance with relevant civil service rules are hell-bent on seeing that the Accountant General of the Federation, Dr. Oluwatoyin Sakirat Madein, is forced out of office to allow them continue calling the shots.

The coordinator of the group, Dr Osamudiamen Isokpehi who briefed newsmen over the weekend in Abuja, said, "Those few Directors behind these acts appeared not to understand the extent to which they have exposed their self-centeredness and shallow mindedness in the said petitions written against an Amazon of repute and personally distributed them to media organisations to destroy her hard-earned reputation".

The group pointed out that, "These self-serving few directors who have apparently checked the books and found no case of fraud against her decided not to back down but continue their endless search for evidence and allegations to get her out of office.

"To start with, how can these directors accuse the accountant-General of not being qualified for the position because they claimed she came second during the rigorous interview and examination attended by multiple directors who applied and sat for the exam?"

Dr Isokpehi explained that, "The process of selecting the Accountant General of the Federation are; After a rigorous examination, some names are shortlisted accordingly to their overall performance; The shortlisted names are forwarded to the president and Commander-in-Chief who reserves the right to select any candidate from the list."

He asked further, "Why is this examination issue coming up several months after? Why at a time after the Accountant General carried out a reformative

posting exercise during which she moved untouchable Directors of the Agency who believed they are 'principalities and powers' in their offices?"

"On allegations of age falsification against her by these, we will die here directors, Mrs. Oluwatoyin Madein, has last week publicly dismissed it as false and a fabricated lie.

"Though not given the expected media attention it deserves, her brief response which was contained in a statement by the director of press in her Office, Mr Bawa Mokwa, said the allegations did not come as a surprise because "the office of the AGF is a competitive position and often falls victim to unjustified attacks."

Dr. Isokpehi pointed out that those who know Mrs. Oluwatoyin Sakirat Madein, including the petitioners themselves, know she would be the last person to collect money from staff to post them to places they have genuine qualifications and competence to be.

He stressed that reports from across sections of the staff showed that, "the Accountant General only gave those competent and ready to serve the opportunity to rise".

He pointed out that the office of the Accountant General of the Federation on August 23, 2023, released new posting of directors of finance and accounts based on merit irrespective of ethnic, tribal or religious affiliations.

However, some directors who considered themselves "too big to be posted" decided to put up a fight. True to her determination, Dr Madein stood her ground by ensuring the "big" Directors comply with the directives.

He wondered why directors with backgrounds in finance and other related professions would write petition accusing the accountant General of the federation of collecting bride to post accountants without producing any evidence such as financial transactions, pictorial or video evidence of collection or any other proof. In his words, "They refused to state which directors or accountants allegedly induced the accountant General and how much they allegedly gave bribes. They only insisted she took bride and must be sacked and arrested. These directors have played God for too long"

He highlighted Some of the reforms currently being pursued by the Accountant General of the Federation to include: Bottom-up cash plan which ensures Improvement to capital budget execution by ensuring that



Mrs Oluwatoyin Sakirat madein

respective agencies draw up their own cash requirements monthly as against the practice of just allocating funds to MDAs irrespective of their needs; Blocking revenue leakages by Setting up of strategic revenue management team to improve internally generated revenues (IGR). The team in turn sets up technical sub-committee who will be trained in data analytics and who can mine data of agencies not currently on GIFMIS directly from the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation. Such agencies include NCC, NNPC, NUPRC, FIRS, TETFUND, etc.

The Civil society group warned that "a system in which people, particularly those at the top are unwilling to accept reforms or changes cannot work. How on earth can a set of rebellious and "Powerful" directors who ought to be working hand in hand with the Accountant General, lock themselves in an office and spent hours, if not days, writing, editing, vetting petition against

a woman and thereafter go round key government offices to submit them? Which time do they now have to focus on the real work they are being paid to do."

Dr Isokpehi called on the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister for the Economy, Mr Wale Edun to "disregard their frivolous petitions and focus his strength on the actualization of a vibrant economy, under the president Bola Tinubu renewed hope agenda. These characters, we believe are part of those who brought the nation to where it is today"

"Worried by the big reformative shock they received during the posting exercise they went all out to destroy a bold Amazon by also sending petitions to the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi; the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Folasade Yemi-Esan; and the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu. The question is, for what

purpose?"

"From their pains over the internal posting exercise, one would not be wrong to conclude that before the coming onboard of Mrs Oluwatoyin Sakirat Madein as Accountant General of the Federation, these very few men are the ones who seat in their closets and choose accountants to be posted and where they are to be posted to. This must stop. One will not be wrong to conclude that they have promised many persons postings which did not materialize, hence their extreme anger and animosity".

The Group called on the Directors to "Immediately withdraw their ill-conceived petition, tender an apology to the Accountant General and return to their offices to work for the overall good of country. The energy, connections, time and resources they are putting in to destroy the Accountant General will go a long way in improving the nation.

Uba Sani Seeks Expansion Of Operation Safe Haven In Southern Kaduna

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani at the weekend, highlighted the need to expand the operations of Operation Safe Haven in Southern Kaduna general area, due to the challenges around Zangon Kataf, Kaura, Kauru and Sanga LGAs.

He said, such an expansion will go a long way in containing threats and consolidating ongoing efforts in those areas.

His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani disclosed this, when he received the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Christopher Gwabin Musa OFR on a courtesy visit at the Council Chambers of Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna.

Senator Uba Sani also congratulated the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), on attaining the rank of a Four-Star General in the Nigerian Army.

"We are excited at this well-deserved honour. We shall continue to pray for God's guidance and outstanding success in every step of your career.

According to him, "Your outstanding career is a source of pride and inspiration to us. You have progressed admirably from a junior officer to your appointment as Commandant, Nigerian Army Depot Zaria, then



Gov Uba Sani

Theater Commander Operation Hadin Kai in the North-East, and as Infantry Corps Commander in Jaji, from where President Bola Ahmed Tinubu appointed you as the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)."

Uba Sani noted that, "from our checks, you are one of the most successful Theater Commanders. You left an indelible mark in that arena. You led with brilliance, energy,

devotion and patriotism.

"It is no wonder you are still a reference point in military leadership. During your tour of duty in the North East, you adopted the kinetic and non-kinetic approaches and recorded huge successes."

He pointed out that, "in the kinetic side, our military decimated the terrorists in key flash points in Borno and the Lake Chad region. On the non-

kinetic side, your understanding of total warfare opened another vista, with the massive surrender of terrorists earlier conscripted into the ranks of insurgents, running into thousands. This is a clear display of your sublime understanding of holistic operations.

"We also wish to appreciate your efforts in the deployment of troops of the 404 Special Forces Brigade to Kaduna State last year, after the attack on the Kaduna-bound train.

"The Special Forces greatly complemented Operation Whirl Punch under the leadership of Major General Lagbaja, who was at that time the GOC of 1 Division.

"We must also acknowledge, on a sad note, the loss of some of these troops, notably Major SA Oni, an industrious officer of the highest quality, who, alongside several other brave personnel, paid the ultimate price during an operation in a neighbouring state last month.

"I convey my condolences at this devastating loss through our Commissioner overseeing Internal Security. We have remained in prayers to Almighty God for the repose of their souls.

"We will like to renew our appeals for the prolonged stay of the Special Forces in the ongoing campaign against banditry and terrorism.

"I similarly want to highlight the

need to expand the operations of Operation Safe Haven in Southern Kaduna general area, due to the challenges around Zangon Kataf, Kaura, Kauru and Sanga LGAs. Such an expansion will go a long way in containing threats and consolidating ongoing efforts in those areas.

"Similar measures are required in the Birnin Gwari general area, to restrict bandits and terrorists from using the Kuduru, Kuyanbana and Kamuku Forests as a refuge or hideout.

"Most importantly, they will further constrict the corridors connecting Birnin Gwari with neighboring States like Zamfara, Niger and Katsina, from use by these criminals.

"We have stepped up efforts towards inter-state collaboration in the fight against banditry and terrorism.

"I am in constant touch with my colleague Governors and strategies are being fine tuned to deny criminal elements safe havens or hideouts in any of our neighbouring states in the North West or North Central," he said.

Governor Uba Sani again extended his warm welcome to Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

"We assure you of our commitment to sustaining this cordial relationship. Remember that you can always count on our earnest prayers, sincere support and best wishes as you lead the Armed Forces of Nigeria," he added.

Plateau Gov Seeks Support Of Nigerian Customs Service in State's Security Challenges

By: BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang of Plateau State has sought the support and cooperation of the Nigerian Customs Service in addressing the state's security challenges.

Governor Mutfwang made the appeal during a courtesy visit to the Comptroller General of the Customs Service, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, at the headquarters of the Service in Abuja, in continuation of his engagements with Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

He expressed gratitude for the opportunities provided by the Customs Service to the people of Plateau State to contribute to national development and

mentioned notable figures such as former Comptroller General Da. Jacob Gyang Buba, the Gbong Gwom Jos.

"We value our relationship with the Customs Service, especially given the significant contributions of Plateau State to the service. We aim to foster collaboration and cooperation for the development of our state and the nation," Governor Mutfwang stated.

While acknowledging the relative peace that now prevails in the State, the Governor said the State had witnessed a series of attacks, leading to the displacement of numerous households.

He appealed to the Customs Service for assistance in addressing the plight of the

victims who are now at various Internally Displaced Persons camps.

Responding, Comptroller General Bashir Adewale Adeniyi expressed gratitude for the visit and assured that the Customs Service would collaborate with Plateau State to promote peace and unity.

He suggested the use of successful individuals as role models for the younger generation to emulate as part of strategies to check restiveness.

Governor Mutfwang also attended the launch of a book titled "Challenges and Triumph of Nursing Profession in Nigeria" written by Kola Oyedepo, MPH, PhD. He emphasized the



crucial role of nurses in healthcare delivery and pledged

support for the nursing profession.

Nigeria In Dire Need Of More Veterinarians

- IAR&T Executive Director

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Executive Director Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T) Ibadan, Professor Veronica Obatolu on Friday, said Nigeria is in dire need of more veterinarians.

Professor Obatolu said this at the presentation of certificates to 24 veterinary paraprofessionals trained by Institute in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The Executive Director declared that this became necessary to cater for the country's livestock population.

According to her, the population of veterinarians in the country today cannot serve efficiently the livestock producing

population, adding that the 7-month training was organised in order to equip the veterinary paraprofessionals to be able to attend to the basic animal health needs especially that of the smallholder farmers and rural dwellers livestock keepers who rarely have access to veterinarians.

She emphasized that there is a need for stakeholders in the animal health sector to collaborate together to ensure a thriving and prosperous livestock industry.

"The Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Ibadan forwarded her Expression of Interest (EOI) to provide continuing education training for Para veterinarians in Nigeria, sequel to the FAO announcement on this sometime in August 2023", she said.

Professor Obatolu added,

"The need to cast the net wide to bring in more veterinary paraprofessionals to livestock healthcare training cannot be overemphasized. It is a known fact that the population of veterinarians in the country today cannot serve efficiently the livestock producing population".

"Hence, the need to equip the veterinary paraprofessionals to be able to attend to the basic animal health needs especially that of the smallholder farmers and rural dwellers livestock keepers who rarely have access to veterinarians.

The IAR&T Executive Director stressed that "The stakeholders in the animal health sectors from private livestock companies, Veterinary Pharmaceuticals, Research Institutes,

NGO's and government livestock agencies must more than ever before, collaborate together to ensure a thriving and prosperous livestock industry.

"About 7 months ago, 25 veterinary paraprofessionals (VPP) sponsored by the FAO for training on "Growing your business through preventive livestock healthcare" were exposed to various advanced knowledge in animal preventive healthcare delivery system and competencies in business skills.

She noted further that "The blended approach of the training brings to bare the current day realities without neglecting the urgent need for practical sessions where, communication skills and other clinical processes were painstakingly taught and demonstrated."

Ex Kaduna Women Affairs Commissioner Congratulates Gov Sani Over Election Tribunal Rulings

**Says it's victory for all*



Mrs. Madami

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former Kaduna State Commissioner of Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs Maryamu Laka Madami also a stalwart of the All Progressives Congress (APC), has hailed Thursday's ruling of the Kaduna State Gubernatorial Election Petition Tribunal, saying it was victory not only for Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State, but victory for all citizens of the state.

It would be recalled that the Kaduna State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal, Thursday, upheld the election of Governor Uba Sani of the APC in a ruling that lasted five and half hours.

Mrs Madami in a Statement she personally signed in Kaduna on Friday said, "May I use this opportunity to heartily join the APC family in the state and the entire country, including our millions of supporters to hail the ruling of the Kaduna State Gubernatorial Election Petition Tribunal and to congratulate our amiable Governor, His Excellency, Sen. Uba Sani over the ruling of the Tribunal yesterday 28th, September 2023.

"It is an affirmation of the fact that the hard work, dedication and commitment which we put in your campaign bore the fruits of your victory as the real votes of the majority in Kaduna State.

"Yesterday's victory is not only for you and the APC but for all the citizens of Kaduna State.

"Happily, I have every reason to be proud of your achievements so far, especially in your resolve to unite the state and run an all-inclusive government in all aspects of governance", said Madami.

"In just a short time, the governor's impact is felt all over the place because the state is blessed with human and material resources that need sound and visionary leaders to fully maximize those potentials," she added.

"It was against this backdrop that to God be the glory, Kaduna State is blessed with Governor Uba Sani who has what it takes and is committed to place the state on the path of sustainable developments.

"It is also on this premise that I have no doubt that should in the end we have to go for a re-run in the said 22 polling units in the 7 wards in 4 LGAs of the state, I want to assure you that as a member of your Gubernatorial Campaign Team, we are up to the task of securing a seamless victory.

"But, as you have wisely counselled us yesterday in your press statement, this is not time for grandiose celebration. It is an opportunity on our side to offer our hands of friendship to other parties and to appeal to them to take the interest of Kaduna state first above other mundane interest and cooperate with you as you lead the state to peace, prosperity and progress for all," said Madami who was a member of the 2023 Tinubu/Shetima Women Presidential Campaign Team.



Veterenarists at the venue

Tribunal: Governor Nwifuru's Victory Confirms Acceptance By Ebonyians - Speaker

By; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The Speaker of Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Honourable Moses Ije Odunwa has said that the victory of Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru at the tribunal, is a testimony of his wide acceptance by Ebonyians, describing the victory at the Governorship Petition Tribunal sitting in Abuja, as a Godly ordination and a way forward in emancipating Ebonyi people from the shackles of poverty, underdevelopment and marginalization. The Speaker who expressed this in

Abakaliki, said the victory was well deserved as Francis Nwifuru openly demonstrated his determination to move the state forward under his people's charter of needs.

Mr. Odunwa reiterated that the judgment at the Governorship Election Petition Tribunal has confirmed the acceptance of Francis Nwifuru by the Ebonyi people as their Governor for the next four years.

He added that the victory has reassured Ebonyi people of the confidence in judiciary.

He further noted that Ebonyi people are ready to support and protect Governor Nwifuru's victory at all levels.



Ebonyi Governor

Contribute To Education Development, ABU VC Tells Alumni



By; SANALIYU, Zaria

The Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria Professor Kabiru Bala has called on members of the University Alumni Association to look at education very serious.

He stated this during a 16th Annual General Assembly and home coming held at the university assembly hall on Friday.

Bala said, something urgent need to be active on educational development particularly in the northern part of Nigeria.

According to him, with the current thing going on, the right thing must be supported in order not to allow it to collapse.

He said, ABU is a household name in terms of educational

development and it is been relegated to the background.

ABU has the best ICT among the Nigerian Universities and it is very important towards educating our Youths.

The Vice Chancellor urged alumni that anywhere they are, they should work towards addressing the issues of Almajiri in our society.

In his remarks the President of the Association Dr. Ibrahim Sani Khalil said the 16th general assembly is organized to bring members together and to discuss issues concerning problems of education in Nigeria.

Dr. Khalil urged members to remain committed in the educational development in our society.

He said, the meeting will look at the way forward in Nigerian education so as to clear anything that will be of a threat to education.

Earlier in his welcome address the Chairman Local Organizing Committee, Dr. Haruna Muhammed Jumare (Maradin Zazzau) said the assembly is not just a meeting but it is a celebration of the bonds that tie us together as proud graduate of ABU.

He said, they shared experience, memories, and the education they received from this great university which shaped them into the leaders and change-makers of the society.

He urged members to actively participate, engaged in meaningful

conversations, networking and collaborate.

Dr. Haruna Muhammed Jumare the theme of discussion is the repositioning Nigerian students for Tertiary Education Loan Scheme, is a subject of utmost importance in the ever-evolving landscape of higher education.

According to him, the pursuit of higher education should not be hindered by financial constraints and the student loan scheme offer a potential solution to this challenge.

The LOC Chairman believes that the assembly will foster a meaningful dialogue on how they can enhance the scheme making it more accessible, equitable, and beneficial for the students.

Community In Kaduna Cries Out Against Incessant Bandits Attacks

By; AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The National Leadership of Chawai Development Association in Kauru Local Government Area of Kaduna State, has expressed concerns over the resurgence of attacks on their people by unknown gunmen.

A statement on Thursday, issued by Chief Abel Habila Adamu (Dan'Amari Chawai), the President, Chawai Development Association, said, "We are hereby painfully addressing the

general public, local and international Community, the new and conventional media over a resurgence of attacks on our people by the unknown gunmen."

He lamented that their land is bleeding and the blood of innocent people cry profusely for justice.

The group condemned in its entirety, the inhumane experiences their people are subjected to at this critical time of their history as a nation.

"More worrisome is the fact that despite all efforts been made by the current CDA leadership amidst all reported cases of retaliations and counter-attacks going in our land in recent times in the quest to restore law and order for peace to return in the land, all proved abortive," the statement further lamented.

The group noted that the resurgence of the attacks at Kigam Community and Angwan Magaji, all in Kamaru Ward were attacked and it led to the killing

of six persons and four others injured by the unknown gunmen. The association condemned the series of attacks ongoing in their area and called on government at all levels to approach security matters with utmost sincerity, honesty as well as charge security heads to be more proactive in dealing with security matters concerning their land.

The group appealed to their people not to take the laws into their hands, but that they should

continue to work assiduously to ensure they coexist peacefully in the land and beyond, despite all odds.

"As leaders of conscience, we shall sustain community engagement and inter-agency collaboration with all relevant stakeholders and those critically needed to work with towards building a sustainable peace in our chieftdom are met and ensure the required result is achieved," the statement assured.

Plateau To Partner UNDP Over Increasing Security Challenges

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, has initiated a partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to enhance rural security, technical education, data processing, and strategic development planning.

Governor Mutfwang met with the team at the UN House in Abuja, led by Resident Representative, Mr. Mohamed Yahya and sought the UNDP's assistance in human capacity development, mineral exploration, and e-governance in the state.

Explaining his administration's vision, Governor Mutfwang said the UNDP has a role in training personnel for efficient service delivery.

He also highlighted the state's efforts to address security challenges, including the approval for the construction of two Mobile Police barracks in



volatile areas which are yet to take off.

The governor disclosed that some diligent youth have been

recruited across Local Government areas of the state to

reinforce the state security outfit, Operation Rainbow and safeguard communities adding that their training is expected to begin next week.

He expressed readiness to leverage UNDP's expertise and international partnerships to drive development programs of the state.

Governor Mutfwang outlined plans to organize an economic summit to discuss development strategies and propel development. He emphasized the use of technology for security and peace-building efforts, including early warning systems. UNDP's Resident Representative, Mr. Mohamed Yahya, expressed gratitude for the visit and affirmed UNDP's willingness to collaborate with Governor Mutfwang. He highlighted UNDP's investments in police reform and data-driven development initiatives across Nigeria.

Mr. Yahya urged the governor to consider signing a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the partnership.

Manufacturing Industry Key To Economic Growth - Bullion CEO

**Ask govt to tackle multiple taxation*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Chief Executive Officer of Bullion Go-Neat Global Limited, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo has charged the Nigerian government to tackle the problem of multiple taxation facing manufacturers in the country.

Speaking at the 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Ogun State branch of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), he said development of manufacturing industry, is the key to economic growth of any nation.

He emphasized that there is the need for governments both at the federal and state levels to look into the issue as the challenges of multiple taxation by different government have resulted in high cost of production as well as making things difficult for operators.

Represented by the General Manager of Bullion Go-Neat Global Limited, Mr Samuel Oluseyi Oguntade, Ambassador Ajadi listed other challenges as the difficulty in accessing foreign exchange as well as harassment by touts purporting

to represent local government councils submitting that these were making it difficult for manufacturers to operate.

According to Ambassador Ajadi, it is time for the concerned authorities to address the issue in the interest of growth in the economy, he tasked manufacturing industry to generate employment opportunities, enhances productivity, and boost government revenue through taxation.

He pointed out that the fact remains that manufacturing industry heavily depends on foreign exchange for sourcing raw materials and that this has made it difficult for it to achieve its needed contribution to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Emphasizing that multiple taxes and the menace of road touts, also hinder the growth of manufacturing sector, he expressed concern that vehicles transporting goods and personnel for manufacturers faced harassment from various entities demanding undisclosed taxes and levies.

Ambassador Ajadi however,



Some guests at the AGM in Abeokuta

tasked government and the Joint Tax Board, Ajadi to intervene with actionable resolutions to curtail these illegal road taxes and foster a more conducive environment for the manufacturing industry to thrive. He noted that the collectors of

these taxes and levies often claim to represent local government authorities, adding that these touts resorted to violence when drivers resisted, resulting in damage to both individuals and vehicles.

Ambassador Ajadi maintained

that government and the Joint Tax Board intervention should be an actionable resolutions to curtail these illegal road taxes and foster a more conducive environment for the manufacturing industry to thrive.

Yoruba Elders To Convene Restructuring Conference With Major Ethnic Nationalities In Nigeria - Chief Onigbinde

**To host Tinubu others*

BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan
The President, Council of Yoruba Elders (CYE), Chief Adegboye Onigbinde on Friday hinted that the council is to convene a 'National Restructuring Conference' in collaboration with major ethnic nationalities in the country. Chief Onigbinde dropped this hint at the inauguration of CYE global executive council and committees held at the council's head office, Oduduwa Center, Iwo Road, Ibadan.

According to the former Super Eagles Technical Adviser, the aim of the conference is to ignite the campaign and coordination of the

restructuring project, adding, "it is only through restructuring that true federalism can be achieved".

The CYE President maintained that the essence of the Committees is to "heavily and forcefully campaign for the restructuring of the country which we believe we are going to achieve with grim determination." "We need to connect with all the major nationalities in the country for ignition into traction the campaign for and coordination of the restructuring project under the auspices of 'National Restructuring Conference', he said

Chief Onigbinde added, "We have perfected plans to give a civic reception to

the president and all political office holders of Yoruba extraction so we can table our demands before them".

"We need to put our various youth and security-inclined organizations to task and deploy them into assisting the country's security operatives in combing our towns, cities and forests for the removal of the criminal elements".

Speaking further, he said CYE has perfected plans to host President Bola Tinubu and all other political office holders of Yoruba extraction to a civic reception where it will table its demands before them", adding that the time has come for all well-meaning Yoruba sons

and daughters across the world to join forces with the CYE and that the council is open to all interested Yoruba elders

Chief Onigbinde highlighted the agenda of the Council to include; need to put up a very good constitution, to effectuate the corporate registration of the organization, acquisition of a befitting office as secretariat and the need to equip the office and to service the secretariat for unfettered operations and other sundry matters, provision of operational vehicles, launching of the states and diaspora chapters and the need to financially empower the various committees.

Nigeria @ 63: Indigenous Ethnic Nationalities Demand New Constitution

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Coalition of Indigenous Ethnic Nationalities (CIEN) a Non Governmental Organization on Friday, declared that there is the need for a new constitution for Nigeria.

In a statement jointly signed by Prof. Benjamin Okaba and 15 other representatives of various ethnic nationalities in the country to congratulate Nigerians on the 63rd independence anniversary, the NGO emphasized that this became necessary if Nigeria as a country is to continue as a nation.

CIEN pointed out in the statement that, "the new constitution should revert Nigeria to a symmetric federal structure with a guarantee of equal representation to all regions and equitable distribution of power that ensures the rights of every Nigerian irrespective of population size of the region, or of place of birth or faith".

According to the body, "109 years after amalgamation of diverse ethnic nationalities of various sizes, cultures and aspirations and 63 years after independence, Nigeria is still unable to live together in harmony or accept a common national identity.

"It is time we write a new constitution with the expressed consent of and owned by the people, for regions to form a symmetric federation of equal status and with a weak centre. The new constitution should determine relationships between the regions and how the nation is to be governed", it said.

The body added, "There should be a proper delineation of regional and international boundaries. The regions should determine their governance structure and enshrine the same in their own constitution".

"Coalition of Indigenous Ethnic Nationalities

(CIEN) believes that a restructured Nigeria along the above-stated principles will assist in overcoming our historical obstacles and forge a path toward uplifting indigenous communities economically, providing them with the resources and opportunities needed for sustainable development".

They insisted that, "Indigenous people should be constitutionally empowered by the regions to develop, control, and use their lands and natural resources", CIEN said, "The right to regulate the entry of migrants, the right to stay in the territories, and the right to claim parts of ancestral land previously reserved for various purposes except those reserved and intended for common and public welfare and service should revert to the people".

The body noted that this year's independence celebration provided an opportunity to "re-examine and decide on the relationship the ethnic nationalities want with each other and chart a new path for peace and prosperity rather than continue to suffer in this debilitatingly unproductive relationship".

It emphasized that the problems besetting Nigeria were foundational requiring structural re-engineering as reflected in "weak governance structures, ethno-religious conflicts, inequality, and inequitable power relations have exacerbated our situation, leaving a trail of perennial crisis, ethnic distrust, and social unrest in their wake".

Congratulating Nigerians on the 63rd independence anniversary, it stressed, "we, the Coalition of Indigenous Ethnic Nationalities (CIEN), and express our deep concern for the indigenous peoples of Nigeria. This year's independence is a call for introspection."



CYE President speaking

Stop Intimidating Judges, Prepare For Another Election In 4 Years, Kano NNPP Told

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The leadership of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) and the sacked government of Kano state has been advised to prepare for another election in the next four years instead of intimidating the judiciary. A group, Stand Up Nigeria (SUN) made the call on Saturday at a press conference in Abuja, following the recent attacks on the judiciary before and after the verdict by the Tribunal sacking Governor Abba Yusuf in Kano state.

National Coordinator of the group, Patriot Sunday Attah, said applauded the Honourable Justices of the Kano State Governorship election petition tribunal who delivered what he described as "a bold and sound judgement sacked Engr Abba Kabir Yusuf and declared Dr. Nasir Gawuna as the duly elected Governor of Kano State."

The group comprises of patriotic Nigerian youths across political parties and ethnic groups who believe in peaceful co-existence, rule of law and institutional governance. According to Attah, the judgement serves as deterrent to politicians who float electoral laws and make elections do or die affair. We had warn politicians severally to discourage their supporters from rigging and violence during elections as democracy is the government of the people by the people for the people.

He said: "You don't have to intimidate the judiciary or cause war because you loose an election. The tenure is four years after which a fresh elections would be conducted.

"You may prepare yourself to contest again instead of sponsoring people to blackmail highly respected Justices of the election petition tribunal and intimidate the Appeal Court Judges all in a bid to reverse a sound judgement already delivered.

"We understand that, Kano has an International market which makes it a

home to all Nigerians irrespective of religion and tribe. Kano indigenes are also scattered in other States of the Federation without fear of molestation. No one has monopoly of violence.

"The Judges must be encourage and supported by all Nigerians as they deliver more critical judgements that would strengthen our democracy. "The NNPP and it's government must come out openly to retract its violent threat being issued by its supporters including a Commissioner under Engr Abba Kabir Yusuf.

"Here is a man ordinarily referred to as Honourable Commissioner, so, where is the Honourable? . It shows how deep the NNPP must have gone in term of intimidation of judicial officers in secret before it was made public.

"We believe that the intimidation and threat being mounted are targeted towards the Appeal Court judges in order to bully them.

"We urged our Honourable Justices of the Appeal Court to to scumble to their antic but always stand on the part of justice. We have offered to stand by the judiciary and help protect the institution once it continue to maintains the part of justice."

While recalling similar judgement in the case of Edo State election petition tribunal nullified the election of Senator Osunbor of the Peoples Democratic Party and declared Adams Oshiomhole of the Action Congress of Nigeria, winner, Attah said: "We condemn the leadership of the New Nigeria People's Party, NNPP who have being threatening the judges and general peace of Kano State using its supporters, to understand that, trying to intimidate the judiciary in order to force the Judges to their side would amount to miscarriage of justice."

The group thanked President, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu for providing enabling environment for the judiciary to operate without interference.



Plateau Dep Gov Visits Family Of Boy Lynched By Mob

***Family demands arrest of perpetrators**

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

Plateau State Deputy Governor, Mrs Josephine Piyo has visited the family of Thomas Fwinbe and commiserated with them over loss of their son, Fwinbe Gofwen, who was lynched by a mob at the Domkat Bali Road in Jos on Monday.

Piyo in a statement, described the death of the young man as painful and regretted that life was snuffed out of him in an inhumane and ungodly manner.

The deputy governor, who prayed God grants him eternal rest and the family the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss, called on

security agencies to wade into action immediately and bring the perpetrators of the dastardly act to book.

She called on citizens of the state to be their brothers' keeper as the state is known for peaceful coexistence and communal living by all.

Mr Simon Gofwan, who spoke on behalf of the family, thanked the deputy governor and government of the state for identifying with them in their moment of grief.

Gofwan called on the government to ensure that the killers of their son are arrested and made to face the consequences of their actions.



Basic Battle Course: 3 Div Graduates Young Soldiers

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

3 Division Nigerian Army (NA) has graduated young soldiers trained on Basic Battle Course, with a call on the graduands to employ skills acquired to swiftly respond and

deal with emerging threats to security of lives and property of the citizenry.

The graduation ceremony was held on Thursday September 28, 2023 at the 3 Division Auditorium, Maxwell Khobe

Cantonment, Jos.

The Special Guest of Honour, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Division NA and Commander Operation SAFE HAVEN (OPSH), Major General Abdulsalam Abubakar,

speaking at the event, noted that the scourge of insecurity in the country and the world at large requires consistent training to develop the capacity of troops towards safeguarding the lives and property of law-abiding citizens.

He added that the training of young soldiers, which is battle field specific, becomes even more necessary to achieve envisaged battle field results.

Represented by the Commander 3 Division Garrison, Brigadier General Michael Agi, the GOC remarked that the NA has prioritized training as a means to equip its personnel with the necessary professional knowledge and skills in line with the Chief of Army Staff's Command Philosophy which is to "Transform the NA into a Well Trained, Equipped and Highly

Motivated Force Towards Achieving Our Constitutional Responsibilities in a Joint Environment".

Earlier in his remarks, the Division Training Officer (DTO), Colonel Aminu Aliyu revealed that the training received will further equip the young soldiers to face all forms of security challenges within the Division's Area of Responsibility

He appreciated the GOC/Commander OPSH for his visionary leadership and strategic guidance especially in developing the curriculum for the training of the young soldiers.

Presenting the course highlight, the Chief Instructor, 3 Division Training School, Major FA Akingboju said the young soldiers were adequately trained on Tactics, Drill, Physical combat training as well as weapon handling and Field craft. The training curriculum included ethics, regimentation and warrior ethos all aimed at better preparing the young soldiers battle ready for the theater of operations.

The ceremony featured presentation of certificates to graduands and a group photograph.



Empowerment: Youth Leadership Training Of Paramount Importance To Dangote Cement - Ibese Head Of Social Performance

***Sponsors 17 host communities youth on leadership skills**

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Dangote Cement Ibese Head of Social Performance, Mr. Ademola Ojelowo has advocated need for continued empowerment of youths with up-to-date information and social network required for the present socio-economic situation in the country.

Mr Ojelowo made the call while speaking at the maiden Leadership Conference for the Yewa Youth Association, held at the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro attended by Yewa youths from across the country and in the diaspora to brainstorm on the socio-economic development of the area and the expected roles of the youth leaders.

He stressed that no fewer than 37 youth from the host communities were sponsored by the company from their bases across the country, with all expenses paid, "because we believe knowledge is power and more informed the youths the better for the society."

"Youth leadership training is of paramount importance to the management of Dangote Cement given the state of economic uncertainty and social challenges bedeviling the nation now," he said.

The Head of Social Dangote Cement Ibese Head of Social



Aliko Dangote

Performance, added, "How are you playing to your strengths, mobilising your team, steering organisational change and restoring confidence in these challenging times is what the conference is all about and that is

why we took keen interest in it" Mr Ojelowo maintained that the company has executed various empowerment programmes in the mould of vocational training with start-up kits with the underlining philosophy that

formal education is no longer enough for stable future for youth but additional vocational training so that the youths of the area can be self-employed gainfully and be useful to themselves and the society at large.

At the leadership conference themed 'Empowering Youth: Leadership, Civic Engagement & Active Citizenship', engaging sessions were held on building youth capacity for effective participation in local governance and community development, opportunities and prospects for community development through active citizenship, building resilient businesses and strategies for overcoming challenges, at the conference.

Speaking at the conference, the Chairman of Dangote Cement, Ibese Youth Assembly and a representative of Ibese Community at the Conference, Mr. Ajayi Idowu, lauded Dangote Cement Plc management for sponsoring host youths to the conference, while

underscoring the importance of such an educative conference for the youths to continued peaceful co-existence with the Plant.

Prince Ewedairo David, a Youth representative of Ijako Orile, said "the Conference was an eye-opener for us, and the event has brought about a paradigm shift in our perception, especially on the common misplaced parlance among the youths that education is a scam. Personally, I have come to realise that good education is required to maximise effectiveness of natural talents, and I promise to cascade key lessons from the conference to other youths in my community", he concluded.

Appreciating Dangote Cement Plc, Ibese Plant for supporting the Conference, the President, Yewa Youth Association (YYA), Jabar Ayelaagbe, assured that the Association is committed to redefining youth engagement in Yewaland for inclusiveness and socio-economic development, adding that Yewa youth would work with the management of Dangote Cement to sustain the prevailing peace and tranquility, noting that no development can come from an atmosphere of violence and business disruption.

CSWN Condemns Attacks In Zango Kataf, Kauru LGAs

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Christian Solidarity Worldwide Nigeria (CSWN) has in the strongest term, condemned attacks on Takanai Community in Zango Kataf and Ungwan Magaji in Kauru LGAs respectively in Kaduna State.

CSWN expressed this is a statement signed by Reuben Buhari of its Research and Press Office, made available on Friday September 29, 2023.

"Takanai community in Zangon

Kataf area of Kaduna State was attacked Tuesday 26, September 2023, at around 7 p.m. The attack which was carried out by suspected armed herdsmen, according to Christian Solidarity Worldwide Nigeria's sources in the community, killed six people.

"More disheartening is the fact that four out of the six victims who were ambushed and killed are from the same family. Four victims are currently nursing injuries in the hospital.

"Also, yesterday, 29 September,

2023, three other people were killed in Ungwan Magaji, Kauru LGA, by suspected armed herdsmen. Report shows they were coming back from their farm on their motorcycle around 6pm when they were waylaid and killed," it said.

According to Christian Solidarity Worldwide Nigeria, they also confirmed that attacks have been taking place in dozens of communities in Kaduna State since 2020.

"CSWN finds these killings unacceptable given that Nigeria

has a functional government, avoidable given the capacity of our security men, and preventable since attacks like this have been recurring.

"Allowing these attacks to continue poses grave danger to not only other communities in the area but also to farmers who are in the process of harvesting their crops. The implication of food security cannot be over emphasised," the group said.

CSWN therefore, urged the Federal and Kaduna State governments, and all those

constitutionally responsible for preventing these attacks to do so urgently.

"The CEO of CSWNigeria, Rev. Yunusa Nmadu extends his condolences to the family of the bereaved and prays for speedy recovery to the injured.

"He added that the inability of the Nigerian security in apprehending and prosecuting these terrorists has emboldened them to keep killing, maiming, and destroying properties," the statement lamented.

Gombe Holds Special Juma'at Prayer To Commemorate Nigeria's 63rd Independence, State's 27th Anniversary

**As Governor Inuwa Charges Muslims To Intensify Prayers for Peace, Prosperity of Gombe State, Nigeria*

By; JACOB
ONJEWU
DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, earlier today, led top government functionaries to attend a special Juma'at prayer, at Modibbo Bubayero Jumu'at Mosque, Emir's Palace Gombe, in commemoration of the 63rd anniversary of Nigeria's independence which also coincides with the 27th Anniversary of the Creation of Gombe State.

According to a statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, Governor Inuwa who was represented by the Secretary to the Gombe State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, said the prayers are part of a series of activities preceding this year's twin celebrations in Gombe State.

"The essence of this is for the entire religious groups to be involved. It started with Juma'at Prayers today where special prayers were conducted in mosques all over the state; and on Sunday God's willing, which coincides with Independence Day, special prayers will be conducted in various churches for peace, security, and development of Gombe State and Nigeria", he said.

He said the people of Gombe have every reason to celebrate this day owing to the enormous development the state has witnessed, especially during Governor Inuwa Yahaya's stewardship, calling on them to

support the good policies and programmes of the incumbent government for more development and prosperity.

Governor Inuwa charged Muslims to pray for the state and the country for more blessings to the country and to invoke Allah's interventions against the myriads of problems bedeviling the country.

Earlier in his Juma'at sermon, the presiding Imam, Ustaz Aliyu Hammari enjoined Muslims to emulate the good characters and virtues of the prophet Muhammad (SAW) and imbibe the character of praying for their leaders.

Ustaz Hammari said Islam teaches Muslims to speak good of their leaders and pray for them. "It is therefore incumbent on us to pray for our leaders. Let's pray for them and support them in whatever way possible for the progress of our state and the nation", he urged, calling on the Ummah to avoid exhibiting illicit behaviors and acts during any celebration. After the Juma'at prayer, the congregation was led in sessions of special prayers led by various scholars for peace, progress, and prosperity of Gombe State and Nigeria.

The Special prayers session was also graced by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Gombe, and Chairman Gombe State Council of Emirs and Chief, Alh. Dr Abubakar Shehu Abubakar III, CFR, Acting Head of Civil Service, Permanent Secretaries, among other top government functionaries.



Kaduna Gov'ship Tribunal Victory: Mamman Lagos Congratulates Uba Sani

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Kaduna State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos has congratulated Governor Uba Sani for securing victory at election petition tribunal, saying the court's verdict was affirmation of the will of the people.

In a statement released to newsmen on Thursday shortly after the election petition tribunal sitting in Kaduna upheld the March 2023 gubernatorial victory of Governor Sani, Mamman Lagos counselled aggrieved parties to cooperate and join hands with the Kaduna Governor in his quest to deliver dividends of democracy to the state.

The commissioner expressed confidence in the ability of Governor Uba Sani to fulfill all campaign promises and turn around fortunes of the state to the advantage of all, irrespective of tribe, party

and religion.

He assured that the current administration in the state would continue to heed the demands of the people, particular on issues that directly impact the welfare of citizens and those of their families.

"You can see that the governor cares for his people from the actions taken so far since he assumed governorship of the state.

"He listened to the cries of parents and students in state-owned tertiary institutions by reducing significantly the fees charged so children of the masses can access quality education as those from rich homes.

"The governor has touched virtually various sectors of government to ensure people feel the positive impacts of his administration.



Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos

"I want to use this medium to appeal to our people that they won't be let down by their Governor who has shown by his actions and utterances he is out to serve selflessly and pay due attention to welfare of the masses whom he holds

dearly in his heart.

"We pray for a prosperous state built on transparency, justice and respect for citizens so that our dear state will reclaim her place as a model for others to copy" he submitted.

Malicious Gang Up Against You Will Fail, Group Assures Accountant General

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Accountant General of the Federation, Mrs Oluwatoyin Sakirat Madein has been enjoined not to be distracted in the discharge of her duties, but remain resolute in the face of challenges.

A Civil Society Group, Nigeria Women Professional Alliances, (NWPAA) gave the charge over the weekend, during an interactive session with newsmen.

Spokesperson of the group, Mrs Christine Ezekwe said they decided to come out and voice their position, following what they termed, "Unprovoked attacks against a woman who is just doing her professional noble job."

Mrs Ezekwe explained that, "we read in some sections of the media that some directors wrote petition against the Accountant General of the

Federation, claiming she was not qualify to be on the seat. How on earth will people who see her progress in her carrier as a well-bred professional wake up one day to fabricate such gruesome lie.

"When Mrs Oluwatoyin Sakirat Madein was appointed the Accountant General of the Federation there was Joy and high expectations across all facets of Nigeria regardless of gender, religious or ethnic affiliation. Her emergence gave hope to millions of young girls across the thirty-six states of the federation and the FCT that they can aspire to any position in Nigeria. Today, few men woke up wrote petitions and wanted to paint her black for not dancing to their tunes"

The group appealed to the Accountant General to remember she is an ambassador of the Nigerian woman and go

about her duty passionately to actualise the dreams of President Bola Tinubu's renewed hope agenda.

They lamented that, "one thing we find real disturbing is the fact that women in positions of authority go through a lot. Many just believe that because they are women they cannot take certain tough decisions or be their boss. Some can endure incompetence and non-performance from anyone, but when it comes to women working upright in the discharge of their duties, they get very offended"

Mrs Ezekwe pointed out that at a time when Nigerian women are clamouring for more seats in governance they cannot



Mrs Oluwatoyin Sakirat Madein

watch their unacceptable few number depleted by some persons who, "have left their offices to start chasing shadows"

The group spokesperson said, "it is time these few directors who were affected by the recent postings done by the Accountant General accept their new offices and let the Accountant General breathe"

Nigeria @ 63: Action Alliance Chairman Lauds Citizens' Tolerance, Adaptability Long-suffering

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

As Nigeria marks its 63rd Independence anniversary, the National Chairman of the Action Alliance (AA), Dr. Adekunle Rufai Omo-Aje has lauded the level of tolerance, adaptability, and long-suffering exhibited by Nigerians despite all the unity-threatening rancorous situations that stare them in the face daily.

In a statement to commemorate the celebration, Omo-Aje said such a display shows that Nigerians are still the happiest living people.

He congratulated all citizens for advancing in the age of nationhood and stride to stamp their leadership authority on the sand of time on the African continent, while noting that going forward as a nation, some aspects of livelihood need to be focused on and engineer a reappraisal of current approaches.

The AA Chairman said he looks forward to the time when elections in the country will attract less litigations in the aftermath.

"I am not saying it's a bad idea to have elections challenged when there are dissensions, no. What I am dreaming of here is a situation where we grow and mature as a nation to be able to say, "Alright, all things cannot be perfect all the time anyway, I accept defeat to better prepare next time".

"This will save the nation a lot of resources and most especially precious election petitions that put all existing civil and other matters on hold with long adjournment to create time for election litigations".

Omo-Aje opined that as a nation, the people need to focus more on creating

local content framework that will see them producing what they consume and depending less on importation.

According to him, as blessed as Nigeria is, it should not have any business grappling with saving its currency free fall as a result of an unguided thirst for foreign tastes.

He stressed that the insatiable desire for foreign tastes in everything is responsible for the cancerous fall of the value of the Naira.

"We have the capacity and capability to feed and stabilize the African sub-region should we develop our export potentials by boosting our capacity.

"We have a vibrant, youthful population that surpasses the endowment of any other nation on the African continent.

"This youthful asset is so underutilized, thereby making them grossly idle, and this is responsible for the vices found in a great percentage of that population now.

"I would like to advise our president to look into some of these areas with the mind of mitigating the possible pandemic that some of these neglected aspects of our livelihood as a democratic nation could birth to our detriment.

"Nigeria has unlimited potentials with the level of divine endowments in human and natural resources, which surpass most of our contemporaries in the comity of nations.

"Though the responsibility of administering a vast nation like ours could be tasking, I however, pray for wisdom for the president that God will grant him all he needs to navigate our economy back on course." The statement reads.

Visitation Panel To CoE Billiri Submits Report To Gombe Governor

**Gov Inuwa moves to reposition higher education to meet global best practices*



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has received the report of the visitation panel to Gombe State College of Education, Billiri.

A statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available on Saturday, said that the panel, which is the first of its kind since the establishment of the college, was inaugurated by the Governor on the 27th of July this year to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the institution and report back to the state government.

While receiving the report, Governor Inuwa Yahaya, represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, stressed that his administration was deliberate in setting up the visitation panels to have a comprehensive understanding of the situation of higher institutions in the state to identify areas that need intervention to reposition them in line with global best practices.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya noted that visitation panels are a necessary catalyst for the development of the administration of higher institutions. "Visitation panel is an educational ritual where after some time, a panel goes on to give a holistic assessment of the educational situation in the institution in question", he said.

He noted that in the last four years, his administration focused more attention on basic education; primary and secondary schools. "But I am proud to say today, we have been able to come out of the woods.

"When we came in, the percentage of students passing WAEC and NECO in Gombe State was very low. To God be the glory, by the end of our first tenure, it has risen to over 67%",

Having achieved this feat, the governor said, his administration is now focusing on higher institutions in its deliberate attempt to methodically intervene to promote effective teaching and learning for the overall development of Gombe State.

He therefore assured members that the state government would carefully study the reports and implement same within available resources. "The report will be thoroughly studied and of course, all the recommendations contained therein will be implemented within the resources available to the government", he assured.

Earlier presenting the report, the chairman of the panel, Professor Mohammed Gurama Dukku said the report was a result of robust work, careful and extensive deliberation based on mutual consultations and submissions from stakeholders, engagement with development documents, and physical observation among others.

"Your Excellency, we are pleased to report that we have tried as much as possible to deal with these issues thematically based on the terms of reference that were given to us and maybe with a few things we found to be pertinent to this particular assignment", he said.

While expressing gratitude to Governor Inuwa Yahaya for finding members of the panel worthy to serve in this capacity, the chairman assured their readiness to serve the state in whatever capacity, hoping that their report will guide future policies to develop the state college of education and the overall education sector in the state.



Violent Conflict: NGO Trains Kaduna Women On Peace Building



By; EMMANUELAGBO, Kaduna

International Alert, (IA) with funding from United Kingdom Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF) has trained 30 women on peace building in Kaduna State.

The two-day workshop held in Kaduna at the weekend had participants from Jema'a and Chikun LGAs, Kaduna, including Tsafe and Birnin Magaji, Zamfara State.

In his remarks, the Senior Project Officer IA, Sunday Jimoh Momoh, said the programme is to equip women to be peace ambassadors in their respective communities.

Momoh noted that the project is also aimed at supporting stabilisation, local justice and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) prevention through broadening inclusion, accountability and managing tensions to reduce violence in Zamfara and Kaduna states.

He further stressed that the capacity-

building workshop which was on conflict, gender sensitivity and advocacy, is designed for members of the Women Peace Network (WOPEN) who were selected from four Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the project's intervention, while lamenting that the conflict and violence have impacted on peace, stability, access to justice and socio-economic development of the states and other parts of the NorthWest/East.

The network comprises women in leadership, women from different ethnic and religious groups and also women from the Police, and NSCDC, among others.

Speaking with journalists shortly after the event, the Communication Officer Global Peace Development, (GPD) Jemila Yakubu said that the program was also to encourage sustainable networks and platforms for vulnerable groups to demand justice and promote accountability, provide skills and

knowledge for women and other vulnerable groups towards integration in decision-making processes.

Jemila explained that they are even working with sexual and assault referral centers in the view to bring the women together and not just women alone but also focusing on the male gender too because "when we only focus on one, we are not going to have good results so this capacity building for our women is to go back to the community and do a step down training for our participants and other Community members." She said.

In the same vein, the Secretary, Women for Peace Network, (WOPEN) Hadiza Umar, said "I really learned a lot of things because I could recall back to our community the various degrees of conflict on the ground of religion, causing disunity amongst our religious leaders.

"Now I know the best approach to use and see how we can bring these stakeholders together. I will share what I have learnt

with fellow women so we can sit down and discuss best modalities to foster peaceful coexistence among residents of our dear community."

Another participant, a police officer from Sabon-Tasha divisional headquarters, Constance Didia from Sabon-Tasha police, said, "as a participant in this workshop, my take home is to create awareness among the men. Because when you talk about SGBV, everybody will always focus on the female. So by the reason of this workshop today, we will go back home and tell the men that they have the right to speak out. They do not have to die in silence.

"Violence related to men is a criminal offence so you treat it with equity the same way you treat the female. Learning is a process so there are many knowledge we have added to the one I knew at the course of discharging my duties." She added.





Abduction: Securing Our Schools

By Safiya I. Dantiye

MORE than 22 students and construction workers of the Federal University, Gusau (FUGUS), Zamfara State, kidnapped on September 22 have been rescued by the military.

So far, the exact number of those abducted is not known when gunmen went and abducted female students from their 'hostels' at Sabon Gida, away from the university campus. The construction workers abducted were nine.

According to those in the area, the gunmen went there in the middle of the night, shooting and spent hours carrying out their operation.

When the story broke, it implied that the hostels were as what people took them to be, those inside the campus, but it later came out that they were actually rented places that students use.

Students usually use outside accommodation if they could not get the official one inside the campus because they are few and not everybody could get it. Or some like more freedom, or don't like congestion or don't like to share bathrooms and so on.

Even though these accommodations are scattered in many areas around universities, they are not as monitored as those inside the campus which are part of the university with their own staff. This makes them vulnerable to theft and intimidation among other problems.

The usual condemnations and lamentations followed this abduction yet again, which is very sad indeed. The bandits are emboldened and are not afraid and know where to hit hard. That is to abduct female students which is distressing to everybody. They know that people are afraid that they would be violated and gain attention through this.

They raid communities and abduct women but they don't get the attention they get when they abduct students. This however should draw attention to those from local communities to be noticed and rescued promptly as well. They are often forgotten, though from time to time, we hear of the rescue of some abducted people, but it hardly garners hue and cry.

Two years ago, one man, a shoe shiner, told me that bandits raided his village in Zamfara and abducted the young wife of his brother among others. At that time, she was still with the abductors.

In any event, university communities, even where students live outside the campus, are supposed to have a feeling of togetherness and nothing as drastic as being invaded by gunmen should be expected in a worst-case scenario.

Enough of these lapses, students should have a secure environment to learn. This should not be denied them and it is not too much to expect from the government.

But this is Zamfara State where notorious bandits such as Bello Turji reign with impunity. Still hearing about such abductions is painful; we should not give up our freedom to them.

What about schools being attacked and female students carted away on motorcycles to the forests? What are the authorities going to do about it to prevent recurrence? Some parents or even the young girls themselves may be afraid to go to school, hindering their future. After all, there is the likelihood of a bandit 'marrying' your daughter and you may not see her forever while you are abandoned by the government.

After some school abductions few years ago, there were talks of fencing, because it was discovered that many boys' boarding secondary schools were not fenced, though it may not have been done.

In terms of security, there is not much, may be two men at a time, which is not adequate to repel bandits in large numbers with guns.

The government should however not relent and find a way to secure schools and prevent female students from being used as tools of bargain. Even those places that are known to accommodate students as hostels should have security, especially in Zamfara, the hotbed of banditry in the North-west.

Enough of these lapses, students should have a secure environment to learn. This should not be denied them and it is not too much to expect from the government.

Culled from National Record

Independence Day: Nigerians in London demand justice for NNPP government in Kano

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As part of 63rd independence celebration, Nigerians in the diaspora have stormed the High Commission in London, demanding for just and fair Kano governorship election trial.

The placard-carrying Nigerians protesting alleged interference of the All Progressive Congress (APC) under Abdullahi Umar Ganduje in the Kano governorship election petition tribunal.

The protesters waved different placards to drive home their demands for an impartial and apolitical justice system that will be fair to the New Nigerian People Party (NNPP) government in Kano state.

The placard-carrying protesters converged at Nigerian embassy in London on Sunday morning to demand justice and fairness from the APC ruling government. Some of the messages contained in the placards read:

"The Independence of a country depends on the Independence of its judiciary."

"Kano must not be robbed, Tinubu should allow Justice to prevail in Kano."

"Kano People's Mandate Must be Allowed, No More Unjust Rulings: Abba's Mandate must not be stolen."

"Election Tribunals Must Be Just and Fair—the Kano case must not be an exception."

"Keep Politics Out of Our Courts—the Kano Election Tribunal was compromised!"

"Tribunal neutrality is non-negotiable. Kano people deserve justice, not politics."

"Defend democracy and demand fair tribunals. Kano people deserve justice."

The convener of the protest, Dr Aminu Bello told journalists at the event that they were at Nigeria's embassy in London to protest the recent judgment delivered by the Kano State Election Tribunal concerning the 2023 election, a judgment that has raised serious questions about its fairness and has ignited a call for justice to be served.

According to him the 2023 elections were a pivotal moment in Nigeria's history, a time when Nigerians from all walks of life came together to exercise their democratic rights and choose their leaders.

He however, observed that the recent development in Kano State has cast a shadow of doubt over these fundamental democratic principles.

He noted that the judgment handed down by the Kano governorship Election Tribunal has left many Nigerians disheartened

and concerned about the integrity of Nigeria's electoral process.

"We want to emphasize a crucial point: it is only the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) that has the legal authority to cancel votes, not tribunal judges. The judiciary's role is to interpret the law and ensure justice is served, not to alter the will of the people expressed at the ballot box."

"We firmly believe that justice must be blind and that the rule of law must prevail in all circumstances. The recent judgment has raised questions about whether justice has truly been served in this instance. We call upon all Nigerians, regardless of their political affiliation, to rise and fight for justice," he pleaded.

Dr Bello observed that democracy thrives on the diversity of political voices and the competition of ideas, noting that Nigeria should never be reduced to a one-party system; as according to him the strength of its democracy lies in a vibrant multi-party system where all citizens have a fair chance to express their choices and aspirations.

He noted that the mandate given to Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf by the Kano State people must be upheld and respected.

To this end, Dr Bello call on civil society organizations, political parties, and the international community to closely monitor the situation in Kano State and ensure that justice is served, and the Kano votes must not be stolen.

"We urge all Nigerians to engage in peaceful, lawful, and constructive ways to demand transparency and accountability in the Kano State electoral tribunal case. We equally call upon civil society organizations, political parties, and the international community to closely monitor the situation in Kano State and ensure that justice is served, and the Kano votes must not be stolen."

"We also urge the relevant authorities to conduct a thorough and impartial review of the election tribunal's judgment to ascertain its fairness and punish any judge who is found to be compromised," he pleaded.



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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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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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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2	Loss of Documents	2" x 2 Cols	4,400.00	330.00	4,730.00
3	Change of Name	Per Box	2,000.00	-	2,000.00

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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

Nigeria @ 63: A Nation In Need Of A Just Society

By: HASSAN GIMBA

This text was published three years ago when Nigeria marked its 60th year of independence. Nothing has changed except for the age, now at 63, as the conditions remain the same. The text is therefore being reprinted today with only one change: @60 has been replaced by @63. Nigeria ought to be a great country. We have all that is needed to transform our country into the envy of even the most advanced countries of the world. Nigeria is blessed with a plethora of intelligent, innovative, daring, competitive, and egalitarian people. Then the land is favoured by the creator of the universe with an abundance of mineral resources, rivers, wildlife, tourist attractions and sunlight for alternative energy. One may not be exaggerating if one claims that Nigeria has all the ingredients for growth that other countries have few of.

But we know we are not living up to the expectations of the world for us. Well, there was a time we were. When Nigeria sneezed, the world of the oppressed caught a cold. That was when we nationalised assets to send a message to the world; that was when we led the fight for the total liberation of Africa from the evil clutches of apartheid. We took care of our citizens and were our African brothers' keepers. Not anymore. Chances are that today we will fear to look Donald Trump in the eye or call the bluff of Boris Johnson for our citizens not to talk of Africans.

But then, governments had the backs of Nigerians and institutions were working – not personalised governance as obtained today. The Judiciary, termed the last hope of the poor, was strong because it had those who could look at state power in the face and tell it off because they had no skeletons in their cupboards. There was this story of Justice Yaya Abiodun Olatunde Jinadu who died on the 19 of October last year at the age of 94.

In "In Salute to Courage", a book written by a newspaper columnist, Mr Richard Akinola, and published by Nigerian Law Publications Ltd in 1989, the Judge bowed out of the nation's judiciary in September 1984 after standing up to be the last hope of the weak but the system was bent on having its will. In retiring, he said, "I cannot condone any attempt to destroy the judicial system in this country using me as a scapegoat." That book is worth reading by all who desire a great country.

For a country to realise its full potential and grow into a great nation, its institutions must be strong to the extent that they achieve their mandates, irrespective of who heads them. As it is now, our institutions more or less take the character of its head and the country suffers for it.

Not so the National Human Rights Commission, one of the few institutions steadily on course over the years in discharging its mandate. It was established by the National Human Rights Act, 1995, in line with a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which enjoins all member states to establish Human Rights Institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. The Commission which works in partnership with relevant government agencies/ministries such as Ministries of Education, Health, Women and Youth Development, Internal Affairs, Justice, Foreign Affairs, Police Affairs, etc., serves as a mechanism for the enhancement of the

enjoyment of human rights. Its establishment is aimed at creating an enabling environment for extra-judicial recognition, promotion, protection and enforcement of human rights, thereby limiting controversy and confrontation.

The commission has wonderfully done its duty, irrespective of who heads it or which government is in power. Sometimes you are tempted to think that it has remained on course because of those heading it, but when you look at other national institutions headed by equally accomplished intellectuals, you begin to ask why the NHRC is different. Agreed, it has dedicated and enthusiastic staff, but they are Nigerians and it is their type that are in the other failing institutions.

An institution like the NHRC, which is increasingly becoming the last hope of the poor because of the high expenses and time wastage in litigations, deserves the support of citizens on whose behalf it is tirelessly working, but more especially that of the government. Successful arbitrations by the commission can go a long way in giving satisfaction to people who have lost hope of seeing justice and equity.

But that is not always the case. For instance, on March 23, 2020, NHRC accused the police in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of shooting live bullets into its premises, damaging properties worth millions of naira. Tony Ojukwu, its executive secretary, said the attack on its headquarters was the second between 2018 and 2020. The statement added that its officials investigating cases of human rights abuses by the police are also constantly harassed by police officers, apparently to intimidate and force them to hand off the cases. The attack came from police officers after members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) protested against the continued detention of their leader, Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zakzaky.

These types of actions forced Amnesty International (AI) in April 2012 to accuse the Nigeria Police Force of intimidating and harassing the commission when it summoned Chidi Odinkalu, then chairman of the Governing Board of the NHRC, to appear before their Criminal Investigation Department for questioning over his statements accusing it of extrajudicial executions. The AI's Africa director, Erwin van der Borcht, said at the time: "The police ought to be spending their time and energy investigating allegations of extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances and torture committed by their officers, rather than harassing the National Human Rights Commission. This police intimidation and harassment of the NHRC is deeply disturbing. The Nigeria Police Force must immediately stop undermining the Commission's ability to carry out its mandate, which is in line with Nigeria's international human rights obligations and commitments."

A nation without any mechanism to dispense justice appropriately to its citizens, whether high or low, is a nation hurtling towards self-annihilation because a nation without justice is a nation without a soul. Highly dissatisfied with the prevailing degenerating conditions in Athens, with its democracy on the verge of ruin, which ultimately led to Socrates' death, Plato came up with his theory of justice. According to him, individually, justice is a human virtue that makes a person self-consistent and good; socially, justice is a social



Hassan Gimba

Monday Column

consciousness that makes a society internally harmonious and good.

While the NHRC is not empowered to dispense justice as expected of courts, its arbitration procedures and dogged protection of, and fighting for, the rights of citizens make it a candidate to strengthen the soul of our country. While in most cases justice is bought in other institutions, the conscience of those at the commission so far can be said to be, like Pompeia, Caesar's wife, beyond reproach.

Peace is the fruit of justice; therefore, we must do all we can to strengthen institutions concerned with a just society. Justice is all about guaranteeing each person the enjoyment of the rights given to him by God and the constitution of his country. We can never have sustainable peace without justice being done and seen to be done. Peace is the pillar upon which a nation's development sprouts up, and justice is the foundation.

Our 60th (63rd) anniversary should be a time for sober reflection if we are serious about our physical and moral development. Are our leaders in all honesty being just to the nation? A situation where a leader can get the best medical attention whereas an ordinary citizen cannot is worth looking at. It is not a testament to just leadership when the leaders swim in excess luxury at public expense while tens of millions go to bed hungry and without an idea where their next meal will come from.

We also have to be just in our economic development if we want to be among the top world economies. Our leaders need to ask why they keep German and Japanese people

in employment against their citizens. When the whole leadership straddling across the executive, legislature, judiciary, military and quasi-military prefer to spend billions of our money to buy themselves German and Japanese cars for official use, then we strengthen those countries' economies and keep their people in gainful employment. Do they not know that if they patronised our indigenous vehicle manufacturers with those billions, in a short while, they would be able to invest in their operations and compete more favourably with their foreign counterparts? This will, of course, create hundreds of thousands of direct and indirect jobs in the industry and ancillary services. And shore up our local currency. The same count for the oil and gas industry. How can we be comfortable with the fact that we are the only oil-producing nation that imports all its refined petroleum products? It's akin to a big-time yam farmer going to restaurants to eat pounded yam every time while his barns are bursting at the seams and his servants are wasting away in idleness. Nigeria at 60 is a time for sober reflection. We need to look at ourselves and tell ourselves some home truths. One such truth is that we cannot continue the way we do things and expect a different country. First and foremost, we have to look inward and develop our potential. It is also time to imbibe the culture of doing justice to our people and country. That is a non-negotiable human right.

Hassan Gimba is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Neptune Prime.

Visitation Panel To CoE Billiri Submits Report To Gombe Governor

**Gov Inuwa moves to reposition higher education to meet global best practices*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has received the report of the visitation panel to Gombe State College of Education, Billiri.

A statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available on Saturday, said that the panel, which is the first of its kind since the establishment of the college, was inaugurated by the Governor on the 27th of July this year to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the institution and report back to the state government.

While receiving the report, Governor Inuwa Yahaya, represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, stressed that his administration was deliberate in setting up the visitation panels to have a comprehensive understanding of the situation of higher institutions in the state to identify areas that need intervention to reposition them in line with global best practices.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya noted that visitation panels are a necessary catalyst for the

development of the administration of higher institutions. "Visitation panel is an educational ritual where after some time, a panel goes on to give a wholistic assessment of the educational situation in the institution in question", he said.

He noted that in the last four years, his administration focused more attention on basic education; primary and secondary schools. "But I am proud to say today, we have been able to come out of the woods.

"When we came in, the percentage of students passing WAEC and NECO in Gombe State was very low. To God be the glory, by the end of our first tenure, it has risen to over 67%", Having achieved this feat, the governor said, his administration is now focusing on higher institutions in its deliberate attempt to methodically intervene to promote effective teaching and learning for the overall development of Gombe State.

He therefore assured members that the state government would carefully study the reports and implement same within available resources. "The report will be thoroughly studied and of course, all the recommendations



contained therein will be implemented within the resources available to the government", he assured.

Earlier presenting the report, the chairman of the panel, Professor Mohammed Gurama Dukku said the report was a result of robust work, careful and extensive deliberation based on mutual consultations and submissions from stakeholders, engagement

with development documents, and physical observation among others.

"Your Excellency, we are pleased to report that we have tried as much as possible to deal with these issues thematically based on the terms of reference that were given to us and maybe with a few things we found to be pertinent to this particular assignment", he said.

While expressing gratitude to Governor Inuwa Yahaya for finding members of the panel worthy to serve in this capacity, the chairman assured their readiness to serve the state in whatever capacity, hoping that their report will guide future policies to develop the state college of education and the overall education sector in the state.



IPPS: Groups Blast Petitioners For Allegedly Peddling False Report Against UBRBDA Assistant Director

By: TOM GARBA, Yola

Integrity Watch International in Collaboration with Adamawa Concerned Citizens have blasted Mr. Habib Garba and Mr Amos Douglas for writing what they described as unsubstantiated petitions against Mr. Abubakar Tela Suleiman, Tambarin Mubi that he allegedly broke through Integrated Payroll Personal Information System (IPPS) to enrich himself and many others.

The Integrity Watch International is a non profit organization that tracks and monitors the conduct, activities and performance of highly placed public servants who are entrusted with enormous public, social and community responsibility in their country of origin have investigated we'll the claims of Douglas and Habib and found it baseless, criminal and unsubstantiated their petitions against Tela who is an Assistant Director of Finance in Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority (UBRBDA).

The group which has its corporate office in Borno, North East Nigeria's Geo-Political Region have blasted the duo collaborators and referred them as stooges and messengers of senior culpable private and government individuals who have defiled public trust.

The groups in a statement jointly signed by Husseini Gambo Bello

(Chairman adamawa concerned citizens) and Abdullahi Adamu (Adamawa representative Integrity Watch International) said their main aim is to defend the collective interest of the masses and therefore called on the general public to disregard the sponsor petitions because it lacks substance.

"Integrity Watch International is realistically venturing to defend Mr. Abubakar Tela Suleiman against the unjust, unreasonable and unwarranted petition that was submitted to various agencies by Mr. Habib Garba and Amos Douglas.

"The petitioners should have been aware that the "Integrated Payroll Personal Information System (IPPS)" that was introduced, by the previous government of President Mohammedu Buhari is, centrally controlled in Abuja and no one can break into the data system from a ministry or parastatal and engage in Fraudulent activities.

"Therefore there is no way anybody from Yola could temper or influence any payment except if the petitioners are questioning the integrity of the President or Minister of Finance.

"The attempt to drag Mr. Abubakar Tela Suleiman down by Habib Garba and Amos Douglas is a wicked plan to destroy the Fabrics of his commendable efforts and commitment in public service as



an Assistant Director Finance and Immense Developmental strides in community related activities that have impacted so much in Adamawa and the region as a whole.

"This appreciable efforts has endeared him to receive numerous traditional titles from his immediate traditional ruler as Talban Belel and Tambari Mubi all approved by the His Excellency the Governor of

Adamawa State and highly respected Emir of Mubi.

"There is no doubt that having a credible personality like Mr. Suleiman Tela Abubakar would bring massive sympathy and human development to the state and region, this is attributed to the fact that Mr. Suleiman Tela Abubakar is confirmed to be highly de-tribalized and beyond religious limitations of any sorts. Finally we call on the petitioners

to recall their unwarranted and unsolicited petition and issue a public apology to Mr. Suleiman Tela Abubakar so that his constituents would experience relieve to the grueling misadventure.

"We also call on Mr. Suleiman Tela Abubakar to concentrate on his work schedule and always remember that Adamawa people are fully behind him to achieve his aims in life." The statement reads.

Kwara United Lose Opening Match To Katsina As 2023/2024 NPFL Begins

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Kwara United Football Club on Saturday September 30, 2023 lost to Katsina United FC by a lone goal, in their very first match of the 2023-2024 Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL), in an encounter decided at the Muhammadu Dikko Stadium, Katsina State.

Kwara United showed early promises, especially creating chances through the trio of Samson Paul, Sadeeq Yusuf and Samuel Ayanrinde, but couldn't find the back of the net, leaving the home team grow gradually in confidence, as the game

wears on.

Lukman Bello scored the only goal of the game in the 74th minute, and the home team equally created enough chances that they couldn't convert.

Coach Tony Bulus of Katsina United, who expressed delight at winning his first match of the season, said his team couldn't find their rhythm, especially in the first half, as they were under pressure to win their first match.

"It was a good game and good result for us, been the first match of the season. We planned for early goal, which we couldn't get. We couldn't find our rhythm, as we

played under pressure, until in the second half when we effected some changes.

For Coach Kabir Sulaiman Dogo of Kwara United, he said that it was unfortunate losing the match to Katsina United, adding that it doesn't justify the team's strength.

"Its very unfortunate we lost the match against Katsina United this way. It doesn't justify what we played. We lost many chances, and equally conceded that goal through lost of concentration.

Kwara United will continue their campaign in the series with their first

home match against Abia Warriors next week, in a match Coach Dogo described as a first real test.

"Abia Warriors is a good game to start with, especially at home. They will provide us the best test ahead of the season, as we head home to work on the lapses noticed in the team.

Earlier, Kwara United had protested against the use of an ineligible player, Daniel Akanbek, who was dressed to start the match, but was quickly removed, and substituted before the commencement of the game.

NNL AGM Okays October 28th Kick-off Date For 2023/2024 Season

**Adopts abridged League*

By **AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Nigerian National League (NNL) has approved October 28 as the kick-off date of the country's second tier league just as it approved abridged league format of four conferences of A, B, C and D for the 2023/2024 League season. According to the AGM, the 2023/2024 NNL League season will start with a star match between Dakkada FC and 1472 FC to be played at Uyo Township Stadium while other week 1 league matches are to be played on 4th, 5th, and 6th November, 2023 at various venues.

This formed part of the decision taken at the end of its meeting held Friday, September, 29 at De Bridge Ville Suites, Jos, the Plateau State capital.

In a communique issued at the end of the meeting, the AGM, thanked the Governor of Plateau state Caleb Mainnaseh Mutfwang and the good people of the state for hosting the AGM.

It also praised the leadership of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) led by Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau for their support and guidance to make NNL the most Important League in Nigeria.

The communique further stated that the AGM confirmed officially, the promotion of Heartland FC, Kano Pillars FC, Sporting Lagos FC and Katsina



Utd FC to the NPFL just as it confirmed the relegation of 12 clubs to the NLO1:

It listed the relegated clubs as Kogi Utd FC, Lokoja, FWC Champions FC of Abuja, Zamfara Utd FC, Green Berets FC, Zaria and ABS FC of Ilorin. Others are; Police Machine FHQ FC, Gombe, Go Round FC, Omoku, Rivers State, FC

Ebedei, Shagamu, Joy Comts FC, Lagos, Ibom Youths FC, Ikot Ekpene, Edel FC, Awka and Henserd FC, Yanagao.

For a seamless league, the AGM agreed that only stadia that meets the required NNL Stadium facilities criteria should be approved for the 2023/2024 League season and also agreed that at least 20 effective security

personnel must be present before a league match can commence in any venue hosting NNL match in the 2023/2024 league season.

The NNL Annual General Meeting also unequivocally thanked Dekazien Worldwide Ltd the official Insurance Brokers for providing a cash price of N5,000,000.00 (Five million naira) only for the winners of the 2023/2024 league season but noted that cash prizes for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th positions shall be worked out base on availability of funds before the close of the season.

The AGM while appreciating the various sponsorship moves so far made by the Board of the Nigeria National League, passed a vote of confidence on the Board of the Nigeria National League led by George Aluo for their achievement so far and their resolve to reposition and improve the standard of the League beginning from the new season.

Meanwhile, a breakdown of the League conferences, indicates that there are 21 clubs in the Southern Conference with the Northern Conference having 19 teams.

The top two teams from each conference will compete for the NPFL tickets in a Super 8 tournament. While the bottom three clubs from each conference will be relegated.

Southern Conference A
Smart City

Dakkada FC
Rovers FC
Vandrezzer FC
Ekiti United FC
Madiba FC
Abia Comets FC
Coal City FC
Stormers FC
1473 FC
Southern Conference B
Warri Wolves FC
Osun United FC
Giant Brilla FC
FC One Rocket FC
Gateway FC
Ijebu United FC
Trafe Safe FC
Crown FC
International Lagos FC
Ikorodu FC
Northern Conference A
Mighty Jets FC
Nasarawa United
Elkanemi Warriors
Wikki Tourists
NAF Rockets FC
EFCC FC
Yobe Desert Stars
Jedo FC
ABS FC
Northern Conference B
Malumfashi FC
City FC
Mailantarki Care FC
Jigawa Golden Stars
Hypbuzz FC
Maikunkele FC
Adamawa United
Sokoto United
Kebbi United
Rhabam FC

NYG: Team Kaduna Claims Chess Silver, Bronze

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

Team Kaduna Chess players braved the odds to claim two medals, one silver and a bronze at the end of chess event of the ongoing 7th National Youth Games (NYG), Asaba 2023.

An excited chairman of Kaduna State Chess Association, Navy Capt. Musa Abdullahi has therefore, extended his congratulatory message through and also thanking the Kaduna State Ministry of Sports Development for availing the young stars the opportunity to showcase thier talents.

He assured that, "the team will do better if granted another

opportunity because we are going to build on the success and work on our weakness".

Coach Felix who is a parent of one the players, commended the young kids for thier resilience despite facing some very tough matches.

"They never gave up, they fought from the very beginning to the end," he added.

He also praised Coach Tahir for putting in some level of hard work in preparing the players before the games, while appreciating the Kaduna State Chess Association Secretary, Mr Garba Shehu for the professional management of players and coaches.



Oyo State Govt Committed To Sports Development - Gov Makinde

**As FG, Oyo, host finals of Basic Education Sports Competition, Iseyin Beats Ibadan in finals*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde on Friday, declared that Oyo State Government is committed to the development of sports in the state

The governor said this while kicking off of the final match of the 2023 Governor Seyi Makinde Basic Education Schools Sports Competition, held at the Olubadan Stadium, Iyaganku, Ibadan.

Speaking through the Oyo State Commissioner for Education, Prof. Abdulwaheed Adelabu, the governor pointed out that in doing this, the state government has resolved to boost participation of youths in grassroots sports, saying, "youth is the mobile segment of Nation's population which must be activated through games and sports for the high duty of nation building.

"Our young ones are the building block that must be treated through sports to acquire the requisite resilience to endure the pressure and strain of a competitive world", he said.

The governor added, "Consequently, Oyo State Government through the State Universal Basic Education Board has been facilitating



Winners of the Gov Makinde Cup

qualitative learning process with the provision of quality learning

materials, prompt payment of teachers salaries and allowances

as at when due, regular training and workshops that will improve

their skills/performances".

The governor stressed that the goal of the competition, "is to developed skills of the pupils and fish out new talents among them at grassroots level to represent the State at National and International Competitions."

The Executive Secretary, Oyo State Universal Basic Education Board, Mr. Jacob Dairo while speaking said the maiden competition featured games and sporting activities amongst Public Primary Schools in the 33 Local Government Areas of Oyo State.

Mr Dairo stressed that the positive roles sports play in advancing national unity and ensuring Basic Education pupils, are dissuaded from partaking in anti-social activities, can not be underestimated.

The 2023 Governor Seyi Makinde Basic Education Schools Sports Competition was won by Anglican Primary School, Igbomara, Iseyin after defeating St. Brigid's Basic School, in a penalty shoot out after a stalemate from both sides in the second half

NYG: Gov Uba Sani Hails Team Kaduna Female Beach Volleyball Team On Gold Medal Win

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has congratulated the state's female beach volleyball team on winning a gold medal at the ongoing 2023 National Youth Games (NYG).

This victory follows a string of successes recorded by Team Kaduna at the ongoing games in Asaba Delta State, where the Kaduna Cycling Team also won its first-ever gold medal.

Governor Sani praised the team's outstanding performance and 2-0 victory over Oyo State, with impressive scores of 21-8 in both sets during the match, describing the win "as a victory for female sportsmanship and athleticism in Kaduna State and Nigeria"

A statement from the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor,

Muhammad Lawal Shehu on September 29, 2023, said that earlier in the National Youth Games, the Kaduna State Cycling Team also earned a bronze medal, during the 10-kilometer Individual Time Trial (ITT).

Governor Sani also lauded the Head Coach of the Kaduna Female Volleyball Team, Jonathan David Thaj and the entire members of his technical team, for their diligence and dedication in ensuring that Team Kaduna emerges victorious at the 2023 National Youth Games.

"Accordingly, the state Commissioner of Sports, Prof Benjamin Gugong is already in Asaba as directed by the His Excellency, Sen Uba Sani to boost the morale of the team," it said.



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Murder of APC Supporter: Police Accuses Kogi SDP Candidate, Yakubu, Of Undermining Security Efforts

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The Kogi State Police Command has said that it has begun investigations into the circumstances that led to the killing of a supporter of the All Progressives Congress (APC), in Kotonkarfe, Kogi LGA of Kogi State on Saturday. The Police, in a statement issued by Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), in Kogi State, SP William Ovyé Aya, for the Commissioner of Police, said the Command received a report where some persons were said to have been killed and injured in the process through political violence.

While assuring the people of the state that no stone would be left unturned to secure lives and property, the CP condemned, in strong terms, acts by some politicians whose stock-in-trade was violence and who had taken it upon themselves to cause mayhem and heat up the state through "their unguarded utterances and unregulated activities".

He specifically accused the governorship candidate of the Social Democratic Party in the state, Muritala Yakubu, of conducts that had allegedly continued to jeopardize security efforts in the state, saying that the SDP candidate "moves around with a retinue of suspected political thugs armed to the teeth."

"His riding rough-shod and engaging in political brinkmanship and brigandage is an ill-wind that blows no one any good," the Police said in the

statement.

According to the CP, while other parties have been carrying the Police along in their activities, "the SDP Candidate has consistently and vehemently refused to honour any of Police invitations for investigation, or inform the Commissioner of Police nor the Command while embarking on political rallies." The statement said the CP had directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, SCID, to commence a thorough, diligent and wholistic investigation of all acts of political violence, accusations and counter-accusations on all the Political Parties and Actors with a view to bringing offenders to book.

The statement reads in full: "The Kogi State Police Command received a report of alleged attack on the SDP Campaign at Koton-Karfe where some persons were said to have been injured in the process through political violence.

"The CP Kogi State Command CP Bethrand C. Onuoha psc(+) wishes to sympathize with all victims of political violence in the State while condemning in strong terms some Politicians whose stock-in-trade is violence and who have taken it upon themselves to cause mayhem and heat up the State through their unguarded utterances and unregulated activities.

"The CP further directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, SCID to commence

a thorough, diligent and wholistic investigation of all acts of political violence, accusations and counter-accusations on all the Political Parties and Actors with a view to bringing all offenders to book.

"The CP assures of the Command's unwavering commitment to the protection of all lives and property in the state. "He further stated that these instances of violence are attributed to the failure of most of the political actors to honour invitations and partake in series of Stakeholders Parleys/Interactions where issues bordering on security and the need to conduct political activities as enshrined in The Electoral Act are discussed.

"While Chairmen and Candidates of the other Political Parties have continued to honour Police Invitations to discuss petitions and or allegations with the Police, and other salient issues germane to peaceful campaigns, and that of the INTER-AGENCY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION SECURITY (ICCES), be it emphasised here that several invitations (have been) extended to the SDP and ADC Candidates for interaction and consultation with the Police to shed light, provide explanations and give their own side of the story on Petitions written against them but to no avail.

"While these other Parties have been carrying the Police along in their activities, the SDP Candidate has consistently and

vehemently refused to honour any of Police invitations for investigation, or inform the Commissioner of Police nor the Command while

embarking on political rallies to enable the Police provide adequate security coverage.

"His refusal to deal with the Police is undermining peace in the State, has been impeding efforts to stream-line and regulate political activities which in turn has greatly contributed to the pockets of political violence being witnessed in the State presently. "His riding rough-shod and engaging in political brinkmanship and brigandage is an ill-wind that blows no one any good.

"For instance on the complaint of Breach of Security Against The Executive Governor of Kogi State at Banda on 3rd June, 2023, the SDP Candidate, Murtala Yakubu Ajaka, has consistently refused to honour Police several invitations to give his own side of the story!

"Again, since he applied for Police Security, he was invited to come but till date, he refused to show up. He moves around with a retinue of suspected political thugs armed to the teeth.



Consequently, the above facts and scenario, coupled with his recalcitrance and obduracy have continued to jeopardize Police Investigation and maintenance of law and order in the State.

"The CP uses this medium to sternly warn all the Political Parties in the State and their supporters to play by the Rules and stop heating up the State, desist from all forms of violence as anyone caught disrupting the prevailing peaceful environment in the State will be made to face the full wrath of the Law.

"He appealed to the Political Actors to give peace a chance by conducting themselves in peaceful manner and shunning all acts capable of truncating the peace, tranquility and unity of Kogi State.

"To this end, the CP therefore, for the last time, warns would-be trouble-makers to have a change of heart and desist from acts of intolerance as the Police is ever determined to deal decisively with anyone who will not give peace a chance in the State."

Continuous Use, Abuse Of Tobacco Undermining SDGs In Nigeria - NTCA

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Nigeria Tobacco Control Alliance (NTCA) has said that the country's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) efforts is being undermined with the continuous use and abuse of tobacco in Nigeria.

Akinbode Oluwafemi, the Chairman of NTCA, while briefing on 'Effective Tobacco Control Funding in Nigeria' on Friday in Abuja, explained that

tobacco use has continued to impede the realisation of the SDGs, especially Goal 3 which had to do with good health and well-being.

According to him, "Goal 11 relating to sustainable cities and communities; Goal 12 that ensures responsible consumption and production, Goal 14 on life below water, and Goal 15 pertaining to sustenance of life on land are also negatively affected."

He lamented that allocation to tobacco control had plunged by 50 per cent to N4.7m in 2023, from N9.4m of the previous year, thereby slowing down tobacco control activities in the country. He stated that Nigeria adopted the SDGs and integrated them into her development framework since the launch of the SDGs in 2015, stressing that optimistic analysts may argue that some progress has been made towards the attainment of the goals, it is

undeniable that we are still a long way from hitting the mark.

During the recently concluded 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, USA, according to him, it was evident that only 15 percent of the SDGs are on track to meet the target, necessitating calls for cash and commitments from member nations to rescue the stalled development goals.

He noted that persistent advocacy has been made for the

allocation to the health sector to reach the recommended 15 percent to address critical deficits.

NTCA he said, expects that as National Assembly members resume deliberations on the 2024 Appropriation Bill, they would pay close attention to the proposed budget for Tobacco Control, and significantly increase the amount to deal with myriad issues occasioned by tobacco use in the country.