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Katsina Govt Introduces Special Allowances For Chief Imams, Deputies, Prayer Callers Across State

Governor announces personal donation N50,000.00 Naira to 210 indigent students

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Government has introduced special allowances for all Chief Imams of juma'at mosques, their Deputies and Prayer Callers across the state.

This was in addition to the ward heads across the entire district areas of the state.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda made the announcement when he inaugurated the steering committee for the security watch corp for the thirty four local Governments in the state held at Presidential banquet hall, General Muhammadu

Buhari (Government) house, Katsina.

Governor Umaru Radda said the measure was to motivate the community and religious leaders to join hand in the fight against insecurity

In the meantime Governor Dikko Radda has officially launched the disbursement of six hundred and forty million, six hundred and forty eight thousand, five hundred and forty six (640,648,546.00) naira as bursary allowances to indigent students of various institutions of higher learning across the country.

This however, was in addition to the

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Dignitaries at the launching of the LCNG plant in Kakau, Kaduna yesterday.

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Governor Inuwa Yahaya

NITDA Nominates Gombe for 'Most Digitally Compliant State' Award

**Recognition, a reflection of Gov. Inuwa's excellent strides in ICT Industry*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) has nominated Gombe state for the prestigious 'Most Digitally Compliant State' award.

This was disclosed in a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday.

It said that the Director-General of NITDA, Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, who conveyed the nomination to Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, in a letter, highlighted that the award was a direct result of Governor Inuwa Yahaya's impressive strides in the field of Information Technology.

"The award was earned through a series of remarkable initiatives of Governor Inuwa Yahaya-led administration through exceptional policies which encompass a wide array of accomplishments, including significantly reducing the Right of Way fee thereby promoting digital infrastructure

development, providing essential ICT gadgets to various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to enhance their efficiency and productivity, and implementing an advanced system for automated revenue collection within the state, streamlining financial processes.

"Other areas are digitizing the Gombe Geographic Information System (GOGIS) to facilitate effective and efficient land management across the state, revolutionizing the payment of salaries through automated systems, ensuring swift and precise disbursements and introducing Biometric Machines at both the state and local government levels to combat truancy among civil servants, fostering a more diligent work culture," the statement said.

Gombe State will be presented the award during the Digital Nigeria Conference 2023 Dinner scheduled to hold on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at the International Conference Centre in Abuja.

Oyo Press Week: Irregular Sex Leading To Dissolution Of Many Marriages - Counselor

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A marriage counselor, Mrs. Bosede Ola-Samuel on Thursday, said that many women endure marriages rather than enjoy it.

Mrs. Ola-Samuel said this while delivering a lecture on: "Dangers of Irregular Sex" at the 'Veterans Day' of the Oyo State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in the on going 2023 Press Week at the Iyaganku Ibadan.

She stressed that women are most times subjected to unenjoyable, irregular sex life by their husbands, leading to many that could no longer endure to break up the union.

According to the sex expert, "many men act like helicopter whose engine is kicked and it takes off immediately, whereas their wives are like aeroplane which must be kicked by its pilot and

made to taxi a long distance before eventually taking off.

"Many women as aeroplane begin sex enjoyment when the helicopter in their husbands has completed flying and lands. And immediately his helicopter touches the ground, he turns to face the wall, leaving the aeroplane's engine to groan. That is a fire brigade approach which turns many of us off when the issue of sex comes in", she said.

Mrs Ola-Samuel added, "The No. 1 sex organ of any woman is not her breast or bumbum, but her mind. Many wives reject sexual advances from their husbands because their body is not moved by what they see, unlike men that see women's private regions and immediately get moved and are ready for action.

"Good talks, romantic touches, appealing

inducement, creating happiness, helping to do some house chores- all help to move wives to accept sex and enjoy it. If such is done regularly, enjoyable sex will be experienced, thereby bringing peace, harmony, love and progress to the family".

Speaking further, she said having regular sex by men, prevents prostate enlargement/cancer in them, especially at old age. "For the husband and wife to enjoy sex properly, especially during menopausal stage of the wife when her vagina is no more free due to natural changes, good and healthy lubricant should be applied to get her free and make her avoid painful coition".

She stressed that many of our old mothers did not enjoy sex, "rather they endured it because of their children and that is why when any of their

daughters or sons welcomed babies in their matrimonial homes, our mothers would pack there and stay for six months on the claim of nurturing the babies.

"They saw the holiday as a break from the agonizing sexual environment they had been. That is why many of us women complain of headache, tiredness and give series of excuses when our husbands demand for instant and fire brigade sex", she confessed.

The Veterans Day was attended by the immediate past Minister of Youth and Sports, Chief Sunday Dare, the former Nigeria Ambassador to the Philippines, Dr. Yemi Farounmbi, Chairman of the Oyo NUJ League of Veterans, Mr. Banji Ogundele, former Oyo NUJ Chairman and PRO of The Polytechnic Ibadan, Chief Soladoye Adewole, among many



Guests at the Veterans Day

FCT Police Indicts Bello's Convoy Over Military Skirmishes

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja.

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Command has indicted Governor Yahaya Bello's convoy of being responsible for the skirmishes that occurred due to altercation between the convoy and the military on Sunday.

This the command said, was due to the convoy's unruliness and the show of power that was responsible for the clash with the military men.

The revelation is coming as the Police Command in Federal Capital Territory has begun an investigation into Sunday incident which involved Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello's convoy and troops of the Nigerian military.

The FCT police commissioner, Haruna Garba, in an interview with the press in Abuja, was quoted as saying that, the crisis followed the refusal of the Governor's motorcade to stop at the military checkpoint.

The CP said, "Preliminary investigation showed that the alleged attack was a result of an altercation between the military personnel at a checkpoint and the governor's motorcade.

An investigation revealed that the crisis followed the refusal of the governor's motorcade to stop at the military checkpoint

Our correspondent reports that the governor had dismissed reports of an assassination attempt as alleged by

his side mage maker Kingsley Fanwo culminating in a babel of voices between the mentor and the protege.

The commissioner had raised the alarm that the governor's convoy was attacked en route to Abuja, on Sunday by suspected assassins.

But addressing Journalists in Abuja, the governor noted that the said incident was a clash involving his convoy and some Nigerian military personnel.

The governor noted that the clash was between operatives of the Nigerian Police Force attached to his convoy and troops of Nigerian military manning the highways in the course of their duties.

Fitness: Lawyers, Concerned Indigenes Hand Ultimatum To Gov Akeredolu To Show Up In Office

*Demand statewide address of Ondo people *Vow to obtain Order of Mandamus against him

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan
Concerned Indigenes of Ondo State and some lawyers have asked Governor Rotimi Akeredolu to show up and address the people of Ondo State within 14 days on his state of medical fitness.

The Concerned indigenes and the lawyers expressed this in a letter addressed to Gov Akeredolu, made available to journalists in Ibadan yesterday.

The letter was also copied to the members of the state council, including Deputy Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, the Secretary to the State Government and the Commissioner for Justice.

In the letter dated October 20, they stressed that governance in Ondo State has been practically grounded because of the absence of the Governor and non-performance of the functions of

his office since being flown back from Germany where he was receiving medical attention.

The Concerned indigenes and the lawyers vowed that if the governor fails to address residents, the State Executive Council should declare pursuant to section 189 (1) of the 1999 Constitution that the Governor is incapacitated and unable to perform the functions of his office.

"We are lawyers and concerned indigenes of Ondo State, taking cognizance of the sensitive office he occupies as the first citizen of Ondo, we are inclined to state emphatically that the Executive Governor of Ondo State. Arakunrin Rotimi Odunayo Akeredolu (SAN) is permanently incapable and incapacitated to continue to act or discharge the functions and

responsibilities of his office as the Governor of the State owing to infirmity of the body and/or the time, which has remained so for quite a considerable and overwhelming length pegged at 5 months, without no such intentions to exaggerate", it said.

The letter added, "To this end, therefore, we deem it quite expedient to remind you of your constitutional duty imposed on you by virtue of section 189(1)a) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), which demands you to pass a resolution of two-thirds majority in situations such as this, declaring the Governor incapable of discharging the functions of his office".

"It is with utter regards and profound respect to your office(s) that we wish to convey to you our clamor and quest

which also reflects the interest of the good people of Ondo State which you all have sworn to prioritize and protect at all times."

The Lawyers and the Concerned indigenes stressed further, "A press briefing should be done by the Governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Rotimi Odunayo Akeredolu (SAN) through local or national media channels to ascertain the veracity of his alleged medical fitness, within fourteen (14) days upon the receipt of this letter.

"Where the Governor of Ondo State fails to comply with the above paragraph 1, the Executive Council of Ondo State must call a meeting to address the statutory duty imposed upon you by virtue of section 189 (1)(a) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

(as amended), declaring the Governor incapable of discharging the functions of his office, within seven (7) days after the expiration of fourteen (14) days as indicated at paragraph 1 above. All other such responsibilities incidental to achieving the essence of section 189 (1)(a) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended).

"Please note further that should you fail, refuse, and/or neglect to discharge your duty as imposed upon you by virtue of section 189 (1)(a) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), we shall not hesitate to obtain an Order of Mandamus against you compelling and mandating you to fulfill your constitutional duty".

Katsina Govt Introduces Special Allowances For Chief Imams, Deputies, Prayer Callers Across State

■ Governor announces personal donation N50,000.00 Naira to 210 indigent students

presentation of Katsina State award of excellence to indigent students with high CGPA at their respective institutions.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda announced a personal donation of fifty thousand (50,000.00) Naira to each of the two hundred and ten (210) recipients of the awards.

The governor explained that the approval of the Scholarship allowance for the Fresh and Continuing Students of 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 academic session was a clear testimony of the current State administration's commitments towards bringing succour on the flights of Katsina State Students of Tertiary Institutions across the country.

While assuring his continued support and cooperation towards making lives of Students better in the State, Governor Umaru Radda reaffirmed the prompt payment of scholarship aimed at reducing the hardship

parents are facing in the current economic and security situation bedeviling the state and the country.

He disclosed his administration had already laid down the foundation of three model schools in the state for the gifted children of the poor to have opportunities that they can rob shoulders with the children of the elites.

Also speaking at the occasion Commissioner for Higher, Technical and Vocational Education Prof. Abdulhamid Ahmad commended Governor Dikko Umaru Radda for the payment of the scholarship and the award given to the Katsina State Students with outstanding academic performance across Higher institutions in the country.

Professor Ahmad emphasized that, "the education sector has recorded a lot of developmental changes within the shortest time of administration of Malam Dikko Umaru Radda."



Breast Cancer: NNPC Takes Awareness Month Campaign To Greenfield University

***Says early detection key to preventing bad outcomes**

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) has taken this year's Breast Cancer Awareness Month campaign to the prestigious Greenfield University.

The awareness month which is from October 1 to 31, saw NNPCL take its experts and medical team to the Greenfield University City Campus, Joy Nwakacha Hall, on Tuesday October 25.

The team through the NNPC Medical Services Limited (NMSL) Kaduna, during the awareness with its theme, "Thrives365" explained that breast cancer is more common in women.

NNPCL Team, Dr. Adeyemi Olanrewaju in his presentation, said, "Black women are most likely to die from breast cancer. Eighty five per cent of cases occur in women with no family history of breast cancer. Early detection is key for preventing bad outcomes," NNPCL said.

They further advised that all should endeavour to go for

regular screening and inform others to do same.

In his goodwill message, Founder/Pro Chancellor of Greenfield University, Engineer Simon Ifedora Nwakacha, described breast cancer as a devastating disease.

"As the founder and Pro Chancellor of Greenfield University, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the NNPC Medical Services Limited Kaduna Zone for organizing the remarkable breast cancer awareness in our esteemed institution.

"Cancer and particularly breast cancer, is a devastating disease that affects individuals and families around the world. Our efforts in raising awareness of this illness is truly commendable it serves to educate our community towards early detection and prevention," he said.

Reading the text of the message on his behalf, Vice Chancellor Greenfield University, Professor Katung Daniel said that the collaborating spirit between NNPC Medical Services Limited Kaduna Zone and Greenfield University is a



shared commitment to promoting awareness of the disease.

"It is thoughtfully designed to maximize impact and deliver crucial information effectively. I am confident that the knowledge imparted and the screenings conducted during this event will have a lasting positive effect on the lives of our community members.

"Furthermore, I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the participants who actively engaged in the program. Your active involvement and eagerness to learn and support

this cause are truly remarkable. Your presence and dedication have further strengthened the bonds within our university community and demonstrated our collective commitment to the well-being of all," he said.

The Pro Chancellor on behalf of Greenfield University, extended appreciation to NNPC Medical Services Limited Kaduna Zone for their remarkable efforts in partnering with the university in organizing the breast cancer awareness campaign.

"Your dedication and expertise in this field have made a significant impact on our campus and undoubtedly countless lives have been positively influenced as a result.

"Let us continue working together to spread awareness, support affected individuals and strive for a future free from the burden of breast cancer. Together, we can create a healthier and happier society," he said.

Earlier, Registrar Greenfield University, Malam Bashir Muhammad Muhammad, in a keynote address, said that breast cancer is of global concern, hence the need to join hands and create awareness.

"Breast cancer is a global health concern that affects millions of people worldwide, regardless of age or gender, religion or geographical location. It is important for us to join hands and work together towards creating awareness, fostering early detection and promoting effective treatment strategies.

"This retreat serves as a platform for us to unite in our efforts and make a positive impact in the fight against this devastating disease.

"May I use this opportunity to express our gratitude to NNPC Medical Services Limited, Kaduna Zone for this partnership as it has brought together experts, professionals and stakeholders to discuss among other things this important topic and solutions to

it," he said.

According to him, "during this awareness campaign, we will have the opportunity to learn from renowned speakers, engage in workshops and participate in valuable discussions. Together, let us explore innovative research findings, evidence-based practices and holistic approaches to breast cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment".

He encouraged all participants to actively engage in the sessions, share their knowledge and exchange ideas. Let us use this opportunity to strengthen our understanding of breast cancer, support those affected by it and promote a culture of empathy, compassion and inclusivity.

"As a leading academic institution, Greenfield University Kaduna remains committed to promoting health awareness and education. We understand the importance of fostering a culture of prevention, early detection, and access to quality healthcare.

"This awareness campaign aligns perfectly with our vision and we are proud to be part of this significant initiative,

"In conclusion, on behalf of the Founder and Pro Chancellor of Greenfield University, Engr /Chief Simon I Nwakacha (Onwa of Umueri) and Vice Chancellor, University Senate, Management, Staff and students of Greenfield University, I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the organizers, sponsors and participants for their dedication and commitment to this noble cause.

"We are confident that through our collective efforts, we will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by breast cancer," he said.

Beneficiaries of the awareness campaign, included Kaduna, Greenfield University's host community, staff and students of the institution.

Expert Blames High Cost Of Farm Implements, Inputs For Soaring Of Food

***Predicts that soon, commodities may not be affordable to majority of Nigerians**

By: IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Worried by rising cost of essential agric products and its devastating effects on the masses, stakeholders across Nigeria have been charting the way forward so that enduring relief could come the way of consumers.

One of such stakeholders in commercial agric business to add voice to the call for subsidized farming input, is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ILLAJ Integrated Farms, Abubakar Dansadau, who blamed high cost of input, such as fertilizer, seedlings and tractors as responsible for the hike

currently experienced in food commodities across Nigeria.

He insisted that until governments at various levels subsidized farm inputs and implements food commodities may not be affordable to majority of Nigerians. While emphasizing the important role of smooth and motorable roads in transporting agric products from farms to the markets, Dansadau tasked government on creation of road accessibility that would enhance seamless transportation of farm produce from farms in rural areas to markets in cities.

While fielding questions from journalists, Dansadau also noted that with increased road network,

the issue of insecurity can be dealt with, which according to him would drastically reduce the poverty level among citizens.

"All we need do is to embark on search for technology that will solve our problems, even the insecurity you see, countries like Japan, India have suffered from it, but they have found solutions to it, so, once we have one or two case studies, we will refer to them to solve our security challenges.

"I am telling the state and federal government of Nigeria to convey an all stakeholders meeting to put heads together in order to find lasting solution to our problems on insecurity and other peculiar problems

affecting farming in the country," he suggested.

He pointed out that irrigation facilities if provided for farmers at subsidized rate would lead to bumper harvests which according to him would bring down the prices of fruits, vegetables and other dry season products so that they could be affordable to majority of Nigerians.

"Kaduna State for example, is leading in maize, ginger, soya beans and tomato production. Other products such as cocoa and palm fruits could be integrated if the ideal atmosphere for optimum yield is created and you will think you are on a farm in Anambra or Ekiti states," he said.

Transport Sector Will Benefit Immensely From Liquefied Compressed Natural Gas Introduction - Uba Sani

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani yesterday, said that the transportation sector will benefit a great lot from the introduction of Liquefied Compressed Natural Gas (LCNG).

The Honourable Commissioner of Public Works and Infrastructure, Arch (Dr) Ibrahim Hamza who represented Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani, expressed this at the inauguration of the Greenville LNG hub in Kakau, Kaduna.

"A significant number of keke riders ply the roads of Kaduna daily.

"The hub is the first-ever Liquefied Compressed Natural Gas (LCNG) facility in Nigeria. The hub will create thousands of direct and indirect jobs in the state and Nigeria at large.

"One of the most significant impacts of Greenville LNG's LCNG hub is the economic empowerment of approximately two million KEKE NAPEP riders across Nigeria," he said.

According to him, by offering a more affordable alternative to traditional fuel, Greenville LNG is not only improving the economic well-being of the riders and their families, but also cushioning the impact of fuel subsidy changes on the public at large.

"Beyond the transportation and energy sectors, these gas hubs provide access to LNG for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large industries in remote areas. This is a catalyst for industrialization and development in regions far from traditional gas pipelines.

"LNG and CNG can effectively substitute for PMS and Gas oil consumption, reducing it by 15-

20%, thereby offering an economical and eco-friendly fuel alternatives," he explained.

Senator Uba Sani said he was delighted to be part of this historic launch of the first Liquefied Compressed Natural Gas (L-CNG) station in Kakau, Kaduna State by Greenville LNG.

"I congratulate you on this milestone. Since your establishment in 2013, you have been revolutionising the way Nigerians access and utilise energy resources," he added.

According to him, "in a time marked by volatile fuel prices and currency fluctuations in the global market, Greenville LNG presents a robust solution in the form of LCNG.

"This change is not only embraced but enthusiastically welcomed in Kaduna State. It promises to bring not only economic growth but also the revival of various Kaduna-based industries, including textiles, machinery, steel, aluminium, as well as the automotive and oil and gas sectors.

"The provision of a stable power source through the L-CNG gas hub is of paramount importance for micro, small and medium-sized businesses and industries. The development of these hubs will also help in addressing Kaduna State's pressing need for energy security.

"The transportation sector will benefit a great lot from the introduction of L-CNG. A significant number of keke riders ply the roads of Kaduna daily.

"For these riders, LCNG represents a cost-effective alternative to high-priced PMS, offering financial relief and reduced stress.

"Additionally, it promotes ecological peace, as CNG is

renowned for its eco-friendliness and emission of less harmful pollutants, ensuring the safety of both our citizens and the environment.

"Our administration is committed to making Kaduna a business hub. Our energy needs are enormous.

"The Greenville Initiative will reenergise the business environment and provide employment opportunities for Kaduna residents. Energy is a major driver of business.

"With energy, small businesses will spring to life again. Youths would not only be employed in numbers, they would also have the opportunity to create and innovate.

"We therefore, request Greenville LNG to kindly consider providing more gas hubs in Kaduna.

"The Kaduna State Government eagerly anticipates the positive impact that this groundbreaking initiative will bring to our State and the nation as a whole.

"We shall give Greenville LNG all the support it requires to make this initiative a resounding success. God bless you all," he said.



Operation Safe Haven Warns Religious Leaders Against Inciting Comments



By: BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

Religious leaders have been asked to desist from making inciting comments that could threaten the peace of the country at a symposium organised for religious leaders on the Plateau by the Special Task Force Operation SAFE HAVEN (OPSH) on Wednesday 18 October 2023, at Headquarters 3 Division Nigerian Army (NA) Maxwell K h o b e Cantonment, Rukuba Jos. Delivering his keynote address at the event, the Commander Operation SAFE HAVEN and General Officer Commanding 3 Division NA, Major General A.E. Abubakar, said the aim of the symposium is to outline the importance of religious leaders as key contributors to peace in the society.

He lamented the damages inciting sermons from religious leaders have caused to include fueling tension and anger amongst religious groups. General Abubakar informed the gathering that the symposium was a platform for constructive discussions on how to leverage on sermons to bring permanent peace to Plateau State.

The commander urged the participants to reflect on their sermons and continually preach peace over violence. He further disclosed that the participants were drawn from different religious groups that have shown commitment to a peaceful society.

Delivering a paper on the topic "The Effects Of Incitive Preaching On Peaceful Coexistence On The Plateau" the guest speakers Sheikh Ghazali Ismail, Deputy Chief Imam Jos Central Mosque and Reverend Father Boniface Nkum, Director of Studies Saint Augustine Missionary School Jos, said religious leaders have strong potential to influence their followers.

They disclosed that religious stigmatization has caused serious problems in society over the years.

In the paper, the guest speakers agreed that government must provide an active platform where religious leaders who makes inciting statements could be reported and sanctioned accordingly.

The guest speakers maintained that interfaith dialogue and education must be encouraged in order to promote

harmonious relationship between different religious groups.

While calling on the religious advisory committee of the State to wake up to its duties, they added that religious leaders must take responsibility for the messages they convey to their followers.

In their separate remarks, the Emir of Wase and Chairman Jamatul Nasir Islam (JNI) Plateau State, Alhaji (Dr) Muhammadu Sambo Haruna and the Chairman Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Plateau State, Reverend Father Polycarp Lubo, said that government and security agencies must not spare religious leaders encouraging violence by making inciting statements, while maintaining that no one was above the law in the country.

They advised that similar symposium should be organised at the local levels to educate people on the need for religious tolerance. On his part, the Special Adviser on Security to Plateau State Governor, Brigadier General GG Shipi (Rtd), disclosed that there must be public condemnation of preachers of inciting statements especially by followers of same faith.

He revealed that the Inter-religious Advisory Council in the State was active to address issues relating to religion and practices.

In his vote of thanks, the Chairman OPSH 55-Man Peace Implementation Committee, Justice Daniel Longji (Rtd), said inciting statements create mob action and urged the participants to promote sermons that encourage unity.

Some of the dignitaries present at the event include; the Emir of Wase and Chairman Jamatul Nasir Islam (JNI) Plateau State, Alhaji (Dr) Muhammadu Sambo Haruna, Chairman Christian Association of Nigeria Plateau State, Reverend Father Polycarp Lubo, Special Adviser on Security to Plateau State Governor, Brigadier General GG Shipi (Rtd), Chairman OPSH 55-man peace implementation committee, Justice Daniel Longji (Rtd), religious leaders of various denominations, Women Wings of CAN/JNI amongst others.

Highlights of the occasion include lectures by guest speakers, comments from dignitaries/participants and group photographs.

FAO, ABU Agric Colleges Move To Address Human Resources Gaps In Veterinary

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Division of Agricultural Colleges (DAC), Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has trained veterinary para-professionals to bridge the human resources gaps of veterinary doctors in Nigeria.

Prof. Musa Abdullahi Mahdi, Director, Division of Agricultural Colleges who made this known in an interview with journalists in Zaria yesterday, that the training is to rid quackery and strengthen access to sustainable animal health services.

Mahdi said the first set of 25 beneficiaries of the partnership recently graduated from the college adding that more would be trained under the collaboration.

The Director, added that DAC has established linkages and partnership with various government and Non-Governmental



Organisations towards strengthening its operations.

According to him, such partnerships and collaborations, the United Nations through the office of the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Aminu Mohammed, supported developmental projects of the colleges.

"One of such support was

the dredging of the college's dam at College of Agriculture and Animal Science, Mando Kaduna and linking the college with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

"The linkage between the DAC and FAO was hinged on training veterinary para-professionals to bridge the human resources gaps of

veterinary doctors in Nigeria," Mahadi said.

He said the beneficiaries of the programme were certified with the requisite skills to care for animals with a view to enhancing the ecosystem, protecting biodiversity and promoting food security.

The director said that the collaboration between the college and the UN would also boost the learning ecosystem and infrastructure across the three colleges of the division.

He commended the support from Prof. Kabiru Bala, Vice Chancellor of ABU for facilitating the provision of tractors and other learning infrastructures at the campuses of the college.

He also appealed for improved funding and support from the government to enable the colleges bring more development and dynamic approach to modern agriculture towards enhancing sustainable food security.

Governor Inuwa Elated As Gombe Lawyer, Philemon Bags SAN Title

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON
Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has congratulated



a distinguished son of Gombe, Yakubu Philemon, Esq on his well-deserved nomination for the prestigious rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN).

In a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, Governor Inuwa said the recognition of Barr. Yakubu by the Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee (LPPC) is a proof of his outstanding legal acumen and commitment to justice that he has consistently displayed throughout his career.

"Barr. Yakubu Philemon has made our dear state proud with this remarkable accomplishment. His journey to becoming a legal luminary, from being called to the Nigerian Bar in 2005 to this pinnacle of recognition, is an inspiration to the youths of Gombe. It is a reflection of the unyielding spirit of diligence and dedication.

"I am aware that his journey has been one of service and commitment, as exemplified by his various roles, including serving as the General Secretary of Law Students' Association at A.B.U., Zaria, National legal Adviser of Dadiya Community Development Association (DACODA); the umbrella body of Gombe State indigenes who are from Dadiya Chiefdom and his active involvement in the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) where he currently serves as National Executive Council member. His commitment

to justice, human rights, and community development is commendable, and aligns with the values that Gombe State holds dear".

The Governor acknowledged that Yakubu Philemon's elevation to SAN will make him the third distinguished legal practitioner from Gombe State to attain this rank, saying "It is a source of immense pride for our state and a reflection of the excellence that Gombe consistently produces".

He encouraged the legal luminary to continue to uphold the highest ethical and professional standards, living above board and exemplifying the qualities that have earned him this esteemed recognition and elevation. While urging the SAN-designate to continue to be a shining example to the legal profession and an inspiration to aspiring lawyers in Gombe State and beyond, Governor Inuwa assured him of the goodwill, support, and solidarity of the people of Gombe State as he embarks on this new chapter in his legal career. Barr. Yakubu Philemon who hailed from the Dadiya tribe in Balanga Local Government of Gombe State, was recently elevated to the rank of SAN along side 57 others by the Legal Practitioners' Privileges Committee (LPPC) under the Chairmanship of the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, GCON at its 159th Plenary session.

The inauguration and Swearing-in ceremony of the new inner bar members will take place on Monday, 27th November 2023, at

EFCC: Court Fixes Nov 4 For Commencement Of Firm Director Trial Over Alleged N251.6m Theft

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

An Oyo State High Court sitting in Ibadan on Monday, adjourned till November 4, 2023, commencement of trial of Obakin Emmanuel Ajibola over alleged stealing of N251, 685, 000 million.

Ajibola is standing trial before Justice Ladiran Akintola on four -count charges bordering on stealing to the tune of N251,685,000 (Two Hundred and Fifty One Million, Six Hundred and Eighty Five Thousand Naira), preferred against him by the Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

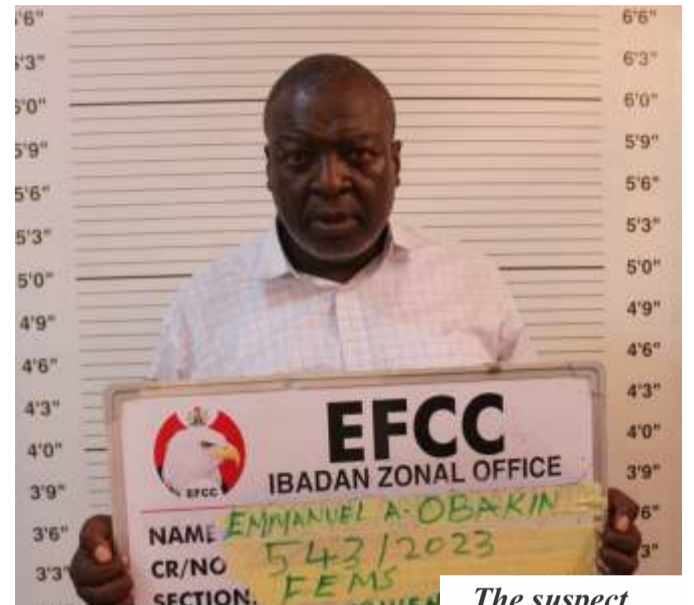
At the resumption of the case, parties to the matter, including the victim of the crime, Akindele Fajemiyo, managing director and chief executive officer of Lee Fakino Nigeria Limited, the first prosecution

witness, were informed of an adjournment arrangement till November 4, 2023.

Ajibola was arraigned on September 12, 2023, before Justice Akintola on four -count charges bordering on alleged stealing of N251. 6million belonging to a firm, Lee Fakino Nigeria Limited.

One of the charges reads: "That you Obakin Emmanuel Ajibola, adult, male sometime in December, 2022 at Ibadan within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did fraudulently steal the sum of N120, 500, 000.00 (One Hundred and Twenty Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira) belonging to Lee Fakino Nigeria Limited, an offence of stealing contrary to Section 390(9) Criminal Code Law."

Ajibola was one of the two directors of the firm and signatory to the firm's account, allegedly withdrew the above sum from the firm without authorization and consent



The suspect

of the managing director and chief executive officer, Akindele Fajemiyo.

EFCC investigations revealed that the defendant allegedly removed the telephone numbers and email address of the MD/CEO of the firm from the banking details of Lee Fakino Nigeria Limited, through which notification alerts of transactions were received, to enable him keep track of the account. He allegedly withdrew the

said sum from the account of the firm, which was money paid for works executed by Lee Fakino Nigeria Limited for the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture between December 22, 2022 and March 9, 2023 without any notification received by the managing director.

Upon arraignment, Ajibola pleaded "not guilty" to the charges preferred against him by the EFCC.

Police Explains How Clergyman, 2 Others Were Arrested In Ibadan With Suspected Human Body Parts

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Oyo State Police Command has narrated how a clergyman and two others were arrested with items suspected to be human parts were found.

According to a statement on Monday, signed by the command's Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Adewale Osifeso for the Oyo State Commissioner of Police, CP Adebola Hamzat, the suspects were arrested at Agbarigo Junction, Jericho Road, Ibadan.

Oyo State Police Command stressed that operatives attached to the command's Swift Response Squad were on intelligence driven patrols and stop and search duty, when they encountered and flagged down a Toyota Highlander SUV with Registration number AAA 885 EP occupied by three suspicious looking individuals

"The Oyo State Police Command wishes to clear the air as regards the



The arrested clergyman and other suspects

incident involving a clergyman in the company of two others in whose possession items suspected to be Human parts were found", it said.

Oyo Police command added, "Preliminary investigations reveal that on 16/10/2023 at about 2130hrs, operatives attached to the Command's Swift Response Squad while on intelligence driven patrols and stop and search duty at Agbarigo junction, Jericho road,

Ibadan, encountered and flagged down a Toyota Highlander SUV with Registration number AAA 885 EP occupied by three suspicious looking individuals who were later identified as; Taofeek Olalekan, 'm' 46yrs, Ramon Opeyemi, 'm' Age 47 yrs and Taiwo Akinrinola Age 37yrs" The command stressed, "While in the process of dutifully searching the vehicle conveying the above individuals, a bag containing items

suspected to be human parts were found without any satisfactory explanation as to how they came about either the bag or the items'.

It maintained that the case has been transferred to the Homicide Section of the State Criminal Investigation Department, Iyaganku for forensic details and analysis, while efforts are intensified to apprehend other members of the criminal network and that "Updates would be provided accordingly".

IGP Egbetokun Partners UN To Establish CRU In Kano, Enugu, Rivers

By;
RAYMOND
TEDUNJAYE,
Lagos

The acting Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun has engaged in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to establish Complaint Response Unit (CRU) offices in Enugu, Kano, Rivers States and the expansion of the Lagos office,

with a view to making justice and accountability more accessible to the public.

The Complaints Response Unit (CRU) has been instrumental in addressing public grievances and concerns related to police misconduct, human rights violations, and other issues in Nigeria.

With the generous support and collaboration of the United Nations, the IGP is taking a significant step towards decentralizing and expanding CRU's presence across the country in line with the provisions of Section 131 of the Police Act 2020.

The Force Public Relations Officer, ACP Olumuyiwa Adejebi, in a



Acting IGP Kayode Egbetokun

statement on Monday, explained that the expansion is a vital part of the IGP's commitment to fostering a more transparent, accountable, and responsive policing system, and aligning with international best practices by significantly reduce the barriers faced by citizens when reporting issues, and will also expedite the resolution process.

He added that consequently, the project would involve an outreach program whose primary objective is to develop effective strategies and modalities that will facilitate the expansion of CRU services to underserved rural communities and individuals with

limited access.

"To achieve this, interactive Town Hall meetings in each of the four states which will bring together 20 relevant stakeholders from these states, as identified by the respective commands have been scheduled. These sessions will provide a platform for open discussions and collaborations aimed at improving community-police relations and service quality.

"The town hall meetings will hold in Kano State on October 23rd; Lagos on October 25th; Rivers on October 31st; and in Enugu State on November 8th, 2023.

"The Inspector General of Police remains steadfast in his commitment to

nurturing positive community relations and ensuring the delivery of top-notch policing services to members of the public with emphasis on addressing issues of professional misconduct and other forms of infractions".

Egbetokun therefore, urged residents of the concerned states to cooperate with the Nigeria Police to birth an efficient Complaint Response process in the affected states for improved policing, while assuring that the CRU will promote trust, transparency, and accountability in the police force and enhance the government's capacity to address human rights violations.

ASCSN Leadership, Can Only Be Determined By Its Constitution - CSCSN

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

Worried by the situation in the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN), the Congress of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (CSCSN) on Monday, called for the full compliance with the ASCSN constitution in determining its membership and leadership.

The congress in a statement by its National Coordinator, Comrade Andrew Emelieze, declared that the constitution of the association states that its, "membership and leadership shall be for only civil servants at both the federal and state civil service of Nigeria".

It maintained that, "The constitution states clearly that membership and leadership shall be for only civil servants at both the federal and state civil service of Nigeria.

"The Congress of the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN) stand by the constitution of our union which is very clear on the position of membership and leadership in the Union. The constitution states clearly that membership and leadership shall be for only civil servants at both the federal and state civil service of Nigeria", it said.

CSCSN added, "Our constitution is crystal clear on who becomes the President of the Union. The President must be a serving

civil servant either in the federal or state civil service and must be elected for a fixed tenure.

"Comrade Bola Innocent Audu, who is an active civil servant, an active member of the Union and legitimately elected President of the Union to represent the Union as a matter of legality and morality'

On the past experiences of Comrade Audi, CSCSN noted, "God is a God of justice, Comrade Bola has been cleared of the trump up charges and he has been discharged and acquitted by the court. Subsequently, his ministry has reinstated him'.

It stressed, "We the Congress now know the truth, we hope for justice as the Congress fully stand with Comrade Bola as our authentic President that has the mandate of the national delegates conference to lead our Union".

CSCSN maintained "We call on the Congress to join our President at the National Industrial Court Abuja on the 25th and 26th October, 2023 as the court seats. We are confident of justice. Our Union shall be liberated'.

"The Congress equally call on Comrade Bola to forgive all behind the crisis in the union and he should seek to reunite all our members through setting up of a peace and reconciliation committee. Our great union must move forward and the glorious days of the protection of members interest returned".

We Will Investigate Alleged Killing Of Nigerian Student By Chinese In Philippines - NIDCOM

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) is to investigate the alleged killing of a Nigerian identified as Ikem in the Republic of Philippines. This was contained in a statement by Head of Media, Public Relations

and Protocols Unit (NIDCOM), Abuja, Alhaji Abdur-Rahman Balogun.

According to NIDCOM, "The commission will set the machinery in motion to investigate the matter and unravel the circumstances surrounding the incident.

"The attention of Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) has been drawn to a viral

social media news item on the death of a Nigerian student, identified as Ikem, who was allegedly murdered by a group of Chinese in the Republic of Philippines", it said.

NIDCOM added, "Though the matter had not been officially reported to the Nigerian embassy in the Philippines, NIDCOM has asked the "eyewitness

" who posted the gory incident on his social media handle to provide more details to the Commission's e-mail —admin@nidcom.gov.ng"

"The commission will set the machinery in motion to investigate the matter and unravel the circumstances surrounding the incident".



COWLSO Seeks More Empowerment Initiatives For Youth

*Urges women to be conscious of digital danger

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO) has called on governments at all levels and the private sector to focus more on empowerment initiatives targeted at creating an enabling environment for Nigerian youth to thrive in their chosen fields.

In a communique issued at the end of the three-day National Women's Conference (NWC) of COWLSO, the Committee recommended that the youth of today should be empowered, motivated and their interests factored into the decision-making process.

The COWLSO NWC is an annual event organized to empower women with thought-provoking discussions, incredible stories, and the opportunity to connect with extraordinary women from all walks of life.

This year's theme was: "Unleash Your Potential." According to the Communique jointly signed by the Chairman of COWLSO and the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, and the Chairperson of the Conference Planning Committee, Professor Olufunke Adeyeye, COWLSO said: "It is also important to invest in the dreams of the youths as this is the generation of skill, talent, and dreams."

In a statement by Olubukonla Nwonah, Deputy Director, Public Affairs Office of Lagos State First Lady made available to journalists on Sunday, the Committee cautioned women to be more alert to digital dangers and be equipped with practical knowledge to navigate the online world securely.

The group said in view of hostile and toxic content online, it has become imperative to advise women to carefully choose what they consume on social media.

"It is recommended that

we tell good stories about ourselves. Though controversial stories pull more crowds on social media, and you could make more money from stories like that; however, we can put out better stories. Whoever we are, that's our story."

Besides, the Committee urged women to adopt homestead farming to enjoy some of the numerous benefits such as reduction of malnutrition, provision of employment opportunities, and improvement of the economy of the state through the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). Homestead farming, according to COWLSO, also serves as a source of income for the household, just as women were encouraged to make eco-friendly choices that would have a positive multiplier effect on the planet.

"These choices include efficient use of energy, sustainable development, transportation, water conservation, and planting of trees.

"We should eat a proper diet (fruit/vegetables), take enough water (eight glasses per day), do frequent exercises, get enough rest, and do routine medical checkups.

"We should also enroll in a health insurance policy, for example, ILERA EKO. This will help to prevent out-of-pocket expenditure," the communique read in part.

The Committee also emphasized the need for all stakeholders to renew their commitment to gender equality in education and skill empowerment, especially in supporting, training, attracting, and rewarding women at all levels.

COWLSO is a platform for wives of government officials to complement the efforts of their spouses in fast-tracking development and advancing the interest, welfare, and well-being of the people, especially women and children.



Dr. Mrs. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu

Middle Belt Forum Condemns Video Clips Calling For Sack Of FCT Minister

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Middle Belt Forum (MBF), has condemned the trending video clips calling for the sack of former governor of Rivers state, Nyesom Wike as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister on account of his faith or where he hails from.

A statement on Sunday evening, issued by the National President of the forum, Dr Pogu Bitrus, also condemned a trending video clip by Sheikh Ahmed Gumi, a Kaduna-based Islamic Cleric noted for making a case for killer herdsmen across the country and negotiating payment of ransom for the release of kidnapped victims.

The statement lamented that video clips from other clerics also rendered in Hausa stated that it is wrong for a Christian infidel (arne) to be appointed Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and that the FCT belongs to the North therefore the Ministerial slot should be the exclusive preserve of the Muslim North.

According to the video clip that Muslims should not be comfortable with non-Muslims appointed to head the security agencies as they can not be trusted to be fair to all groups, adding that several other Muslim clerics have followed Sheikh Gumi in spreading what it called "this vulgarity".

It stated that the forum is an organisation comprising the ethnic nationalities of the Middle Belt Region that stretches across the middle section of Nigeria of which the FCT is a part of the Middle Belt that is multi-religious living peacefully, saying that the FCT was originally inhabited by the Gbagyi people who were dislodged from their ancestral lands by the Nigerian State to create the Federal Capital Territory that Gumi and his gang are now laying claim to.

The statement lamented, "That such calls are coming from Islamic preachers is unfortunate and reflective of a nebulous and subtle agenda aimed at enthroning a state religion on Nigeria. God forbid!

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu should not allow these religiously inflamed remarks by these preachers to go unprobed. Considering the roles Gumi in promoting negotiation with agents of banditry and insurgency, he should be quickly reined in to checkmate his evil and capricious activities."

As for the issue of headship of security organisations, the forum noted that they are all mere survivors of the what it called "horrible results of the eight years of President Buhari when all security agencies were in the hands of Gumi's Muslim stock".

The statement added, "In the face of their grim failure whereby the entire North-west, North-east and North-central zones became war zones and havens for kidnappers and criminal elements, it amounts to shameless drunkenness for Gumi to state that only Muslims have capacity to deal fairly with all groups in the country. Indeed it is clear that Gumi and his band of followers are hell-bent on igniting the monster of

bigotry in a nation that is already set on edge. Of course, they are not happy that the evil eight years of Muhamadu Buhari's nepotism and religious discrimination are over.

"No country would survive religious crisis of the magnitude Gumi and his gang are trying hard to plunge this country into. President Tinubu must act quickly and punish elements determined to unleash ethnic and religious war on the people.

"In times like this when government is engaged in rescuing the country from the claws of insurgents and bandits, religiously divisive comments by preachers like Gumi is an attempt to throw the country into religious war."

The forum reiterated that every Nigerian, irrespective of religious and ethnic affiliations, should enjoy the right to be appointed into public office, stressing that Wike is eminently qualified to be appointed into his present position as the FCT Minister.



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Rigasa Awareness Forum Elects New Leaders, Nasidi Of New Nigerian Newspapers, Others Emerge Exco



By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

In compliance with constitutional provisions of the organization Rigasa Action And Awareness Forum (RAAF) Kaduna, has once again, elected new executive officers expected to run the affairs of the forum in the next four years.

The election process commenced at about 9:00am on Sunday at Government Day Secondary School, Makarfi Road, Rigasa, Kaduna with registration of agents, screening of eligible voters and casting of votes which all took place in orderly manner.

Present, during the process were RAAF Electoral Committee (ELCOM) and Caretaker Committee (CTC), Traditional Leaders, Security Agents with internal and external observers and Community members.

RAAF Kaduna is arguably the biggest and mother organization of Rigasa that receives due attention from key stakeholders

in its efforts to drive in developments to the area for the benefit of the community.

According to sources at the event, such elections of the forum were not observed since 2017 after Arc. Abubakar Rabi'u took over the leadership of the Forum before handing over to his VP One, Comrade Isma'il Muhammad and Malam Aminu Halilu on acting capacity in 2023 that culminated in the formation of the Caretaker Committee (CTC) headed by Malam Yusuf Wada.

Meanwhile, before pronouncing the winners of the election, Chairman of the Electoral Committee (ELCOM), Malam Abdulmumuni Mohammed expressed joy with gratitude to Almighty God for a peaceful conduct of the election, while appraising both members of the ELCOM, CTC, contestants and the electorate for ensuring positive outcome.

Malam Abdulmumuni urged all the contestants to accept the

results with good faith, saying that in every election there must be a winner and a loser, but the most important part is for all to believe in the spirit of having good faith of the outcome of the results for the benefit of the Forum and progress of the community.

However, while pronouncing the winners, the ELCOM Chairman, declared that Malam Hassan Abubakar returned elected as the new RAAF President having defeated his opponent Malam Aminu Halilu Umar with 69 votes to 19, Pharm. Mustapha Umar as Secretary General, while Hajiya Sadiya Ibrahim emerged as the woman leader.

Similarly, other executive officers elected were Sani Nasiru as VP1, Haj. Zainab Ado Gwaram VP2, Comrd Usman Nasidi Of New Nigerian Newspapers (NNN) and Deputy Editor GTK-Online returned elected as the PRO1 unopposed, Mustapha Dan Saudia PRO2, Mubarak Musa as PRO3,

Abubakar Muh'd Target as Ass. Sec Gen, Hauwa Aminu as Assistant Woman Leader.

Others were; Nasiru Hassan as Financial Secretary, Zainab Abubakar as Treasurer, Abubakar Mika'il as Organizing Sec., Aliyu Muhammad as Chief Whip, Tijjani Haruna Shehu as Auditor Gen.

Also elected were; Ibrahim A Ibrahim as Welfare Officer, Aisha Muhd Ladan as Ass Treasurer, Fatima Isah as Welfare, Usman Dan Asabe as Ass Chief Whip, Yusuf Musa as Ass. Org Sec and Auwal Ahmad Orbit as Ass. Fin Sec.

In his acceptance speech, the newly elected RAAF President, Malam Hassan Abubakar, expressed gratitude to God and to entire members of the Forum for their trust and faith in him and in other excos.

He reiterated his readiness to lead by example for the benefit of the people of Rigasa and the development of the community,

Igabi LG and Kaduna State by extension, saying the people would never regret voting him to serve as the President of the association.

Malam Hassan on behalf of the entire newly elected officials, while soliciting the support of people, especially his opponent Malam Aminu Halilu Umar, pledged to run an inclusive administration.

Similarly, He extended his warm regards to the office of the District Head of Rigasa for his untiring support and timely Intervention over the affairs of the association to ensure a peaceful conduct of the election and by for being a father to all.

The newly elected President, thanked the Electoral Committee (ELCOM), Caretaker Committee (CTC), Security Operatives, members of the team and the RAAF for their selfless contributions towards ensuring a peaceful conduct of the election.



NDLEA Arrests Ex-convict, 10 Others, Recovers Large Quantities Of Assorted Illicit Drugs In Kano, Imo, Edo, Borno, Ekiti, Ondo

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

No fewer than 11 suspects were arrested in six states across the country by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) over large quantities of assorted illicit drugs, amongst them, an ex-convict and two others in Kano State in connection with 106kgs of cannabis.

Identified as Aminu Suleiman, 46, the ex-convict, as learnt was apprehended along with two others named Haruna Abdurrahman, 41, and Ojo Joseph Esezobor, 34, at Gadar Tamburawa area of the state on Saturday October 14, with the exhibit recovered from them.

In a statement made available to journalists on Sunday by the Director Media and Advocacy of NDLEA Femi Babafemi, Aminu was first arrested with 22kgs of cannabis on June 3, 2022 and convicted by the court on 24th November 2022.

In the same vein, Babafemi said four others Identified as Inusa Fugu Ali, Yahaya Musa, Abba Audu, Ali Abubakar, and Bunu Kyari were also arrested at Gadar Tamburawa area of Kano on Monday October 16, for dealing in 75.3kgs of skunk.

He added that, "In Imo state, operatives on Sunday October 15, intercepted a Mercedes Benz container truck marked ABN 418 YN parked in an isolated area along Owerri - Onitsha expressway.

"A search of the abandoned truck led to the recovery of 168 bags of skunk weighing 1, 854 kilograms.

"Not less than 1,381.3kgs of the same substance were seized in four interdiction operations in parts of Edo state including: Ekpon community, Igueben

LGA; Iguiye forest in Ovia North East L G A ; I r u e k p e n , Ndokwa West where a suspect, Monday Samuel Nwocha was arrested and Egwalor village in Onwude LGA where the duo of Obune Prince and Chika Obi was arrested and their Audi 80 salon car marked BEN 406 CL loaded with cannabis s a t i v a , recovered.

" In Kano State, an ex-convict, Aminu Suleiman, 46, was arrested along with Haruna Abdurrahman, 41, and Ojo Joseph Esezobor, 34, at Gadar Tamburawa area of the state on Saturday 14th October while 106kgs of cannabis were recovered from them.

" Aminu was first arrested with 22kgs of cannabis on 3rd June 2022 and convicted by the court on 24th November 2022. Four other suspects: Inusa Fugu Ali, Yahaya Musa, Abba Audu, Ali Abubakar, and Bunu Kyari were also arrested at Gadar Tamburawa area of Kano on Monday 16th October for dealing in 75.3kgs of skunk.

" While operatives of the Zone J Command of the Agency seized 478kgs of cannabis in a forest in



The ex-convict and two others arrested with him.

Ikere Ekiti on Friday 20th October, those of Ondo state command recovered a total of 928kgs of the same substance in a bush by Shagari market, along Ifon-Owo express road, and Ibola camp, Ipele forest.

"In Borno state, a suspect, Sani Mohammed, 31, was arrested on Saturday 21st October with 182kgs of cannabis at Njimtilo, along Maiduguri - Damaturu road".

The NDLEA spokesperson stated that Commands across the 36 states and the FCT equally continued their War Against Drug Abuse, WADA, sensitisation lectures in schools, communities, work places and

others.

Some of these, according to him, include: WADA sensitisation lecture for students of Ogborhill Secondary School, Aba, Abia state; WADA sensitisation lecture to Students of Nana Aisha Memorial Islamiyya Secondary School, Buba-Shongo, Gombe; WADA sensitisation lecture at Awe High School, Awe, same at Smiles and Surprises Academy, Onna, Akwa Ibom; WADA sensitisation lecture for students of Sango High School, Ijoko, Ogun state, while the Zone C Command of NDLEA along with Kwara state command also had WADA sensitisation town hall meeting with principals of secondary schools from five

local government areas of the state.

Commending the arrests and seizures of the past week by officers and men of the NAIA, MMIA, Imo, Ondo, Kano, Edo, Zone J Commands as well as those of DOGI, the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd) charged them and their compatriots across all formations of the Agency to continue to remain vigilant and double their efforts especially with the desperation of criminal networks to make money by all means towards the end of the year season.

Energy Accountability: Kaduna Electric Commences Installation of New Meters To Maximum Demand Customers.

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

In an effort to ensure energy accountability and more accuracy in its billing, Kaduna Electric is currently installing new meters to all Maximum Demand (MD) customers across the company's franchise.

Inspecting the progress of work in Kaduna, a team of engineers from the company, led by the Chief Commercial

Officer, Engr. Asma'u Ahmed and the Head, Non-MD Meters, Engr. Umar Adamu Gumel, went round the premises of some Maximum Demand (MD) customers to ensure that all the meters are properly installed.

Speaking on the exercise, Engr Gumel said "the exercise is geared towards reducing the current level of Aggregate Technical Commercial & Collection

(ATC&C) losses in the company. He however said, "the team observed some non-compliance to standard practices by the contractor during the installation and has directed the vendor to make the necessary corrections".

He said Kaduna Electric's team will keep a close watch on the installation exercise to ensure that high standards are maintained by the use of acceptable high

quality materials.

He assured customers that the huge investment in metering made by the company is to give the customers more value for their money, and called on them to make judicious use of the meters and avoid tampering them.

He advised customers to cooperate fully with the installers for a successful exercise.

Rivers NIS Boss Compt James Bags Fellow Of Institute Of Corporate Administration

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Comptroller of Immigration Service Rivers State Command James Sunday, PCC has been bestowed with the Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Administration at an investiture in Portharcourt, Rivers State.

The Fellowship was conferred on him by the Chairman of Rivers State Chapter of the Institute Eze Sam Ubi Onyeka, PhD, FCAI, who is also the Director of Administration, Ministry of Information, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

According to a statement by the Public Relations Officer, Nigeria Immigration Service,

Rivers State Command, Nwosu Chukwu, 12 prominent Administrators, Directors of companies, university and other educational institutions, in Rivers State were bestowed with various awards in appreciation of their individual and corporate contributions to human endeavors, businesses and educational activities at the well attended event.

A letter conveying the nomination for the conferment of Fellowship Award and signed by the Director/Chief Learning Officer Dr Godswill C. Onyekwere, FCAI, FIIA, Fwsc of the Institute of Corporate Administration titled, "Award For Distinguished

Professional Contributions To Public Services/Fellowship, reads in bit, "This is in recognition and appreciation of your dedication and commitment to service, upwardly mobile and visionary approach to administrative matters, professionalism in service and public spiritednesses.

"This offer qualifies you as a senior member of the Institute and entitles you to append the design story letters FCAI (Fellow Corporate Administration Institute) after your name. Congratulations, while wishing you many years of fruitful service to humanity."

In his response, Comptroller James

Sunday, said, it is a reward for hard work, dedication and selflessness backed up by the spirit of excellence.

He stated that the award has spurred him to do more and more, knowing that "while dispensing your work people are watching and assessing you, it is good to be prudent at work".

Comptroller James dedicated the award to God for grace, to the service for the privilege, his officers and men and family for encouragement and support always.

The Comptroller therefore, encouraged his officers and men to follow good mentors in all their doing, adding that good mentorship pays.



Evangelist Ogunkeyede with Apostle Chinyere

UfitFly Boss Offers To Pay WAEC Fees For 50 Rivers Students *Celebrates Apostle Chinyere at 50

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The team leader of UfiFly, Evangelist Ajibola Ogunkeyede has offered to pay the West African Examination Council (WAEC) fees for 50 indigent students from Rivers State.

Evangelist Ogunkeyede made this known in a statement to felicitate the General overseer of Omega Power Ministry (OPM), Apostle Chibuzor Chinyere on his 50th birthday.

The UfiFly team leader described Apostle Chinyere as the most spirited and magnanimous individual he has met.

According to Evangelist Ogunkeyede, he will forever remain grateful to Apostle Chinyere for showing interest in his vision and often doled out millions of Naira to provide palliatives for thousands of people, especially during the outbreak of COVID-19 in

2020.

"In marking your 50th birthday, we at UfitFly choose to follow your path by declaring educational support for 50 indigent students in Rivers State, as we are going to pay for their 2024 may-June O'Level WAEC Examination as a way to support the good work Apostle Chinyere is doing in the educational sector of the state," he said.

Evangelist Ogunkeyede added, "You will achieve that strong desire in you to deliver as many people as possible from darkness into the light of God. You are with God, and whoever is with Him shall never fail but continue to succeed in whatever he touches.

"OPM as a ministry is dedicated to helping the underprivileged children and individuals in communities and also giving hope to prisoners, helping people whose living condition hinders their mentally, physically, spiritually and emotional



Comptroller James (Right) being presented the award by the chairman Rivers State chapter of the Institute of Corporate Administration

Zulum Flags Off Construction Of 11 Township Roads In Jere

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has on Monday, flagged off the construction of about 11 township road projects in Simari Community of Jere Local Government Area. The road projects which extend to parts of Mafa Local

Government Area also comprise of drainage networks.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by the Deputy Governor, Umar Usman Kadafur, Senator, Borno Central, Kaka Shehu Lawan, House of Reps member for MMC, Abdulkadir Rahis, APC's Deputy National Chairman (North), Ali Bukar Dalori, Secretary to the

State Government, Hon Bukar Tijjani and other top government officials.

The township roads cover a total of 5.125km with 10.248 km and about 1.22km outfall.

“In fulfilment of our electioneering campaign promise, we are here to flag off the construction of 11 township road projects totalling about

5.12km road with 10.248km drainage network in Simari covering both Jere and Mafa Local Government Areas,” Zulum said.

Making brief remarks, Zulum charged the contractors for timely completion of the project while ensuring maximum standards in all phases of the work.

Zulum also noted that Simari is a community flooded by rainwater, largely due to lack of access roads and drainage with thousands facing difficulties in accessing their places of work and public facilities like health. State Commissioner of Works and Housing, Engr Mustapha Gubio, said the project was expected to be completed in one year.



Ayewa Int'l Dazzles Congregation With Evergreen 'Amona Tete Wa'

*As CRBC holds 26th Convention, Thanksgiving Service

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Ageless Gospel singer, Pastor J.A. Adelakun (Ayewa Int'l), has ministered to the nation, calling on both its leaders and citizens to embrace God's intervention on the present situation of the country.

He declared this while ministering at the grand finale of the Christ Redemption Bible Church World-wide (CRBC) 26th, Convention Thanksgiving Service held at the church's headquarters, Oluwalogbon Street, Ketu, Lagos on Sunday.

Speaking and illustrating on the Theme of the convention, "Enough is Enough" he noted the topic as powerful, which must be used by all to have breakthrough both as a nation and as citizens.

According to Ayewa who strongly believes in the nation bouncing back economically and politically stronger and better in the nearest future, enjoined its leaders to desist from absolute corruption and other illegal vices that can destroy or bring a set back to the country, (Nigeria).

"And this we all must put heads together instead of condemning one another," he advised.

He further explained that for the country to start experiencing "Enough is Enough" of all the pathetic situation it finds itself, it must call for prayers/praises across the country, before it can start experiencing good old days, "when the Awos, Zik, Balewa of this world were faithful to their nation then." Ayewa noted.

He dedicated the church policy document for 2024, as he was pleaded by the congregation to



L-R: CRBC's Pastor John Oluwadare and Gospel singer, J.A. Adelakun (Ayewa Int'l).

render one of his evergreen Gospel songs titled, 'Amona Tete Wa' dazzling the congregation to a dancing galore.

Earlier in the day, the General Superintendent of CRBC World-wide, Pastor John Oluwadare congratulated and hailed the turnout of the members and Christians who attended the convention, saying the theme, "Enough is Enough" shall put an end to poverty, sickness, bareness, sadness and lack in all of their lives.

On the new church policy document 2024, he said it is good it's happening now.

"As it will enable all members including himself to express their rights as at when necessary," Oluwadare added.

But for Pastor (Mrs). Martha Oluwadare, she described it as a wonderful convention better attended by women who dedicated time in praying for its success.

"Today, glory and honour goes to God Almighty for giving us a

fulfilled convention," she added.

On the role of women both at home and to the nation, she said that women are mothers as, "Mary was to Our Lord Jesus Christ, so women must be accorded major roles in the church, home and by extension to the nation.

"To the First Lady in the country, Mrs Oluremi Tinubu, she must continue to lead and be ready to listen to both the privileged and less privileged ones in the society. Also she should try to

replicate the 'One day governor' she did while in office as first lady of Lagos State and that as one day president of the country".

For the convention chairman, Pastor Kehinde Odeniyan, this year's convention has been successful, having led to the billing of the Theme.

"Therefore our glory and thanksgiving is for God, who had made this possible at this period of time," concluded the convention chairman.

Uba Sani Appoints Head For Scholarship Board, SSA Religious Affairs

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Governor of Kaduna State, His Excellency Senator Uba Sani has appointed Dr. Yahaya Saleh Ibrahim as the Executive Secretary, Scholarship and Loan Board.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State, Muhammad Lawal Shehu dated October 23, 2023.

He replaces Rilwan Hassan, who

has been redeployed and appointed as the Special Adviser to the Governor on Student Affairs.

Additionally, Rev. Ishaya Jangado has been appointed as the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) on Religious Affairs, and Hon. Yunusa M. Ibrahim as the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) on Support Groups. All the appointments are with immediate effect.

It said Dr. Yahaya Saleh Ibrahim is a long-standing academic, environmental public health and

occupational safety expert, and astute administrator.

"From 2017 to 2018, he served as Administrator, of Giwa Local Government. He is currently the Director of, the Centre for Energy and Environmental Strategy Research (CEESR). Dr. Ibrahim holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Occupational Health and Safety, a Master of Technology (M.Tech) in Remote Sensing Application, and a Master of Science in Public Health.

"Rev. Dr. Ishaya Jangado is a

highly respected cleric, teacher, administrator, and peace advocate. He is currently the President, of the Kaduna Baptist Conference, Secretary of the Baptist Conference Presidents Fellowship Northern Nigeria, and Secretary of, the Nigerian Baptist Convention Presidents Fellowship.

"Rev. Jangado holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Missiology and a Master of Arts (M.A) in Organizational Leadership and Management.

"Hon. Yunusa M. Ibrahim is an

accomplished administrator, teacher, development worker, grassroots mobilizer, and public relations specialist. From 2016 - 2017, he served as Acting Chairman of, the Interim Management Committee, Giwa Local Government," the statement said.

It added that he was Chairman of the Committee on Project Monitoring and Evaluation, Giwa Local Government Area in 2015, and Supervisory Councilor, Education and Social Development, Giwa Local Government in 2021.

I'll Continue To Enhance Youth's Devt - Ajadi

*Pays royal homage to Fadesewa of Shimawa

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Achieftain of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Sunday, said there is no going back in his commitment to the development of youth in Nigeria. Ambassador Ajadi stated this when he paid visit to the traditional ruler of Shimawa in Ogun State, the Fadesewa of Shimawa, Oba Gbenga Sonuga (Alayeluwa Ogbodo 1) in his palace.

The NNPP governorship candidate in Ogun State in the 2023 elections declared that he has devoted his life to the development of youth across the country, adding, "it is in order to enhance this, that made him to join partisan politics.

"I have the history of organizing protests to advocate for youth's liberation from government injustices. However, recognizing the limitations of protests, I decided to join a political party with the ambition of effecting

change through good governance", he said.

Ambassador Ajadi added, "I have done well for millions of people through philanthropic deeds to staff, friends, and relatives but through my political party, my humanitarian assistance will reach every nook and crannies of the country."

The NNPP Chieftain stressed further that though through his generous initiatives he has made significant impacts on the lives of Nigerian youth, with a particular focus on benefiting the youth of Ogun state, but he feels he can do more for them, hence his entering into the political terrain.

Ambassador Ajadi highlighted his role as a human rights activist and his connections with prominent human right activists like Omoyele Sowore, Aishat Yusuf, Eedris AbdulKereem among others, saying he has been a vocal voice for the liberation of the youths from oppressive tendencies of various



Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi in a group photograph with others during the visit.

governments before he decided to venture into politics.

Emphasizing his commitment to humanitarian causes by helping millions of people through philanthropic deeds, he expressed his desire to expand his humanitarian efforts through his political platform, with the aim of reaching to all people in

the nooks and crannies of the country.

Calling on Oba Gbenga Sonuga to support him with his blessings during the 2027 political race, he promised to help the Shimawa community especially and the entire Ogun state if voted into power come 2027.

In his response, Oba Gbenga

Sonuga acknowledged Ambassador Ajadi's achievements and encouraged the youth to seek political positions in the coming elections to better their lots, saying it is the time for the youth to hold political offices and make significant changes to the way the country is being run.

Supreme Court Dismisses Smart Adeyemi's Appeal Against APC, Ododo, Orders Appellant To Pay Respondents N1m Each

*Describes issues raised in Adeyemi's brief as unreasonable, vexatious, not triable

*Condemns TV utterances while case was in court

By: ADEBIYE ADO, Akure

The Supreme Court on Monday, finally dismissed an appeal filed by Senator Smart Adeyemi against the judgements of the two lower courts on the All Progressives Congress' (APC) primary election, which held in Kogi State on April 15, 2023.

The Supreme Court, in a unanimous judgement, held that the appeal lacked merit, having failed to challenge the concurrent findings of both the High and Appeal Courts, or demonstrate that same were perverse.

The Apex Court also held that the two issues raised in the Appellant's brief were unreasonable, vexatious, not triable and against the provisions of Section 132 and 133(1) of the Evidence Act 2011.

Adeyemi, who represented Kogi West Senatorial District in the 9th Assembly, had filed a suit at the Federal High Court seeking to nullify the primary election of the APC, which produced Usman Ododo as the party's flagbearer for the state's

governorship election slated for November 11. The case was dismissed by both the Federal High Court and the Court of Appeal for lacking in merit.

The apex court, while delivering judgment on Monday, first struck out the

Appellant's first notice of Appeal, the Appellant having relied on the 2nd Notice of Appeal filed and held that the power of the Apex Court in respect of appeals against concurrent findings of the two lower Courts could only be exercised when the findings were alleged to be perverse.

The Court also described as contemptuous, the practice of parties appearing on TV stations to discuss pending appeals, saying, "You go saying on television that if the court is a court of justice, the appeal should go in your favour."

"The court frowns at this practice. Once you've engaged a lawyer, go and rest.

I am giving this elaborate talk so that you don't go out and say things that are not reasonable. The Court is manned by

reasonable persons," Justice E. A. Agim, who delivered the Supreme Court's Judgement, said.

The Apex Court said, "There is nothing on the Notice of Appeal of the Appellant showing a challenge as to the perverseness of the findings of the two lower courts.

"The Appellant never alleged that there was no evidence to support the findings of the two lower Courts. This Court has no power to revisit those issues of facts raised in the Notice of Appeal unless there is an allegation that the findings were perverse."

"On the whole, this appeal fails. The Appellant shall pay the cost of N1 million each to the 1st and 3rd Respondents (the governorship candidate and the APC)," the Supreme Court ruled.

Dapo Otitoju represented the Appellant; Abdulwahab Muhammed, SAN, represented the APC, Umar Abdulhamid represented the 2nd Respondent, and M. Y Abdullahi, SAN, the 3rd Respondent.

The Court of Appeal had, on August 18, 2023, held that the appeal argued by Adekunle Oladapo Otitoju on behalf of Senator Adeyemi was completely bereft of merit.

In a unanimous judgment of a 3-man panel of Justices of the Court, Adeyemi was said to have failed woefully to establish all grievous criminal allegations made against the conduct of the primary election by APC and its leaders.

Justice Mohammed Lawal Shuaib who delivered the lead judgment resolved all the three issues in dispute against Adeyemi.

Justice Shuaib said that the allegations of manipulations and falsifications of the primary election results made by Adeyemi, being criminal in nature, ought to have been proved beyond reasonable doubt as required by law.

He also dismissed another allegation by the Appellant that he was denied fair hearing by the Appeal Committee of the APC based on his petition against the

alleged unlawful conduct of the primary election.

Justice Shuaib said that the issue of denial of fair hearing was not raised in his originating summons at the Federal High Court, hence, could not be raised as a fresh issue at the Court of Appeal.

In the absence of cogent and verifiable evidence on the part of Adeyemi, the Court of Appeal held that his allegations remained mere assertions that could not enjoy any probative value.

The Court of Appeal upheld the judgment of Justice James Omotosho of the Federal High Court in Abuja delivered on July 12, which had held that Adeyemi did not prove his allegations that Ododo was not lawfully nominated by the APC.

Senator Adeyemi had, therefore, sought an order of the Supreme Court, setting aside the judgments of the lower courts, allowing his appeal and granting all the reliefs sought in his originating summons.

Delta Police Withdraws Case Of Alleged Defilement Against School Proprietor For Review

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Delta State Commissioner of Police, Wale Abass directed that the case of alleged defilement and indecent assault instituted against the proprietor of Great Leaders International School, Innocent Ezeukwu be withdrawn from the court and immediately transferred to the State Criminal and Investigation Department (SCID) for further detailed investigation.

The directive of the Commissioner of Police may not be unconnected with the medical report of the victim and due process.

The Spokesperson of the Command, DSP Bright Edafe, who made the disclosure of the withdrawal of the case, in a statement on Friday, said the clarity of the matter became expedient for members of the public not to be misinformed.

According to the release, the CP assured members of the public and the victim's family that justice will be served, just as he further appealed to the public for calm while the investigation is ongoing.

It reads, "The Command is aware of a viral publication posted on various social media handles on the alleged defilement of a 4yr old child (Name withheld) by one Innocent Ezeukwu 'm' aged 46yrs the proprietor

of the Great Leader International school where the child is schooling. For clarity and for members of the public not to be misinformed, the Command wishes to state as follows.

"On 5th October 2023 at about 1700hrs, one Mrs. Joy Chukwudi reported that while she was bathing her 4-year-old daughter, she discovered a blood stain in the private part of her daughter. Upon questioning, her daughter kept stating that "HER UNCLE USED SCHOOL SCISSORS TO CUT HER ON HER PRIVATE PART". Upon receipt of this complaint, the Area commander Agbor detailed a team of investigators to proceed to the scene of the alleged crime.

"The suspect Innocent Ezeukwu who doubles as the owner of the school and also the only male teacher in the school was arrested and taken into custody. Preliminary investigation led to the issuance of a medical report, and the initiation of an identification parade exercise where the suspect, Innocent Ezeukwu when placed amongst random men, was identified by the victim as the person who allegedly defiled her. The medical report affirmed that there was "no hymen visualized" in the victim's private part.

"Though the Area Command Agbor had concluded their



The suspected school proprietor

investigation and charged the case to court, the Commissioner of Police Delta State CP Wale Abass directed the case be withdrawn from the court and immediately transferred to the State Criminal and Investigation Department

(SCID) for further meticulously executed investigation.

"The CP assures members of the public and the victim's family that justice will be served; he further appeals that the public remains calm while the investigation is ongoing".

NERC Issues Power Licenses To Junaid Synergy, Others

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Federal Government through the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has issued new power licenses to Junaid Synergy Limited and 13 other companies.

This was disclosed at the second quarter of 2023, NERC issued new licenses to many entities.

The companies are Junaid Synergy Limited, Okomu Oil Palm Limited and Tower Alloys Industries Limited.

The Commission said in its Q3/2023 Electricity on Demand report that it issued two trading licenses to Electric Utility Nigeria Limited and Onction Services Limited.

NERC also granted licenses to six companies to operate captive power plants.

Captive power plants are owned and operated by an entity for exclusive use rather than commercial purposes.

NERC stated in the second quarter report of 2023, that it granted permits for three power-generating plants, which boast a combined capacity of 20.06 megawatts.

NERC granted a permit to a mini-grid developer when they want to build, operate, maintain, and, in some cases, own mini-grids with a distribution capacity surpassing 100 kilowatts and a generation capacity of up to one megawatt.

Also, the Commission issued a certificate to a

mini-grid developer for more systems with a distribution capacity below 100kW.

The Commission granted 10 companies with new mini-grid licenses.

They are: Powergen Nigeria Assets Limited, Darway Coast Nigeria Limited, Bagaja Renewable Limited, Kumbosto Solmenz Engineering Venture Nigeria Limited, A4&T Projects Limited in Fagbo, GVE Projects Limited in Bakin Ciyawa, GVE Projects Limited in Kwande and Everlink Telesat Network Limited.

NERC explained that Pursuant to Section 34(1)(e) of the Electricity Act (EA) 2023 which states that "the Commission shall ensure the safety, security, reliability, and quality of service in the production and delivery of electricity to consumers", the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) continues to monitor the technical, operational, and commercial performance of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI).

"Through this regulatory function, the Commission oversees all licensed operators in the NESI in a bid to ensure that they provide stable, reliable, and safe electricity to all," NERC said on its 2023 second quarter report

It would be recalled that the Commission recently assessed distribution companies' performance in Nigeria.

Parents Blamed For Societal Malfunction

By; PETER NOSAKHARE, Kaduna,

Bad parenting and the lack of God in families and society have been attributed to being the reason for moral malfunction of youths in the country.

Making this assertion at the Women of Worth (WOW) Catalyst Church Conference, with theme: Woman of Substance, Guest Speaker, Pastor Fola Elesho, admonished parents to at every time, know what their children are doing and create room for them to be friends.

She said, Godly relationship between parents and children always reflect in what the society gives to its people and that builds what the country becomes in the comity of nations.

"We must build family ties as parents and be united in the training and raising of our children. Mothers and fathers must as a unit raise their children together; it's not for favouritism for particular ones, even if necessary sometimes."

Pastor Elesho added that due to family failure most children have low self-esteem and for parents to get the best out of them, they are expected to create time for them.

"They as parents should have time for their children and families. Speak and ask questions on what you didn't do well, and how to do what is right better." She advised that as Women of Worth, women are ensure that their generation

gets and achieve their God's given purpose.

On her part, Pastor Grace Akinbami, the convener of the conference, while collaborating with the speaker, enjoined parents to always put the fear of God in their children because as the trend of events in the world everyday unveils a new pattern, reverence, honour and respect of God is paramount.

"Parents are to watch and pray, put value and be attentive to everything their children are doing."

Pastor Akinbami reminded parents to know that people, "should know that life is a transit and as such, don't allow the

challenges of living blind us to the fact that there's a Superior Being."

The Resident Pastor of the Church, Kingsley Odemior, charged parents to ve alive to their callings and not be deceived by tricks of flesh into thinking that the world determines the children, who are leaders of tomorrow's future.

"Parents owe as responsibility to raise their children in the way of the Lord; the bible says in Proverbs 22:6; that parents should raise their children in their prime in the way of the Lord, so that when they grow, they won't depart from it."

The conference is an annual event and the pastor urged everyone to attend that of next year.

No Assassination Attempt On Me, Yahaya Bello Denies Media Reports

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello has denied media reports that there was assassination attempt on his life by members of the military or gunmen in military uniform while cruising to the Federal capital Abuja on Sunday.

The denial came shortly after a media report by the able state Commissioner for Information and Communication, Kingsley Fanwo who alleged assassination attempt on the governor by uniformed men in the garb of soldiers on his way to Abuja for an official engagement.

Governor Bello while addressing newsmen at his Abuja residence denied his commissioner's assassination attempt report on his life by members of the Nigerian Army or any other security agency.

Narrating the ordeal of his convoy with a sister security agency, Governor Bello put it graphically, "my convoy especially the security had an encounter with another sister

agency and there was fracas".

Much to his chagrin however, Governor Bello said that he learnt of rumours being speculated on social media occasioned by the commissioner's press statement that there was assassination attempt on his life.

"Thereafter I began to hear in the social media about assassination attempt. I want to state categorically very clear, dear Nigerians, that there was no assassination attempt on me Yahaya Bello the Executive Governor of Kogi state by the Military or by anybody".

According to him, "the stretch of road between Kogi State and FCT is a secured route courtesy of God Almighty, members of the national security forces, the vigilantes, the professional hunters and the citizens of our dear state.

"We have been able to secure that route courtesy these various agencies and bodies that I enumerated. So nobody would have attempted to assassinate me or any member of our convoy".

"It is natural that sometimes,

there will be misunderstanding or fracas between sister agencies that are performing their lawful duty. That sometimes can not be ruled out but assassination attempt, there is nothing like that" Alhaji Bello said.

Cautiously however, "I have called on all law enforcement agencies that are around me and on the road to investigate it and ensure that whoever is culpable is punished according to the rules and regulations of the various forces or the various services.

"I am a law abiding citizen and our security men have done greatly in securing our lives and livelihood. I respect men in uniform, I respect the Nigeria Army, the Nigeria Military generally, our Nigeria Police Force and all security agencies.

"So any unruly personnel whether that of the Police or otherwise, I'm urging all these law enforcement agencies to investigate it and let whoever is involved be met with appropriate action.

"Our Nigeria Police, our Nigeria



Gov Bello

Army and all the law enforcement agencies must be professional. They must respect that ethics that guides their services and offices. We will not condone act of indiscipline.

"I sincerely thank you. The record be set straight, My life was not attempted, nobody attempted me whatsoever, just a little misunderstanding among

the security agencies and it has been resolved, I can assure you" Bello said.

A security personnel in the military uniform whose name was not given was said to have been stabbed by the security operatives on the governor's convoy in the fracas that ensued between Governor Yahaya Bello's convoy and soldiers on duty on Lokoja-Abuja road.



Pix 1 and 2 From left, Former Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Isiaka Oladayo Amoo, Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke and Osun State Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi during the state banquet in honour of former Chief Of Air Staff, Chief of Army Staff and Comptroller General of Customs @ Aurora Events Centre, Osogbo last weekend.

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

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Width	25.4 (CM)	Width -	10 (Inches)

POLITICAL RATE

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

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3	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine 2-8 Pages)	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
4	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine above 8 pages)	80,000.00	6,000.00	86,000.00

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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

Brace Up For Difficult Task, Uba Sani Tells New Kaduna SSG, Commissioners

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani on Monday, charged the newly appointed Secretary to Kaduna State Government (SSG) to brace up for the very difficult task ahead.

The governor expressed this during the swearing-in of the newly appointed SSG, Dr. Abdulkadir Mu'azu Meyare at the Kashim Ibrahim House in Kaduna.

"I have no doubt in my mind that with the calibre of members of this council, we shall surpass expectation and leave a last legacy in Kaduna State.

Senator Uba Sani said with the inaugural meeting, the State Executive Council (SEC) is now fully constituted.

"We have settled down to business," he declared.

He congratulated all on their well deserved appointments, saying, "you all came highly recommended. You are well experienced and knowledgeable, people expect so much from us, we must not fail them."

He reminded them of the seven-point agenda, which contains seven pillars, safety and security, upgrade of infrastructure, strengthening institutions, trade and investment, agriculture, investment, human capital and nurturing citizens engagement.

Senator Uba pointed out that the central policy trust of their administration is rural transformation.

"We want to revitalise the rural economy through infrastructural development.

"We are expected to deliver in the most challenges time in the lives of our state and country.

"I charge us to brace up for the very difficult task, I have no doubt in my mind that with the calibre of members of this council, we shall surpass expectation and leave a lasting legacy in Kaduna State.

Immediately after administering the oath of office and oath of allegiance to the newly appointed Secretary to the Government of Kaduna State, Dr Abdulkadir Muazu Meyere, Governor Uba Sani formally inaugurated the State Executive Council.

Governor Uba Sani congratulated the newly sworn in SSG, Dr. Abdulkadir Muazu Mayere. The governor noted that Dr. Abdulkadir Muazu Mayere is a retired Federal Permanent Secretary.

"As a Federal Permanent Secretary, he served at different times in the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, two ministries that are strategic to the socio-economic development of Nigeria and the fight against poverty, hunger and achieving food security," he said.

According to him, Dr Meyare served for 32 years in the Federal Public Service, progressing through the ranks from Medical Officer II to become a Director, of Sports Medicine at the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2011.

"He was appointed a Federal Permanent Secretary in 2017.

"Until his appointment, Dr Mayere served as a Senior National Consultant to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on the "Hand in Hand Initiative in Nigeria, working with Federal MDAs and some States on achieving SDG 1 and SDG 2.

"He is happily married with children," he said.



Ibrahim Gambari: Navigating The South Africa-Nigeria High Seas

By Owei Lakemfa

PROFESSOR Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, a giant in diplomatic circles, on Wednesday, went down memory lane. He had been United Nations (UN) envoy to Myanmar, its Special Adviser on Africa, the Joint African Union-UN Special Representative for Darfur and former President of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

He said, back in 1991, former Head of State Olusegun Obasanjo was the best horse in the race to become the Secretary-General of the United Nations, but his military background worked against him. Speaking on October 18, 2023, at the public presentation of the biography of the first African UN Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Gambari said two things stood Obasanjo out: as Military Head of State, he handed over power voluntarily to civilians, and "was head of the group that led to the process of the end of apartheid".

Gambari contrasted the highs and lows of both countries in the early 1990s: while South Africa emerged from the tragedy of Apartheid and was being led by a moral force like Mandela, Nigeria was in the quagmire of military dictatorship. He recalled that shortly after attending Mandela's Presidential inauguration in Pretoria in May 1994, he wrote that: "...The glory of the new South Africa contrasts sharply with the present state of my own country, Nigeria, the most populous Black nation of such proud people. We, who have championed the cause of the oppressed majority in South Africa, with such great credibility and eventual success, now find ourselves in a state of domestic despondency and international scorn."

Indeed, Nigeria's role in the war against Apartheid in South Africa was so pronounced that despite being situated in West Africa, it was known as a 'frontline state' arraigned against the evil Apartheid system that held down Africa in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

However, since independence, a sort of sibling rivalry has emerged between Nigeria and South Africa. It is a healthy rivalry at the economic level as both are the economic giants of the continent. But it has been toxic at another level where, faced with the challenges of existential living, mainly poor South Africans have carried out xenophobic attacks on fellow Africans, especially Nigerians. Despite this, South Africa continues to be appreciative of Nigeria's role in the decolonisation of their country.

For instance, Gambari had in December 2012 been awarded the Companion of OR Tambo Award, the highest South African decoration for foreign nationals. On that occasion, while receiving the award from President Jacob Zuma, he

had said: "The honour is not just to me as an individual, but to Nigeria which has played a major role in the struggle against apartheid...the time has come for history and generations to come to recognise the role the country and the anti-apartheid movements played in Africa."

On April 26, 2023, the University of Johannesburg awarded Professor Gambari a Doctorate. He chose the occasion to navigate the high seas of Nigeria-South Africa relations not just in interviews, including with the South Africa Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), but also in a lecture titled, "South Africa and Nigeria: Africa's Indispensable Relationship".

In the lecture, Gambari recalled that as the last chair of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid, it was his honour to receive the legendary Nelson Mandela in New York in June 1990.

Speaking specifically on some of Nigeria's contributions to the liberation struggle, Gambari told his audience: "After the 1976 Soweto Uprising in South Africa, Nigeria established the Southern African Relief Fund (SARF) to provide scholarships and other assistance to South African students and refugees; the Nigerian High Commission in Botswana issued hundreds of Nigerian passports to South Africans who had fled the country; and Nigerian civil servants contributed portions of their salaries to the anti-apartheid movement in a scheme known as the 'Mandela Tax'. By the time apartheid had come to an end, Nigeria had spent an estimated \$17 billion in support of liberation struggles in Southern Africa."

His thesis is that in the post-apartheid era, both countries which account for about 60 per cent of the economies in their respective sub-regions, are the engines of economic integration and development both in those regions and Africa, and are therefore, engaged in an indispensable relationship. This relationship, he submitted, "is vital to peacekeeping and peace building efforts, regional integration, and socio-economic development in Africa"

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wrote that: "...The glory of the new South Africa contrasts sharply with the present state of my own country, Nigeria, the most populous Black nation of such proud people. We, who have championed the cause of the oppressed majority in South Africa, with such great credibility and eventual success, now find ourselves in a state of domestic despondency and international scorn."

He traced the fault lines between both countries to the tension between President Mandela and General Sani Abacha in 1995/1996 – following the hanging of the writer, Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other environmentalists. He also referred to the struggles from 2005 when both sought permanent seats on the UN Security Council.

Another cause of tension, he pointed out, were the sporadic xenophobic attacks against Nigerians and other Africans in South Africa since 2008.

Gambari said the spat spilled over in 2012 "when 125 Nigerian travellers were barred from entering South Africa due reportedly to fake health certificates, and, in retaliation, Nigeria barred 78 South African travellers from entering Nigeria, resulting in a formal South African apology."

The eminent scholar added that: "The presence of South African corporate giants like MTN, DSTV, Stanbic, and Shoprite has also caused tensions among Nigerians, some of whom accused South Africa of pursuing one-sided mercantilist trade policies."

The former UN ambassador said the coincidence of Obasanjo becoming the elected Nigerian President in May 1999, and the emergence, two weeks later of Thabo Mbeki, a former ANC Representative to Nigeria during Apartheid, as South African President, "provided an opportunity for a strategic partnership between the two African powers."

Gambari's basic observation is that whenever Nigeria and South Africa co-operated, significant progress is made in

addressing African challenges, and blocking external efforts to "divide and rule" Africa. His conclusion, therefore, is that: "The indispensable bilateral relationship between Africa's two regional giants remains potentially the most important strategic partnership on the continent."

He said both leaders, by 2001, elaborated a new socio-economic blueprint for the continent called the 'New Partnership for Africa's Development' and by 2002, led in transforming the OAU into the AU. They also championed the African Peer Review Mechanism by 2003 as "an instrument to advance socio-economic development and democratic governance in Africa", and led to the forgiveness of Africa's then \$290 billion external debt.

Gambari noted that in the post-Mbeki/Obasanjo era, both countries clashed over French/UN troops and NATO military interventions in Côte d'Ivoire and Libya, while in 2012, Nigeria unsuccessfully opposed South African Foreign Minister, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma's candidature for the AU Commission chair.

Other points of renewed tension Gambari pointed out were the clash at the AU Summit in January-February 2013 over recognition of the government in Guinea-Bissau, and the 2014 seizure of \$9 million cash Nigeria allegedly smuggled into South Africa to buy arms needed to fight terrorism.

Gambari's basic observation is that whenever Nigeria and South Africa co-operated, significant progress is made in addressing African challenges, and blocking external efforts to "divide and rule" Africa. His conclusion, therefore, is that: "The indispensable bilateral relationship between Africa's two regional giants remains potentially the most important strategic partnership on the continent."

TY Buratai Football Academy To Hold Novelty Match In Honor Of Turbaning Ceremony

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In a bid to celebrate the Turbaning ceremony of Betaran Biu and the conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Letters (Dlitt) Phd Honoris Causa by the Nigerian Army University Biu, the TY Buratai Football Academy has announced plans to hold a novelty match.

This announcement was made in a statement signed by the President of the academy, Engr Hassan Mohammed Sarkin Yakin Garkuwan Keffi and made available to the press.

The highly anticipated novelty match is scheduled to take place on October 26, 2023 at the Biu Township Stadium.

The match will feature TY Buratai Football Academy versus Biu United FC, promising to be an exciting clash between two formidable teams.

Football enthusiasts and supporters from both teams are expected to throng the stadium to witness the thrilling encounter.

The TY Buratai Football Academy, named after the

renowned Nigerian Army General, Lieutenant General Tukur Yusuf Buratai, has been a hub for nurturing young talents in the game of football.

The academy aims to provide opportunities for aspiring footballers to develop their skills and pursue a professional career in the sport.

In addition to the novelty match, the TY Buratai Football Academy has also planned a Gala Night in honour of the Grand Patron of the academy.

The Gala Night is scheduled to take place on October 27, 2023 at the Biu Township Stadium.

This event will serve as a platform to recognize and celebrate the contributions of the Grand Patron to the development of the academy and football.

The President of the academy, Engr Hassan Mohammed Sarkin Yakin Garkuwan Keffi, expressed his gratitude to the Nigerian Army University Biu, for conferring the prestigious Degree of Doctor of Letters (Dlitt) Phd Honoris Causa to the Grand Patron.

He stated, "This recognition is

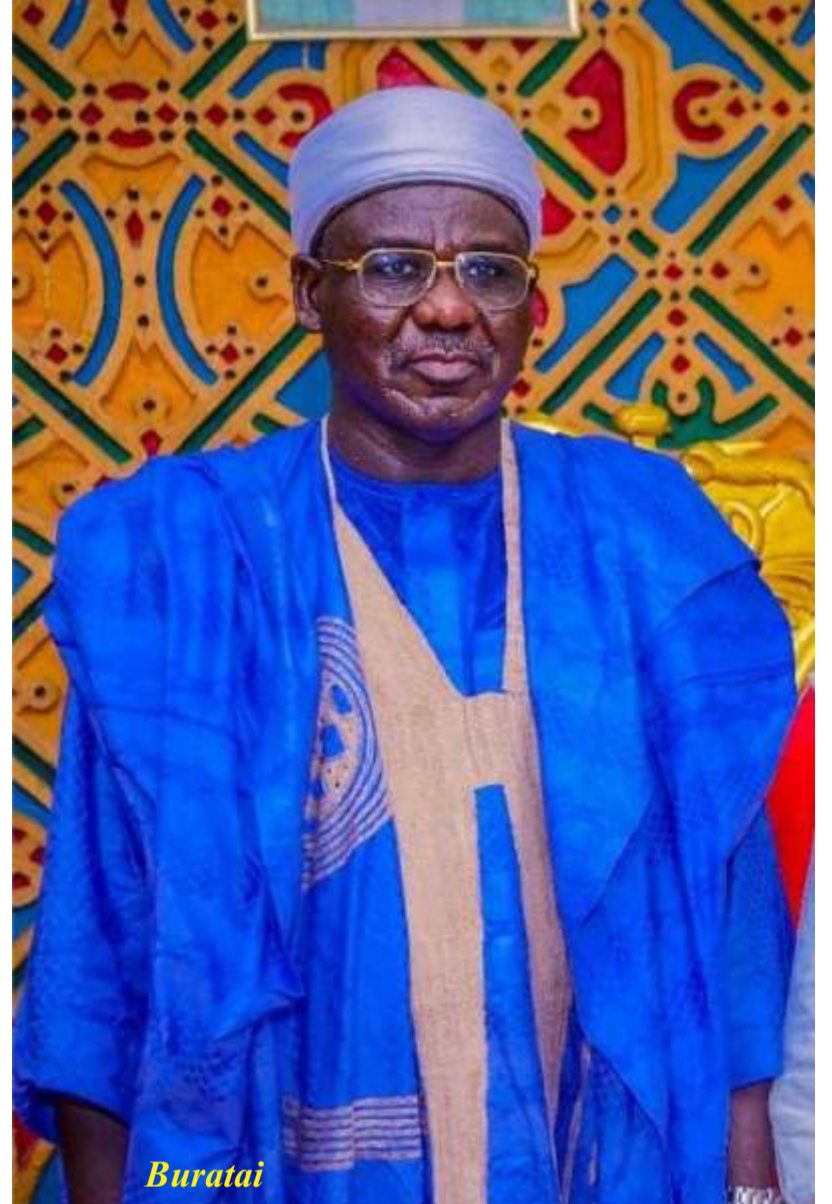
a testament to the Grand Patron's unwavering commitment to the development of football and the promotion of education. We are honored to have him as our Grand Patron and we look forward to celebrating his achievements."

With the upcoming novelty match and Gala Night, the TY Buratai Football Academy aims to further promote football development in Biu and provide a platform for young talents to showcase their skills.

The events are expected to attract a wide range of stakeholders, including football enthusiasts, local officials, and members of the community.

As the date draws nearer, anticipation continues to build for the TY Buratai Football Academy novelty match and Gala Night.

Football fans and supporters are eagerly looking forward to witnessing the exciting match and joining in the celebration of the Grand Patron's achievements.



Mohammed Babangida Says It's A New Beginning As Kaduna International Polo Gallops Off October 31

*Club management seeks media collaboration

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The new Kaduna Polo club President Muhammadu Babangida (Garkuwan Yaman) and the Tournament Manager, Alhaji Abubakar Atiku (Baradan Maru) have requested for media collaboration in giving effective coverage for the 2023 Kaduna International Polo tournament.

Interacting with the media preparatory to the tournament expected to gallop off from the October 31 to November 5, for the Georgian and El Amin Cup and from the November 8 to 12, 2023 for the Emir of Katsina and Imani Cup respectively, the president said it's going to be a new beginning for Kaduna Polo Club.

He disclosed that there will also be other trophies that will be competed for in between the major trophies being competed for.

"We are going to play the prestigious Georgian cup, which

is the largest and oldest cup in Africa, then the Imani cup, Emir of Katsina and El-Amin cup".

Babangida further said, that the tournament is going to be graced with foreign players from Argentina, England, South Africa, Columbia, America and Egypt among others, adding that several teams have already indicated interest to participate in the tournament.

Meanwhile, he disclosed that the cheque presentation that normally kick start the polo tournament is scheduled for Saturday 27th October, 2023 at the polo club where partners are expected to give their financial support to the organization of the tournament.

"we are ready to do it better this time around, it's going to be a new beginning for the club, we now have a pitch that is of international standard which has geared more teams to show interest to participate.

"We enjoin stakeholders to participate in all the activities

both on the pitch and off the pitch because the new management of the club is committed to bringing back the good old days of the club, and for this tournament, we are expecting both traditional and new teams to showcase their talents, it promises to be a fruitful tournament" he stressed.

"We didn't play polo last year 2022 because the field was not in good shape, but this year we are ready, the pitch has been put in good shape to the admiration of teams and players.

On his part, the tournament manager assured that every necessary measures have already been put in place to ensure a successful and accident free tournament, and further called on partners to give maximum support to the tournament.



The Kaduna polo club has new executive management committee to include Muhammad Babangida as President, Brig. Gen Kapeh Kazir (Rtd) 1st Vice President, Muhammad Baba Askira 2nd Vice President, Abubakar Sadiq Mohammed as Secretary. Others are Ahmed Bashir

Sodangi- Treasurer, Ibrahim Abu Ibrahim - polo Captain, Suleiman Sani Bello- Grounds, Atiku Abubakar Saleh, Tournament Manager, Aliyu Danfatoma, Entertainment, Sani Ya'u Kura, Security, Bello Mudashir, House Member, Tijjani Sani, Bar Member and Ibrahim Mohammed as Pony Welfare Officer.

Enyimba Vs Wydad 2nd Leg: Keep Hope Alive - Finidi George

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Ahead of today's second leg bout in the quarter finals of the maiden edition of African Football League (AFL), Finidi George has called on football fans in Nigeria to keep hope alive, saying, a lone goal win against Enyimba FC by Wydad AC of Morocco on Sunday, not a stop to the anticipating victory.

Enyimba FC Head Coach, George, who spoke with sports journalists after the match played at Godswill Akpabio International Stadium in Uyo, said Enyimba will be traveling to Morocco with 23 players, who are self-confident and reliable to create chances on Wednesday 2nd leg encounter.

He said that the defender, Alalibo Solmiari, who was slammed with a red card at 90' of play would be replaced by another good player from another position.

"It's unfortunate that we didn't score a goal, but if we had, the overall results would have been different. In as much that we want to win, one goal lost, gave us an opportunity to get back better and that, we hope to create

chances and convert them to goals. I'm quite optimistic that in the 2nd leg match on Wednesday in Morocco, we will score two to three goals.

"We will be traveling with 23 players, those who were on the bench are capable of doing a good job as well. We will replace Alalibo Solmiari who got a red card with another player from another position who has done well in our other matches. We will modify the team with two or three players to lead us to win." George assured.

Recall Enyimba FC and Wydad AC of Morocco first quarter finals leg in African Football League (AFL) which kicked off by 7pm Nigeria time at Godswill Akpabio International Stadium, saw Enyimba hanging out with one goal defeat.

At pre-match press conference last Saturday, the Enyimba Head Coach, Finidi George had predicted a tough match between Enyimba FC and Wydad AC, positing that Nigeria



George

representative will give its opponent a good fight at play. According to him, Enyimba is a team to beat with good players lined to take the battle in the first leg quarter finals of African

Football League.

He said that Enyimba being the only team in Nigeria and West Africa so fortunate to be selected to play the maiden edition of the league would make Nigeria and indeed West Africa proud.

George said that though Wydad Athletic Club in CAF football has more trophies than Enyimba FC but they are not worried because Enyimba is a good team too

"The caliber of players we have are good enough to give Wydad AC a good fight. We will utilize all chances and convert it to goals.

"In football, past records don't count but what you can do on the field on the day of the match is what will count. Our encounter today with Wydad AC will be a big fight that will provide us a big opportunity too to showcase ourselves and put ourselves back on the world stage.

"I can assure Nigeria, and indeed West Africa that we are fully prepared for the match. We don't have injury problem, therefore, we will do our best to ensure that we utilize the chances and make them proud and go forward into another stage", Finidi George stated.

Enyimba Captain, Olurunleke Ojo on his part, described the match as one game that will offer them the opportunity to make history and right their wrongs on continental football.

"We are ready to face anything that comes our way. Right our wrongs in continental games. Wydad AC is not a small Club, Enyimba too is not a small Club. We will respect them, while we also expect them to respect us.

"We will go all out to do our best, score as many goals as we can by making good use of the chances we will have." Ojo declared.

On their part too, Adil Ramzi, head coach of Wydad AC said the team is proud to be in Nigeria to play in the first edition of the league, describing Enyimba as an entity in football.

"The game is to be a difficult one for two big teams, Enyimba FC and Wydad AC. It's going to take us to another level in football.

"Enyimba is a big team, an entity just as we are. Our players are aware that playing Enyimba won't be one you will not only be defending but attacking to score goals. We will show to world that we are on a good game," Coach Ramzi said.

Coach Ramzi described Godswill Akpabio International Stadium as a beautiful place, with good ambience for the match

Captain Yahya Jabrane said, "We are proud that we are here representing Morocco. We have quality players ready for the game with Nigeria Enyimba and move forward to win the cup for Morocco."

2023 Premier League: Akwa Utd FC Management Tasks Coaches, Players

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Worried by Sunday's game lost that has seen Akwa United garnering only two points from a possible 12, the management of the club has read the riot act to its coaching crew and the players.

Revealing the outcome of a meeting on Monday to review the performance of the club in the ongoing 2023-24 Nigeria Premier Football League season, Akwa Utd Media Officer, Mfon Patrick said the management of the club admonished the technical crew and the players to "quickly remedy the situation at hand".

According to his statement, Chairman of the club Elder Paul Bassey regretted the "terrible emotional torture you have made our teeming fans to go through and we want to sincerely apologise to them and ask that you quickly remedy the situation even by the next match in Benin".

He said the chairman appreciated the loyal fans of the club who believe, "things will soon turn around" yet insisted that the sooner the better.

"We are a club rich in tradition and endowed with winning mentality. We don't participate in the league for participation sake. We compete to win laurels and qualify for the continent and our record in the past five seasons can attest to that.

"We the management of Akwa United Football Club are worried about the present position of our club after playing four matches without a win. Our recent results are simply not acceptable. Our fans and supporters deserve the best from us for all their support and encouragement and we have to improve our performance to ensure we have positive results in our subsequent matches.

"As the management of this club, we have made our players welfare package a top priority, we are not owing any staff of

this club because salaries and bonuses are paid as at when due. As a club, we don't lack anything because the government of Pastor Umo Eno has provided us with all the necessary support we need.

"Our players don't have any reason not to perform well, they must stand up and be counted, they have to be more committed, dedicated, disciplined, and focused while representing this club. Our players and coaches must always be at their best so they can give us the results we need to achieve our target at the end of the season, which is to win the league again, just as we did in 2021.

"With two points from four matches, Akwa United are at the wrong end of the table and will be aiming to get their first win of the season this weekend when they engage Bendel Insurance in Benin," he said.

Vera Wins Kaduna Golf Club 2023 Ladies Pro-Am Tourney



SWAN National PRESIDENT, Isaiah Benjamin (right) making presentations at the Kaduna Golf Club Ladies Pro-Am Tournament on Sunday.



By: JACOB ONJEWU (15-28) Arabi Bello DICKSON

Vera Inginopwa emerged best gross with 178 while To Oyetola and James David of Kaduna Silas with 179 and 133 Golf Club (KGC) emerged runner up gross with 172 Gross, emerged the and best NETT respectively. overall gross winner of the Esther Pam with 113 and Ladies Pro-Am golf Joycelyn Anagende with tournament 2023 organised 154 emerged best gross and by the KGC after an best NETT respectively in impressive tournament that the Special ladies category had no fewer than 75 lady (HC 29-36) golfers participated.

For the special prizes, Isreal In the ladies category 1 (HC Adegoke from Zaria golf 19-28), Justina Gideon with club won longest drive in 173 emerged best gross, hole 18 for men while J. Ruth Karen with 176 came Asan from Makurdi golf runner up gross, Ekhaton club won for the ladies, just Joy with 180 came second as Ken Nwankwo from runner up gross, Jennifer KGC and Justina Gideon Asan with 182 came third also from the KGC won runner up gross after count nearest to the pin on hole 6 back on Ivy Achir who came for men and ladies fourth runner up gross with respectively.

182. Other prizes were won for In the Ladies category 11(juniors, trainee and senior HC 19-28) Patience Abechi caddies, veteran men with 149 emerged best category (HC 0-28) and NETT, Rahama Inusa came veteran ladies (HC 0-36). runner up NETT with 150, In their respective speeches Saadatu Barau with 152 to declare the tournament came second runner up closed, Kaduna State NETT while Jija Monica Deputy Governor, Dr. and Christiana Emmanuel Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, with 155 and 156 came third represented by the and fourth runner up NETT Commissioner Sports Development, Professor Benjamin Kumai Kugong, 14) Andrew Chechet with the KGC Captain, Ken 146 emerged best gross Nwankwo and the Lady while omoru Isaac and Captain of the club, Hajia Shehu Danjuma with 148 Hussaina Zubairu, and 140 emerged runner up commended the players for gross and best NETT their display of maturity respectively. while the tournament lasted.

In the men category 11(HC

Vera Wins Kaduna
Golf Club 2023 Ladies
Pro-Am Tourney

Story on Page 23

DEFINED Project Another Significant Digital Step Towards A Smart, Globally Competitive Youth - Ambassador Awolowo-Dosumu

*Oodua Foundation launches project, targets 137 LGAs in South West

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Odu'a Investment Foundation yesterday, launched Digital Education for Innovation and Economic Development (DEFINED) for both primary and secondary schools across the South West states.

Speaking at the official launching of the innovation held at the Ikeja Airport Hotel, the foundation's Chairperson, Dr. Olatokunbo Awolowo Dosumu, said for Digital Education for Innovation and Economic Development.(DEFINED) project is another significant digital step towards having a smart, globally competitive youth

According to Ambassador Awolowo-Dosumu, the project is the introduction of Byte Busters coding clubs in all our primary and secondary schools across the South West, adding that members of the foundation have taken a significant step in achieving the mandate of the Foundation with the formal launch of DEFINED Project 1.

"Our young ones are our future. The youth are the drivers of development all over the world. A well-trained and properly kitted youth population will not only birth an economically viable society but will also engender the safety of all. As the Foundation grows, we pray that we are able to harness the talents and enthusiasm of all well-meaning members of the South-West towards accomplishing the

best from this developmental initiative", she said.

Ambassador Awolowo-Dosumu added, "As we can see from the name of the initiative we are launching today, it is about using education and innovation to drive economic development for the good of all. Our young ones cannot hunt the bird of tomorrow with yesterday's stones'.

" This is the age of digital learning and smart jobs. We need to ensure that our youths are equipped with the right education and the right skills which, we believe, will make them not only relevant but competitive in an increasingly technology-driven world. You must have what the market needs before you can sell. That is why we must give our young ones the skills and the opportunity to compete and excel on the global stage. That is the whole essence of today's event."

Stressing importance of the DEFINED innovation, she said, "The initiative targets pupils and students but also, quite naturally, incorporates the potential for the creation of tech hubs for appropriate skills acquisition for young adults. The entire project focuses more on children within the public school system and the less privileged."

The Group Chairman, Oodua Investment Company Limited, Otunba Bimbo Ashiru while speaking, said DEFINED project will help position Yoruba youth for the digital age by providing digital education, and creating

opportunities for them to hone these skills in a supportive environment.

Otunba Ashiru stressed that the Project which is an ambitious campaign, will take digital education and opportunities to all the 137 local government areas in South West states of Oyo, Ondo, Ogun, Osun, Ekiti and Lagos, adding, "in line with the mission of the Odu'a Investment Foundation which is to "...expand educational opportunities and promote youth development and information technology in Southwest Nigeria," the foundation is therefore launching the "DEFINED' project today", The Group Chairman added, " The Project which is an ambitious campaign, will take digital education and opportunities to all the 137 local governments areas in southwest states of Oyo, Ondo, Ogun, Osun, Ekiti and Lagos. This Project will help position Yoruba youth for the digital age, by providing digital education, and creating opportunities for them to hone these skills in a supportive environment. With your support, we can achieve these objectives. With your support, this program has the potential to provide an opportunity of a lifetime to many young people across the region by creating our own digital revolution".

The keynote speaker, Professor Seun Kolade, in his remarks said Digital Education For

Innovation and Economic Development is a timely project aimed at upskilling South west Nigerian youth, captivating them for digital revolution, adding that some primary objectives of the DEFINED initiative is to develop comprehensive curricular that spans the first 12 years of education, from Primary 1 to Senior Secondary School 3, in line with the Nigerian education system and in partnership with the relevant state agencies. At the launching, Governor Seyi Makinde was represented by the Secretary to the State Government Prof. Olanike Adeyemo, and the Oyo state commissioner for education, Prof. Salihu Adelabu, Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun was represented by the State SSG, Chief Tokunbo Talabi, Ekiti State



Dr. Olatokunbo Awolowo-Dosumu speaking at the launching of DEFINED.

Governor was represented by Mrs Habibat Asubiaro, Lagos Perm Sec. Cabinet Office, Mrs Tolani Oshodi, represented Lagos state Governor Babajide Sanwo Olu, Ondo State Governor was represented by Dr. Olusegun Aina. Other dignitaries at the event are Senator Femi Okunrohunmi, Pa Ayo Adebajo, Immediate chairman of Odu'a Investment Limited, Prince Adebayo Jimoh, Chief Iyabo Apanpa, Akarigbo of Remo Land, His Imperial Majesty Babatunde Adewale Ajayi, among others.

Plateau State Forges Partnership With Houston, Texas, USA, To Drive Industrialization

By: BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

In a significant step towards propelling Plateau State into a future of progress and prosperity, Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang has spearheaded a pivotal collaboration between the state and the City of Houston, Texas. This partnership aims to reinforce the energy sector,

enhance port infrastructure, improve healthcare, and strengthen the agro economy of Plateau State.

During an official meeting with Christopher Denon, Director of Trade and International Affairs, City of Houston, State of Texas, United States of America, Governor Mutfwang said the state has abundant potentials

which are ripe and safe for investment and economic growth.

Governor Mutfwang highlighted Plateau's advantage in hydro power plants, emphasizing that this initiative will catalyze industrialization, thereby stimulating the state's economy and enhancing internal revenue generation.

He also emphasized the importance of standardizing agricultural products, specifically from Plateau State, to enable agro entrepreneurs to benefit from the AGOA initiative and attract substantial Foreign Direct Investments. Expressing gratitude for Governor Mutfwang's visit, the

Director, Christopher Denon said Houston is the energy capital of the world, that boasts of being the largest port and medical facility globally. He conveyed Houston's eagerness to collaborate with Plateau State by offering their expertise to further enhance the state's development.