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ACF Knocks Tinubu's Economic Policies, Says North Worst Hit By Hardship

■ Warns Labour against prolonged strike

■ Insists World Bank, IMF suggestions counterproductive

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

While decrying that overnight, the value of wages and incomes have continued to plummet and people increasingly face challenges with regards to feeding and nutrition, personal healthcare costs/financing, school fees, transportation, rent, shelter, and nearly all goods and services, affecting all Nigerians, the Arewa Consultative Forum has said that Northern Nigeria is worst hit by the hardship. This was expressed in a statement signed by its National Publicity

Secretary, Prof. T. A. Muhammad-Baba, made available yesterday, October 2, 2023, where ACF said that except perhaps the less than top 5% of the population classified as the very rich, with the majority of the population continuing to see significant and alarming declines in the value of incomes and standards of living. "ACF notes that these negative economic conditions are felt more in the Northern states of Nigeria, being largely the most agrarian segment of the country with the lowest per capita incomes, poor scores in all indices of

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Lagos Taskforce Embarks On Sustenance Operations On Lekki Coastal Road, Impounds 55 Commercial Motorbikes

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Lagos State Taskforce has carried out a follow up operation along Lekki Coastal Road/Maroko axis of the State where skirmishes of shanties were noticed to have been erected in selected corners in the area.

The exercise which took place yesterday, was led by the Chairman of the Agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye who disclosed that the exercise was just to serve as a deterrent to hoodlums nursing the idea of returning to those areas to rebuild the already destroyed shanties.

Jejeloye stated that the promise made by the State Government to completely clear makeshift buildings and shanties that have defaced the area for years would not be allowed to spring up again as mechanisms such as this operation would always be there to checkmate them.

The Director, Press & Public Affairs of the Agency, Gbadeyan Abdul-Raheem made the disclosure on a statement yesterday.

"We have cleared out the large expanse of land more than twice but we made it clear the last time that it would no longer be business as usual for squatters. No shanty or makeshift buildings would be allowed to be erected here anymore. They do not just pose environmental risk but are also a security risk and are not part of the Lagos State Mega City Master plan of the State Government".

The Chairman assured Lagosians that the fire outbreak which sprung up from the shanties and affected buildings in the axis is now a thing of the past. He promised to monitor the



The cleared area

coastal road round the clock till the Road network is completed. In a related development, the Lagos State Taskforce carried out an enforcement exercise against Okada operators who ply the Highways and restricted routes around Ikota and its environs in Lekki.

Jejeloye who also led the operation stated that the determination of the Agency to stamp out transport infractions by unruly okada operators is

unshaken. He vowed to continue carrying out enforcement for compliance operations on the State Highways in order to completely rid the roads of their menace.

"Today, in just a matter of minutes we have confiscated 55 bikes that were operating illegally on the Highways contrary to the laid down rules and regulations of the State Government. We will be carrying out more operations not

just here but in other parts of the City where reports have been heard of their illegal operations." Meanwhile, today the Chairman of the Agency carried out intense patrols along Yaba, Oyingbo and Agege rail tracks where traders have been known to display their goods on the tracks. He monitored and detailed officials to ensure that strict compliance of the State Government's directive to vacate the rail tracks are strictly adhered to.

CSP Jejeloye appealed to commuters to shun the patronage of okada operators as they pose danger on our roads and risk the safety of both the rider and passenger. He reminded intending passengers that they are also as guilty as the rider once caught in the act. "Any passenger caught on a bike will be charged together with the rider and same punishment meted down to them by a court of competent jurisdiction" he concluded.

Our Member Won't Die In Vain Says Kogi APC

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The Kogi State All Progressives Congress (APC) Campaign Council has reiterated its call on security agencies to bring the killers of a female APC supporter, to book, while also calling the attention of the public to what it described as the latest lies that had been concocted by the Social Democratic Party on the matter.

The council said, after being exposed by the Police, and after the APC Campaign's World Press Conference on Monday, it was not out of place for the SDP candidate to defend himself with all manner of lies.

The Director, Media and Publicity/Spokesman of the Campaign,

Kingsley Fanwo, however, said, "that the SDP had chosen the wrong platform to do that shows the tactless, lackluster approach of the ill-prepared desperate candidate.

"It is natural that killers get confused after killing because of the sacred nature of human life. We can understand Muritala Yakubu Ajaka's confusion and delusion right now. But he must pay for his sins," he added.

He said, after causing the death of an innocent woman with his alleged political brigandage, that he could still "heartlessly mock the dead with his lies is unfortunate."

Fanwo stated, "We reported to the Police and other security agencies. And we

have reported to the world and given a graphic narrative of how the SDP thugs killed a member of our party.

"Thankfully, the Police have released their preliminary reports and the SDP candidate should honour the invitation of security agencies to explain why his thugs killed the innocent Kotonkarfe woman and left the entire community mourning.

"While explaining the blood on his hands, he can as well give evidence of his recent claims to the Police and other law enforcement agencies.

"It is natural that killers get confused after killing because of the sacred nature of human life. We can understand

Muritala Yakubu Ajaka's confusion and delusion right now. But he must pay for his sins.

"His macabre dance on the grave of an innocent woman won't save him. He has murdered sleep and has a date with the rule of law.

We won't glorify him with any serious response.

"Kogites now know him better and they know who is arming thugs and giving them uniforms. After killing a soul with his political brigandage, that he could still heartlessly mock the dead with his lies is unfortunate.

"Our member won't die in vain."

We Will Be Fair, Just To All, Plateau Governor Assures Citizens

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to fairness and justice for all residents, regardless of their ethnic or religious backgrounds.

The governor stated this yesterday, while receiving the findings of the Committee on Review of Employment at the New Government House, Jos. Represented by the Secretary to the Government, Arc. Samuel N. Jatau, Governor Mutfwang reiterated that Plateau State belongs to all its indigenes, emphasizing that discrimination based on religion, ethnicity, or political affiliation will not be tolerated.

He noted that the committee had meticulously assessed employment processes across various Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), and to ensure fairness, equity, and justice and found out

lack of due process, irregularities, and the absence of involvement by the Civil Service Commission in some of the employment exercises conducted by the previous administration.

Governor Mutfwang expressed concerns about youth unemployment in the state and vowed to address it in adherence to civil service rules.

He emphasized the need for due process in all government activities and stressed the importance of rectifying past irregularities.

"We must adhere to due process in carrying out government activities. From the reports, many MDAs did not follow due process, and we will ensure the right thing is done," he affirmed.

He said Governor Mutfwang's vision for Plateau State is to elevate it among the top 10 states in the country, thereby improving the lives of its people.

The Governor there expressed state



government's determination to implement fair and just employment practices that will ensure a prosperous future for all Plateau citizens.

Submitting the report, the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Ishaya Agaldu highlighted several issues identified during the committee's assessment, including rushed employment

processes, sharing of employment slots, improper allocation of slots to political parties, traditional leaders, and religious bodies, as well as irregular payments to staff without proper authorization.

The committee recommended a thorough review of the employment exercise, with exemptions for MDAs that followed due process.

NSCF Backs Calls For Arrest, Prosecution Of Kogi State SDP Candidate

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Northern Stakeholders Consultative Forum (NSCF) has thrown its weight behind the calls for the arrest and prosecution of Murtala Yakubu, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) candidate in Kogi State following his indictment for inciting violence in the state. In a statement released on Tuesday, the spokesperson of the NSCF, Comrade Danjuma Paul, expressed concern that allowing Yakubu to roam freely would only encourage impunity and create the impression that politicians can get away with acts of recklessness that threaten peace and security.

He reiterated the importance of justice, noting that no one, no matter how highly placed, should be considered above the law. "We cannot afford to sit back and watch while some politicians flout the law and instigate violence, thereby putting lives and properties in danger," he stated.

The NSCF, therefore, called on the relevant authorities to expedite the process of arresting and prosecuting Yakubu to serve as a deterrent to others who may contemplate similar acts of violence in the future.

The Northern Stakeholders Consultative Forum Urges for Peaceful Elections in Kogi State.

The Northern Stakeholders

Consultative Forum has emphasized the importance of peaceful and fair elections in Kogi State.

The group insists that no politician should be allowed to hold the state to ransom in furtherance of his personal political agenda. Recent events have shown that some politicians like Yakubu have no qualms causing violence with hate campaigns and propaganda.

The group calls on Kogi state voters to be wary of such politicians and make informed decisions during the elections.

NSCF noted that it is only when all political parties and candidates conduct themselves with decorum and respect for the rule of law, that democracy can be said to have taken solid roots in the country.

The group also urged the relevant authorities to ensure that the elections are free and fair and that the votes of the people count. As stakeholders in the Nigerian project, we believes that only in a peaceful and transparent electoral process can the true will of the people be expressed.

The forum reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that Kogi State remains peaceful and united after the elections.

The NSCF also implored all Kogi residents to remain law-abiding, not to take the law into their hands, and to always seek peaceful means of resolving conflicts.

ABU VC Advocates For More Funding For Agricultural Research Institutes *Commissions IAR 100 Years Centenary Monument

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Vice Chancellor Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Professor Kabiru Bala has called for more funding to agricultural research institutes to accommodate their research needs.

He made the call while commissioning the IAR 100 years Centenary Monument at the institute yesterday.

Prof. Kabiru Bala said allocating enough funds to agricultural research institutes will help the country in succeeding in its food security programmes.

He recalled that before the discovery of crude oil in Nigeria, it was agriculture that Nigeria depended on in terms of revenue drive.

The Vice Chancellor also said, IAR at 100, has proven its mandate and even beyond, both at home and internationally in the field of agricultural research and development.

Prof. Bala has also assured the institute of the university's support in order to



maintain its research activities.

On the new mandate given to IAR on cotton and groundnut, the Vice

Chancellor said the institute has all the expertise to carry out the assignment.

Other activities included farm visits,

where researchers showcased the various improved varieties of crops at the IAR Farm.

ACF Knocks Tinubu's Economic Policies, Says North Worst Hit By Hardship

■ Warns Labour against prolonged strike

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economic development and standard of living measures, etc. "For example, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), in its 2022 Multidimensional Poverty Report, people considered poor in Nigeria numbered 133 million, out of which 86 million, or 65%, live in the North, who suffered over one quarter of all possible deprivations. In contrast, the South housed about 47 million or 35%. Rightly, ACF has been concerned about this alarming sobering state of affairs," ACF said.

The statement said that against all the above developments, the President Bola A. Tinubu-led Administration continues to insist that its economic and social policies are the right mix of solutions to revamp the economy for better days ahead.

"For labour, the only reaction to what has been perceived as the insensitivity of the political authorities, was be an indefinite nation-wide strike, starting

Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023 to drive home its calls for due attention to the plight of workers and the average Nigerian households.

"While sympathising with organised labour, ACF has been concerned, apprehensive and edgy that a protracted labour strike would amount to a double jeopardy for the people of the North, already disadvantaged as alluded to earlier. A middle ground was clearly indicated," it said.

The ACF therefore, congratulated the joint teams of the FGN and the NLC/TUC for finding that middle ground which averted the strike, even if for labour, the truce is for a period of four weeks only.

ACF welcomed the truce reached by negotiations between the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and the nation's joint umbrella body of labour unions, specifically the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC).

"ACF is particularly happy that

representatives of the labour unions were able to convince the FGN to pay attention to the plight of workers, and everyone else in the country, arising from the combined deleterious impact, of the withdrawal of subsidy from the price of petroleum products and convergence of the official and parallel foreign exchange markets.

"Both of these policies have compounded and placed in dire straits the far-from-satisfactory daily problems faced by average households in the country," the statement said.

"ACF appreciates the FGN's understanding and roll out of measures to cushion the debilitating challenges in the economy. The NLC and TUC teams are also deeply appreciated for their ability to force out the hands of the FGN. It is believed that temporary as the FGN's measures are, they signal a departure in style from the usual intransigence of Government negotiation teams. It is indeed a happy outcome

coming at a time the country is celebrating its 63rd year of independence and amid the plethora of rightly earned congratulatory messages. However, the truce arrived at should be no ground for complacency and non-challance," it said.

ACF warned that a lot more remains to be done in the administration of economic policies in the country.

"In particular, ACF cautions against the wholesale and unimaginative acceptance of out-of-context and largely discredited public policy solutions being preached by multilateral finance organisations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It should be instructive to our policy



President Tinubu

makers that Southeast Asian nations pulled themselves out of economic crisis of the 1980s and 1990s by largely ignoring, not by accepting, the policy prescriptions of the multi-lateral agencies.

"Therefore, the FGN and the NLC/TCU should not assume that the country is out of the woods. The negotiations must continue," ACF said.

Kano Govt Targets 1.8m Livestock For 2023 Vaccination

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Kano State Agro-pastoral Development Project, KSADP, is to vaccinate at least one million cattle and 800,000 goats and sheep in this year's annual livestock vaccination campaign, in the state.

Funded by the Islamic Development Bank and the Lives and Livelihood Funds, the project intends to spend not less than N160 million on the campaign, which aims to enhance livestock health and improve livelihoods of herders and livestock breeders.

According to a statement signed by the Communication

Specialist, KSADP, Ameen K. Yassar, made available yesterday, the State Project Coordinator, Malam Ibrahim Garba Muhammad, disclosed this during the kick-off of community sensitization on the exercise, held that the palace of the district Head of Kura, in Kura Local Government Area of the state.

"The project is determined to upscale the vaccination because livestock health is tied to your livelihoods, and by extension our economy", the Coordinator stressed.

"The objective of this interaction is to enhance your understanding of the vaccination and to seek cooperation of all stakeholders

so that the exercise succeeds", he added.

Besides the annual vaccination campaign, Malam Ibrahim said the project had embarked upon several projects including the upgrade and equipping of Kadawa Artificial Insemination Center, construction of milk collection centers, upgrade of cattle markets and crop residue utilization program, among others, to improve the livelihood of the herders.

"We shall soon award contract for demarcation of stock routes in Kano, which is major step towards ending conflict between farmers and herders in Kano", he further revealed.

The District Head of Kura,

Dokajin Rano, represented by Alhaji Balarabe Muhammad disclosed that no outbreak of livestock diseases has been reported in the area in the past three years due to consistent vaccination carried out by the KSADP.

He therefore, directed village heads and herders' community leaders in the domain to fully mobilize for the forthcoming vaccination in view of its importance.

In his comments on behalf of herders' communities in Kura local government, Malam Zubairu Muhammad said they are familiar with livestock vaccination, having benefitted in

the past three years, assuring that there will be no resistance to the exercise.

"We have seen the impact of the vaccination conducted in the past, so we appreciate the Islamic Development Bank and the LLF for their untiring support", he asserted.

Also speaking, the Zonal Veterinary Director for Rano Zone, Dr. Idris Ibrahim, who underscored the importance of the livestock vaccination, suggested that livestock vaccination campaign should include Rabies vaccination, since the herders also possess livestock guardian dogs.

Polio: WHO, Borno Govt Flag-off Vaccination Campaign For 2m Children

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR,
Maiduguri

World Health Organisation (WHO) in collaboration with the Borno State Government, has flagged off a 10-days vaccination campaign on fIPV and nOPV across the 27 local government areas in the state.

The fIPV which stands for Fractional doses of the Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine and nOPV which stands for Novel Oral Poliomyelitis (polio) Vaccine type-2 is targeting children of 0-59 months.

Speaking at the flag off, the State Commissioner for Health and Human Services, Professir Baba M. Gana, represented by the State Director, Disease Control and Immunizations, Ministry of Health, Dr Aliyu Shettima said, the vaccination team will be situated in a fixed and strategic locations including schools, markets, orphanage homes, motor parks, and other public gatherings.

Dr Shettima added that, "the traditional and religious leaders present here will play a vital role in achieving the overall objective of this campaign. And I also want to appreciate partners for their continual support."

According to him, the vaccination campaign is targeting more than two million children across the states, including those situated in hard-to-reach areas.

The WHO Borno State acting State Coordinator, Dr Moisule Hussaini Ganga said World Health Organization will continue to support the state government to immunize eligible children including those in hard-to-reach locations.

He added that the campaign has the capacity to eliminate any potential virus including the wild polio virus, and we are optimistic that we will achieve more than 100%.

"I must commend the effort of the state government, and WHO remains committed to keying into the state's objective in ensuring access to health services is provided," Dr Moisule said.

Others partners at the flag off include UNICEF, Rotary, AFENET, and others.



Dr Aliyu Shettima (representing the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Borno State) immunizing one of the eligible children at the flag off. Photo credit: Kingsley Igwebiuke/WHO



Dr. Muusule, cting State Coordinator WHO in brown and blue apron and cap, making his remarks at the event.



Mothers with eligible children at the flag-off

Hajj 2024: CSO Express Worries Over Slow Pace Of Preparation, Uncertainty In Nigeria

By: JABIRUA. HASSAN, Kano

Independent Hajj Reporters (IHR) has expressed worries over the apparent slow pace with which Nigerian authorities are moving as regards preparations for Hajj 2024.

The Civil Society Organisation (CSO) said that the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has made it clear to all Hajj participating countries even before Hajj 2023 was rounded up, that preparations for Hajj 2024 have begun.

The Ministry also informed most countries of their Hajj quota and the new policies in place for next year's Hajj. Specifically, the Ministry said all Hajj formalities are to be concluded at least 45 days before Hajj 2024 because the Visa issuance portal would be closed by that date.

This, according to IHR in a statement on Monday, signed by its national coordinator, Ibrahim Mohammed, means

that Nigeria has about four months from now to conclude making all necessary arrangements such as collection and deposit of pilgrim's fares, signing of MOU and engagement with service providers both at home and in Saudi Arabia.

"While we acknowledge the recent advice by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria for pilgrims to save N4.5 million as a deposit, we believe that is not enough. "Currently, states have less than 120 days to register 2024 intending pilgrims and we are aware of the uncertainties around how much will be the equivalent of dollar components in the hajj rate template.

"In addition, we expect that all states should have announced the commencement of registration of intending pilgrims while NAHCON on its part moves with lightning speed to negotiate how to get the foreign exchange component benchmark of the forthcoming pilgrimage.

"Anything short of that is simply risking Nigerians' participation in Hajj 2024," IHR said. The CSO also said it expects both NAHCON and the states to have vigorously begun an enlightenment campaign regarding the existing FX policy and how it affects the Hajj fare.

"States Pilgrims boards must as a matter of urgent embark on state-wide publicity on 2024 registration as every other arrangement is tied to the number of pilgrims that will be registered by the states.

"As far as we are concerned, both NAHCON and the states have no option but to close ranks and work in harmony with regards to the Hajj Saving scheme because it is the best avenue available for pilgrims to save gradually and travel for Hajj whenever their savings are enough to enable them to secure a slot. The recent short and shortened hajj calendar made

this option imperative".

IHR commended NAHCON for setting up a committee to search for new service providers in Saudi Arabia, the CSO however, noted that the commission should weigh the possible implications of assigning about 95,000 pilgrims to new service providers who have no previous experience in serving Nigerian Pilgrims.

More importantly, it said, all registered Mutawiff in the Kingdom have their allotted pilgrims "It is like moving from known challenges to unknown but certain headaches," IHR said.

IHR added that both NAHCON and the States Muslim Pilgrims Boards should expeditiously embark on a nationwide campaign targeting Muslims who intend to perform the 2024 hajj to pay their deposits as soon as possible because any further delay endangers their participation in the 2024 Hajj.

Dotun Sanusi Bankrolls Movie On Gov Makinde's

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ilaji Hotels and Sports Resort,, Engr Dotun Sanusi has bankrolled an award-winning Yoruba movie on the biography of Governor Seyi Makinde titled 'Ifin Omojomolo' set to hit the YouTube channel soon.

'IFIN Omojomolo' produced by Omolara Adebayo is a great movie to express why Seyi Makinde, the Governor of Oyo State, became the toast, most-loved, highly cherished and distinguished fellow in the political firmament of the state today.

According to the producer, Omolara Adebayo, Governor Makinde showed remarkable character as far back as his teenage years when he hawked bread on the streets of Ibadan to support his parents,

"People may be wondering why is it that Seyi Makinde, out of many people, becomes the most adored politician and political leader of immense value and honour today?

"The reason is in his distinguishing character from birth as a child imbued with love and honour and always ready to shoulder other people's burden and responsibilities. As a little boy, Seyi Makinde has been



Gov Seyi Makinde with Engr Dotun Sanusi

showing philanthropic spirit from his teenage years and could deny himself to support anybody in need", she said.

Omolara Adebayo added, "He has always been a peace-loving and gentleman to the core who loves to use his hard-earned wealth to settle issues and make people comfortable. He also helped his parents hawking bread to support them at their times of need".

"He is a real Ibadan 'shon of the soil' with ancestral home at his family compound of Aigbofa Oja'ba Ibadan. The story tells of how his great grandfather who was an herbalist left Ogbomoso to first settle in Ajia (their village in Egbeda Local Government) before relocating to the main city

after he consulted the oracle for Balogun Ogunmola ahead of an imminent war which the victorious Ibadan warriors conquered.

"His prediction that they would win the war which came to pass, made Ogunmola to give him a land to settle in the heart of Ibadan which is today known as Aigbofa compound in the present day Ibadan Southeast Local Government," she narrated history behind Makinde's ancestral home in Ibadan.

The producer who starred as the Governor's mother in the film said it promises to be educative, entertaining and inspiring to the younger generation who are desirous of living and making

meaningful impacts in life was full of thanks to the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ilaji Hotels and Sports Resort who bankrolled the film from the beginning to the end.

"My appreciation goes to Engr Dotun Sanusi who believed in this project and provided all the logistics supports to make this film on Governor Seyi Makinde's life a reality. My prayer to God is to continue to bless Engr Dotun Sanusi who today is our God-send philanthropist and promoter of good governance in Oyo State and the country as a whole. This film will soon be premiered for the public to enjoy."

On why they choose Ifin, a breed of Kolanut known for its outstanding quality and spiritual value as the title, Adebayo said Kolanut is so important in the social, religious and cultural life of the people that it is said that at some point during pre-independence Nigeria, when the nation's founding fathers looked for a common symbol acceptable to all Nigerians that would serve as a national icon on the country's coat of arms, the consensus was kola nut.

Adebayo stressed that a writer went further to state as follows: "...However, the pattern, presentation of kola nut in all of

the these places (Yorubaland, Igboland and Hausaland) when a visitor comes around, approves his welcome in the same way that denial of kola nut denotes displeasure and disapproval.

"Among the Igbo it is said in a proverb that "onye wetera oji, wetera ndu", which translates to "he who brings kola, brings life. The implication of kola nut presentation, therefore implies, establishment of love and trust. And that is why, it is believed that whoever partakes in the sharing and eating of kola nut with one has become one's friend and has entered into an oath of preservation of life with one.

"In this sense, kola nut becomes a communion food. A feast of love, trust and togetherness and these qualities are embedded in this character today known as our darling Governor Seyi Makinde," Adebayo added.

The movie titled 'Ifin' (Obatala Kolanut) produced by Omolara Adebayo (Iya Kuegbe) featured Nollywood stars like Dele Odude, Dupe Jayesinmi, Fatai Oodua (Lalude) and Omolara Adebayo (Iyakuegbe). Ahmed Ayomide, Adebayo Qlálékan (Agbontawon), Musiliu Dasofunjo, Ayodele Omotosho, Ayo Oluyemi, Chief Mrs Saratu Aduke Konibaje (Iyaloja General of Oyo State), amongst others.

Palliatives: Uba Sani Flags Off Distribution Of 50kg Bags Of Rice To 210,000 Households

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna
 Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani on Monday, flagged off the distribution of 50kg bags of rice each to 210,000 poor and vulnerable households in Kaduna State. According to the governor, this is the first phase of our three-phase Palliatives Distribution Plan for Kaduna State, the flag off took place at Dankande, Igabi Local Government Area. Senator Uba Sani commended the Palliatives Committee led by Her

Excellency, the Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Balarabe for handling this assignment with commitment and dedication. He said, the Palliatives Committee is made up of top officials of NLC, TUC, other members of the organized labour, religious and traditional leaders, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Persons with Disabilities, Local Government Chairmen, Youth and Women Groups. Adequate security arrangements are in place to ensure the uninterrupted delivery

of the palliatives to the distribution points and the eventual transportation to the various LGAs. The Commissioner of Police and Director, DSS are leading the coordination of security for palliatives distribution. Also, monitoring teams for the LGAs have also been constituted with membership drawn from members of the organized labour, faith based and development associations, traditional institutions, persons with disabilities, members of the State House of Assembly,

local government chairmen, and members of the Kaduna State Government Palliatives Distribution Committee. Governor Uba Sani called on the people of Kaduna State to give their maximum support and cooperation to the Kaduna State Government Palliatives Distribution Committee to ensure a hitch-free exercise. "I must however, warn that the full weight of the law will be visited on anyone who attempts to divert the palliatives meant for the people or tries to disrupt the exercise," he warned.



Yobe: Engr Amshi Distributes Palliatives Worth Millions In His Hometown

By: AHMED KAGANAAMSHI

In a bid to alleviate the suffering caused by the removal of subsidy on essential commodities, Engr. Ahmed K. Amshi, FNSE, Chairman of the National Assembly Service Commission, distributed assorted food and non-food items to members of his hometown (Amshi) and 17 neighboring communities.

The items distributed included fertilizers, rice, wrapper clothing materials, shadda clothing materials, and leather floor mats.

These items were distributed to vulnerable groups and all members of those communities, including the nomadic communities.

In addition to this, Engr. Amshi also empowered youths and women with grinding machines, sewing machines, and water pumps to improve their lives and livelihoods. Other empowerment items included laptops and scholarships for 13 university undergraduates from Amshi.

Engr. Amshi also installed solar-powered electricity at Amshi Central Mosque and

building materials at Izala Mosque Islamiyya school. He also provided assorted textbooks and instructional materials to Government Secondary School Amshi and Central Primary School Amshi in his efforts to support education.

In his remarks, Engr. Amshi expressed his pleasure at having the opportunity to give back to the community that had given him so much since childhood. "We cannot have it enough, but this gesture will at least place food on the table, and our

young men and women deserve to be empowered and supported to earn a good living and acquire education like we had". Malam Ibrahim Jagamu, the Lawan of Amshi, commended Engr. Ahmed for his well-presented gesture at a time when it is needed most. "We cannot thank him enough for doing such an emulative gesture. We pray for Almighty Allah to reward him and replenish his sources." He said.



Executive Governor of Katsina State, Malam Dikko Umaru Radda, PhD held a meeting with the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume in his office in Abuja.



Photo: **BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS**



COMMUNITY FOCUS

IGP Egbetokun Receives Rousing Welcome At Home Town

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

It was a jubilation galore at Ilobi/Erinja communities in Yewa South Local Government Area of Ogun State on Saturday, as kinsmen of the Ag. Inspector General of Police Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun PhD trooped out in large numbers to honour and accord him a rousing welcome to his home town.

The event was witnessed by dignitaries from all walks of life including the Olu of Ilaro and Paramount ruler of Yewaland, Oba Dr Kehinde Olugbenle, and other obas.

Member of the House of Representatives, Hon Isaq Akinlade, including the Head of Service of Ogun State, Mr. Kolawole Fagbohun, were not left out of the colourful and glamorous occasion, which had in attendance senior police officers, chairman PCRC, Mogaji Ibrahim Olaniyan and friends and well wishers.

The IGP was accompanied by his wife and POWA President, Mrs Elizabeth Egbetokun, and other family members. Also on his entourage were the Deputy Inspector General of Police Southwest, DIG Abiodun Alabi, AIG Zone 2 Command AIG Ali Mohammed Ari amongst others.

In exhibition of their excitement, the residents of the communities both young and old took to the road leading to the communities to await the arrival of their son, who is the first ever Inspector General of Police (IGP) to have emerge from the community and the state.

Also recognised at the event was the Head of Service of Ogun State, Mr Kolawole Fagboun, who is an indigene of the same community.

Speaking at the grand reception, Egbetokun expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the warm reception and reflected on the significance of returning to his hometown.

The IGP noted that the homecoming, filled him with great joy as it allowed him to reconnect with the roots that have shaped his life.

He highlighted the enduring values of love, unity, and togetherness that the Yewa land and its communities, including Ilobi and Erinja, have always cherished, emphasizing the importance of strengthening the bonds of unity, saying they are the bedrock of their strength and resilience as a people.

While addressing the evolving security challenges facing their communities, the IGP stressed the need for vigilance and security consciousness. He urged collaboration with the Police and



IGP Egbetokun being received by the Olu of Ilaro and Paramount Ruler of Yewaland HRM Oba (Dr.) Kehinde Olugbenle.

other law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety and security of the people, emphasizing the role they all play in building safer communities that protect lives and property.

Similarly, he urged the youths to discourage violence and social vices that undermine communal peace and security, calling on them to channel their energy toward productive endeavors that uplift society, recognizing their role as the future leaders of their land.

The Inspector-General while expressing pride in the achievements

of Yewa indigenes who have excelled globally, encouraged them to consider returning home to contribute to the development of their homeland, emphasizing the untapped potential for the betterment of their communities.

He also acknowledged the governor, revered traditional rulers and elders as custodians of traditions and sources of inspiration for the younger generation, urging them to continue guiding and mentoring the youth to preserve their rich heritage and moral values.



IGP Egbetokun being led to the reception arena.



IGP Egbetokun in group photograph with monarchs of Yewaland.

A/Ibom Amended TRC Law: Youth Group Cautions Against Insult On Akpabio

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

A Niger Delta youth group known as Niger Delta Youth Stakeholders Forum (NDYSF) has spoken against hiding under the controversies surrounding the amended Traditional Rulers Council Law in Akwa Ibom State to smear the character and person of Senate President, Godswill Akpabio.

The NDYSF National President, Mr. Cyril Essien, in a statement while reacting to a publication against Akpabio on one of the national dailies in Uyo on Monday, wondered how individuals would rely on half-baked information to concoct stories in order to insult a man with no mean repute.

Essien described the publication with the headline "Focus on NASS, not Akwa Ibom, Group tells Akpabio" credited to a group, Alliance for Peace in Niger Delta (APND) as ill-conceived, awkward, spurious and preposterous.

NDYSF President, while referring to APND group as merchants of misinformation, paid blackmailers and attention-seekers, noted that "It is public knowledge that the amended Traditional Rulers law recently

passed by the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly and assented to by the Governor, Pastor Umo Eno, has generated serious uproar in the State.

"It was in the light of the above that Sen. Godswill Akpabio during his remarks at the Akwa Ibom State 36th Anniversary Special Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service appealed to the State Governor to consider taking another look at the law with the possibility of addressing the contending issue in the interest of peace, unity and progress of the state.

"It is pertinent to point out that the rotation of Chairmanship of Council of Traditional Rulers in Akwa Ibom, with a yearly tenure that was later reviewed upward to two years, which the group erroneously claims Senator Akpabio was referring to in his remarks, has been and it is still in practice for over a decade in Akwa Ibom State.

"There is no gainsaying that Sen. Godswill Akpabio laid bare his mind, and rightly too, on the concern raised by Traditional Rulers and others from some sections of Akwa Ibom State in the new amended law.

"So referring to Sen. Akpabio's well received remarks at the

Thanksgiving Service "revolt and outburst" is very uncomplimentary and unbecoming of a group touted as peace advocate.

"From the statement accredited to them, It is obvious that the group, rather than sought to understand the facts of the issue in question, may have relied on an ill-conceived and twisted version dished out to them to do the bidding of their paymasters for obvious reasons.

"For the avoidance of doubts, The public should understand that Sen. Akpabio was referring to the Headship or Office of the President General of the Supreme Council of Akwa Ibom Traditional Rulers as captured in the amended law – of which the tenure is life – only elapsing at the demise of the occupant.

"It was on the strength of the above and upon being informed of disturbing clause that the said new office, President General, in the law will be the exclusive reserve of one ethnic group in the State that Sen. Akpabio suggested a rotation of the office amongst the ethnic groups upon the demise of the occupant as what he believes would be a fair, equitable, inclusive and non-discriminatory option for



Sen. Akpabio

consideration in the interest of the state.

"Since the Senate President suggestion does and cannot translate to meddling with Pastor Umo Eno in administering the affairs of the State as shamelessly alleged by this disgruntled group, we therefore view this onslaught on Sen. Akpabio as despicable antics of twisted minds, infamously seeking attention by throwing unwarranted darts at a man of no mean repute - one whose uncommon leadership style resonates with the people.

"We wish to remind these faceless detractors that Godswill Akpabio is first of all a Senator

representing Akwa Ibom North West/Ikot Ekpene Senatorial District, before his office of the Senate Presidency.

"Being a respectable leader in the State, as former Governor, and a representative of the people of his Senatorial District confers on him not just the right to contribute to critical issues affecting the State and the people, but one whose opinion should be sort.

"So it is insulting, not just to Sen. Akpabio but also to the people he represents for a rag-tag group to suggest that he should have no say in the affairs of Akwa Ibom State. What impudence!," Essien added.

@ 63: Prof Lawal Urges Nigerians To Join Hands, Build Great, Prosperous Nation

By: IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Nigerians have been urged to rally round the Government of President Ahmed Bola Ahmed Tinubu as he is taking bold steps to rebuild Nigeria through his Renewed Hope Agenda.

The charge was made by Prof Badamasi Lawal, the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs of Katsina State, Northwest Nigeria as Nigeria celebrated its 63rd Independence anniversary.

He made the call while interacting with reporters on Sunday, observing that founding fathers of Nigeria, who fought for Nigeria's independence should be appreciated and honoured for the great sacrifices they made in making Nigeria evolved as a sovereign nation.

"The contributions of Nigerians in sustaining the nation despite turbulence in the political, economic, religious and social spheres is a clear indication that Nigerian are resilient and committed to the growth of the nation," he said.

He observed that the road to becoming a great nation has never been easy anywhere, therefore, the measures being put in place for



Prof Lawal

Nigeria to grow and developed should be appreciated and supported by all Nigerians.

On the efforts being made to address security challenges in the country, Prof Badamasi believes that the security agencies are working round the clock to overcome the through renewed approach.

He cited the efforts being made by the Governor of Katsina State, Dr Dikko Radda who is running pillar to post, discussing with relevant stakeholders, employing local vigilantes to assist the conventional security agencies and spending billions of naira to save the lives and properties

of Katsina residents and whoever is in Katsina doing legitimate business.

The efforts of Governor Dikko Radda in making Katsina grow and prosper are manifesting in all ramifications. These include the the rebirth in local government administration as local government councils have now become alive and kicking as funds are provided to them for life touching projects in the area of security, health, water supply and other infrastructural development.

"Education has also received serious attention as 7,325 teachers have been recruited to address manpower shortage and reduce unemployment in the teaming youth in the state.

"Katsina state is proud to have about 40,000 teachers who are ready and willing to educationally propel the state to greatness," he said.

Nigeria @ 63: A Country Still At The Crossroads

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

1st of October every year is marked as an independence day in Nigeria, a country of over 200 million people, unarguably the most populous in Africa and world's most populated black nation.

Nigeria, a country endowed with abundant human and material resources still struggles after 63 years of self-rule to fix basic amenities of life such as; electricity, portable water, road infrastructure, health and education centres among other necessities that make life worthwhile.

Though, the people of Nigeria prior to colonial rule did not live as a single entity, but existed under various kingdoms some of which were enmeshed in wars with their neighbors.

The appearance of Europeans on the shores of this part of the world opened a new and deciding chapter in the history of a people who would later be brought together under a single political unit.

The southern and northern parts of the country were amalgamated in 1914 by Lord Fredrick Lugard and named Nigeria, for easy administration, following the scramble and partition of Africa by the colonialists, thus beginning a journey of over a century of a diverse people with different cultures and religions but united by the "Master."

Schools, hospitals, rail transportation and giant government structures were erected and nurtured by successive colonial administrations using the proceeds from raw material exports garnered from different regions of the country.

With Nigeria's independence came the challenges of selfgovernance forcing many to hold the belief that the nation would have been better managed under the British due to decayed infrastructures dotting every sphere of the country.

Freedom is good because it gives one the leverage of decision-making, an important and by large extend

uncompromised heritage of mankind in his sojourn here on earth.

The country practised and operated a parliamentary system of government with prime minister as the head from 1960 to 1966 when the military struck and seized power for the first time, culminating into a civil war that would rage between 1967 and 1970 after which the young republic and independent nation would remain under the control of men in uniform for close to a decade when it was decided that the country be returned to civilian mangers with first experiment of a presidential system of government in 1979.

The military struck again in 1983, toppling the civilian administration of President Shehu Shagari barely four years into the second republic thus began a series of one military administrator and the other until 1999 when the country again ushered in an elected president with fanfare and pageantry with a new dawn of hope and aspirations of a prosperous nation built on consensus of citizens through their elected representatives.

But alas! It was an unfulfilled dream 24 years of return to democracy as the country grapples from one governance-based challenge to another in quick succession with no timeframe for achieving set goals of making Nigeria a working democracy where welfare of citizens matters to the ruling elite.

The economy is in tatters with the naira on a free fall with resultant effects on prices of essentials getting out of the reach of the poor who are in majority in the country's estimated population of over 200 million.

Quality and decent education which is the power of climbing



up the ladder has remained the exclusive reserve of children from rich background as access to formal education has continually been monetized beyond the reach of the poor by same people educated through the grace of scholarship provided by tax payers. What an irony!

After 63 years, the country is still striving to steady electricity, an essential driver of modern economy absence of which has forced industries to relocate elsewhere, produce and send back finished goods at exorbitant prices for our consumption. We can't just afford to live like this as an import-dependent nation when we have all it takes to be a manufacturing hub for export commodities.

Corruption and graft, particularly in high places must be blamed as our collective albatross, pulling us back in our quest for growth and development. Resources that would have gone round to make impact on people's lives are cornered by few individuals who stash these funds in

personal foreign investments for the benefit of their families who often become extravagant junkies with no regard for prudent management of resources. This confirms the proverbial phrase of; Come Easy, Go Easy.

Social vices have become the order of the day because ours is a morally bankrupt society where morality has been relegated to the background with inordinate ambition of getting rich at all means prevalent among the younger generations on whose shoulders our hopes of a better tomorrow are fast becoming a mirage.

Our young girls have become symbols of jamborees for men old enough to be their grandfathers all in the name of trying to cross the poverty line. Any girl who doesn't expose her cleavage is seen as archaic. Physical contours of women are more appreciated by men than their brains. Any society that fails to give due attention to the female folk is headed for destruct. Women make or mar the home. It's therefore imperative to raise the bar of

high moral standard at the family level for our female children so it would permeate to the larger society.

Governments at every level must see itself as serving the people rather than lording it over them as it's the case today with our politicians who ride on expensive automobiles blaring sirens in convoy of many cars tearing through the way and pushing off citizens to shoulders of the roads. This trend must change if we must leave a legacy worth emulating for the upcoming generations.

After all, all hope is not lost. I am an optimist with a positive mind that Nigeria will become great, despite being at a crossroads that requires a critical and timely intervention. However, greatness is not achievable unless we all work towards it by contributing our quota and be patriotic citizens. Patriotism, built on loyalty, honesty and faithfulness to country, above ethnic and regional biases.

Happy Birthday Nigeria!
Ibrahim Adamu writes for
New Nigerian



Uba Sani Swears-in New Kaduna Perm Secs

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani

has charged newly appointed permanent secretaries to approach their new responsibilities with integrity, fairness and commitment.

He said, advancing the welfare of the citizens of Kaduna State must be their primary focus.

Governor Uba Sani stated this after he swore-in 19 newly appointed permanent secretaries on Monday, at the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House in Kaduna, with a call on them to be resolute, dedicated and committed to their duties.

Senator Uba Sani while addressing them, said, "it is with immense pleasure and gratitude to God that I address you on the occasion of the swearing-in of newly appointed Permanent Secretaries." According to him, "Our administration is fast taking shape and gathering momentum. We recently marked our 100 days in Office with a flurry of activities that clearly demonstrates our firm commitment to bringing succor to the poor, revitalizing the rural economies, and rebuilding trust in our communities."

"Having raised the expectations of our people, we want to quicken the pace of our activities. To do this, we need to re-energize the bureaucracy."

"The bureaucracy is the engine of development. Permanent Secretaries have a major role to play in ensuring that the

policies and programmes of our administration are effectively implemented and that our citizens benefit from them.

"All the Permanent Secretaries that have been sworn - in possess the experience, skills and competences required to ensure the effective implementation of our policies and programmes. They are persons of transparent honesty.

"I charge you to approach your new responsibilities with integrity, fairness and commitment. Advancing the welfare of the citizens of Kaduna State must be your primary focus.

"The people are watching us. We must not give them any reason to doubt or question our commitment. We shall give you the support you need to succeed in your new assignments. We however expect total loyalty and dedication.

"I congratulate you on your appointments. I urge you to celebrate less and reflect more. These are challenging times. The responsibilities are enormous."

Governor Uba Sani urges family members, friends and well-wishers to support the Permanent Secretaries with prayers and encouragement. Please don't pile undue pressure on them for patronage.

"Don't push them to do something that will force us to have a rethink about them. We shall not tolerate indiscipline and corruption. I wish you God's guidance. God bless you all," he declared.

Your Allegations Against My Blood Brother, Baseless, Unfounded, Olubadan Tells Children

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Olubadan of Ibadanland Oba Lekan Balogun on Monday, described the grievous allegations by some of his children against his only surviving brother, Senator Mohammed Kolawole Balogun as baseless and unfounded.

The Olubadan in a statement personally signed by him, titled, "Olubadan's Reaction to Allegations against Sen. Kola Balogun by Aremo Femi and Princesses Yinka and Bukola Balogun" condemned the purported action of the affected children.

Oba Balogun in the statement, stressed, "My attention has been drawn to the various grievous allegations leveled against my kid and loving and only surviving brother, Dr. Sen. Mohammed Kolawole Balogun, by some of my children, led by Aremo Femi Balogun which I'm aware, has gone viral."

According to Oba Lekan Balogun, "It is unfortunate to note that none of the allegations has atom of truth whatsoever, and only the author of such baseless and unfounded allegations can come up with the motive of such action which is not only defaming but also an assassination of character. "I must publicly



acknowledge the invaluable role my brother has been playing in my life. He is the only one that has been with me through thick and thin and it is not immodest for me to say that he towers above all of my children in attention and care for my life and well being and for which I will be eternally grateful to the Almighty Allah for blessing me with such a wonderful brother, he is one in a million", he said. Oba Balogun added, "Since the publication was

out, all attempts to speak with the author of the offensive and odorous report have been futile. Nevertheless, I have to publicly plead with my brother not to take offence with his nephew, who must have reasoned out of sheer ignorance and exuberance, because, even in law, none of the allegations.

"I repeat, none of the allegations could be proved. For every sane person, the publication amounts to criminal defamation of character

and a violation of public peace which also stands condemnable".

Oba Balogun stressed, "Just like every other families, we are bound to have differences, but, such should not be taken to the level of damaging the personality of one another."

"I detest and abhor anything of such and I won't mind to disown whoever among my children or wives who toe such dishonourable and disparaging path". He threatened.

Independence Day: Sadiq Mamman Lagos Hints On Better Kaduna State Under Uba Sani

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

As Nigerians mark yet another Independence anniversary, Commissioner of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Kaduna State, Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos has assured of a better deal under the administration of Governor Uba Sani.

In a statement commemorating Nigeria's Independence at 63, Mamman Lagos called for prayers from citizens for leaders to fulfil their electoral pledges of making lives of people better through economic revival and social welfare programmes.

He expressed confidence in the ability of Governor Uba Sani to effectively take Kaduna State to a higher level that would be the envy of others.

The commissioner scored Uba Sani high, saying he was able to turn around virtually all facets of governance around for the better, so people can feel the impact of government at every level.

He described the governor of Kaduna State as a man of strong character, integrity and exemplary qualities of leadership required to unite the masses under a common goal and objective.

"Senator Uba Sani has

made some giant strides within a short period of time by listening to the yearnings of the people and answering their calls by making amendments where necessary and bringing succour to those in distress.

"The reduction of fees charged by the state-owned tertiary institutions and many other groundbreaking measures put in place to bring relief to citizens are pointers to the humane and compassionate nature of the state Governor who is always worried about the welfare of his subjects.

"He detests seeing people in distress and in need of help without being attended to which according to him is the high point of heartlessness, particularly on the side of political leaders whose basic duty is to make life worthwhile and as comfortable as possible for all under their watch.

"We are not unaware of hard times being experienced across the nation but I can assure you that they will soon be things of the past because with the present APC administrations at the centre and the state level with men of vision and passion for country, citizens will very soon have a cause to smile," he said.



Sadiq Mamman Lagos

Additional Salaries: Emulate Tinubu With Increment Salaries To Workers, NNPP Chieftain, Ajadi Tells Governors

*Commends Tinubu on additional N35,000 salaries to Federal Workers

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The New Nigeria People's Party, (NNPP) governorship candidate in Ogun state in the March general elections Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Monday charged state government in the country to emulate President Bola Tinubu with additional salaries to state workers.

In a statement he personally signed and made available to journalists, the NNPP Chieftain commended President Tinubu for announcing additional N35,000 to salaries of Federal workers

Ambassador Ajadi stressed that the additional salaries will no doubt go a long way to cushion the effects of the subsidy removal on petroleum products as prices of commodities cannot differentiate between federal and state workers.

The NNPP Chieftain said President Tinubu deserved commendation for this new step he has taken to help the workers who are going through hardship presently, saying, "let me commend the President, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the additional N35,000 to the salaries of Federal workers in the



Composite picture of President Tinubu (left) and Ambassador Ajadi

country."

"The state governments should also follow the federal government foot steps and let their workers survive this hard times. This is because the states and federal workers are going to be buying commodities in the same markets", he said Ambassador Ajadi added, "It shows that Tinubu is a listening President. But I want to say that he needs to do more. The prices of goods especially foodstuff have risen and it may continue to rise leaving the workers helpless".

"Mr President should note that food is essential and I

think he realized this and that's why he announced the food palliatives recently. He should therefore make the increment permanent instead of six months". Ambassador Ajadi maintained that President Tinubu should also do more, saying, "He should increase the increment to possibly N50,000 monthly. Our workers deserve more and for them to survive, President Tinubu needs to do more for them. The reality today is that the additional N35,000 cannot sustain the workers".

"As democratically elected president the citizens are expecting this and more as part of dividends of democracy, noted that president should do more for the general masses, saying the additional N35,000 should instead of six months be made permanent". Emphasizing that President Tinubu can do more for the workers, noted that "the N35,000 increment is not enough as prices of commodities especially food have gone up beyond the reach of the downtrodden."

Kaduna Governorship Seat Is Vacant - PDP Candidate, Isa Ashiru

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the March 18 governorship election in Kaduna State, Honourable Isah Ashiru, has explained that the state governor's seat is vacant.

Ashiru made the assertion on Friday during an interview on Channels TV's Politics Today.

On Thursday, the Kaduna State governorship

election petitions tribunal, dismissed Ashiru's petition against Governor Uba Sani, saying it lacked merit, however, declaring the election inconclusive by ordering fresh elections in seven wards of four local government areas in the state.

However, the judgment has generated controversies, with Sani and Ashiru saying the judgment was in their favour, respectively.

Ashiru explained when

asked who is the governor of Kaduna State according to his interpretation, said, "For me, that seat is vacant, taking into consideration that the court has directed for the withdrawal of the Certificate of Return INEC issued to the governor."

According to him, the truth of the matter is that the tribunal has directed that his certificate be withdrawn.

Isa Ashiru assured that he would appeal the case to make sure that the mandate of the people is returned, saying that the people are law-abiding and will continue to be patient to make sure they pursue the return of the mandate to its logical conclusion.

He stated that if they are able to get their seat at the Appeal Court, it's left for the other side to approach the Supreme Court or not.

Nigeria At 63; Adamawa Lawmaker Demands More Visibility For Northern Woman

By; Tina Phineas, Yola

As Nigeria celebrates her 63 years of independence, a call has been made for increased visibility of Northern women in politics and governance.

Kate Raymond Mamuno, Member representing Demsa, Constituency Adamawa House of Assembly spoke on the need for more involvement of women in politics.

"Over the years, the Northern woman has been restricted in achieving her full potentials politically by the society in which she finds herself.

"It is a general belief in the Northern parts of the country where I come from, that women are second class citizens, whose role should be only in the kitchen and the "other room". She said.

According to her, however, over the years, this notion is gradually undergoing change as a new crop of alpha females emerged, breaking barriers and taking their proper place in politics and governance.

"These women, have proven and distinguished themselves politically, academically and socially.

"Adamawa State is not left behind in producing her own brand of Northern women that have brought their beauty, brain and also added value to the government of the day," she added.

Mamuni, who is the only woman in the Adamawa Assembly, explained that women who were able to break the barrier of culture and religion have made meaningful contributions in the governance of communities, state and the country at large.

She said the Northern women in politics are beginning to witness positive changes, gaining more grounds and acceptability without being discriminated or bias from the men folk which she described as excellent.

"Things have changed due to advocacy, enlightenment, awareness from all works of life, the CSOs, NGOs and government institutions are creating awareness with our traditional rulers, major stakeholders in both urban and rural areas, you find out that the barrier is being lessen

"Before now, there is a stereotype syndrome that hinders women to be seen or heard or even participate", she stated.



Commissioner for Information Neido Kofulto

She disclosed that efforts have been made to remove fear of stigmatisation and the unknown that hinder women full participation in the process of governance.

The iron lady of the state assembly, urged women to break the sealing, of limitations, come out and give in their best, sit up and take their place and be intentional to move the country forward.

The Commissioner for Information Neido Kofulto, another firebrand adding value to the Ahmadu Fintiri-led administration, said the involvement of women in politics has a lot of struggles over the years.

"A lot of women have made names in politics. The story of participation of northern women in politics cannot be complete without mentioning Queen Amina of Zaria who led men in zazzau to war.

"Gambo Sawaba is another woman who stood out in politics, she was jailed seven times, disgraced and beaten severally but yet stood firm.

"Sarah Jibril a norther woman is also worth mentioning here, she took a bold step, came out and contest for the position of Nigerian president., Which earned her a place in the annals of history.

"Personally i contested three

times for state House of assembly, I can vividly tell you that being in politics is never an easy thing for a woman especially in this part of the country," she said.

Kofulto maintained that women need to strategise and also learn to trust each other not to drag each other down.

"As women, we needs to stand for each other support one another. A woman should protect a fellow woman and should come up with programs like "she for she" that is woman supporting woman

"Talking about independence we also talk of libration of women. Now in Nigeria we have more women in politics. Offices that were mainly dominated by men now have women in such positions and are doing well", she stated.

"Being the Commissioner of information for a month now, the ministry has seen noticeable positive changes, Women are not asking for much or a fifty fifty percent but just 35% representation to contribute to the growth of their society and country at large,"" she said.

Commenting on the challenges encountered by most women in politics, she said funding has always been a major problem limiting women participation, while culture and religion beliefs are supporting factors.



Kate Raymond Mamuno, Member representing Demsa, Constituency Adamawa House of Assembly.

She called on women to come out of their shell and take a bold step, woman to woman, take each others hand to bring the desired change in the country.

Also speaking, Dr. Suzan Mark Zira, the Adamawa State PDP women leader, said before now, politics was perceived as a dirty business which led to lesser participation of northern women and most women don't want to be part of dirty business.

She further stressed that women who were fully involved in politics were seen as women of easy virtue.

"As such, they shun politics in order not to be given such names, while the few that dare to dabble into politics were generally seen as irresponsible women," she said.

She said all these negativity had to an extend reduced women's self worth and confidence in themselves

Zira also attributed poverty and illiteracy as limiting factors for participation of women in politics before now.

Zira was however, quick to point out that all the afore mentioned points are of the past. Presently, women participation in politics now is high due to political awareness created among women and political education taught in schools.

"Much more greater number of

women are found in politics in the Northern Nigeria now especially in Adamawa State with a gender friendly Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri.

"Adamawa State in the North Eastern Nigeria had first female Deputy Governor and female commissioners, advisers, VC, permanent secretaries etc.

"At the grassroots, we have many groups of women in politics and even girls in politics. So, there is great difference between involvement of women in politics before and now," she added.

Hon Luri Zaphania said that before now, participation of women in politics from the Northern part of Nigeria was nothing to write home about, because of the circumstances surrounding a woman, culturally and religiously, "However, following the 1995 Beijing Conference, a lot has changed, more capable women have come on board changing the narrative," she pointed out. She urged women to come out and participate and remove the spirit of fear.

"Women should not relent, they should face it headlong from the grassroots making a difference," she declared.

Oyo Govt Ready To Curb Menace Of Rabies - Commissioner

**Begins anti rabies campaign*



Anti rabies campaign team

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Barrister Olasunkanmi Olaleye has declared that the state government is ready to curb the menace of rabies in the state.

Barrister Olaleye said this on Friday, while speaking at the flagging off of anti-rabies vaccination campaign in the state.

The commissioner stressed that the campaign was part of the activities by the Oyo State

government towards curbing the menace of rabies in the state.

He maintained that the campaign is in collaboration with the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association, Oyo State Branch and that it is also part of activities marking the 2023 World Rabies Day in Ibadan.

Barrister Olaleye pointed out that the vaccination programme demonstrates Oyo State government's resolve to eradicate rabies by increasing the availability and accessibility of anti-rabies

vaccines in the state.

"It is important humans are protected from diseases that are transmissible from animals, as about 70 percent of infectious diseases affecting humans are of animal origin", he said.

Barrister Olaleye added, "We have also improved our surveillance and reporting systems, to monitor anthrax and every zoonotic diseases, to evaluate the impact of our collective interventions". The Commissioner

stressed that Oyo State would be ready to partner with any association or group to ensure people of the state are healthy.

Chairman, Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association Oyo state branch, Dr. Moses Arokoyo lauded Oyo State Government for being proactive in fighting against zoonotic diseases adding that free anti-rabies vaccination of dogs was part of efforts to celebrate this year's World Rabies Day.

IPOB Threat:

Deliver Abia Tribunal Judgment Via Zoom, Anti-terror Coalition Tells CJN

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Following the increasing activities of secessionist groups in the South-East, Nigeria's anti-terror group, the National Coalition Against Terrorism (NCAT) has asked the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) Justice Olukayode Ariwoola to immediately direct election appeal tribunals in Abia State, especially, to deliver their judgments electronically.

According to the coalition, there is need to ensure the safety of justices on such panels, praising tribunal judges in Kano and Kaduna for availing themselves the use of Zoom in delivering their judgments.

At a news conference on Monday in Abuja, National Coordinator of NCAT, Terrence Kuanum said democracy is under threat due to the activities of fifth columnists, hence its decision to intervene.

Speaking on the situation in the South-East, Kuanum said; "We are all aware of several threats to life and property in the South East.

"In the last 10 years, we have witnessed massive destruction of police stations. Our police personnels no longer go to work because their lives are consistently under threat and our prison facilities have not also been spared by the activities of these terrorists. Markets have been severally closed in the South-east on the directive of these terrorist groups.

"For us, it is therefore an issue of concern that our judicial personnel who

are assigned to carry out the patriotic duty at the various election tribunals across the South East might come under threat considering the activities of the terrorists within the region.

"We could recall that people who have survived the attacks of these terrorists are those who carry large convoys and bullet proof vehicles yet we saw the massive loss of lives of our security personnel when the convoy of Senator Ifeanyi Ubah came under attack by these terrorists.

"We, therefore, request that the Chief Justice of the Federation immediately directs all tribunal judgments in the South-east to deliver their judgements through electronic means to save the judges involved in this patriotic assignment from coming under threat or even losing their lives.

"Further risking the life of these judges will bring their rulings to disrepute knowing so well that they are under threat and might have delivered their judgment under duress to save their lives.

"Our intelligence gathering and information reaching us show that criminal elements are preparing to foment trouble, cause chaos and unrest if the judgement does not favour their interests.

"The coalition therefore urges the leadership of the judiciary to immediately direct the delivery of the judgment of Abia state election tribunal through electronic means and also evacuate all its staff from Abia state to return the integrity of the judicial institution."



Senator Lawal Adamu Usman's Outstanding First 100 Days in Office: A Tale of Vision and Action

By: KHADIJAT TRACY SHELLE

In his first 100 days as the distinguished Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria representing the Kaduna Central senatorial district, Senator Lawal Adamu Usman, popularly called Mr. LA by his supporters, has put smiles on the faces of members of his constituency and beyond through people-oriented initiatives.

The distinguished Senator has made notable achievements despite the baseless and risible distractions and accusations from his detractors. In the face of these difficulties, he has managed to record some successes.

He remained committed to the betterment of his people as he was before his political position. Long before his political adventure, Senator Usman was a renowned philanthropist and erudite, committed to the wholesome growth and development of the people in his community, particularly in their education.

Below are some of the recorded achievements of the distinguished Senator in his first 100 days:

1. Investing in Education

Mr. LA has always appreciated education because it is the bedrock upon which society is built. He believes that education is essential to the creativity, innovation, and development of a community.

So far, the distinguished Senator has spent millions of naira in the education of Kaduna youths—sponsoring students at secondary and tertiary levels, paying their tuition fees, WAEC, NECO, and JAMB fees. As recently as a month ago,

Mr. LA earmarked 200 million Naira for student scholarships. These charitable gestures of Mr. LA are not strange to his supporters and those who have been following him before his senatorial occupation. In 2021, when the then Kaduna state government significantly hiked the tuition fees of tertiary institutions in the state, the Senator, through his Lawal Adamu Usman Foundation (LAUF), donated millions of naira to assist hundreds of



Mr. LA

students in paying their fees. Due to the Senator's intervention, the hope of many students for a bright future was sustained.

2. Youths and Women Empowerment

Senator Usman's 100-day tenure has empowered the youth and women in his constituency and the entire state, thanks to his commitment to equity and the dissolution of disparities. Thousands of youths and women have benefited from his various empowerment programs, learning new skills and getting

resources for self-sustainability and communal impact.

3. Palliative Initiatives and Programmes

In addition to the 200 million naira for student scholarships, Mr. LA earmarked 300 million naira for community-oriented programmes: 200 million Naira for skills acquisition and youth empowerment and 100 million naira for social welfare programmes, such as the distribution of food and tonnes of assorted grains to the less privileged.

These amendatory initiatives demonstrate his unwavering commitment to addressing the immediate needs of the people in his constituency.

4. Recognition and Leadership
Senator Usman displayed a leadership quality rarely seen in the Nigerian political landscape when he paid a courtesy visit to his direct political opponent, Mr. Muhammadu Sani Dattijo (APC), in the 2023 Nigerian Senate elections. His sportsmanship and comradeship can be seen in his emergence as

the Chairman of the esteemed Senate Committee on Education in the 10th Senate, despite being a first-time senator. This emergence is a recognition of his leadership, unparalleled commitment to education, and continued hunger for positive change in the education outlook of Nigeria.

5. "Mai Gonar Motar" – The Farmer of Motor Vehicles

Long before he made the national assembly his office, Mr. LA was given the affectionate moniker "Mai Gonar Motar," which translates to "The Farmer of Motor Vehicles." He earned this nickname because of his incessant donation of cars to his friends, well-wishers, and community members. Indeed, no one deserves the Mai Gonar Motar title than the cheer-giving Mr. LA.

In conclusion, the people of Kaduna Central Senatorial District are one of the luckiest constituent residents in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as they have got a new lease on life in the first 100 days in office of Mr. LA.

The less privileged and the people, in general, have enjoyed prompt aid in food, materials, and resources to live better lives. The people of Kaduna Central Senatorial District can rest assured that Mr. LA will not rest on his oars, as he remained committed to bettering the lives of his people.

While Nigerians who are just getting to know Mr. LA may be surprised at the sight of a Nigerian politician hitting the ground running, admirers and supporters of the distinguished Senator are not amazed, though they are impressed.

They have no doubt whatsoever that Mr. LA's altruistic disposition, dedication to education, commitment to personal growth and development, and overall positive transformation of his people will only grow stronger and stronger as the tenure days roll on each other until the final day. As he continues his public service, we all can hope for a brighter future for his constituency and Nigeria as a whole.

Khadijat Tracy Shelle writes from Kaduna.

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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

- All adverts are expected to be prepaid in cash or bank draft in favour of New Nigerian Newspaper's Limited.
- Series discount is subject to the stipulated number of insertions, and it is payable only at the end of a campaign (to be deducted from balance pay).
- COPY DATE:** for all the Title Heads is two working days for the North and three working days for the South.
- Cancellation of previously booked advert will be accepted in writing within four working days notice, less than 24 hours to the date of publication will attract 50% surcharge.
- Advertisers/Agencies are to provide their Camera ready artwork in electronic copies, in e.g. PDF, or JPEG format.
- Advertisers will be surcharged 20% of the applicable rate where artworks are not provided.
- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
- Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing at least 24 hours to desired alteration date.
- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
- The management of New Nigerian Newspapers Limited reserves the right to reject an advert or any publication in any of its titles where such materials are considered distasteful for public exposure or libelous.

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

S/NO	SIZE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
1	Handling for the first 40 copies	120,000.00	9,000.00	129,000.00
2	Per 1000 Copies (1 Page)	28,000.00	2,100.00	30,100.00
3	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine 2-8 Pages)	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
4	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine above 8 pages)	80,000.00	6,000.00	86,000.00

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

PROPERTY AND IT, VACANCY, AGRIC, AND EVENTS/EDUCATION RATE

SPACE	COLOUR			BLACK AND WHITE		
	RATE	VAT	TOTAL	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
7 X 3	108,571.43	8,142.86	116,714.29	62,857.14	4,714.29	67,571.43
6 X 3	102,857.14	7,714.29	110,571.43	57,142.86	4,285.71	61,428.57
6 X 2	45,428.57	3,407.14	48,835.71	32,285.71	2,421.43	34,707.14
5 X 3	53,428.57	4,007.14	57,435.71	37,428.57	2,807.14	40,235.71
5 X 2	42,571.43	3,192.86	45,764.29	24,857.14	1,864.29	26,721.43
4 X 3	47,714.29	3,578.57	51,292.86	30,571.43	2,292.86	32,864.29
4 X 2	33,142.86	2,485.71	35,628.57	21,714.29	1,628.57	23,342.86
3 X 3	34,571.43	2,592.86	37,164.29	23,142.86	1,735.71	24,878.57
3 X 2	22,857.14	1,714.29	24,571.43	14,285.71	1,071.43	15,357.14
2 X 2	16,000.00	1,200.00	17,200.00	9,142.86	685.71	9,828.57
2 X 1	7,714.28	578.57	8,292.85	4,975.71	373.18	5,348.89

Melody Fidel Nominated For The Future Awards Africa

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Celebrated Nigerian Entrepreneur-missionary, Melody Fidel Okwuazu has been nominated in the category of 'Prize For Service To Young People' in the 17th edition of the prestigious The Future Awards Africa.

The Future Awards Africa now in its 17th year, aims to honour outstanding young people in Africa who have contributed remarkably to the development of the continent and its people in every calendar year.

This year, with the theme, "Defying Odds, Inspiring Greatness," there are 128 nominees in 25 different categories, all of whom have been recognized as champions and trailblazers in their chosen endeavour. The Future Awards Africa Prize for Service to Young People recognizing those who empower the next generations have Melody Fidel Okwuazu and Bosun Tijani, Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy as the nominees. According to Melody, The Future Awards Africa nomination is a confirmation of the many positive-impact driven service to young people and humanity in general for which he has dedicated his life and resources for several years in Nigeria and beyond.

"I am highly elated with The Future Awards Africa nomination, especially in the category for service to young people. For over a decade and counting, I have dedicated my life and resources in creating avenues and platforms to uplift young people and help them achieve their life goals," Melody stated. He added that in this calendar year, "my partners and I have successfully organized youth empowerment and skills monetization

booth camps for over 5,000 youths, disburse business start-up grants to over 100 entrepreneurs in Nigeria alongside our weekly free online business mentorship to several others. This nomination is a greater call to more service to continue to empower the teeming young people of Nigeria and Africa as whole."

According to the organisers of the award, the stage is set for Africa's biggest youth celebration — The Future Awards Africa, a spectacular event created to honour the milestone achievements of youth across the continent. "The 17th edition nominees showcases an impressive list of personalities renowned for excellence and norm-shattering endeavors across various fields," the organisers said.

Melody is an international award winning entrepreneur-missionary. He is a life and business coach focusing on entrepreneurship and human development. He regularly organises training programmes and bootcamps for young aspiring entrepreneurs where he teaches them the basics and know-how of entrepreneurship and skills monetization through his BAE (Business And Entrepreneurship) Connect platform. Most recently in 2023, He won the outstanding entrepreneur missionary award at the United Kingdom Investors Summit 2023 held at the Parliament House of Lords in London



Melody Fidel

Ace Real Estate Offers Crystal City As Affordable Premium

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Ace Real Estate Development Limited, one of the fast-rising real estate firms in Lagos with a mission to provide Nigerians with worthwhile real estate investment and make property acquisition safe and affordable has unveiled a new housing project called Crystal City. Crystal City located in Igbodu-Epe in Lagos is a freehold, 100 per cent dryland estate designed to provide affordable premium property within the reach of Nigerians.

Facilities in Crystal City include 24 hours security, involving round the clock smart surveillance system, guaranteed electricity with solar energy backup, treated and constant water supply, excellent road network, eco-friendly green areas for relaxation, spa and a gym for healthy living, a tech-city centre and many more.

In addition, Crystal City is carefully situated among advanced landmark and modern development by both government and

private corporations including Lekki Free Trade Zone, Lekki-Epe International Airport, St. Augustine University, Africa's Largest Food Logistics Park, Nigerian Army Barracks, Epe Resort and Spa among others.

Ayobami Akindipe, Chief Executive Officer of Ace Real Estate Development said Crystal City is meticulously crafted for exquisite taste, unparalleled satisfaction and unquestionably, finest investment opportunity. He said, "We are offering an avenue for premium property development at affordable price with the launch of the Crystal City project keying into all the



Ayobami Akindipe

numerous opportunities in the nearby Lekki Free Trade Zone among others." "Crystal City set on 100 per cent dryland hill in close proximity to many multi-billion-dollar projects, excellent for residential and commercial mix property development among its many premium qualities is

very much made affordable for Nigerians with payment plans spread across 12 months," Ayobami advised. Ace Real Estate Development Limited is an award-winning and value-driven real estate company that also provides construction, property development and management services.

Independence Anniversary: Nigeria Must Rise Again - PSC Boss Arase

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

As the nation celebrates its 63rd Independence anniversary of nationhood, the Chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC), Dr. Solomon Arase CFR, Inspector General of Police (rtd), has called on Nigerians to have faith in the greatness of the nation, insisting that all hopes are not lost.

Dr. Arase said Nigerians should spare a minute to salute and celebrate the freedom our heroes fought for and cherish our diversity. He noted that Nigeria must rise again and that the Labour of our heroes past will never be in vain.

According to the PSC Chairman "it is obvious that no nation is perfect; we

have had our fair share of hate and violence but this is the moment to build our new future full of love and understanding"

In a statement by Ikechukwu Ani Head, Press and Public Relations of the Commission made available to journalists at the weekend, Arase advised that "we must decide now to join hands with the present Government to move our nation forward".

Dr Arase prayed that "this day should be special for Nigerians and their loved ones and that it should present to them the sacred opportunity to celebrate the glory of freedom.

"Be assured that the labour of our heroes past shall never be in vain. Nigeria must rise again." He concluded.



Dr. Arase

Sokoto: Tribunal Upholds Aliyu Victory, Dismisses PDP Candidate, Umar's Petition

By; I M R A N A
ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

The Sokoto Governorship Election Tribunal on Saturday, dismissed the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and its candidate, Sa'idu Umar's petition challenging the joint victory of Governor Ahmed Aliyu Sokoto and his deputy, Muhammad Idris Gobir.

The petitioners, the Peoples Democratic Party and its governorship candidate, Sa'idu Umar were challenging the election of Aliyu Sokoto of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and Idris Gobir over alleged non

qualification and electoral fraud during the March 18, 2023 governorship election in the state.

However, in a unanimous judgement, the Tribunal Chairman, Justice Haruna Mshelia, said the petitioners were unable to prove the six grounds formulated in the petition. Mshelia said the petition bordered on the grounds of alleged ineligibility of Aliyu and Gobir to contest, falsification of certificates, variation of names, election fraud and non compliance with electoral guidelines.

Accordingly, the Tribunal Chairman said the petitioners were unable to prove the allegations

beyond reasonable doubt as required by law, saying that 70 per cent of exhibits were out of context because they related to State Assembly elections conducted on the same date.

He said to prove forgery, two different documents of persons needed to be presented while the variation of names issues was a settled supreme court provisions.

"Three subpoena witnesses were not tenable as they were not makers of the documents from the alleged primary school while other 28 polling units agenda testified could not produced identify themselves along

with thier roles", he also pointed out.

In the same vein, the Tribunal Chairman said the alleged 138 polling units fraud were not adduced to indicate substantial non compliance of the elections marred the election outcome.

He further said that the tribunal dismissed all the preliminary objections on competency to institute the case by the Respondents as the petitioners duly linked the grounds in the petition.

Mshelia, however, dismissed the petition for lack of merit and failure of petitioners to prove the allegations.



Security Challenges In Nigeria Will Soon End, CDS Assures

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Christopher Musa has assured Nigerians that the Nigerian Armed Forces will end security challenges in the country. He expressed this during a condolence visit to the Emir of Zazau, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, on Friday evening in Zaria, Kaduna State.

The CDS assured that the security challenges facing the country would soon be a thing of past, and sought for prayers for the military to succeed.

Accompanied by some top military officers, he

commiserated the emir over the death of eight worshippers, who died in a mosque collapse.

General Musa conveyed the condolence of the Armed Forces and prayed for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives in the tragic incident.

He said: "I am in Kaduna for the Passing-Out Parade at Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), Kaduna, but felt I should take time out to pay you this condolence visit".

"As a father to me and the entire north, I count on your support and prayers so that we succeed in our various operations".

"I was here severally, I was in here in Zaria as the Commandant, Nigerian Army, Depot, and now as a Chief of Defence Staff, to God be the glory".

It would be recalled that on August 11, eight worshippers died and 25 others sustained injuries sequel to the collapsed of a section of the 150-year-old Zaria Central Mosque during a congregational prayer session.

Responding, Emir Bamalli expressed gratitude for the visit and commended President Bola Tinubu for finding General Musa worthy of the appointment. Bamalli noted that though

the appointment was strictly based on merit, Mr President however, deserves applaud from the entire people of Kaduna State for choosing a competent military officer from the state to serve in such capacity.

He expressed hope that security challenges in parts of the country would be addressed under the present administration.

The royal father said the council, the people of Zazzau emirate and the entire people of Kaduna state would continued to pray for the CDS and the government to succeed.

ABU Alumni Association Elects New National Officers



By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

The Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Alumni Association has elected new national officers to run its affairs for two years.

At the Annual General Assembly (AGA), held at the Senate Chamber of the university, main campus, Samaru, last Saturday, Malam Adamu Kontagora emerged the National President after his only opponent Dr. Ibrahim Khalil, who was seeking a second term withdrew from the race before the commencement of voting. Other members of the new EXCO include, Mr. Sam Agbi, Deputy National President; Alhaji Yusuf Ahmed, Vice President, North-Central; Malam Ibrahim Muhammad; Vice President, North-West; Mr. Mathew Nwokoye; Vice President, South-East; Malam Saed Suleiman, Vice President, North-East; Prince Samwonyi Ovonramwen, Vice President, South-South.

Also in the new exco are, Dr. Mahmud Danjuma, National Secretary; Engr. Neol Bali, Assistant National Secretary; Mr. Magaji Mato, Financial Secretary; Dr. Haruna M. Jumare, Treasurer; Madina Azaki, National Public Relations Officer; Sir Anthony Iroagalachi, Legal Adviser and Alhaji Mohammad Saidu, Internal Auditor.

Initially, four officers were to emerge through the ballot, others having emerged already by reason of lack of opponent or disqualification of their rivals, but after presenting his manifesto, Mr. Ayeace Joseph of Kebbi State Branch announced his withdrawal leaving Prof. Maryam Aminu of the Faculty of Life Sciences in the university the only candidate for the position of Social and Welfare Officer and she was

returned elected.

On the other hand, Fiyinfeluwa Bademosi did not attend the AGA, thereby leaving his only opponent, Mr. Lateef Abdulsalam returned the Vice President, South-West, without a contest.

In his acceptance speech, Malam Kontagora said that the alumni association remains a united family, adding that the intrigues that culminated in the emergence of the new leadership were part of the usual process of human existence.

While expressing his appreciation to Prof. Khalil and all his predecessors for their contributions to the association over the years, Malam Kontagora promised to build on the blocks already laid by them and solicited the support of everyone.

He noted that the primary purpose of the alumni association, as always, is to provide assistance to the various components of the university, community and students.

Earlier in his remarks, the Vice Chancellor of ABU, Prof. Kabiru Bala, who made valuable inputs that guided the electoral committee in the discharge of its duty thanked the alumni association for its support so far and expressed the hope of a robust collaboration and engagement between the university and the new leadership.

Before his emergence as the National President, Malam Kontagora, who is the immediate past Deputy National President had served as the Chairman of Rivers State Branch.

The AGA, which commenced on Thursday, September 28, featured a lecture, National Executive Committee, NEC, National Consultative Council, NCC, meetings, and a gala night.

Baptising Umahi In Abuja After Refusing To Learn In Ebonyi

By Owei Lakemfa

IT WAS a short honeymoon. I expected it to be so. The Minister of Works, Senator David 'Dave' Nweze Umahi, was just 38 days in office when the staff of the Ministry publicly demanded his removal.

Hundreds of workers at the Ministry's gates on Thursday, September 28, 2023 shouted "Umahi must go!" as they protested his perceived dictatorial tendencies.

Minister Umahi had that morning, as a disciplinary measure, instructed that the gates of the Ministry be shut against workers he claimed came late. After some hours, he directed that the gates be opened. He might have expected the staff to be grateful. Rather, the workers in retaliation locked the Minister in. They accused him of high-handedness, bringing in consultants to do civil service jobs, refusing to meet the unions and violating the Public Service Rules by locking out workers.

First, the Minister's action is illegal. Section 18(1) of the Trade Disputes Act states that: "An employer shall not declare or take part in a lock-out..."

Secondly, no law or rule in the country empowers a minister to directly carry out disciplinary actions against a civil servant. Thirdly, the Public Service Rules which governs the workers has no provision for collective discipline of staff when they might not have been guilty of the same offence or in the same degree.

Fourthly, the offence for which Umahi purported to be punishing the workers is classified as 'Misconduct' under Section 3 of the Public Service Rules. According to that section: "Misconduct is defined as a specific act of wrongdoing or an improper behaviour which is inimical to the image of the service and which can be investigated and proved." Umahi had neither investigated nor shown any proof that the workers were guilty of misconduct.

On Tuesday October 4, 2022, during an inspection of work at the Ebonyi Airport, Onueke, he claimed some civil servants came late to work. The alleged late comers were forced to sit on the road while soldiers in Umahi's convoy whipped them with horsewhip. When the scandal broke, Umahi, while not denying that he got the workers whipped, claimed the victims were not civil servants, but "miscreants". I had pointed out that flogging is not in the civil service rules and that even if the civil servants turned out to be

miscreants, they deserve their day in court rather than Umahi constituting himself into the prosecutor, counsel, judge and appeal court.

In fact, the rule states on lateness that the civil servant can be queried for "habitual lateness to work" not for a one-off lateness. In which case, the affected staff would have been a habitual late comer, would be issued verbal, and later written query. The Rule says: "The query should be precise and to the point. It must relate to the circumstances of the offence, the rule and regulation which the officer has broken and the likely penalty." The officer must be given the right to respond to the query, and if his response is found to be unsatisfactory, then disciplinary action is contemplated. Even at that, the officer to be disciplined by a Ministry has the right to appeal to the Federal Civil Service Commission.

When Umahi realised that the matter was getting out of hand, he sent messages that the workers representatives should come up to his office. They refused, saying if he wanted to talk, he should come down to address them at the barricaded entrance.

After a cumulative five-hour stand-off and Minister Umahi could not leave to attend to other matters, including receiving a visitor said to be a serving governor, the Minister obliged. He went down and called for a truce.

What the workers in the Ministry have done is to insist that their Minister, or indeed, any minister for that matter, should respect the rules and respect the staff in as much as they are also obliged to respect him.

When Umahi was appointed Works Minister, I knew that if he had not repented his ways, he would soon clash with the staff.

In the first paragraph of my October 11, 2022 column titled, 'Umahi: Impunity, falsehood and denials as governance.' I had written that he "reminds me of the colonial District Officer who was a law unto himself. I know Abakaliki, the state capital, was a major centre for slave trade four centuries ago, but Umahi governs the state as if it were still a slave colony where people have no



rights."

The column was based on the strange behaviour of Umahi as Governor of Ebonyi State. On Tuesday October 4, 2022, during an inspection of work at the Ebonyi Airport, Onueke, he claimed some civil servants came late to work. The alleged late comers were forced to sit on the road while soldiers in Umahi's convoy whipped them with horsewhip. When the scandal broke, Umahi, while not denying that he got the workers whipped, claimed the victims were not civil servants, but "miscreants". I had pointed out that flogging is not in the civil service rules and that even if the civil servants turned out to be miscreants, they deserve their day in court rather than Umahi constituting himself into the prosecutor, counsel, judge and appeal court.

On October 4, 2019 Umahi's convoy was temporarily blocked by mourners in Onicha; he got them arrested. Then next day at a public function in the Government House, Abakaliki, he gave a chilling directive: "Next time the ADC should order for a shoot. It is very illegal to block the governor. And if anybody is killed in the course of that, it is allowed in the law."

He gave a similar directive in March, 2020, during the COVID-19 lockdown when 37 persons were arrested and quarantined for disobeying the COVID-19 lockdown order. He directed the security men at the isolation centres to shoot any of those arrested who may try to escape.

Umahi told journalists that they would not be given the right to trial under the country's laws: "If you think you have the pen, we have the 'koboko' (cow hide whip). Let's leave the court alone.

Ebonyi people are very angry with the press and let me warn that I won't be able to control them or know when they unleash mayhem on you if you continue to write to create panic in the state."

Also, during the period, it was mandatory for everybody in the country to wear face masks. But there were some people violating the directive. In Ebony State, Umahi directed that all those caught without face mask should be seized and caned publicly.

Umahi as the law in Ebonyi State detained without trial, the Sun Newspaper reporter, Chijioke Agwu, for allegedly publishing in the newspaper's April 17, 2020 issue an inaccurate report on Lassa fever outbreak in the state.

He later set the journalist free, but banned him and Peter Okutu of Vanguard Newspapers for life from entering any government facility in the state. He forgot that he himself could not be governor for life. Three days later, he got Mr Okutu detained for allegedly being "fond of degrading Ebonyi State".

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Clearly, Minister Umahi, by his altercation with the workers in the Works Ministry, has not changed his ways. But he needs to or how does he intend to minister to the needs of Nigerians if he continues to be lawless?

GWA Upscaling Campaign, Advocacy On SGBV, Discrimination Against Female Sex Workers

*Broadens Police Officers knowledge, skills on response

By: **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

The prevalence phenomenon of Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and domestic violence in Nigeria has become of great concern that has attracted the interest of both local and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Records show that an estimation of about 736 million women—almost one in three—have been subjected to intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both, at least once in their life (30% of women aged 15 and older).

This figure does not include sexual harassment. Globally, 6% of women report being subjected to sexual violence from someone other than their husband or partner. However, the true prevalence of non-partner sexual violence is likely to be much higher, considering the particular stigma related to this form of violence.

One of the non-governmental organisations that engages in the fight at ending the menace of SGBV in Nigeria, is the Good Women Association (GWA), founded in year 2005, located in South West, Nigeria.

Good Women Association (GWA), is a women led organisation that provide services for vulnerable women and adolescent girls and children young girls and sex workers, with the goal of empowering women, creating awareness on sexual reproductive health and right through prevention intervention program in Nigeria. GWA has an ongoing experience in the field of human rights advocacy, equity and gender equality, advocacy for change where women have an equal opportunity to reach their full potential, contribute to the society and have a voice in making decisions that affect

them. Gender based violence, literacy promotion, legal aids support services, HIV/AIDS/ STI prevention, treatment, care & support, psychosocial support, research, income generating activities, education, life skill empowerment, awareness creation through social media, conduct pres conferences.

The dedication of GWA, which consists of a management team led by Biola Ibiefo in addressing the issue of SGBV and GBV has been of great impact to the selected communities it has worked in Lagos, since inception. It efforts has gone a long way to raise awareness, providing support and drugs for victims of HIV/AIDS and STI.

For its year 2023 program, GWA is funded by ISDAO Love Alliance to look into Prioritization of GBV prevention and response through strong leadership and coordination between humanitarian, development and peace actors. Place the safety and well-being of women and girls front and centre in the delivery of assistance and their access to services, including Minimum Health Prevention Support Service (MHPSS) and sexual and reproductive health services. Promote survivor-centred access to justice and accountability, which places the rights, safety and wishes of survivors at the centre of accountability mechanisms.

This project will be implemented for 1-Year in Lagos Mainland, Apapa, Kosofe, Agege and Ikeja. training will be conducted, through building the capacities of women and young people in the 5 LGAs listed above.

The project aimed at Improving action to end sexual based-violence among female sex workers in Lagos by April 2024, while the objective is to increase the knowledge of key stakeholders on SGBV and rights

of vulnerable women/ young girls, especially female sex workers in Lagos State.

As a precursor to the implementation of the project, GWA paid an advocacy visit to community leaders and other critical stakeholders, which include Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) of Badia, Ikorodu and Denton Divisional headquarters in Apapa Ikorodu and Mainland Local Council areas of the State.

Equally, the traditional institution represented by the Baale of Marine Beach in Apapa Local Government Council area Chief Omobolanle, Chairman of Apapa Iganmu LCDA Mr. Azeez Okeola, the Head of Agric and Community Development Apapa Iganmu LCDA Mrs. Oresanya and the Ijora Hoteliers Association, led by Mr. Ogungbemi were also visited during the advocacy and enlightenment exercise.

In the same vein, GWA also participated in the 2023 advocacy rally against Sexual and Gender - Based Violence held I. Ikorodu along side Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations) Lagos State Police Command and the spokesperson SP. Benjamin Hundeyin amongst others.



Officials of GWA in a group photograph with police officers during the training workshop.

To cap it up, GWA recently organized a two day training workshop for officers and men carefully selected from the Gender Units of the Command. The officers were selected from different Divisions in the three Senatorial Districts consisting of Apapa, Agege, Mainland, Ikeja and Kosofe.

Speaking at the training workshop, the Executive Director of GWA, Biola Ibiefo said the training was aimed at equipping police officers with the knowledge and skills to respond effectively to cases of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in Lagos State. Ibiefo highlighted the unique aspect of the training, emphasizing the significance of law enforcement agencies joining the fight against crimes while promoting gender equality and respecting the right of all individuals, including sex workers and Vulnerable woman. The program's focus extended beyond law enforcement as Ibiefo emphasized that Gender Based violence is a concern for everyone. The state government is taking a lead role in safe guarding individual right and ensuring equal treatment.

The training also aimed to raise awareness about vulnerable population and the right of sex

workers, as well as to establish prevention and response mechanisms for cases of sexual and gender based violence in the state.

Mrs Ngozi Nwosu Juba, the program facilitator highlighted the importance of training Police personnel in responding effectively to sexual and gender based Violence.

The two day training included session on understanding sexual based Violence, practical exercises on responsible to reported cases and a commitment from participating Officers to share their knowledge with their colleagues.

The Officer in charge, Gender Unit of the Lagos State Command, CSP Grace Agboola, who is one of the beneficiaries of the training, expressed her appreciation for the insight gained.

She stressed the Lagos State Government strong stance against Gender Based Violence and its commitment to enforcing the law, ensuring equal treatment for all individual and maintaining Gender Officers across state.

It is expected that the trained officers would return to their respective stations and share the knowledge with other police officers in their Divisions and Unit.



GWA officials, members of other NGOs in an Advocacy rally with police officers against SGBV in Ikorodu.

Sports Minister Receives 13 Year Old Gymnast, Stephanie Onusiriuka After Winning 4 Gold Medals at National Youth Games

***Says ministry ranks development of young talents as one of its top priorities**

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Honourable Minister of Sports Development, Senator John Owan Enoh yesterday, received rising gymnastic sensation, Stephanie Ogechukwu Onusiriuka, in his office in Abuja, after the outstanding performance of the 13-year old at the recently concluded National Youth Games (NYG) in Asaba, Delta State. Little Stephanie won four gold medals in gymnastics, blazing the trail in the sport and displaying huge potentials of promise during the games.

Senator Enoh congratulated Stephanie for her spectacular achievements and promised that the Ministry will pay close attention to her growth and development.

"I am very proud of you," Senator Enoh said to the young starlet. "There is

greater pride and joy competing for your country and on the national stage. I will be interested in following up with your career, as you develop through the coming years.

"The country is excited about talents like this. She has demonstrated huge potentials and she is a microcosm of the talent abundance in Nigeria. We are enthusiastic and focused on their development and transition, up to the level of one day being olympians" he added.

At the National Youth Games in Asaba, Stephanie Onusiriuka won gold medals in the gymnastics beam event, floor event, vault event and topped it with another gold as the best all-round gymnast in the country in Asaba.

At the penultimate National Sports Festival, Edo 2020, the starlet picked up one

gold, two silver medals and a bronze medal. At the African Club Championship, Pretoria 2019 and 2022, she picked up a gold medal too.

The Minister of Sports Development warmly received and welcomed the young Stephanie, as well as her mother, Mrs Onwusiriuka, restating his commitment to the core mandates of his leadership.

In a previous address, the Honourable Minister noted that one of his administration's focus is nearthing and also supporting young talents, who will transition into elite stars in the future.

He concluded that the country must ensure that there is no void in the continuum of progress, when current elites begin to draw closer to the twilight of their careers.



Southern Kaduna Comes Alive With Volleyball

By; JONATHAN D THAJ

The success of inter-tertiary volleyball in Southern Kaduna has been remarkable and has gained popularity in the region.

This tremendous event which the sponsor intends to host annually, has provided a platform for talented volleyball players from various tertiary institutions to showcase their skills and compete at a high level.

One key individual who deserves recognition for his immense contribution and support to the sport is Engr Musa Nimrod, the Chairman of the Kaduna State Volleyball Association. His dedication and commitment to the growth of volleyball in the region have been pivotal in the success of this tournament.

The success of the inter-tertiary volleyball competition can be measured not only by the intense competition but also by the emergence



of notable volleyball teams.

College of Education Gidan Waya, 1st, KASU kaf campus, 2nd, and ECWA Theological Seminary Kagoro, 3rd, while college of Nursing Kafanchan and Federal school of Statistics Manchok are prime examples of institutions that have excelled in this tournament, showcasing their talent

and dedication to the game.

We must express our deepest appreciation to Engr Musa Nimrod for his unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions to the sport. His dedication and support have played a key role in the success of inter-tertiary volleyball in Southern Kaduna. The success of the inter tertiary school

competition will not be complete if we did not recognize the coordinators of this great event in persons of coach Bonat E. Ishaya and Coach D. J. Thaj who tirelessly moved from Delta state to see the success of this great event. Jonathan D Thaj writes from Kafanchan

Sports Minister Receives 13 Year Old Gymnast, Stephanie Onusiriuka After Winning 4 Gold Medals at National Youth Games

*Says ministry ranks development of young talents as one of its top priorities

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Confusion In Diri's Camp, As FG Renders Apology Over PAP's Misleading Information About MacIver's Amnesty Status

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP), through the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, has issued an unreserved apology for denying that the running-mate to the Bayelsa State Governorship Candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Great Joshua MacIver, received an unconditional pardon from the late former president of Nigeria, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

In a letter signed by the Interim Administrator of PAP, Major General Barry Ndiomu (retired), and sent through the office of the SGF, the Federal Government admitted to the fact that due to the urgency of the confirmation, the Technical and Data Unit of PAP provided information hastily, thereby providing misrepresentation of the presidential pardon status of MacIver.

According to the letter, upon thorough investigation by the Federal Government, it has been identified that there was an oversight in the records regarding Mr. Joshua MacIver's PAP beneficiary status, while



regretting any confusion or inconvenience caused by the oversight.

Parts of the letter dated 24th August, 2023, reads "I am writing in response to your letter

with Reference: SGF.19/S/105/178 dated July 7, 2023, as well as this organization's reply under Reference OIA/PAP/IAO/VOL V/417 dated 7th July, 2023,

Mr. MacIver received an unconditional pardon from the Late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

"We deeply regret any confusion

concerning Mr. Joshua MacIver's status as a beneficiary of the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP).

"I would like to mention that due to the urgency of the confirmation, our Technical and Data Unit provided information hastily, as indicated by the dates of both the received letter and our response.

"Upon thorough investigation, we have identified an oversight in our records regarding Mr. Joshua MacIver's PAP beneficiary status. It has now been established that

or inconvenience caused by this oversight. Rest assured, we have taken corrective measures to rectify our records and prevent future discrepancies.

"We apologize for any misunderstandings and any inconvenience this misrepresentation may have caused. We remain steadfast and committed to maintaining accurate records for all PAP beneficiaries. Please accept as always, my highest assurances and esteemed regards."

Reacting to the news of the letter, Great MacIver, said that he has always had confidence that he is innocent of the allegations levelled against him by the opposition party, People's Democratic Party (PDP), and urged supporters of the APC to remain steadfast and united against all odds.

He further challenged the PDP Governorship Candidate, Senator Douye Diri, to prove his capacity to Bayelsans by engaging his principal and governorship candidate of the APC, Chief Timipre Sylva, in a public debate at least twice before the forthcoming November 11, 2023, election in the state.

UI Senate Approves PhD, Other Postgraduate Programmes In Social Work

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Senate of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan in Oyo State has approved the PhD in Social Work Programme and all postgraduate programmes in Social Work in the institution.

National Secretary of Association of Social Work Educators of Nigeria (ASWEN) and a professor of Social Work, Professor James Ayangunna made this known in Ibadan.

According to Prof Ayangunna,

the PhD and MPhil programmes may be advertised any moment based on the discretion of the university through the Postgraduate College.

"The University of Ibadan Senate has approved all postgraduate programmes as presented. These are: PhD (Social Work), MPhil, MSW (Academic), MSW (Professional, already existing but reviewed). Post Graduate Diploma in Social Work (PGDSW) is also an existing

programme", he said.

Prof Ayangunna added, "The good news for our colleagues and others is that the PhD and MPhil programmes may be advertised any moment. Those who may (desire higher degrees and) meet requirements for admission may (apply). We wish all of us well as members of the Association of Social Work Educators of Nigeria (ASWEN)".

"We also have our BSW running (at the distance learning

mode and soon to come on main line soon). We thank the University of Ibadan Senate through the Vice Chancellor for this great achievement. Always first and the best".

The ASWEN National Secretary then thanked the University of Ibadan Senate led by its Vice Chancellor, Professor Kayode Adebawale for the approval of the courses.

"I feel that social work is making some positive progress. Everyone has been so positive

about it. Therefore, we need to promote our profession collectively. Some of us are retiring very soon and we need committed ones as you to come on board. I can't wait to train PhD candidates!!! It's long overdue.

"UI started the MSW in the whole of sub-Sahara in 1990 with the support from University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. So far we are maintaining MSW even at academic masters level".