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**Digital Governance:
A Harvest Of Awards
For Gombe State**

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*Gombe Due Process Office Crowned Best MDA In
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Kaduna Targets N100bn IGR - Official

By: ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Kaduna State Government has set a target of 100 billion Naira Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), in the next few years, an official has revealed.

The Acting Executive Chairman of the state's Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS), Mr Jerry Adams, disclosed this at the weekend, during a roundtable meeting with journalists in Kaduna, organized in partnership with Tax Justice Network (TJN), Kaduna State branch, with support from Christian Aid.

According to Adams, who was represented by the Executive Director, Revenue Operations of the Service, Dr Muhammad Lawal, the state has made

tremendous progress in revenue generation from N2 billion in 2015 to N19 billion in 2016 up to N53 billion and now N59 billion in 2020 and 2023 respectively.

He said Kaduna, is currently the number five revenue generating state in the country, behind Lagos, Rivers, Ogun and the FCT.

"Our target is to ensure we collect up to N100b in taxes very soon so that the state dependency on the Federal Government will reduce. The more taxes we collect the more development we will see in the state.

"And we are hoping that the media will help us in educating our people on the need to pay their taxes so that government can bring development to their doorsteps." He noted.

Earlier in his opening

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From left, Osun State First Lady, Erelu.Ngozi Adeleke; parents of the newly born triplets Mr and Mrs Kayode Afeez Opeyemi and Olori Alapomu of Apomu Kingdom Olori Janet Afolabi celebrating the triplets by donating cash, baby items, and food stuff to the triplets @ Upland Medical Centre, Ataoja Estate, Osogbo. Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO

Atiku To Tinubu: The World Knows You As A Forger -in-Chief

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*Says 'my change of name well documented'

Couple, Kingpins Of Transnational Cartel Land In NDLEA Net Over Multi- Billion Naira Worth Of Illicit Drugs, Assets

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Couple, Kingpins Of Transnational Cartel Land In NDLEA Net Over Multi- Billion Naira Worth Of Illicit Drugs, Assets

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have apprehended a couple and two wanted heads of transnational criminal organisations in with multi-billion-Naira worth of illicit drugs and assets seized from them after weeks of intelligence-led operations across the country and outside Nigeria.

The couple Identified as Okafor Ikechukwu Williams (a.k.a Jantu) and his wife, Okafor Ifeyinwa Grace were said to have been arrested after operatives raided their hideout at 9 Awa Street, Ago Palace, Okota area of Lagos on Thursday 5th October, 2023.

A total of 27.566 kilograms of methamphetamine concealed in a blue box and two sacks, ready for export to Europe and Asia were recovered from them.

The Director and Advocacy of the Agency, Femi Babafemi made the disclosure in a release made available to journalists yesterday.

On the wanted heads of the transnational criminal organisations, Babafemi said they were arrested with multi-billion-naira worth of illicit drugs and assets seized from them after weeks of intelligence-led operations across the country and outside Nigeria.

According to him, the arrest of the wanted drug lords came on the heels of the interception of consignments of cocaine and heroin buried in the bellies of two traffickers heading to Paris, France and Doha, Qatar by NDLEA officers at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA), Abuja.

His words, " Operatives at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, MMIA, Ikeja Lagos on Tuesday 10th October succeeded in taking into custody, Hakeem Babatunde Salami, the arrowhead of "Tajudeen Babatunde Abioye Transnational Criminal Organization" involved in the illicit trade of several narcotics including Cocaine, Heroin, Methamphetamine, and Ephedrine between Nigeria, Brazil, Ghana, South Africa, Mozambique, and Europe.

" He fled Nigeria to South Africa upon the arrest of a member of his syndicate, Suleiman Babatunde Oba at the Lagos airport on August 25 over attempt to export 25.10kgs of ephedrine to South Africa.

" Hakeem Babatunde Salami was however smoked out of hiding through partnership with South African authorities and other intelligence and investigative mechanisms.

" While some of his luxury vehicles



The suspects

have been seized and his home in Surulere Lagos sealed, other members of the cartel already in custody include Suleiman and Godwin Edet Mathew.

" In his statement, he claimed he was into the importation of building materials from China to Nigeria and used to sell gold in South Africa before delving into the illicit drug trade about two years ago.

" The head of another cartel, Okafor Ikechukwu Williams (aka Jantu) and his wife, Okafor Ifeyinwa Grace were also taken into custody on Thursday 5th October when NDLEA operatives raided their hideout at 9 Awa Street, Ago Palace, Okota area of Lagos where they recovered 27.566 kilograms of methamphetamine concealed in a blue box and two sacks, ready for export to Europe and Asia.

" Their Lexus RX350 marked ABJ 512 AY parked in the house was also seized during the operation. Their arrest followed weeks of intelligence gathering about the activities of the criminal network.

" At the Abuja airport, operatives on Friday 6th October arrested a drug trafficker, Nwofor Ejiogu Charles, 45, during the outward clearance of Qatar Airways flight QR 1432 to Doha. After body scan revealed he ingested cocaine, he was placed under observation during which he excreted 75 pellets of cocaine weighing 1.653kgs.

" At the point of his arrest, Nwofor who was the last passenger to board his flight offered to compromise an NDLEA officer with \$3,000 to free him.

" The following day, Saturday 7th October, another trafficker, Nwofor Charles Okwudili, 45, was also arrested while attempting to board Lufthansa Airlines flight LH 0595 to Paris, France via Frankfurt, Germany.

" After being put through body scanner, he was taken into recovery room where he excreted 96 wraps of heroin he ingested with a total weight of 1.413kgs.

The statement further said: "Meanwhile, NDLEA operatives on patrol along Okene -Lokoja-Abuja expressway on Tuesday 10th October intercepted a commercial bus coming from Lagos to Kano. A search of the bus led to the seizure of Four Million, Eight Hundred and Eighty Thousand US Dollars (\$4,880,000), and Fifty-Seven Million Céfa, (CFA57,000,000) suspected to be counterfeits.

"In Sokoto, the Federal High Court in the state capital presided over by Justice Ahmad Mahmud has sentenced an acting district head, Alhaji Umar Mohammed (aka Dan Bala) to five and a half years in jail on four count charges of possession and dealing in 436.38kgs cannabis and 7kgs psychotropic drugs brought against him by NDLEA in October 2022.

"He was convicted and sentenced to two years on each of counts 1 and 2 with an option of N1million fine, and eight months on each of counts 3 and 4 without an option of fine.

"Operatives in Edo state on Wednesday 11th October stormed the Orue forest, Owan West LGA where they arrested Happy Akashili, 37, and Solomon Uwesue, 40 in a hut located inside a

cannabis farm measuring 2.367308 hectares which was destroyed, with 92kgs already processed skunk recovered, while 49kgs of same substance were also seized at Ogbeturu camp".

The statement added that the NDLEA Commands across the country balanced their drug supply reduction operations with War Against Drug Abuse, WADA, advocacy campaigns to schools, markets, worship centres and communities.

Some of these include: WADA sensitisation lecture on Drug Use and Mental Health for students of 15 secondary schools in Ibadan metropolis at the University of Ibadan, Oyo state; WADA sensitisation lecture for students of Ascension College, Iworo Imeke, Badagry Lagos; WADA sensitisation lecture at Modern Comprehensive College, Amokwe, Udi LGA, Enugu; WADA sensitisation lecture for students of National Secondary school, Awka; Students of JIBWIS Islamic Science Secondary school, Herwagana, Gombe; students of Government College, Makurdi, Benue; students of Government secondary school (Boys), Kafin Maiyaki, Kano and students of JNI Special Model primary School, Gusau, Zamfara.

The Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd), commended the efforts of the NAIA, MMIA, Kogi, Sokoto and Edo Commands of the Agency as well as the Special Operations Unit targeting the drug cartels, for jobs well done in the past week.

Kaduna Targets N100bn IGR - Official



Gov Uba Sani

remarks, the State Coordinator of TJN, Simeon Olatunde, who noted that the media is a strategic partner of the network, urged them to join hands with the network in advocating for a just, fair, inclusive and citizen driven tax process in the state.

“Over the years, we have been promoting good governance, tax education and awareness to protect and advance taxpayers' rights and compliance collaboratively with the state government, private sector and development partners to improve and enhance the tax system that is inclusive and citizens driven,” he said. According to Olatunde, the knowledge of tax is scarce among the media partners in Kaduna, which informed the roundtable engagement. He pledged the TJN's commitment in advocating for tax for service that could have the government to use part of revenue generated in certain communities for specific development

that will encourage the people to do more when they are asked to pay.

On his part, Head of Corporate Communication, KADIRS, Zakari Jamilu, said the essence of the engagement was to increase the capacity of the journalists on reporting IGR and other tax related issues.

“Increase the understanding and knowledge of media partners on IGR, as a sustainable source of revenue generation. Its importance as a sustainable source of revenue generation and the role it plays in empowering the residents to hold their government accountable. To emphasize the crucial role of media in reporting and advocating for voluntary compliance in Kaduna state and to enlist the support of the media partners for a robust reportage of tax system, regime and other related issues with the tax space, amongst others.” He explained.

Ondo: IFAD/ LIFE-ND Trainees Laud Empowerment

By: Adebayo Ado, Akure

Some young farmers trained by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)/LIFE-ND Project in Ondo State have lauded the project and their empowerment.

The farmers said that the training and empowerment had given them the opportunity to be self-reliant and employers of labour.

They made this known on Sunday during an assessment tour organised by Prince Olawale Ademola, Project Coordinator of the IFAD/LIFE-ND Project in the state.

Mrs Akintoye Oluwatosin, a graduate of computer science, said she was given N1.2million for start up for an empowerment after being trained as a poultry farmer.

She appreciated the LIFE-ND Project and state coordinator for the gesture and said the project changed her life.

According to her, stipend was given at the IFAD/LIFE-ND training every month, and it motivated me to be a good business woman, which has changed my life.

“In spite of the challenges my group encountered as incubatees (trainees) during the training where our incubator (trainer) died, we were still remembered.

“I fell in the category of marketing area of poultry farming and I was empowered with the N1.2million. With this money, I hope, I will be able to enlarge my

business in future.

“LIFE-ND has really changed my life because being a graduate looking for a job without seeing any is not easy at all.

“But IFAD/ LIFE-ND really made an impact in my life by establishing me, I say thank you,” she said.

Also, Mr Fashakin Abiodun, from Otasan Community in Ondo East Local Government, applauded the IFAD/LIFE-ND for opening ways for the youths by ensuring they were employers of Labour “rather than chasing shadows of looking for white collar job”.

Abiodun, who said he was trained from an incubatee (trainee) before becoming an incubator (trainer), said the time had come for youths to key into any private or government programme that could lead them to success.

According to him, anybody that finds him or herself in LIFE-ND project should see it as their carrier because there is no work anywhere.

Abiodun, who said that he was trained on how to raise fish, said he had added fish processing and his product was sold beyond the country.

“After being trained by IFAD/ LIFE-ND as a fish farmer and being paid stipend for some months, I was given 1,500 Juveniles with bags of fish feed to feed them till table sizes, and many other things as an empowerment.

”So, I started to raise fish, but now, I am into processing in which my product has gone far, even to other countries.

“As of today, I have a stock of over 1million of fish feed for my personal use and sales because I have taken LIFE-ND as a carrier.

“Without LIFE-ND, I will not be where I am today and I want to be a successful fish farmer.

“As I am talking now I have graduated from the incubatee (trainee) to incubator (trainer) where 10 people are undergoing training under me.

“I have attended many programmes, but LIFE-ND is different and its real. If you see LIFE-ND as a carrier, you will become an employer, not an employee and you will continue to smile to the bank everyday,” he said.

Similarly, Mr Michael Awoniyi, an incubatee from Igba Community in Ondo East Local Government, explained that God used the IFAD /LIFE-ND Project to save his live during the EndSARS struggles.

He explained that he would have been involved in the protest and might have been killed, being one of the youth leaders in his area.

Awoniyi, who said that he was shortlisted without knowing politicians or having a god-father, called on unemployed youths to see the IFAD LIFE-ND Project as an opportunity for self-reliance and contribution to the growth of the nation.

“I was trained for one year as a poultry farmer with the monthly stipend and at the end I was empowered with 302 layer birds, feeds, and money for medication. “The training wa so

helpful, and it made me a successful poultry farmer and consultant. I am one of the poultry farmers that supplied eggs to schools for school feeding programme in Ondo Senatorial District.

“I have five people working in my farm as at today and the least I am paying them is N35,000. I have also trained many people.

“So, I am calling on youths to be focused on what they can do by themselves because if you work for a year, what you will reap within a year will be more than what an employer will pay you in the next 10 years,” he said.

Earlier, Prince Olawale Ademola, Ondo State Project Coordinator of IFAD/ LIFE-ND, said that the programme was designed to take youths and women out of the streets.

He said the project was targeted especially at those living in rural and suburban communities in order to give them a means of livelihood.

According to him, no fewer than 2,180 youths and women had benefited from the programme between 2020 and 2023, which cut across the 10 selected Local Government Area of the state.

Ademola explained that the objectives of the project was job creation, increased income and food security for the youths and women in the Niger Delta region, to enhance sustainability through agribusiness development in the state.



World Sight Day: Kaduna Eye Centre Shares 200 Glasses, Drugs To Host Community

By; IBRAHIMADAMU, Kaduna

World Sight Day was marked on Thursday in Kaduna, with distribution of over 200 free eyeglasses and drugs to individuals with one form of eye defect or the other, as a sign of goodwill.

The free medical outreach was conducted by Kaduna Eye Center in collaboration with international partners in efforts to promote good sight and economic activities within the institution's host community and beyond. Medical Director of the centre, Mahmoud Alhassan charged the general public to endeavour to go for regular eye checks at least twice in a year.

This according to him, would ensure timely detection of a potential

sight defect and correct it before getting to an irredeemable stage that may lead to partial or permanent blindness.

The medical director, represented by Dr. Murtala Umar said every second Thursday of October had been set aside by the United Nations as World Sight Day, disclosed this year's theme as Love Your Sight at Your Place Work.

The ophthalmologist stressed the importance of sight as a vital organ in an individual's daily affairs, absence of which he noted would render one ineffective disabled and disoriented.

The medical whom he noted was away in Abuja to accompany president Bola Tinubu who would flag off the distribution of over one million lens to Nigerians to save and improve their sights for

productivity.

In his paper presentation at the event, Dr. Raji Lukman, an ophthalmologist listed potential eye injuries automobile technicians could be prone to include; hazards from flying debris, chemical burns, intraocular foreign bodies among others, adding that these dangers can be prevented by always wearing safety glasses with side shields at work.

He also recommended the wearing of face shields or goggles in certain situations of high risk of larger objects, chemical or particles getting into the eyes.

Explaining further, Dr. Raji said the eye can be irrigated with running tap or bottled water or affected persons can access the nearest sight care facility for proper

treatment.

"Adequate lighting or well-lit area in the workspace is essential to help mechanics see clearly and avoid eyestrain, accidents or potential occupational hazards.

"Proper Storage of tools and equipment at designated areas to prevent them from falling or causing damage that could potentially lead to eye injuries.

"Regular eye check-ups can help detect any potential issues at an early stage. Make it a regular habit to visit an eye doctor (ophthalmologist) for comprehensive eye examinations," he advised.

He mentioned refractive error, presbyopia, cataract and glaucoma as common eye defects that could be remedied through corrective glasses or surgeries.

Safe School Environment for Girls: You Have A Role To Play, Advocates Charges Teachers

By ; A L E X UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Adolescents advocating for safe school environment for girls in Kaduna State, have urged teachers to do their part in ensuring girls under their care, achieve their potentials.

They said waiting for government to do everything even though it is their responsibility, most times expose the students to danger.

The young girls who are advocating for the implementation of the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-Free Schools in Kaduna State, under the Advocates for Safe School (GASS) project, being implemented by Stand With a Girl (SWAG) Initiative, with support from Rise Up, on Wednesday, had an engagement with teachers and pupils of Government Primary School, Ungwan Maigero in Chikun LGA.

Addressing the teachers, leader of the group, Hadassah Yakubu, emphasized the need for teachers to always protect their students against any force in the school environment that could make them not to achieve their potentials.

She said the essence of the gathering was to enlighten them of their roles as waiting for government and assuming they know what the school is going through usually don't help.

"As those working here and living in this community, you can come up with an initiative that can lead to building of fence around this school for instance.

"You can suggest ideas to the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA), on best ways to secure the school facilities and also protect the pupils during school hours.

"When the school environment is safe and secure and the pupils are taught the right things, it will help in reducing

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), and the girls would also have the chance of escaping early marriage". She added.

In her response, Assistant Head Teacher of the school, Mrs. Victoria Emmanuel, pledged that the management would ensure that everyone in the school put more effort to see that the girls live up to their potentials.

According to her, they will continue to put eyes on all the pupils to ensure the boys are not allowed to bully the girls, while also making sure that they report all issues observed in and around the school environment to the leaders of the community.

The Nigerian government endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration (SSD), in May 2015, which outlines recommendations to better prevent attacks on education, protect schools from military use and respond to and mitigate the impact of attacks on schools.

The Federal Executive Council (FEC), in 2019, followed up by approving the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-free Schools to guide the implementation of the SSD nationwide. The National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-Free Schools in Nigeria provides guidance and sets a standard for implementing comprehensive school safety plans; prevention and response mechanisms at the national, state, local government and school levels.

Stand With A Girl (SWAG) Initiative is youth-led organization dedicated to ensuring that every girl in Nigeria, no matter where she is born or found is empowered to fulfill her maximum potentials with the goal is to promote a safe and supportive environment for the social, economic, academic and healthy development of girls in Nigeria.



Ochor Congratulates Governor Oborewori On Supreme Court Victory, Calls For Unity

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In a momentous display of solidarity and statesmanship, the former Deputy Speaker of the Delta State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon Ochor Christopher Ochor, has extended his warmest congratulations to His Excellency, Governor Sheriff Oborewori, on his recent Supreme Court victory in a case brought before it by Kenneth Gbagi, the Governorship Candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in the March 18, 2023 Governorship Election.

The former Deputy Speaker hailed the Supreme Court's ruling as a landmark victory, emphasizing its significance in reaffirming the unwavering confidence that the people of Delta State have in Governor Oborewori's leadership and his administration's steadfast commitment to the progress and well-being of the state. He also commended the strength and resilience of

democratic institutions and the impartiality of the judiciary.

Ochor went on to commend Governor Oborewori for his resolute dedication to the development and prosperity of Delta State. He highlighted the visionary leadership of Governor Oborewori, which has yielded positive changes across various sectors, including education, healthcare, infrastructure, and youth empowerment, serving as a source of pride for all Deltans.

In light of this significant victory, the Deputy Speaker extended a hand of goodwill and advice to Kenneth Gbagi and all other opposition members in Delta State.

He emphasized the importance of healthy political competition and constructive opposition in a thriving democracy, highlighting their crucial role in holding the government accountable and promoting good

governance. The Deputy Speaker urged Kenneth Gbagi and others with differing political views to collaborate with Governor Oborewori in advancing the interests of Delta State.

Ochor emphasized that Delta State transcends individual interests and political affiliations, stressing the imperative need for unity. He called for setting aside differences to collectively work for the betterment of the people of Delta State, believing that constructive engagement and cooperation would yield the best results for all Deltans.

The former Deputy Speaker underscored that Governor Oborewori's victory in the Supreme Court presents a unique opportunity to bolster democratic institutions and foster a more inclusive and united Delta State. He encouraged all citizens to come together to achieve greatness and provide the people with the quality of life they deserve.



Atiku To Tinubu: The World Knows You As A Forger-in-Chief

*Says 'my change of name well documented'

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Atiku Media Office has said that attempts by the presidency and the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) to drag former Vice President Atiku Abubakar into forgery must be seen as efforts to minimise allegation of forgeries against President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

A statement released yesterday in Abuja by the Media Adviser to Atiku Abubakar, Paul Ibe, said: "Contrary to Bola A. Tinubu's forgery shopping allegation against Atiku, it is on record that the change of name of the former Vice President reverting to Atiku Abubakar from Siddiq Abubakar is well documented in an affidavit dated 18th of August 1973, spanning over a period of 50 years, (which incidentally is as old as the commencement of Tinubu's life of forgeries and lies), is in the public domain."

The statement declared that the world has come to the conclusion that President "Bola A. Tinubu is a confirmed forger-in-chief on account of his serial forgeries and lies in the last 50 years.

"Bola A. Tinubu has forged and lied about every aspect of his life: his heritage, his name and date of birth, his education and certificates, and work experience.

"The discovery of Tinubu's records at the Chicago State University and the court ordered deposition in the United States is only a tip of the iceberg that has been the litany of his forgeries and lies.

"The attempt by Bola A. Tinubu to drag Atiku Abubakar into his drowning arena of forgery must be seen for what it is: an attempt to minimise the allegations of forgeries that he has to contend with."

According to Paul Ibe, it has been established that Tinubu only attended CSU and that he secured admission into the university by impersonation.

"Now, let's put Bola A. Tinubu's life of forgeries and lies in proper perspective. In 1999, Tinubu lied under oath in his form CF001 which he submitted to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) that he attended St Paul's Primary School, Aroloya, Lagos; Government College Ibadan, Chicago University (CU) and Chicago State University (CSU).

"Through the discoveries of his records in the Chicago State University, we now know that Bola A. Tinubu forged a secondary school certificate of Government College Lagos, a HSC certificate from Cambridge University and a transcript from Richard Daley College which belongs to a female owner.

"We also know, thanks to the discoveries, that the CSU few days to graduation in 1979, notified him of outstanding (or carry-over as it is known in Nigeria) pre-qualifying examinations in English, Mathematics and Comprehension, which never appeared on his transcript to have been retaken.

"After his odyssey in falsifying educational qualifications, Bola A. Tinubu claimed in his 1999 affidavit to contest for the position of Governor of Lagos State, that he had a working experience with Arthur Anderson Accounting, Deloitte and Mobil Nigeria. It ends up that both claims on Authur Anderson and Deloitte - both in the USA are false because his footprints are nowhere to be found in those corporations.

"Like CSU, Deloitte denied ever knowing or having any Bola A. Tinubu in their employment and he has since stopped adding that to his official or public records since his exposure.

"Curiously, handlers of this same Bola A. Tinubu have smuggled Adekunle, a middle name that magically popped up in his so-called National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) certificate into his Wikipedia on the 6th of October, 2023. This may yet be another indication of a master forger at work.

"Yet, this same Bola A. Tinubu and his handlers want to confuse the public by making insinuations about what Atiku Abubakar is not."

While asking Tinubu and his handlers to desist from making any further attempt at comparing both the President and Atiku Abubakar, the statement said: "For the purpose of clarification, all the names that Atiku Abubakar bears are names that are traceable to his family tree.

"He adopted Atiku Abubakar as his official name while in the employ of the Nigeria Customs Service. Atiku's life is an open book, and not the mystery or close book that continues to define the life of Bola A. Tinubu.

"Conversely, Bola A Tinubu is a name that has no history nor social Atiku to Tinubu: The world knows you as a Forger-in-Chief

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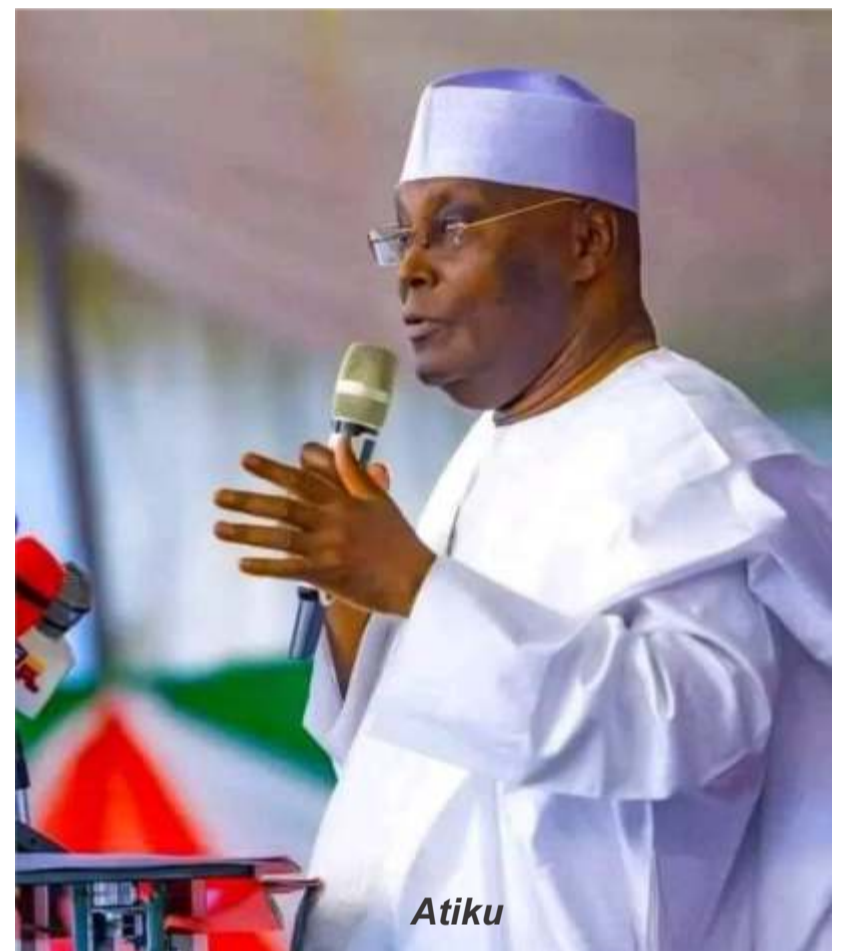
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Governor Uba Sani Celebrates Girl-child On 2023 International Day

Happy International Day of the Girl Child



Senator Uba Sani
Governor, Kaduna State



By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has joined the world in marking the 11th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl Child (IDG) 2023 with the theme, "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being".

A statement from Chief Press Secretary to Kaduna State Governor, Muhammad Lawal Shehu on Wednesday said, "The Kaduna State Government has domesticated the Child Rights Act as part of a rollout of child protection services in the state to provide children access to legal rights.

"The Kaduna State Government remains committed to eliminating challenges faced by girls in accessing education and healthcare.

"The state government is continuously investing in schools and teachers to

give our children a decent education in line with world best practices, with interventions such as 12 years free education, from primary one to the completion of senior secondary school," Governor Sani stated in his remarks commemorating IDG 2023.

It would be recalled that recently, as part of activities to mark Governor Uba Sani's first 100 days in office, the state government launched the construction of 62 new Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) and Senior Secondary Schools (SSS) across the 23 local government areas of Kaduna State.

Similarly, a 400-bed hostel was commissioned at Government Girls Secondary School, Kawo, the old structure which was destroyed by a fire incident in 2020, has now been reconstructed with additional blocks of classrooms.

The completion of the

project is a fulfilment of promises made by the Governor in line with the SUSTAIN-manifesto of his administration, and a demonstration of the importance attached to the excellence of girl-child education in the state.

The Kaduna State Government is also partnering with Google to train 5,000 women and girls in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence and the entrepreneurial application of digital technologies in efforts to promote digital inclusion and leverage technology for economic development.

Furthermore, the state government is improving access to quality healthcare for the girl-child by renovating and equipping our primary health care system. So far, 290 primary health centres across Kaduna state have been revamped, with the distribution of essential medical equipment to the Primary Health Care

Centres commencing in August 2023. Children zero to five years of age can access free quality medical care at these centres.

Additionally, a Women and Children Shelter was commissioned to provide accommodation and other essential services to survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and other abuses. Mobile Medical Trucks have also been commissioned to boost healthcare services and enhance the well being and survival of the girl-child and all residents in Kaduna state by bringing the screening and diagnosis of ailments to their doorsteps.

"On this day set aside to celebrate the resilience of the girl-child, Governor Uba Sani has given the assurances of his will and commitment in ensuring that girls across the state have access to quality education, digital literacy and crucial life skills," the statement said.

Plateau Governor Commits To Developing Citizens, Calls For Accountable Leadership

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang has affirmed his administration's unwavering dedication to utilizing both internal resources and support from international development partners for the betterment of Plateau citizens and Nigerians. Governor Mutfwang made this pledge as a Distinguished Guest at the 2023 CEO Summit hosted by Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, United States of America.

Emphasizing his Christian values, he urged African leaders to exhibit trustworthy leadership qualities that would attract genuine support from reputable global organizations, aimed at lifting Africa out of poverty.

"I acknowledge that we haven't shown the leadership needed to earn trust. Our people have experienced cycles of hope and despair. It's time for Leaders in Africa to acknowledge our role in underdevelopment of the

continent. Enough is enough; we must rise to the occasion."

Governor Mutfwang stressed the importance of accountability in leadership, whether dealing with internally-generated wealth or development support from abroad.

He advocated strategic engagements with trustworthy national and sub-national leaders, while calling on those implementing development support initiatives to adhere to only conditions that align with their values.

David Brat, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Engagement and Public Relations, former U.S. Congressman, and Dean of the School of Business, who warmly welcomed Governor Caleb Mutfwang and other guests to the event, said the governor's presentation has opened new frontiers of dialogue across the African continent.

He said that the governor's remarks had also sparked meaningful conversations about accountable leadership in Africa.



No Attempt To Steal Coaches Nigerian Railway Clarifies

*Says coaches being moved for overhauling

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has said that no attempt was made to steal its coaches from Maiduguri, contrary to news trending on social media platforms.

It stated that the said coaches were officially being moved to NRC Running Shed Jos, Plateau State for overhauling. NRC made the clarification in a statement made available on Sunday October 15, 2023.

In the statement, the management of the corporation wrote: "The attention of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has been drawn to a news trending on numerous social media platforms purported to have emanated from Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) in which it was reported that attempt was made to steal NRC coaches from Maiduguri. NRC management wishes to clarify this as erroneous, stating that the said coaches are officially being moved to NRC Running Shed Jos, Plateau State to be overhauled. With the view of putting them back to operation. NRC is trying to extend Rail Mass Transit all over the country."

7.6m Girls Out Of School In Nigeria - UNICEF

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has said that about 7.6 million girls mostly from the Northern region, remain deprived of education in Nigeria.

Ms Cristian Munduate, UNICEF Nigeria Country Representative, spoke in Kano, while commemorating the International Day of the Girl 2023 at the Government House, with

the theme, "Our time is now – our rights, our future."

According to her, "Nigeria, alarmingly, accounts for 15% of out-of-school children worldwide. Yet, only a mere 9% of the poorest girls have the chance to attend secondary school. This is not just a statistic, it's a wake-up call. However, amidst these challenges, we find glimmers of hope."

She explained that

currently, Kano ranks second in the number of out-of-school girls in Nigeria, saying that the harsh disparity in the access to education, there is the need, more than ever, to emphasise the transformative power of education, a tool that not only creates opportunities but actively breaks cycles of poverty.

She observed that the sparkle witnessed by students in the event is a testament to the boundless

potential that lies within every girl child as their capabilities illustrate the outcomes that are possible when a girl is empowered. The students, earlier at a panel of discussion spoke on various issues including the challenges of insecurity as a major barrier to girl-child education as well as the need for girls to participate in many sectors of human endeavour while charting ways possible to tackle the situation.

Int'l Day Of Girl Child: A'Ibom First Lady Tasks Female Students On Positive Values

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The wife of the Akwa Ibom State Governor, Patience Umo Eno has admonished the female students in the state to shun all vices, take their studies seriously and work hard towards becoming prominent women in the society in future.

Mrs. Eno gave the admonition on Wednesday, when she paid an unscheduled visit to Community Commercial Secondary School, Ikono in Uyo Local Government Area of the state, to mark the International Day of the Girl Child with a cross section of female students.

Noting the theme of this year's celebration, "Invest in Girls Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being" as apt, the Governor's Wife acknowledged the female child as a special breed that is made for greatness, and who should see themselves as such in the society.

She urged the students to honour their bodies and keep away from all immoral acts that are capable of truncating their chances of reaching their desired goals in life.

"You have to work hard and be serious with your studies. The key to the world today is education, don't trade it for anything. Dear girl child, I am addressing you specially today to respect yourself and your bodies. Today having declared that you are special, hold on to that. Don't let that leave you."

"Please use this day to address yourself by seeing yourself in a different light. Like I have said,

you are a special breed that is made for greatness. I want you to see yourself as such as you are being celebrated," she noted.

While urging the girls to sow what they intend to reap in the future, the Governor's wife expressed optimism that among the girls were future doctors, pastors, lawyers, engineers, architects among other notable professions.

Amazed at how neat and well behaved the students were, Pastor Patience Eno appreciated the principal of the school as well as the teachers for instilling in them good morals.

In her words; "If with this large population of students, you all are still this bright as I have seen, I must commend you and the teachers. You all have done noble. God bless you and your own children."

Earlier, the Principal of the School, Mrs. Nsebong Eyibio while welcoming the Governor's Wife to the School, thanked her for coming to the school to celebrate the International Day with the girls, saying it has given them a huge sense of belonging and happiness.

She highlighted some of the challenges facing the school to include lack of a spacious library, well equipped laboratory and lack of perimeter fencing, and called for support which the Governor's wife gladly obliged to by making a financial donation.

In their separate goodwill messages, the Wife of the Chairman of Uyo Local Government Area, Mrs.

Akaninyene Uwemedimo and the Wife of the Chairman of Local Government Service Commission, Mrs Joyful Eyo applauded the Governor's wife, Pastor Patience Umo for taking the lead to celebrate the Girl Child, particularly, for her visit to Community Commercial School, Ikot Oku Ikono which they noted is in furtherance of her resolve to engage in rural development and impact positively on the lives of every Akwa Ibom child.

The girls were charged to exercise their 'Girl Power' while giving the acronym of a GIRL as: G - Glowing, I - Intensity, R - Resilience, L - Light to reflect the remarkable qualities, strength and potentials embedded in them.

Delivering a vote of thanks, the Senior Prefect for Girls of the School, Miss Enobong Ukpabio, thanked the Governor's wife for choosing her school for the 2023 commemoration of the Day of the Girl Child.



Patience Umo-Eno, Akwa Ibom First Lady

She also thanked her for leading other female stakeholders in the state to the school for the event and prayed God to bless the wife of the Governor.

Highpoint of the visit was presentation of gift packs to

female students.

The Event had in attendance the Chairman of Nsit Atai Local Government, Hon. Emem Ibanga, the Vice Chairman, Uyo Local Government, Hon. Sylvia Ekong, teachers and students.

Using Quality Materials In Building, Only Way To Check Collapse - Dangote Cement MD

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Group Managing Director, Dangote Cement Plc, Mr. Arvind Pathak has said that the use of quality materials in building projects remains only means of checking incidence of building collapse.

Mr Pathak stated this while speaking at the opening of 32nd Lagos Builders Conference of the Nigerian Institute of Building themed: Safe and Sustainable Building Production Management in Nigeria

Represented by the Company's National Sales Director, Mrs. Funmi Sanni, Mr Pathak called on professional builders in Nigeria to be concerned about the menace of building collapse on their profession.

He stressed that in doing this, the professional builders should insist on the use of quality materials by associated artisans who work closely with them urging participants at the conference to take the issue of quality building

materials serious and always insist on quality so as not to dent the reputation of the building Institute which is one of the most respected institutes in the country.

The Group Managing Director, said the management of Dangote Cement " is of the firm belief that compliance with the stipulated standards is vital to safe and sustainable building as it eliminates to a great extent the likelihood of building collapse and therefore, production of materials employed in building must meet acceptable standards".

"If defective materials are used in building, such structures will not be safe and sustainable. The theme of your conference, Safe and Sustainable Building Production Management in Nigeria is apt for us in Dangote Cement, as we are a leading player in the nation's building sector", he said.

Mr Pathak added, The quest for safe and sustainable building in Nigeria is the driving force

behind Dangote Cement's provision of best quality products to builders and end users of cement".

Emphasizing that everybody is a builder and everyone knows that once the foundation of any structure is not solid, it will give way with time, he said, "we are all builders, if you are not building a house, you are building a family, you are building a career. When you are building a family and one of the partners cheats, then there will be problem and it's a matter of time before the family will collapse if care is not taken. Same thing with structures, once you begin to deploy inferior materials to make money for yourself, surely the structure will give way."

The Dangote Cement Group MD stressed, "because of the different needs of our consumers, we also produce various product range tailored to meet the specific needs", adding, " We have products created for each stage of the building process and different construction needs. We have BlocMaster for

foundations and casting of concrete, we have Falcon for making of blocks, laying of blocks, plastering/rendering, tiling and we have 3X, the premium products of choice.

Chairman of the Lagos State Chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Building, Builder Lucky Isename while speaking noted that the construction industry plays a vital role in the development and growth of a nation and that it is imperative that the builders focus on the speed and efficiency of the construction industry and also the safety and sustainability of the built environment.

He stressed that Nigeria just like other nations has witnessed a rapid increase of urbanization and population growth which has led to a surge in construction activities across the country. He noted that much as the development is a positive sign of progress, it also poses significant challenges in terms of ensuring safety and sustainable building practices.



OYO STATE
THE PACESETTER STATE

Oyo SUBEB Inaugurates Model Smart School Based Management Committee - Mrs Ladipo

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Universal Basic Education Board, (SUBEB) has inaugurated the School Based Management Committee (SBMC), at the Oyo State Model Smart School, Sogunro, Akinyele, Ibadan.

Speaking at the inauguration, Director Quality and Standard, Mrs Laide Ladipo said SBMC is aimed at improving governance and effective educational system at the

basic level of education in the state.

Mrs Ladipo tasked the committee members to collaborate with the Oyo State government in achieving the desired goals, adding that the " SBMC is a governing body consisting of 10 statutory members drawn from host community of the school".

According to her, SBMC was a resolution of the National Council of Education (NCE) in 1995, aimed at improving governance of basic and

Ibadan Entrepreneurs Network Will Enhance Growth, Success Of Local Businesses In Oyo State - LAGEO Convener

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Convener of Largest Gathering of Entrepreneurs in Oyo State, (LAGEO) Dr. Oyenike Adeleke on Thursday, said the objective of the Ibadan Entrepreneurs Network is for the growth and success of local businesses in the state.

Speaking with newsmen on LAGEO, she emphasized, "this visionary endeavor represents not just an organization, but a beacon of hope and opportunity for entrepreneurs, business owners, and aspiring individuals across our great state".

According to Dr. Adeleke, " in a world that is constantly evolving, the need for innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable growth is more significant than ever before".

"Ibadan Entrepreneur Network recognizes this need and has undertaken the noble task of nurturing local businesses,



fostering innovation, and providing a platform for businesses to shine, This brings about The Largest Gathering of

Entrepreneurs in Oyo State (LAGEO)", she said. Dr. Adeleke added, " Our commitment to identifying and

all of us to join this initiative, offering our support, expertise, and resources to help it flourish." While appreciating the relentless

nurturing the talent within Oyo State, providing invaluable training, and creating a platform for businesses to showcase their potential is truly commendable.

"As we move forward, let us remember that our collective success hinges on the growth and success of our local businesses. LAGEO's vision aligns perfectly with this goal, and I encourage

dedication of the Oyo State Government for their support to make this a reality, she stressed, "our quest for economic development and prosperity, collaboration and support for such initiatives are vital".

"Another giant stride is made today as entrepreneurs gather together in Oyo State to network, train, showcase, and celebrate themselves. It gives me great joy to see the reality of a dream come true. It's not the sentiments of men that make history, but their actions. Today, we have put our actions together to make history. "We gather here to celebrate and appreciate this great network. Ibadan Entrepreneurs Network is aimed at 'Identifying, Training, and Showcasing Businesses in Oyo State.' This visionary endeavor represents not just an organization, but a beacon of hope and opportunity for entrepreneurs, business owners, and aspiring individuals across our great state".

Digital Governance: A Harvest Of Awards For Gombe State

*GOGIS Emerges Best In Geographic Information System

*Gombe Due Process Office Crowned Best MDA In Innovative Digital Services

*GSU Best State University in Website Operation

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

It was a harvest of awards and honours for Gombe State as the Presidency, through the Bureau for Public Reforms (BPR) rewarded government agencies and individuals for their remarkable achievements in technology and digital innovations.

This was contained in a statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday.

It said that in a colourful ceremony held at the International Conference Centre Abuja, Gombe State stood out brilliantly among many Federal establishments and state agencies from across the six geopolitical zones, receiving three prestigious awards.

Gombe Geographic Information System (GOGIS) clinched the coveted "Best State in Geographic Information System" Award, with its Director-General, Dr. Kabiru Usman Hassan, being honored with the "Distinguished GovTech Trailblazer's Award" for his outstanding contributions to the field.

The Gombe State Due Process Office received the best State MDA in innovative Digital Services award. The Director-General of the Agency, Babayola Mohammed Isa, was also recognized with the "Distinguished GovTech Trailblazers' Award" for his exemplary leadership in advancing GovTech initiatives and digital governance in the public sector.

Further adding to Gombe State's accolades, Gombe State University (GSU) was recognized as the best State University in Website Operation, a proof of the



institution's commitment to digital excellence. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Aliyu Usman El-nafaty, was honored with the "Distinguished Trailblazer's Award" for his significant contribution to the advancement of Digital Governance in the education sector.

Speaking at the event, the Director General of Bureau for Public Service Reforms, Dr. Dasuki Ibrahim Arabi, commended Gombe State Government for its historic and technology achievements, hailing the State as

one of the fastest-growing digital economies in Nigeria.

He said the awards for Gombe is a reflection of the State's commitment to advancing GovTech initiatives, digital governance as well as technological innovation and excellence.

Dr. Arabi revealed that none of the agencies were aware that they were being scrutinized for the awards, explaining that it was sequel to a nationwide nomination and online voting process advertised through radio, television and newspaper

publications.

He said it was initiated to honour and motivate those who develop solutions, initiatives and programmes as well as harnessing technology for the betterment of public services and digital governance.

In their separate remarks after receiving the awards, Dr. Kabiru Usman Hassan and Babayola Mohammed Isa thanked Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya CON for his tremendous support to them and their agencies

as well as his administration's interest and investment in digital governance and economy.

The event was graced by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Sen. George Akume who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, OSGF, Retired Federal Permanent Secretary, Dr. Ibrahim Jalo Daudu, Director-General, NASREA, Prof Aliyu Jauro, an illustrious son of Gombe who also received an award at the occasion among other dignitaries.





COMMUNITY FOCUS

World Sight Day: National Association Of Seadogs Kaduna Chapter Chases Out Glaucoma, Gives Drugs, Glasses To Patients In Sabon Tasha Community

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The National Association of Seadogs (NAS) Pyrates Confraternity Kaduna Chapter has distributed about 800 glasses and drugs worth hundreds of thousands to people with eye defects in Kaduna, as part of the World Sight Day celebration.

President of NAS, Capone of Aurora Fotula Deck Kaduna Chapter, Dr Okpara Obinna, told journalists that the association has been in existence since 1952 and what they were doing at the Sabon Tasha Community Kaduna to kick out glaucoma blindness was one of their humanitarian services.

According to him, "today is the continuation of the celebration of World Sight Day. In aligning with the international arm, we found ourselves in a region where if not taken care of our sights, we would have issues.

"So what we decided to do is to pick out glaucoma and detecting of early glaucoma because blindness starts with glaucoma. If it's not detected early, it would lead to permanent blindness. So our association in Kaduna Chapter here, took it upon themselves to give free consultation and also administer drugs and lenses within our community.

"We've done some little research where we've a lot of this sickness in a Local Government but it's volatile, due to insecurity. That was the original plan where we were supposed to be doing this. But we already had a documentary on it. So to fulfil that documentary that was carried out, we decided to actually impact this in our community.

"The number of people expected to benefit from this is 1200 people. We are actually working with the Rotary Club in Kaduna, Eko Atlantic club which I'm also part of. We are also working with an Indian firm that has done some surgeries, but that would come out after this primary exercise. Also, the Local Government I've mentioned by the time we go there, we would identify people that would need



surgery.

"So the Kaduna State Chapter of National Association of Seadogs and the Eko Atlantic Rotary Club with a hospital in India, Qitmeer Foundation, we would be able to do surgery in National Hospital here in Kaduna. We also have consultants from the National Hospital Kaduna. They came for free of charge because it's something worth doing. They want to join and partner with us." He therefore, called on the beneficiaries who met with the consultants to take the advice on how to take care of their eyes seriously, and get across to the hospital for early detection of glaucoma.

"If you don't detect glaucoma and you go blind, you go blind permanently," he warned.

Dr Obinna disclosed that the Kaduna Chapter of NAS would be having a programme in February 2024, where the international body of the Seadogs and a robust medical team that could take care of over 2000 people would be present in Kaduna.

One of the beneficiaries, Mr

Christopher Yanga, a 63-year old resident of Sabon Tasha community, said he was grateful for the medical intervention by Seadogs because he had been battling with eye problem for sometime.

According to him, "I was not seeing clearly but they've checked my eyes and gave me medication including a medical glass. We are grateful for their kind gesture to our people."

Also, Evangelist Regina Steven said there were many people in the community with glaucoma who resorted to self medication, and thanked God for bringing the Seadogs medical team to the community.

"There is high rate of poverty in the community. So we are grateful to them and pray God will strengthen them to extend this help to all the Local Government Areas in the state," she said.

Dr Nnamdi Eneh who led the Seadogs medical team during the exercise, said the mission was part of their celebrating World Sight Day which was done every second Thursday in October.

He said "this year's World Sight Day is about the eyes at work...So for us in the National Association of Seadogs, part of our activities is to create awareness and to get involved in humanitarian activities."

"This year we have decided to look at a very important eye condition which is glaucoma. Worldwide 2 disease conditions cause blindness. Cataract and glaucoma. The difference is glaucoma causes irreversible blindness and that's why they call it the silent thief of sight."

He explained that most patients never knew they've glaucoma until it became severe., which most times led to blindness.

Dr Nnamdi said it was key to detect the disease on time so that treatment could be instituted on time so that blindness could be prevented.

"So that's why we are targeting glaucoma as our activity to celebrate the World Sight Day this year 2023," he said.

He explained that they wanted to create awareness so that people would take care of their eyes, and have mobilized a team of

specialists in different fields related to eye sight who would examine the locals, provide them with drugs and glasses, and refer those who may require further treatment to the National Eye Centre or other specialist hospitals.

"This is Sabo, a densely populated community so we are looking at 500 people, it's still early in the day but there is already a large turn out. We are treating the elderly, children, men and women. We are here and would attend to everybody. We hope this will create an impact on the community so that everybody will be interested in taking care of their eyes," he said.

The Village Head of Tsaunin Kura, Malam Samaila Isa who was represented by his Secretary, Murtala Isa said they were able to mobilize the people in their places of worship to present themselves for eye checks, and expressed appreciation to the National Association of Seadogs for rendering its humanitarian service in their community.

Indigent Students Receive Multimillion Naira Scholarships In Ebonyi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

In a bid to alleviate poverty and illiteracy across Ebonyi State, a None Governmental Organization popularly known as Gideon and Joy Life Leadership Foundation, has offered multimillion scholarship to indigent and vulnerable students across the state.

Addressing the students and other beneficiaries at his country home, Amaeze--Ishiagu in Ivo LGA of Ebonyi State, the founder of Gideon and Joy life Leadership Foundation, Dr. Gideon Chidiebere Osi stated that he believes that quality education remains the fastest solution to community development, insecurity and poverty eradication and therefore, charged the beneficiaries to make judicious

use of the scholarship and remain good ambassadors of the state and Nigeria at large, He added that his desire to change the society spurs the foundation to discover indigent and vulnerable students for the award of scholarship annually.

The Chief Executive Officer of GOSIMA group further explained that 60 beneficiaries of the 2023 scholarship are students of Federal Government Colleges and 44 undergraduates were selected from universities across the country after passing the foundation's examination.

He also noted that the programme which started in 2008, is the only equalizer between the children of the rich and the poor and will further harness their potentials for posterity sake, saying that the foundation has trained hundreds of people who have graduated

while 20 will be graduating this year.

Appreciating the gesture of the renowned entrepreneur, Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru reiterated the readiness of his administration to bequeath

E b o n y i people with productive education that would place a high premium upon return on investment to the state and the society at large.

Governor Nwifuru who was represented at the event by the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Grace



Umezurike described education as the bedrock of societal positive transformation and a tool for personal and societal growth and development.

She said that the impact of quality education towards achieving a harmless society and wealth creation is invaluable and remains pivotal in his

administration as contained in his political manifesto tagged, "The People's Charter of Needs"

. She thanked Dr. Osi for the milestones achieved through his educational foundation and for giving the Ishiagu community and the beneficiaries a dependable future.

Kogi Guber: ADC Collapses Into APC, State Chairman, 3 Senatorial Chairmen, Only Assembly Member, Dump Abejide, Move Supporters

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The Kogi State Chairman of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Kingsley Oga, and members of the party across the three senatorial districts have defected to the All Progressives Congress (APC).

The ADC chieftains and members, on Friday, collapsed their entire structure into the APC and endorsed the party's candidate, Usman Ododo, for the November 11 governorship election.

The only ADC State Assembly member, Hon. Idowu Ibikunle, representing Yagba West State Constituency at the Kogi State House of Assembly, also declared his support for the APC candidate, saying her would

campaign widely for him despite being an ADC House of Assembly member.

Addressing party members during the defection on Friday, Oga affirmed his position as the state chairman of the ADC but noted that the ADC members in the state had decided to abandon the ADC candidate and work for Ododo.

According to him, among all the governorship candidates for the November 11 gubernatorial



election in Kogi State, Usman Ododo, the APC candidate, is the most suitable for the seat.

He said a five-man committee

was previously set up to assess all the candidates contesting, and that the committee's report concluded that Ododo was the right candidate to vote for in the upcoming election.

He emphasised the need to consolidate on Governor Yahaya Bello's sterling achievements across all sectors, noting that Ododo would continue from where he would stop.

The ADC Chairman commended Governor Bello for the remarkable achievements across the state during his seven-and-a-half-year tenure. He also pointed out that,

from what had been seen and heard about the APC gubernatorial candidate, he would undoubtedly perform well when he becomes the next governor of the state.

Hon. Idowu Ibikunle, representing Yagba West State Constituency in the Kogi State House of Assembly, said he contested as an ADC candidate and won his election.

He added that, despite being a member of the ADC, he and his supporters had all decided to vote for the APC candidate in the governorship election.

All three senatorial chairpersons of the ADC also spoke, affirming their commitment to mobilising their people in the ADC to vote en masse for the APC candidate.



National Security: We're Mopping Up Illegal Arms, Commander Operation Safe Haven Tells Plateau Stakeholders

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

The Commander Special Task Force Operation SAFE HAVEN (OPSH) and General Officer Commanding 3 Division Nigerian Army (NA), Major General A.E. Abubakar, has said that Operation SAFE HAVEN is seriously mopping-up illegal arms, ammunition and weapons across its Joint Operation Area of Plateau, Bauchi and Kaduna states.

The commander made this known on October 10, 2023, during a stakeholders' meeting held in Mangu town, Plateau State.

Addressing stakeholders at the event organised by the Miskhagam Mwaghavul, the Comd OPSH/GOC, said through the meeting, he was

convinced Mangu Local Government Area and Plateau State at large would begin to enjoy permanent peace.

He maintained that forgiveness is key, in order to end the vicious cycle of violence being experienced in Mangu LGA.

General Abubakar disclosed that the triggers of conflict must be adequately addressed by the appropriate authorities, to eradicate crisis in the society.

While relaying the Chief of Defence Staff and Chief of Army Staff directive that everything legal must be done to stop the circle of violence in Mangu LGA, he called on the people to respect the traditional institution, which is the custodian of peace.

He reiterated that the killing of the Ardo of Panyam was a

criminal act carried out by a few who would soon be brought to justice.

Earlier In their separate remarks, the Emir of Wase, His Royal Highness Alhaji (Dr) Muhammadu Sambo Haruna, Miskhagam Mwaghavul, His Royal Highness Da John Hirse and Chairman Mangu LGA Transition Committee, Honorable Markus Artu, said the meeting was organised to proffer solutions to issues confronting the local government and get everyone onboard in the peace building process embarked upon by relevant authorities.

They lauded the Comd OPSH/GOC for his visible contributions and commitment to promoting peace in the State. While

underscoring the importance of dialogue in conflict resolution, they appealed to the people to give peace a chance and learn to live with one another.

In his vote of thanks, the former Deputy Governor of Plateau State, Professor Sonni Tyoden, thanked the organizers of the event for creating a platform that give parties involved an opportunity to air their grievances and chart a way forward to addressing all issues raised.

He further said that the meeting signifies that traditional rulers are the light in their respective communities.

Some of the dignitaries present at the meeting include;

former Deputy Governor of Plateau State, Professor Sonni Tyoden, Emir of Wase, His Royal Highness Alhaji (Dr) Muhammadu Sambo Haruna, Miskhagam Mwaghavul, His Royal Highness Da John Hirse, Chairman Mangu LGA Transition Committee, Honorable Markus Artu, Member Representing Mangu South in the Plateau State House of Assembly and Chief Whip, Honorable Bala Fwangje.

Others include Chairman Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association Mangu LGA, Chairman Mwaghavul Development Association, Chairman Christian Association of Nigeria Mangu LGA amongst others.



Kwara Gov Inaugurates Four Special Advisers, Urges Good Relationships With Public

*Gen S.T. Bello named SA Security; Adigun back as SA Media

*Our conduct must reflect public mood, AbdulRazaq tells cabinet members

By BILIQIS ONAOLAPO
OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq on Friday, inaugurated four new Special Advisers to strengthen government's efforts to deliver on its mandate to the people of the state.

The governor had earlier secured the nod of the parliament to appoint 10 Special Advisers.

Inaugurated on Friday were, retired Brigadier General Saliu Tunde Bello who returned to his position as Special Adviser on Security Matters before the last dispensation ended on May 29; and Alhaji Bashir Adigun who is returning as Special Adviser on Media.

Adigun was SA Political Communication in the last dispensation.

The two others are, Attahiru Umar Mohammed (Special Adviser on Youth Engagement; and Atiku Bahinda Abdulsalam (Special Adviser on Strategy).

The governor has also appointed Barrister Murtala Sambo, Special Adviser on Legal Matters.

Inaugurating the new cabinet members at the big council chamber, the Governor said their returns speak to their loyalty and commitment to public good.

"My hearty congratulations to all the new appointees. It is not a coincidence that you are all returning to the cabinet. It is a testament of your commitment to a great Kwara and the well-being of its people," he said.

The governor said he will not take the mandate of the people for granted, adding: "No government is perfect. We aren't perfect either, and no man is. However, we are clear about the sanctity of our mandate and our responsibilities to the people.

"While government appointments cannot possibly go



L-R: Special Adviser Youth Engagement Hon. Umaru Attahiru; Special Adviser Security Matters Brigadier General Saliu Tunde Bello (rtd); Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON); Special Adviser Media Hon. Bashiru Adigun; and Special Adviser Strategy Hon. Atiku Bahinda Abdulsalam; during the swearing-in ceremony of the new Special Advisers, at Government House, Ilorin, on Friday.

round at the same time, we will ensure to spread investments in education, water and sanitation, rural urban development, and projects and programmes that can stimulate sustainable economic growth, create jobs, and improve the general wellbeing of the people of this state.

"I need to mention that our party and government will be remembered by how much positive development we bring to the state and the impacts we have on the masses.

"I congratulate all the appointees

once again. I call on you, and everyone else, to relate well with the people of the state, your constituents, and party loyalists with whom we worked to get here.

"Our country is going through another phase in national development. Everything we do must reflect these realities for the sake of posterity," AbdulRazaq said.

Permanent Secretary (General Services, Office of the Secretary to the State Government) Babatunde AbdulRahman urged the new appointees to bring their

rich experiences to bear in the new assignments and to be above board at all times.

"This is a well-deserved appointment which is not a mere coincidence as this is based on merit, your sterling qualities, track record of achievements, and your rich experience in your chosen career," Abdulrahman said.

Special Adviser on Media, Alhaji Bashir Adigun, who spoke on behalf of other appointees, reaffirmed their commitment and loyalty to the administration's agenda to

improve the lives of the people and restore the glory of yesteryears.

"I want to express our sincere gratitude, on behalf of the new appointees, for finding us worthy of these appointments. We are aware of the enormous tasks ahead of consolidating on the achievements of the last four and half years," he said.

"Your Excellency, you have simplified governance to the amazement of our people. As we move on, we reaffirm our commitment and loyalty to your administration."

Ebonyi Govt Sues For Peace Between Warring Communities

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Ebonyi State Government has called for peaceful coexistence between Abaomege and Ishinkwo communities, insisting crisis will not attract any development in the area.

The Commissioner for Border Peace and Conflict Resolution, Donatus Chukwuma Ilang made the appeal to the people of Abaomege and Ishinkwo communities in Onicha Local Government Area to

embrace peace and not to allow the efforts and resources of the state government invested in their peace process to be a waste.

The commissioner who disclose this on Tuesday during the 2nd phase of the boundary tracing of the land in dispute between Abaomege and Ishinkwo communities by the Peace Committee and some staff of the Ministry, noting that their mission was for facts finding for the

confirmation of the two communities' submissions.

He stated that the committee on the 1st phase of the boundary tracing covered four (4) portions out of the eight (8) portions of the swampy areas acclaimed by the people of Ishinkwo but that today, they have completed the remaining four(4) portions of swampy areas of the Ishinkwo and the six(6) acclaimed portions of Abaomege that are in

contention.

Speaking earlier, the chairman of the Peace Committee, HRH Eze Ewah Elechi, represented by Eze Godwin Okpandu Okoro, Ibom Eze 11 of Enu-Uburu emphasized that Government can only foster empirical peace but that the eternal peace depends on the people, therefore he enjoined them to embrace peace so that development can thrive in their communities.

Buratai Installed As Baakore Of Akure Kingdom

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

At a grand ceremony that took place during the Ulefunta Festival 2023, in Akure, precisely on Saturday October 14, 2023, His Excellency, Amb Lt. Gen. Tukur Yusufu Buratai (Rtd.) CFR, was installed as the BAAKORE of Akure Kingdom, by His Royal Majesty, Oba (DR) Aladetoyinbo Ogunlade Aladelusi CFR Odundun II, the Deji and Paramount Ruler of Akure Kingdom.

The installation of Buratai, who previously served as Nigeria's Chief of Army Staff and Ambassador to the Republic of Benin, was greeted with great joy and enthusiasm by the people of Akure.

Taye Johnson, a motorist in Akure, expressed delight at the installation of Buratai as the BAAKORE, stating that it is a blessing to their kingdom.

Another Akure indigene, Mr. Johnson, praised Buratai for his dedicated and meritorious service to the nation during his tenure as the Chief of Army Staff.

He believes that Buratai's positive antecedents and professional pedigree, coupled with his sense of patriotism, will greatly benefit Akure Kingdom.

Yet, another daughter of the soil, Alaja Fatimo Abdulraheem, a market woman, commended the Oba of Akure Kingdom for conferring Buratai with this coveted chieftaincy title. She urged the Oba to continue bringing capable individuals like Buratai into the kingdom, as their contributions would go a long way towards contributing to the overall development of the Kingdom.

During the installation ceremony, Oba Aladelusi emphasized that Buratai is a blessing to his Kingdom and expressed gratitude for having him as their son. The Oba acknowledged Buratai's exemplary service to the nation and highlighted the positive impact he would make as the BAAKORE of Akure Kingdom.

In his response, Ambassador Buratai said he was happy and honoured by his coronation as the BAAKORE, and went ahead to indicate his gracious acceptance of the chieftaincy title and expressed his gratitude to the people of Akure Kingdom for finding him worthy of this very important title!

He reassured them that they would never regret having him as their BAAKORE and pledged to serve the kingdom with utmost dedication and commitment.

Simply translated, BAAKORE means 'Promoter of the Harvest', whose contributions would impact immensely on the food security and general agricultural prosperity of the Kingdom.

The coronation ceremony was witnessed by many important personalities, cutting across government officials, captains of industry, traditional title holders and many retired Army officers, as well as Buratai's friends and family members!



Investment Drive: Governor Inuwa Reassures Investors Of Safety, Incentives

*Gombe holds Investors' Round Table for SMEs, others

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has reiterated his commitment to providing favorable business conditions for potential investors, encouraging them to leverage the state's ease of doing business facilitated by structural reforms, world class infrastructure and peaceful atmosphere.

A statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, said that the governor made this known on Thursday, during a roundtable meeting organized by the Gombe state government in collaboration with development partners, to engage with investors from within and outside the state.

Represented by the Commissioner of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Hon. Nasiru Mohammed Aliyu mni, the governor assured that his government has a plethora of

enticing incentives for potential investors.

These incentives according to him, are designed to facilitate a streamlined process for investors, adding that comprehensive reforms put in place have effectively established a convenient "one-stop shop" for investors, eliminating the traditional bureaucratic hurdles and making the process of setting up businesses more efficient and hassle-free.

He explained that the comprehensive reforms initiated by his administration have led to the ranking of Gombe twice a number one in the "Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria". This recognition, according to him, underscores the tangible impact of these reforms on fostering a business-friendly environment within the state and reflects the commitment to sustainable economic growth.

He told the gathering that the roundtable meeting was to create a platform to engage with local

investors in an effort to make them explore opportunities for establishing their businesses at the Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park, with a particular focus on the small and medium-scale industries.

"As you are aware, Gombe state is a business hub in the North-East sub-region which provides investment and business opportunities such as free trade zone to all investors in Nigeria. The Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park is equally established to create a secure and conducive space for trade and investment activities within the confines of the state of the art facility", the governor said.

He emphasized that the creation of the Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park would not only serve as a remarkable hub for trade and investment, but also have the potential to boost both the state and national economies. The park, spanning 1000 hectares, would complement the administration's ongoing initiatives to steer the state

toward sustainable economic growth and development.

Speaking at the event, the Commissioner of Finance and Economic Development, Hon. Muhammed Gambo Magaji, pointed out that during the past four years of Governor Inuwa Yahaya's administration, significant investments were made in infrastructure. These investments have substantially contributed to creating an environment that fosters the growth and success of businesses in Gombe.

In her remarks, the Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), one of the key sponsors of the preliminary programs leading up to the forthcoming investment summit, Mrs. Joyce Oburu, commended the Gombe state government for its diverse initiatives geared towards enhancing the state's investment potential. She particularly lauded the establishment of the industrial park as a notable achievement in

this regard.

She pledged that UNDP would remain dedicated to forging a collaborative partnership with Gombe State. According to her, this partnership aims to support Gombe state in realizing its ambitions to fully harness and promote its investment potential, maintaining that UNDP's ongoing involvement will be instrumental in helping Gombe achieve its economic goals and create a thriving environment for prospective investors.

Others who expressed solidarity with the Gombe state government's drive towards making the state an investment destination includes representative of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Bank of Industry, USAID State 2 State Programme and numerous commercial banks.

The roundtable was attended by business entities from within and outside Gombe state, including the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Groundnut Millers Association, Rice Millers Association among others.



Queen Amina College Win NEMA Schools Disaster Risk Reduction Club Quiz Competition

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Queen Amina College Kaduna, after scoring 28 points, emerged winners of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) North West Zonal office Kaduna Schools Disaster Risk Reduction Club Quiz Competition in commemorating International Day For Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 on Friday October 13, hosted by their school. Hard fighting Government Day Secondary School Unguwan Sarki settled for the second position 26 points after an initial tie on 22-22 with the winners, before losing out in the second round.

IRFA International School settled for the third position with 18 points.

Speaking during the event, NEMA North West Coordinator, Imam Garki Albani praised the participants, while assuring that the next edition will be more competitive

He said he was impressed by their knowledge base, urging them to learn more about disaster risk reduction.

In an interview with newsmen after the event, the zonal coordinator said, "it's a day celebrated annually and NEMA joined in celebrating the day by conducting quiz competitions between clubs which were established to inculcate disaster reduction in young ones.

"The quiz is to build the capacity and build their minds on disaster reduction. Making the club makes them conscious of risks around them," he said.

As part of the activities was a drama presentation by students of Queen Amina College on fire disaster prevention.

High point of the event was the presentation of prizes and medals to the three schools that finished first, second and third respectively.



Police Invites AA National Chairman, Over Allegedly Refusing To Withdraw Election Petition Against Reps Deputy Speaker, Kalu

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Office of the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Monitoring Unit has invited the National Chairman of the Action Alliance (AA), Adekunle Omo-Aje for allegedly refusing to withdraw its petition at the appeal court challenging the election of Benjamin Kalu, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. In a letter dated October 5, 2023, with reference number: CR: 3000/CIU/FIB/FHQ/ABJ/VOL T/389 and addressed to the AA chairman, the police invited Omo-Aje to come to its office in Abuja on Thursday (12-10-2023) for questioning. He was accused of criminal conspiracy, impersonation, forgery, and threat to life. However, a source told the media on Thursday night, that Omo-Aje refused to honour the invitation over the fear of being

detained.

“No, he wasn't at the police headquarters today, we understood the deputy speaker's plan which was to detain the chairman so he would not be able to present in the court of appeal.

“After a media House published the first story, the deputy speaker reached out and begged Omo-Aje to withdraw the case in court. He also accused him of embarrassing him in the media space and asked him to make a rejoinder over the report, but the Chairman refused,” a top member of AA said.

“Kalu sent different monarchs, politicians, and others to him, but he turned all down and insisted the case won't be withdrawn nor issue any rejoinder through any media organization.

“This was how he begged as well when we filed the petition at the tribunal, knowing we didn't dance to his tune, he used our former national chairman,

Kenneth Udeze, who has been expelled from the party to go to the tribunal and withdraw the case even though he was not the one that filed the matter.

“He took another person to the tribunal to bear the name of our candidate in the election together with Kenneth to withdraw the case. That is the reason we appealed the matter. He doesn't want the chairman to appear in the court of appeal. The reason he wants him jailed and the best security agency to use is the police.”

AA has been engulfed in a leadership crisis before the 2023 general elections.

In a judgment delivered on November 4, 2022, Justice Zainab Abubakar of the Federal High Court asked INEC to recognise Omo-Aje as the party's national chairman.

The court also ordered INEC to discountenance all the candidates submitted to it by

Udeze, who was sacked as the party's chairman by another court.

It would be recalled that Omo-Aje had filed a notice of appeal challenging the judgment of the National Assembly Election Petitions Tribunal in Umuahia, Abia State which upheld the election of Kalu.

The party had petitioned the tribunal following the failure of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to upload the name of its candidate submitted for the Bende Federal Constituency of Abia State.

The party had chosen Ifeanyi Chukwuka as its candidate for the constituency.

In his address, Daniel Anya, counsel for the AA candidate had asked the tribunal to annul Kalu's election over the exclusion of the party's (AA) name and logo from the ballot during the poll.

However, the tribunal in two conflicting court judgments

upheld the election of the deputy speaker.

While the petition was filed by the Omo-Aje-led leadership of the AA, the three-member panel of judges led by Samson, Paul-Gang in its judgment reportedly dismissed the case because another faction of the party led by one Kenneth Udeze said it never filed or authorise anyone to initiate any legal action against Kalu.

The first judgment released by it noted that the case was dismissed after the petitioner and AA called for its withdrawal.

Another judgment released by the lower court two days later, revealed that it was dismissed because of the factional chairman's application, Udeze.

Not satisfied, the AA led by Omo-Aje approached the appellate court.

Obaseki Makes Case For Democratisation Of Education In Nigeria

By; RALPH OKHIRIA, Benin City

Governor Mr. Godwin Obaseki of Edo State, has called for the democratisation of education in Nigeria to bridge the education gap and address the country's dysfunctional education system. The governor made the call during a courtesy visit by members and executives of the Federal Government Girls College, Benin Alumni Association, at the Government House in Benin City. Obaseki congratulated the school on their silver jubilee celebration, acknowledging the efforts of former Head of State, Gen. Yakubu Gowon, Gen Samuel Ogbemudia, and the then Minister of Education in the creation of the school. He said, “We lobbied for the school to be set up in Benin City

at that time and the focus and creativity of our governor was to acquire a large portion of land designated as an education hub as you have the University of Benin, and Benin Technical College close to you.

“This school and all others set up at that time were to be part of a system as the thinking after the civil war was to create a united country and also give opportunity for our diversity relating to gender.

“The issue of educating the girl-child is not new to us as a State. That is why we were very concerned when we came into office seven years ago. We concentrated on what was going on with the girl-child following incidents of human trafficking and irregular migration. This led us to prioritise education, particularly education for the girl-child.

“We have turned the situation around as Edo is no longer amongst the first 10 States in the country in terms of human trafficking. We are not where we want to be but will ensure that the examples of institutional building we have seen in the Federal Government Girls College Benin and other Federal Government Colleges across the country trickle down across our educational system.

“This is necessary so that we don't create a dangerous situation that is emanating from the country with the opportunity gap because of the educational divide we have created. We must democratize quality education and make sure that we remove issues or incidents of learning poverty from our country as we have emphasised education in Edo State.”

He further noted, “We have reset

the education system in Edo State through basic education. In Edo State, we have ensured that every child, particularly the girl-child has access to high-quality basic education which is the foundation upon which every other thing rests.

“We are glad today that we have almost 400,000 of these children in our school system. We know each and every one of them as we are able to monitor them through the use of technology. Our goal is to make sure that every child in Edo at the age of 10 is able to read, write, and do their sums right. We are already seeing the results.

“As a State, when a child comes into our educational custody at the age of 6 years, we have responsibility for that child till that child is 15 years old as we create the basics for that child to

live a self-sustained life even if that child doesn't have opportunity to go forward.”

Obaseki charged, “You have to belong to the group that will advocate for proper transformation of the education system in Nigeria. Our education is in crisis as our education managers have messed things up. The dropout ratio between primary six and SS1 is 50 percent which is responsible for high trafficking in Nigeria as we have to build the education sector in the country to be able to optimise our potential.”

The leader of the delegation of the alumni body and Edo State First Lady, Mrs. Betsy Obaseki, thanked the governor for the developmental strides in the State especially in the education sector.

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

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

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1	Handling for the first 40 copies	120,000.00	9,000.00	129,000.00
2	Per 1000 Copies (1 Page)	28,000.00	2,100.00	30,100.00
3	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine 2-8 Pages)	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
4	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine above 8 pages)	80,000.00	6,000.00	86,000.00

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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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

Salary Increase Or Stronger Naira?

By: HASSAN GIMBA

For five years now, I have been advocating for our currency to be strong rather than for salaries to be increased. Not because those collecting salaries from the government are a minuscule few or because of the tendency that makes the prices of everything skyrocket. No, and not because the implication will push a lot of small and medium-scale businesses to death because they cannot afford it or because even big businesses and the government itself must retrench a lot of staff to accommodate salaries in a growing budget.

No. My primary fear is that the more salaries are increased, the more the naira loses its value as long as we do not produce what we eat and what we use. We are aware of some countries in the past where one needed millions of currency to buy a loaf of bread. In another country, a thief would empty a wheelbarrow filled with that country's currency and run away with the wheelbarrow because it was more valuable than the money in it.

Therefore, what we need right now is a strong currency. The government and labour ought to have that as their concern. Just imagine that ten naira is equal to a dollar. This will mean a person collecting ₦30,000 as salary will have an equivalent of \$3,000. \$3,000 today is over ₦3,000,000.

It is, though, not news that the chairman of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), Mohammed Bello Shehu, had since hinted that the commission had concluded arrangements to review, upwards, of course, the remuneration of public officers in Nigeria. The last time such was carried out for these categories of Nigerians, he stated, was in 2008, which makes it even overdue for review.

The RMAFC boss lamented what he described as the poor remuneration of public, political and judicial office holders "which has exposed them to corrupt tendencies."

The move, he said, was underpinned by paragraph 32(D) of part 1 to the third schedule of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended, which empowers the Commission to determine the remuneration appropriate to political, public and judicial officeholders in the country.

But Shehu's statement did not just come out of the blues. It was like icing on the cake - after putting sugar in the mouths of other workers. In August last year, former President Muhammadu Buhari said there was a need for an urgent salary review in the federal civil service owing to the high inflation rate across the world. The country's inflation rate surged to 19.64 per cent in July 2022, up from 18.60 per cent in the previous month, according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

On August 31, Ekpo Nta, chairman of the National Salaries, Income and Wages Commission, issued a circular to the effect that the president had approved an increment in duty tour allowances (DTAs) for ministers, permanent secretaries and

civil servants on grade levels one to 17 with effect from September 1.

According to the circular, duty tour allowances applicable to the permanent secretary/equivalent moved from ₦20,000 to ₦70,000, while those for minister/SGF/HCSF/equivalent rose from ₦35,000 to ₦80,000. The raise went down all the way to level 1 officers.

A duty tour refers to an official trip embarked upon by a public servant.

As a result of the withdrawal of fuel subsidies, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu believes salaries should be doubled. He, however, made a provisional increase of ₦35,000 to a category of workers "Based on our talks with labour, business and other stakeholders, we are introducing a provisional wage increment to enhance the federal minimum wage without causing undue inflation," he said.

Nigeria has seen many commissions set up even before independence to consider the nation's pay structure to arrive at an enduring one befitting of an income policy.

Nigeria has seen many commissions set up even before independence to consider the nation's pay structure to arrive at an enduring one befitting of an income policy.

The major ones were the Hunt Commission (1934), the Bridges Committee of Enquiry (1941), the Tudor Davis Commission (1945), the Harragin Commission (1946), the Miller Commission of 1947, the Gorsuch Commission (1955), the Newns Commission, the Elwood Grading Team (1956) and the Mbanefo Commission of 1959.

Others were the Morgan Commission (1963), the Adebo Commission (1970 - 1971), the Public Service Review Commission (Udoji Report) (1974), the Cookey Commission (1981), the Fatai Williams Committee (1990), the Commission on the Review of Higher Education in Nigeria (Longe Commission), the 1994 Review Panel on the Civil Service Reforms (Ayida Panel) (1994), the Vision 2010 Committee Report (1997) and the Committee on Harmonisation of Remuneration in the Public Service (1998).

What this portends is that there will be a considerable increase in monthly cash flow. The recipients have more money coming in, meaning more money to spend. The people involved will now more easily meet their financial obligations. This increased purchasing power in many hands will galvanise production and improve the overall economy.

Productivity, as a consequence, will get a boost because the worker who gets a pay rise will be motivated to embrace his work with the seriousness it deserves. Thus, there would be more efficiency and effectiveness in the workplace, ultimately leading to increased productivity.

However, in Nigeria, once there is a salary increase, the price of everything goes up, and nothing that has gone up ever comes down again, going by experience, perhaps except for just one time when the late



MONDAY
COLUMN

By

Hassan Gimba

President Musa Yar'adua reduced the pump price of petrol in 2007.

In 1972, when the Udoji Commission recommended, among others, a Unified Grading and Salary Structure (UGSS) which embraced all posts in the Civil Service from the lowest to the highest, the naira was stronger than the dollar at about ₦60/\$100. The commission increased the annual minimum wage from ₦312 to ₦720, the equivalent of \$1200. As of the time of writing this, \$100 was nudging ₦90,000!

Today, \$1200 is over ₦1,200,000. What this means is that the Udoji Commission's minimum wage of ₦60 (\$100 then) had more purchasing power than today's minimum wage of ₦30,000 (\$30 now). Then, just imagine \$100 as a basic monthly salary today! That's some tidy ₦100,000.

One million naira as minimum wage will help no one as long as the naira is weak. Period.

Therefore, rather than increase salaries, the government should do all it can to

strengthen the naira. A very strong naira will see market forces pushing down the price of commodities, thereby strengthening the purchasing power of Nigerians.

But if salaries must be increased, the government would do well to explore the idea of price control. While the advantage is that it may lead to lower prices for consumers, the consequence is that it may lead to lower supply and a reduction of quality. However, price stability helps to avoid both inflation and deflation.

Another idea that the government must explore is a drastic cut in salaries and allowances of public officers, especially those of elected officials, political appointees and heads of MDAs, rather than increasing them. After all, Nigeria does not have the money to pay university lecturers decent salaries. The saved money can be used to finance the salary increase. This way, the negative consequences will be mitigated.

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

Rep Boya Makes Case For Adamawa Communities Over Jibiro-Sarou-Belel Abandoned Road Rehabilitation

By; TOM GARBA, Yola
The House of Representatives member representing the Federal Constituency of Fofure/Song Area of Adamawa State, Barr Hon Aliyu Wakili Boya has petitioned the construction company handling the road rehabilitation of Jibiro-Sarou-Belel.

Boya made a case on Friday on the floor of the House, when he raised a motion of public interest to the honourable members that the rehabilitation of the road was abandoned seven years ago by the construction company. He expressed worries that the communities' state of economy has been crushed over the deplorable nature of the road for many years. Boya said the people of Jibiro, Sarou and Belel have been passing through a lot of hardship and excruciating pains over the failure of the company

detailed to fix the road.

Boya lamented to the members that the contract awarded was fully paid, but the contractor neglected the site for no reason.

He called the attention of the federal government through the ministry of works and the national assembly to as a matter of urgency, treat his motion with uttermost sense of seriousness.

Boya urged the House to mandate the committee of works to engage the Ministry of Works over the delay on the commencement of the road rehabilitation.

According to him his concern over the neglect of the road rehabilitation is because of the serious economy loss, unabated sufferings, lack of access to essential services and significant hardships causing the people of the area to go through despite the contract awarded

11 Vehicles, Goods Worth Millions Of Naira Burnt In Lagos Fuel Tanker Explosion

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

No fewer than 11 assorted vehicles were burnt beyond repairs and goods worth several millions of Naira destroyed in an inferno caused by a fuel tanker explosion on Thursday night in Lagos. The burnt vehicles include two fuel tankers, one tipper truck, three trailers, three cars and two micro-mini buses popularly known as "korope".

The incident, which occurred at about 8.00pm at the Iganmu axis of the Ijora -Apapa road in front of Motor Part Industry (MPI), was said to have raged for over an hour before it was brought under control by men of the Iganmu Station of the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service.

Our correspondent, who visited the scene gathered that the incident occurred when the driver of the truck lost control as result of the bad road, crashed the truck, which fell on an articulated vehicle carrying packs of butter and saidine, leading to the explosion.

Following the explosion, other drivers were said to have scampered for safety, which caused their abandoned vehicles being burnt by the ensuing fire.

The heat of the billowing fire, according to eye witness, forced residents of Iganmu Alawo community, Ijora Railway line and traders within the vicinity to flee the area.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Ijora Badia Division CSP Ayoola Olawole and his men were on ground at the scene till the following morning and protected goods in some trapped containers from being looted by miscreants who thronged the scene.

Speaking with our correspondent at the scene, the Coordinator Lagos Territorial Office, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Mr. Ibrahim Farinloye attributed the cause of the incident to lack of caution by the driver of the fuel tanker. He said the driver failed to take cognisance of the

effect of the rainy season on the asphalt of the road.

The confirmed that no injury nor death was recorded in the incident.

Farinloye urged all motorists to put their vehicles in good order before embarking on a journey, warning that its failure may lead to the unexpected.

He also warned truck drivers in the habit of assigning their assistants (motor boy) to drive loaded trucks from the depots to desist from the act, saying it most times lead to accident on the road.

His words, "Contrary to reports that the truck fell from the bridge, it not through. From what I got from eyewitness, all the vehicles were on motion, the fuel tanker crashed and fell on an articulated truck carrying sardine and detergents and that made other drivers to be worried and ran helter scelter, making all the 11 vehicles to be trapped and got burnt in the ensuing inferno. Fortunately, no injury nor death was recorded.

"We can't put the blame on bad road but failure of extreme caution by the driver. Drivers have to carry out extreme care when driving on any road. You can see that the driver of the truck is not the only one that has passed the road today, others passed successively. Even there were those who drove off and not caught up in the fire.

"Most times, the truck drivers ask their motor boy to load the truck and drive from the depots to meet them somewhere. They should desist from this habit because it also cause some of the accidents."

The Director Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service Mrs. Adeseye Margaret,



Burnt vehicles at the Iganmu fuel tanker explosion inferno.

who also confirmed the incident in a release, stated that no life was lost in the inferno nor injuries recorded.

Speaking in a chat, the Managing Director of Goldfire Liquified Company, Mr. Theo John Philips, whose client's goods were perished in the inferno lamented the deplorable conditions of roads inward and outward of Ijora.

He said the unfortunate incident occurred as a result of bad road and government's failure to repair it.

Disclosing that he has spent millions of naira to fill some bad portions of the roads with hardcore stones, Philips who engages in warehousing of goods, implored the Federal Government to urgently embark on the repairs of the roads for business to thrive in the area.

"See what has happened now, the goods of my client perished in the fire incident, they just drove out of the premises now,

the driver and motor boy also sustained injuries and we have to take care of them.

"We pay taxes to government, pay for fumigation to the local government council, area boys also collect money from every truck that goes out of here. The government should quickly fix the roads so that we don't continue to suffer loss". he implored.

As the time of filing the report, officials of the Lagos State Emergency Management Authority (LASEMA) were seen removing the carcasses of the burnt vehicles with crane.

Also the DPO Ijora Badia Division CSP Ayoola Moses and his operatives were still at the scene and other emergency responders of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA).



Barr Hon Aliyu Wakili Boya

Budgeting: Civil Society Groups Urge Kaduna Citizens To Engage Government For Good Governance

By: AUSTINE EMMANUEL, Kaduna

The Kaduna Local Government Accountability Mechanism, Coalition Association for Leadership, Peace Empowerment and Development, (CALPED) in collaboration with Budget Research and Development Policy Advocacy Africa and Ihifix Technology with support of Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL) has urged Kaduna residents to engage government in the quest for good governance.

Mr. Ishaku Yusuf Goje of CALPED made the call during a one-day technical session citizens group capacity on budget analysis and Advocacy in preparation for the draft 2024 budget, in Kaduna at the

weekend, said citizens must continue to engage the government in form of dialogue so as to get the dividends of democracy, even as the 2024 budget is underway.

Defining budget as an approximation of revenue and expenses over a specified future period, Goje said it is usually compiled and re-evaluated on a periodic arrangement.

He also opined that it is in recognition of the fact that citizens who are the main stakeholders are partners in the development engineering of the state, stressing that involving stakeholders, such as CSOs will demonstrate that citizens' engagement in the budgetary process would demystify the process and make the government accountable to the people.

Giving an overview of the event, Seth Luke said the program is to aimed to build citizens' capacity on how to analyze the budget considering the fact that government gives opportunity to make recommendations after the draft budget are being made public at the town hall meeting in Abuja.

Luke said, "basically, what we are doing here is just to build the capacity of citizens group on the budget processes and also to build their capacity on how to analyze the budget. You know that annually the government gives us the opportunity to make recommendations after the draft budget are being made public at the budget town hall meeting in Abuja so that this hearing is a way by which citizens can influence the state budget.

"So this will build our capacity

around analysing the budget, each group on each mechanism will analyze it's sectoral budget and also make sectoral recommendation so it won't be a wholesome budget analysis but base on sector like the education sector we analyze it, the health we analyze it agriculture sector and also make recommendations based on their sector.

"We are also reviewing the Kaduna state citizenships feedback app which is popularly known as the eyes and ears.

"The eyes and ears have been down for a while now and the new commissioner has interest in the eyes and ears. She wants to see that the eyes and ears app is functioning so that citizens can have a means of providing feedback to the government."

One of the participants, Glory Yaoh from Open Government Youth Innovation Hub, said the

event will help her see budgeting in proper perspectives.

Yaoh said, "this engagement is very striking because we are talking about budget planning advocacy and implementation of the budget. This engagement is going to help me to discharge my duties effectively by the understanding of the whole concept of budgeting.

"I never saw budget planning in this perspective. With this little exercise segmenting each priorities with a little amount of money that could not meet that particular need I now saw it that writing any budget is not just anything but critically thinking on how to allocate this finances to this sectors appropriately according to their priorities all at the means of meeting the needs of the people at the grassroots." She said.



Will Renovate All Sporting Facilities - Commissioner

**Says Kaduna remains top choice for hosting national, international sporting events*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Honourable Commissioner of Sports Development Kaduna State, Professor Ben Gugong, has assured that all sporting facilities in the state will be renovated to make the state a first choice for hosting national and international sporting activities.

Professor Gugong gave the assurance, while fielding questions from newsmen at the closing ceremony of the National Division One and Two Volleyball League on Saturday October 14, 2023 at the Indoor Sports Hall of the Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Kaduna.

According to him, Governor Uba Sa I is passionate about sports development, especially as it engages youth positively.

He said while the governor was the Senator representing Kaduna Central Zone, he

channeled resources into providing neighbourhood sports centres, a move he is bent on consolidating now that he has been voted by Kaduna State electorate.

Professor Gugong said that the National Division One and Two Volleyball League could not have been hosted by Kaduna if the state didn't have top notch facilities.

He praised the President of Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF), Engineer Musa Nimrod and his board members for finding the state worthy to host the national sporting event. He assured of Kaduna State Government's commitment to all round sports development, while calling on corporate bodies to partner in achieving the feat.

He was accompanied to the closing ceremony by the SA Sports to Kaduna State Governor, Said Idris Dibis,



Governor Uba Sani

Emir Of Kano Strengthens Ties Between Emirate, Akwa Ibom

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Addo Bayero has said that the 30 years' unbridled relationship established between the Emirate and Akwa Ibom people can never be broken.

Alhaji Bayero, stated this while reacting to a comment by an Akwa Ibom born industrialist and member Adaha Ibibio, Otuekong Sunny Jackson Udoh, while rounding off his visit to Akwa Ibom at the Palace of Oku Ibom in Nsit Ubium local

government area of the state on Tuesday.

The monarch, who affirmed the long standing relationship between the people of Kano and Akwa Ibom states as great feat, said such a memorable accord was very significant.

He noted that the thrive for the united Nigeria as a bonded entity was a task before all and sundry devoid of cultural and religious differences.

The Royal Father said that his presence was the first official visit to Akwa Ibom and

expressed optimism that his coming would enhance mutually beneficial socio-cultural and economic ties between Akwa Ibom and Kano which he described as the historic centre of commerce in Northern Nigeria and entire West Africa.

"When we work together as Brothers there is nothing we can't surmount. Nigeria must be united. I had earlier pledged my commitment and that of our Emirate for your state. The Emir stressed.

Atuekong Sunny Jackson Udoh

had recalled how the Emir of Kano (Aminu's father), Shehu of Borno and the Sultan supported the campaign for repealing of the Oil dichotomy.

"I was in the group assembled by the then Governor, Obong Akpan Isemin. I joined the team because of my business I had a relationship with these Monarchs and other partners in Northern Nigeria.

"During the visit they were very accessible and cooperating. The Monarchs spoke in one voice, all for the development of Nigeria

urging us to work together. We visited the Emir first. He was frank and simple. This is the type of relationship I cherish.

'It was therefore, gladdening when the then Military President Ibrahim Babangida visited Uyo during his farewell tour and announced the abrogation of the Oil Dichotomy Decree. Atuekong Udoh said.

He assured Alhaji Bayero that the Oku Ibom, Akwa Edidem Solomon Etuk was a cerebral and reputable leader, who is trustworthy.

Nimrod Receives 2022 AUTHENTIC Sports Personality Award



Top Kaduna-based multiple award winning Online news site, Authentic News daily has presented the year 2022 Sports Personality of the Year award to the President, Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF), Engineer Musa Nimrod. The award was presented on

Saturday October 14, 2023 on the sidelines of the final of the National Division One and Two Volleyball League at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium. The Honourable Commissioner of Sports Development Kaduna State, Professor Ben Gugong, assisted by the SA Sports to Kaduna State Governor, Said

Idris Dibis, presented the award on behalf of Authentic News Daily. In his remarks before the presentation, Consulting Editor, Authentic News Daily, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson explained that the media outfit presents awards to individuals and corporate bodies who

distinguish themselves in respective fields of endeavour. "Since the first edition of this awards in 2015, Engineer Nimrod has emerged the Sports Personality for a record six times. "His choice is based on his tremendous contributions to

sports development, right from being the Chairman Kaduna State Volleyball Association (KADSV), to his emergence as the President of NVBF. "He is an all round sports enthusiast, who uses his personal resources in developing sports all over Nigeria," he said.



Nimrod Receives 2022
AUTHENTIC Sports
Personality Award

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Refrain from Falsehood, Blackmail, Pastor Akinade Tasks Media Practitioners

*Oyo NUJ 2023 Press week kicks off, Gov Makinde expected at opening ceremony on Monday

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Senior Pastor, Christ Apostolic Church (CAC), Eagle's Wings Assembly, Wakajaye Road, Iyana Church, Ibadan, Pastor Joseph Akinade, on Sunday tasked Media practitioners in Nigeria to refrain from news capable of distabilizing the country.

Pastor Akinade gave the charge in his sermon entitled: 'Role of Journalists in Nation Building', at a church service to kick off the 2023 Press Week of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Oyo State Council.

He stressed that there is the need for media practitioners to do away with reports tainted with falsehood and blackmail capable of bringing down individuals, organisations, institutions, government, and the country.

The Senior Pastor urged journalists to be constructive and not destructive in their news reportage, adding that the importance of standing on the truth and not causing mayhem in the society with their reports.

"I want to enjoin all journalists in Nigeria, especially those that have been cheating their colleagues, that they must stop this practice because of their future and that of their children. Again, don't assassinate the character of your colleagues because you want to attain a particular position or because of money", he said.

Pastor Akinade added, "If you do, you may have your way. But the repercussion will be waiting for you. I want you to always remember that no sinner will go unpunished".

While advising journalists to be fair to all parties in a story and ensure that they balance their news by getting all necessary angles, he warned against the fabrication of stories for financial gain and assassinating the character of colleagues for personal gains, saying journalists who indulge in such practices risk the repercussion in the future.

Oyo state NUJ Chairman, Chief Ademola Babalola, led eminent journalists in the state to the



Oyo NUJ leaders with Pastor Joseph Akinade at the church service

church service.

Also in attendance were the National Trustee of NUJ Zone B, Bayo Akamo; Vice Chairman of

NUJ in the state, Seye Ojo; Secretary, Sola Oladapo; Treasurer, Akeem Abas, who is the chairman of the press week,

and Financial Secretary, Abiodun Atilola.

Kaduna Progressives Circle Suggests Mairago For Kaduna SSG

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Frontline group, Kaduna Progressives Circle has described Yusuf Hamisu Abubakar, popularly known as Mairago as one who has gathered experience both in public and private sectors, making him a good choice for the position of the Secretary to the Kaduna State Government (SSG).

The group expressed this in a statement jointly signed by its

coordinator, Jibril S Zakirai and Secretary, Ahmed Mohammed Zagi, made available to newsmen in Kaduna on Sunday October 15, 2023.

According to the group, "Mairago is a trained lawyer, an accomplished administrator and businessman with vast experience at senior executive level in the Private and Public sectors."

The statement said that he is well educated, with an MBA degree from the University of Exeter,

UK with a specialty in Financial Management.

Hinting on the experience he has gathered, the statement pointed out that he worked as a Graduate Assistant Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria from 1987 to 1989, after which he set himself up in private legal practice in his home town Kaduna; under the name: Yusuf Abubakar & Co. (Equity Chambers).

"He has also held several other

high ranking positions such as: Commissioner for Health and Social Dev. Kaduna State- 1992 to 1994, Director General, Bureau for Lands and survey, Kaduna State 1994 to 1997. Commissioner for Finance and Economic Planning, 1998 to 1999 and Executive Secretary, Petroleum Technology Dev. Fund (PTDF)," the statement said

They therefore, appealed to Governor Uba Sani to look no

further in search of SSG to replace Alhaji Balarabe Abbas Lawal, who was recently appointed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as a minister, and confirmed by the Senate.

The Kaduna Progressives Circle is gathering of like- minds that are progressive in nature.

It also supports any move that would lead to peace, development and progress of Kaduna State.