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The vehicles

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

In a resolve to ensure a smooth electioneering processes in the forthcoming off cycle Gubernatorial elections in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi States scheduled for 11th November, 2023, the Inspector-General of Police, IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, Ph.D, NPM, has ordered the distribution of additional 220 operational vehicles for the affected states.

The vehicles, which include water canons, Armored Personnel

Carriers, helmets, bullet proof vests, tear gas canisters are meant to intensify security arrangements for the elections.

Earlier, the IGP had organised trainings for the police officers who are involved in the election security management for the forthcoming elections and sought the approval of the Federal Government for the payment of their allowances and other necessary support to boost the morale of the officers during the operations.

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Why Kano Tribunal Judgment Cannot Stand

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Avoid Repeating Kano Error Of Uncertified Ballots, Group Tasks INEC

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), has urged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), to avoid errors committed in the 2023 Kano State Governorship election, causing the tribunal to nullify the victory of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf.

The call from TMG is the latest public outcry in Nigeria over injustice meted to the Kano State duly elected by popular mandate but sacked by a three-member panel of judges, ruling that the ballots containing over 65,000 votes were not certified by the INEC.

At a press briefing in Abuja on Friday, the TMG Chairman, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani), said it

was mysterious that after a winner was declared in the election witnessed by a group reliable of observers, the victory was reversed by the court for errors of the electoral umpire.

While urging the judiciary to restore justice in Kano, Rafsanjani stressed that, "Inconsistencies associated with the election tribunal rulings have created injustice".

The group charged INEC to restore public confidence in its processes as off-cycle elections hold in Kogi, Imo and Bayelsa States in the coming weeks.

Further, TMG tasked INEC on transparent elections where the court will no longer be the Institutions that declare victory.

Court Of Appeal Declares Faskari/ Kankara/Sabuwa Election Inconclusive

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna.

The Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja has dismissed the appeal filed by Mr. Jamilu Lion Muhammed of the PDP against the ruling of the Election Petition Tribunal which had declared the 2023 Election Conducted for the Faskari/Kankara/Sabuwa Federal Constituency as inconclusive.

A statement signed by Kabir Isa SSA Media & Publicity Office of Honourable Shehu Dalhatu Tafoki and made available to newsmen revealed that INEC had declared Mr. Jamilu Lion as winner of the election, but in a ruling by Election Petition Tribunal which sat in Katsina, the election was declared inconclusive and INEC was ordered to conduct reelection in 20 polling units of Faskari and Kankara Local Councils.

The Court of Appeal in its



ruling on Friday, delivered by the Presiding Judge, Justice Moore Aseimo A. Adumein, upheld the position of the tribunal in declaring the election inconclusive, while also surcharging Mr. Jamilu Lion with a fine of N300,000:00 to be paid to the APC candidate in the election, Hon Shehu Dalhatu Tafoki.

The Appeal Court further directed the Independent National Electoral Commission to conduct elections in 20 polling units within 30 days from Friday November 3.

President MAAUN Group Of Universities Commiserates Four Ex-students Over Father's Death

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

The management of Maryam Abacha American University of Niger-Maradi (MAAUN), has extended its heartfelt condolences to the family of Alhaji Garba Ndalati Muhammad, who passed away on Wednesday following a brief illness.

Late Ndalati Muhammad was before his death, a senior Customs officer whose three children graduated from MAAUN-Maradi in Niger Republic, while another is still an undergraduate of the university.

The condolence message was delivered to the deceased family by Dr. Ado Mohammed Sani, who led the delegation to Zaria, in Kaduna State on Thursday.

Condoling the deceased family, Dr. Mohammed

Sani described the passing away of Alhaji Garba Ndalati as a great loss not only to his immediate family, but to the entire Zaria community and Kaduna State in general.

"On behalf of President MAAUN Group of Universities, Prof. Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo and management of the universities, we wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to you and the entire family members," Dr. Mohammed Sani said.

The delegation prayed to Almighty Allah to forgive the deceased and grant him the highest rank in Jannahtul Firdaus.

They also prayed to Almighty Allah to grant the family the emotional strength to bear the huge loss.

Responding on behalf of the bereaved family, his eldest son, Yusuf Garba thanked Prof. Gwarzo for



Late Comptroller Ndalati

sending the delegation to condole the family.

He prayed God to reward Prof. Gwarzo abundantly and return them home safely.

Late Alhaji Ndalati

Muhammad who is survived by a wife, nine children, and grandchildren, had since been buried in accordance with the Islamic rites in Zaria, Kaduna State.

NNPP Chieftain, Ajadi Condemns Attack On NLC President, Peaceful Protesters In Imo state

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) Chieftain, Comrade Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Friday, described the attack on the President of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Joe Ajaero and other peaceful protesters in Imo State as, "the highest display of barbaric

attitude.

The NNPP chieftain in a statement made available to journalists condemned the Wednesday attack, saying "peaceful protest is allowed under democratic rule".

Wondering why political thugs allegedly descended on peaceful protesters, he said the attack on the NLC President and his team was, "the highest display of barbaric attitude and

this deserve condemnation from all well meaning Nigerians."

"It is sad that peaceful protesters including the NLC leaders were attacked in Imo State. It is the highest display of barbaric attitude and this deserve condemnation from all well meaning Nigerians", he said.

The NNPP chieftain added, "Peaceful protests is normal and allowed in a

democratic atmosphere. It is not an unusual thing for workers to demonstrate and protests against what they think infringe on their rights.

"What took place in Imo state last Wednesday where peaceful protesters were brutally attacked is the worst that can happen under a civilized administration."

According to him, "Those political thugs who descended on the peaceful workers have destroyed their future and that of their children".

Ambassador Ajadi called on both the Federal and the Imo State governments to compensate the family of those who lost their persons and those who sustained injuries in the attack.

Demanding that the security agencies should fish out the perpetrators of the dastardly acts and let them face the full wrath of law, Ambassador Ajadi condole with the family of one person said to have lost his life in the attack and wishes those who sustained injuries quick recovery.



Composite photo of NLC President (left) with Ajadi

Irrigation: Zulum Targets 200 Hectares In Dikwa, Ngala

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has disclosed that his administration aims to support local residents in Dikwa and Ngala to cultivate 200 hectares of land under the rural irrigation project.

Zulum made this known on Friday, while speaking to newsmen after the distribution of palliatives to over 50,000 vulnerable families in Dikwa town.

"We are here with the agriculture team, we

decided to earmark 100 hectares of land to be cultivated under the irrigation scheme in Dikwa, 50 hectares of land in Gajibo and another 50 hectares of land in Gamboru Ngala totalling about 200 hectares," Zulum said.

The project, which is part of Zulum's comprehensive agricultural development plan, seeks to revolutionize farming practices, mitigate the effects of climate change and uplift the livelihoods of residents most of whom depend on local farming.

Governor Zulum noted

that the investment in the agricultural sector is aimed at empowering local residents to have their means of livelihood while reducing dependency on food palliative.

"Continuous distribution of palliative is not sustainable, we have to look at medium and longer-term sustainable solutions which for us, is to invest in agriculture, particularly in the irrigation sector," Zulum said.

The governor added, "We intend to invest in

agriculture, especially modern agriculture. Luckily enough for me, my predecessor has procured agricultural equipment. No state in Nigeria has the kind of agricultural equipment we have in Borno. Insha Allah, we will put these equipment to better use and where we don't have enough, we will add more."

Zulum emphasized that the irrigation project will involve modern techniques to maximize water usage and minimize wastage, particularly with the impending climate change.

Stay Away From Issue Of Iyaloja-General Of Oyo State, UK Group Tells Ibadan Mogaji

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A group of Oyo State Professionals in the United Kingdom on Friday, asked a Mogaji in Ibadanland, Chief Olawale Oladoja to stay away from the issue of Iyaloja-General of Oyo State.

The group in a statement by their London Coordinator, Adegbola Aleshinloye, alleged the Mogaji of dabbling into the Iyaloja General issue by throwing weight behind Alhaja Folashade Abeo as Iyaloja-General of the State.

According to the group, rather than dabbling into the leadership of market leaders, the Mogaji should be a custodian of his people, adding that his alleged dabbling 'is in bad taste and unfortunate altogether'.

The UK Professionals in the statement maintained that the issue of who gets what on market leadership has been long settled by the market leaders themselves affirming their supports for that elderly woman, Alhaja Saratu Aduke Konibaje believed to be enjoying widespread popularity amongst her colleagues and stakeholders in Ibadan and Oyo State in general.

The group stressed that,

"for Mogaji Wale Oladoja to come out and say he is supporting Folashade Abeo for the same position that has a reigning Iyaloja-General amounted to insubordination and lack of focus and sense of history".

"We are hasten to let Abeo understand that Mogaji Oladoja only spoke on behalf of himself and not the great people of Ibadanland.

He should be discountenanced by the people of the state", it said.

The group added, "From the reports from our royal fathers especially the Olubadan palace, Ibadan is solidly behind Saratu Aduke Konibaje, a distinguished trader and worthy daughter of the city of Ibadanland. Ibadan traditional Council members are behind their own, Saratu Aduke Konibaje as the Iyaloja-General of the State".

"It is showing to the whole world that she is our fathers' preferred market leader. And the State Governor, Engr Seyi Makinde should without further delay implement all the results of several elections conducted amongst the market leaders whose majority have chosen Saratu as their Iyaloja-General."



LAUTECH: Students, Parents Drag Gov Makinde, 4 Others To Court Over Relocation Of Faculty

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Four 200 level students of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomosho, Oyo State and their parents, have dragged Gov Seyi Makinde and others to court over the relocation of the faculty to the newly established Iseyin campus.

In the suit numbered HOG/34/2023 filed before an Oyo State High Court, sitting in Ogbomosho, other defendants in the suit are the Oyo state's commissioner for Education the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Acting Vice Chancellor and the Provost Iseyin campus.

The plaintiffs Akintayo Abdulqoyum Ajibola, Onwi Bassej Edet, Ezekiel Gbadegesin Ogunmola and Prince Aderemi Olude in the suit for themselves and on behalf of other students and parents of the 200 level students of the

faculty, is seeking an order of the court restraining the governor and his agents from going ahead with the plan.

The students are also seeking the determination of the court on "whether Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho Law, 2020 (As Amended) permits the movement of all the already established Faculty/Departments and/or courses to a new place/campus outside the main campus."

They are also seeking the court's determination on "whether moving of all the already established courses from the Faculty of Agricultural Science and Renewable Natural Resources from the main campus of the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho to Iseyin Campus or any other campuses outside the main campus is not in contravention of the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho

Law, 2020 (As Amended)."

Besides, they are praying the court to determine whether the relocation is not "a contravention of the directive of the National University Commission in a correspondence dated 14th March, 2022 with reference number NUC/AP/SO8. VOL 1/78 directed to the University."

In the suit, the claimants are seeking three reliefs of "an order of the court directing the Respondents whether by themselves, their agents, servants or anybody under their authority to return all the already established courses moved from Faculty of Agricultural Science and Renewable Natural Resources of the main campus of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho to Iseyin Campus back to the main campus forthwith."

An order, "directing the Respondents whether by themselves, their agents, servants or anybody under their authority

to recall back the movement of all 200 level students as directed in the letter dated 19th October, 2023 signed by the Registrar of the 3 Defendant/Respondent on the authority of the 4 Defendant/Respondent from Iseyin Campus back to the main campus of the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology."

As well as "an order of injunction restraining the Respondents, their agents, servants or anybody under their authority from moving all the already established courses from the Faculty of Agricultural Science and Renewable Natural Resources of the main campus of the Ladoke Akintola University Of Technology, Ogbomosho to Iseyin campus or any other campuses outside the main campus."

However, no date has been fixed for the hearing of the suit.

Group Drags FG, Customs To Court Over Restriction Of Petroleum Products In Ogun Communities

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Incorporated Trustees of All Youths Re-Oriented Initiative (AYRIN) has instituted a suit against the Federal Government over Custom's directive to prevent movement of fuel and petroleum products in communities close to the borders of the country. AYRIN in the Suit No FHC/AB/CS/ 87/23 filed by Izunya Izunya and Co on behalf of the plaintiff, through the Nigeria Customs Service at the Abeokuta High Court have as Defendants, the Nigeria Customs Service Board and the Comptroller-General of Nigeria Customs Service.

The plaintiff in the originating summon, is asking the court to decide "Whether it is not discriminatory, illegal and unconstitutional for Nigerians residing in communities of any distance from Nigeria border to be deprived of buying, selling or having access to the use of fuel and all petroleum products within and outside their communities in Nigeria".

It is also seeking, "Whether the circular issued by the 1st & 2nd defendant preventing petrol tankers from dispensing fuel in communities in Nigeria within twenty (20) kilometers from Nigeria border is not illegal, unconstitutional and contrary to section 42 and 43 of 1999 constitution of Nigeria (as amended) 2023".

AYRIN in the originating summon is seeking " Whether the prevention of fuel from entering 20 kilometers within boarder area has not caused untold economic, social and psychological pain, hardship and suffering on Nigerians residing within border area and any other order or further orders as the Honourable Court may deem fit to make in the circumstances.

The plaintiff's Counsel, Izunya Izunya & Co in the suit is seeking a declaration by the court that the circular No.027

issued by the 1st and 2nd defendant dated 6th day of September 2019 preventing petrol tankers from taking fuel to filling stations, selling and buying fuel within twenty kilometers from Nigeria Borders with other countries, is illegal, unconstitutional, null and void for being contrary to section 1 (1) & (3) and section 42 of the 1999 constitution of Nigeria As Amended) 2023.

"That members of the plaintiff and other Nigerians residing within any border villages/community whether near or far are entitled to use buy, sell and bring fuels and other petroleum product from anywhere within Nigeria by use of vehicle, tanker, gallons and any other fuel conveying object.

"That the defendants have no justification under any law to issue a circular that will discriminate against the members of the plaintiff and persons residing within border area and for such further Order or Orders as the Honourable Court may deem fit to make in the circumstance".

President of the applicant, Oguntoyinbo Olufemi Ajadi in an affidavit in support of the suit stated that he has the consent of the Trustees of the plaintiff and members of the plaintiff to depose to the affidavit; that the plaintiff is a non-governmental organization duly registered with Corporate Affairs Commission.

"That the filing of this suit is within the aims and objectives of the plaintiff as contained in exhibit B of paragraph 3 above; that the plaintiff has members within all areas affected by the act of the defendants and outside Ogun State and that the members of the plaintiff are not in one location but spread across different local governments, villages, towns and cities in Ogun State including but not limited to Ilero, Afon, Owode-idiroko, Ajegunle Ajilete, Wasimi-Okuta, Iwoye, Okeagbede, Idofa, Imeko etc".

NDLEA Busts Syndicate Of Blindmen Illicit Drugs Syndicate, Nabs 3

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have bust a syndicate of blind men drug peddlers, with the arrest of three suspects over the illicit business.

According to report, the suspects were said to be operating between Lagos and Kano, even as a member of the syndicate is still said to be at large.

The Director Media and Advocacy of the Agency, Femi Babafemi made the

disclosure in a statement available to journalists yesterday.

According to Babafemi, the lid was blown off the group, following the arrest of a blind suspect, Adamu Hassan, 40, along Gwagwalada expressway Abuja with 12kgs of skunk on his way from Lagos to Kano on Saturday 28th October.

Investigations however established that he was totally oblivious of the content of the bag handed to him to deliver in Kano. Follow up operations then

led to the arrest of the arrowhead of the syndicate, Bello Abubakar, 45, who is also blind.

In his statement, Bello who is married with five children said he has been living in Lagos for 30 years but started the illicit drug business five years ago.

Another suspect, Muktar Abubakar, 59, who is equally blind has been living in Lagos for 40 years and married to three wives with 14 children.

Both Muktar Abubakar and Bello Abubakar are joint owners of the business, while the third suspect, Akilu Amadu, 25, also blind equally contributes money to the criminal trade and was indeed the one who delivered the consignment to Adamu at the motor park in Lagos to deliver in Kano.

Another blind suspect who is the expected receiver of the consignment in Kano, Mallam Aminu is currently at large.



The suspects

IGP Egbetokun Orders 220 Operational Vehicles For Imo, Bayelsa, Kogi Guber Polls

Officer ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi made the disclosure in a release on Sunday.

According to the release, the IGP therefore urges all stakeholders in the 3 states to embrace peace, uphold the sanctity of the rule of law and be law-abiding in their endeavours before, during and after the elections as the Police and other security agencies have been placed on alert to avert any unruly acts capable of disrupting the elections in any of the states.



The vehicles

Fanfare As Former Kaduna TUC Chairman, Paul Jezhi Receives ECWA Honorary Doctorate Award

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

Eulogies have continued to pour in, congratulating a former Chairman of Trade Union Congress (TUC), Kaduna State Chapter, Engr. Paul Yaro Jezhi who was honoured over the weekend by ECWA Theological Seminary, Kwara State amidst cheers and encomium from family, friends and beneficiaries of various philanthropic gestures of the union activist.

The event took place on premises of the Seminary in Igbaja, Kwara State.

While conferring the honorable

doctorate degree on the philanthropist Board of Governors and Management ECWA Theological Seminary said it found Eng. Jezhi worthy of recognition due to various human and community development thrives he had accomplished over the years in public and private engagements.

"The activist has been in the forefront of ensuring the betterment of the Nigerian society by contributing his human and material wealth for growth, progress and development of his fatherland.

"A man of honour, truth and compassion who is always

willing and ready to extend the hand of generosity and magnanimity to people in need, especially the downtrodden.

"It is with utmost joy and high sense of honour, the Seminary is pleased to confer in Engineer Paul Jezhi the honorary degree of excellence in distinguished service to God, humanity and country," it declared.

The recipient while expressing appreciation over the award, stated that he was humbled to have been noticed by the Seminary and singled out for honour.

He reiterated commitment to continue rendering humanitarian

and community development services for general good and development of the Nigerian society.

"I never thought I was being noticed by individuals and corporate bodies, particularly the theological institutions.

"I was only discharging my duties as a member of the society who I believe has a role to play in making it a better and conducive place for all.

"The award will inspire and move me to do more for my people irrespective of region, ethnic or religious affiliations," he vowed.

Among the list of personalities in

congratulating and eulogizing the doctorate degree recipient was Sarkin Yaki Bosso Prof. Casmir Obialom who disclosed that he had known Engineer Paul Jezhi for over twenty years performing philanthropic and human development activities.

He described him as a diligent and wonderful individual with zeal and passion for progress of the society.

While wishing him God's strength and wisdom to serve people better, the professor expressed optimism that the award would propel Jezhi to excel in good and service to humanity.



Stop Bombing Of Gaza, Other Areas By Israel, Oyo Islamic Organizations Tell UN

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Muslim bodies in Oyo State under the auspices of Congruence of Islamic Organisations in the state on Saturday, embarked on a peaceful protest in solidarity with the Palestinians over the ongoing Israel-Palestine war.

Addressing journalists on behalf of the protesting Muslim bodies, Professor Modiu Durowoju asked the United Nations (UN) to prevail upon Israel to cease its bombing campaigns of Gaza and other areas.

Prof Durowoju pointed out that it is time for the International community, led by the UN to retrieve the peace process from the monopoly of the United States.

"The international community led by the United Nations should prevail upon Israel to cease its bombing campaigns of Gaza and other areas which has brought horror not just to the Palestinians but to the world", he said.

Prof Durowoju added, "The United Nations should lead efforts at creating humanitarian corridors and ensuring that aid and relief packages have access into Gaza and other places.

"Any interim peace process must as a matter of necessity, incorporate the lifting of the siege of Gaza. The international community led by the UN must retrieve the peace process from the monopoly of the United States which has become part of the Israeli occupation machinery."

The Prof of Chemical Engineering stressed that "The world must work to bring Israel to the Two-

States solution, compel it to halt settlement building and lift its siege of Gaza".

"That we consider as irresponsible, reprehensible and barbaric the show of support by the duo of the United States and the European Union for Israel and we hold them complicit. and culpable in this human tragedy happening before the global audience.

He maintained further "That ICC should commence a prosecution of the war crimes committed by Israel both now and prior to this time taking into consideration its violation of all extant international law including failure to protect the people under its occupation as written in the Geneva Convention".

"We affirm that Hamas is not a terrorist organization, but rather an elected representatives of the people engaged in arms insurrection against an occupying force as allowed by international law, rationality and necessity".

The protesters stormed the two road under bridge around 9.am and marched to the OTM Mosque in Iwo Road area in the noon lamenting that many innocent lives have been lost as a result of the war.

They noted that they organised the rally in solidarity with Palestinians who have been adversely affected by the war.

Other notable Islamic leaders that spoke at the rally included Grand Mufti, Conference of Islamic Organisations, Lagos, Sheikh Dhirulahi Shafi, Dr. Daud Amao Alaga, Barrister Abdulrahman Olaiya and a professor of Chemical Engineering, Modiu Durowoju.

Imo Guber Poll: IGP Egbetokun Reads Riot Act Against Troublemakers

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Ahead of the forthcoming Imo State Gubernatorial Election slated for Saturday, the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun has urged all parties to embrace peace, warning that decisive action will be taken against anyone who engages in act capable of undermining the integrity of the electoral process.

Egbetokun, who gave the stern warning at a crucial meeting with political leaders and other relevant stakeholders at the Rockview Hotel, Owerri, on Thursday, where vital election security-related matters were discussed, disclosed that officers have been deployed to deal with individuals and

groups who may contemplate disrupting the elections.

He also reiterated warnings against the use of VIP escorts, sirens, and illegal movements on election day.

The meeting which encompassed issues related to police deployment, ensuring secured elections, and maintaining security for all citizens served as a veritable platform for the IGP to assure stakeholders of the Nigeria Police Force's commitment to creating a secured environment for all voters and participants in the electoral process.

Egbetokun emphasized that the officers deployed for electioneering processes have undergone rigorous training on

election monitoring, guaranteeing robust security at polling units, and protecting the fundamental rights of all well-meaning members of the public as part of the NPF's thrust in upholding democratic principles.

The IGP urged all political parties to engage in constructive dialogue and embrace a peaceful atmosphere during the election period in order to foster a harmonious and peaceful environment for a credible and successful electoral process.

He underscored the importance of citizens having confidence in the NPF's professionalism, impartiality and its commitment to non-interference in the electoral process as the primary objective of the

police is to ensure a safe and peaceful environment for the elections.

Stakeholders were assured that security for all citizens is a top priority and that police will work diligently to maintain peace and safeguard the electoral process from any disruptions.

The Meeting had in attendance the Speaker, Imo State House of Assembly; Chief Mike Okiro (IGP Rtd.); Chairmen of Eight Political Parties; Traditional Rulers led by His Royal Majesty Eze Dr. EC Okeke, CFR, the Eze-Imo of Imo State; Imo State Resident Electoral Commission; religious leaders; Heads of Security Agencies in Imo State; members of the civil society; youths and student groups.



IGP Egbetokun addressing the stakeholders.

Police Foils Kidnap Attempt In Katsina, Rescues Victim

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Police Command has thwarted a kidnapping attempt and rescued a 40-year old, Tukur Adamu of Masaku village in Kankara Local Government Area of the State.

A statement by the command's Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Assistant Superintendent of Police, Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu yesterday, said the

incident happened on November 4, 2023 at about 1300 hours during a routine patrol.

He said on reaching Masaku village's outskirts, the command's operatives encountered a distressing kidnapping situation with the victim in a perilous situation.

He said without hesitation, the Police officers responded promptly and decisively to the situation, effectively neutralising the threat and rescued the victim.

The victim, PPRO Sadiq explained who sustained a gunshot injury to his left thigh, was rushed to the hospital for immediate medical attention and currently responding well to treatment.

He said the State Commissioner of Police, CP Aliyu Abubakar Musa, while commending the officers for an exceptional display of gallantry, reemphasized the command's commitment to ensuring the safety and

security of the people of Katsina.

CP Abubakar Musa assured that, the Command would continue to work diligently to ensure crime has been brought to the barest minimum in the state.

He urged "anyone with useful information related to this incident or any other criminal activity to come forward and assist in the ongoing efforts to maintain law and order in the state."



The protesting Muslim groups



Photo Representative of Oba Oginni handing over the keys of the patrol Vehicle.

NGO Sensitises Adolescent Boys, Girls On SGBV, FGM Prevention



By; **ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna**

As part of measures to help young people identify Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), in order to prevent it from happening, a non governmental organisation (NGO), Project Smile for Humanity Foundation, recently sensitised adolescent boys and girls in Kaduna State.

The 30 young persons between the ages of 13 and 19, were selected from three communities of Ungwan Boro, Ungwan Pama and Janruwa in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

The objective of the sensitisation according to

the organizers, is to educate them on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and SGBV prevention.

Speaking at the event, Chief Nutrition Officer on adolescent girls Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria (ANRiN) Project, Kaduna State, Aishatu Kada, noted that every woman and girl needs to live in a world free from gender based violence and the change begin with each and every one of us to enable the girl child live a life of dignity. She said, there's need for the young people who are usually victims of all kinds of gender based violence to join government's efforts at eradicating the menace in the society.

According to her, some of the things the state

government is doing to eradicate the practice includes; making legislation to give legal actions against the perpetrators.

"Creating awareness and educating communities, ensuring victims get adequate support and also engaging local community head, churches and mosque in fishing out perpetrators when they commit the crime.

"We organise comprehensive education and engagements of young people in the state to know the red lights when someone tries to do something wrong to them."

On her part, another resource person, Dr.

Bilikisu Yusuf, emphasized the need for adolescents to build cultural relationship with other people in order to tolerate and respect their beliefs and culture and not seeing their culture as been superior.

Comfort Ojo, who established the foundation in her remarks, encouraged the participants not to keep silence whenever they suspect or see any act of SGBV around them.

She charged them to continue to be advocates in their communities and also share the knowledge they have been impacted with to other adolescents in their sphere of influence.

Monarch Donates Patrol Vehicle To Odogbo-Ijesa Community Police-Post

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

In a bid to boost the security architecture of his jurisdiction, a monarch, Oba Olatunde Oginni has donated a patrol vehicle to the Odogbo-Ijesa community Police Post, in the Atakumosa East local government area of Osun State.

Receiving the vehicle from the representatives of the donor, Alhaji Gani Akodu from Esiran family, the Officer in Charge of the Odogbo Ijesa Police Post, ASP Ayoola Adeyiga Solomon commended Oba Oginni, for his concern and care for the welfare of the officers and men of the Nigerian Police Force working at the post.

ASP Solomon promised to make good use of the operational vehicle, adding that the car will go a long way in helping them to better secure the

jurisdiction, adding that their objective is keeping the people safe, enforcing laws, making sure the community is secured and forming good relations among police and community members.

Oba Oginni while speaking through his representative, charged the Police authority to consider turning the Police post to a Police division saying the community is capable of handling a Police division, "and I can assure the authority of good welfare of all the men posted there."

New Nigerian recalls that the former Assistant Inspector General of Police, in-charge of zone 11 AIG Sikiru Kayode Akande commissioned the Police post on Wednesday 24th May 2023 in order to better secure the community and improve its security situation.

Governor Uba Sani Moves To Restore Power Supply To KASU Campuses

*Directs immediate payment of outstanding debts to Kaduna Electric

By; **FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna**

Kaduna State Governor, His Excellency Uba Sani has directed the immediate payment of all outstanding debts accrued from 2022 to the Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company to enable the restoration of power supply to the Kafanchan and Kaduna campuses of the Kaduna State University (KASU).

According to a statement from Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State, Muhammad Lawal Shehu dated November 4, 2023, on receipt of reports on the lingering power outage in both campuses, Governor Sani immediately directed the Commissioner of Education, Professor Muhammad Sani Bello to

investigate the cause of the the blackout in the Kafanchan and Kaduna City campuses of the institution.

Following the findings and recommendations of the Commissioner of Education, Governor Sani directed that all outstanding debts from 2022 be paid to ensure that power supply is restored to both campuses.

"Education is one of the major priorities of Governor Uba Sani's administration, and the Governor has given assurances that interventions and initiatives will continue to be implemented to ameliorate the challenges faced by students in all state-owned tertiary institutions," the statement said.

Falana Faults Kano Tribunal Verdict, Demands Justice

***Says judges punish voters for errors of INEC**

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Nigeria's leading human rights lawyer, Femi Falana, has faulted the verdict by the Kano Governorship Election Petition Tribunal which nullified the victory of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf.

Speaking on Channels TV Sunrise programme on Friday, Falana said, "You cannot punish voters for the errors of INEC. That was what recently happened in Kano, where 65,000 votes were said to have not been marked by INEC officials".

He added: "We are asking our judges to embrace justice, substantial justice, in a way that you cannot punish voters for the errors of INEC".

According to the legal luminary, once the votes have been counted and a winner declared, "You cannot challenge the



Falana

validity of the ballot papers".

"So, I think these are the areas where our judges will have to go back to the

drawing table," Falana stressed.

It would be recalled that Governor Yusuf was declared duely elected by

the electoral umpire, INEC, in the Governorship election held in the State on March 18, 2023.

Be Prudent, Put Smiles On People's Faces, Kaduna Commissioner Mamman Lagos Tasks LG Chairmen

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Kaduna State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon Sadiq Mamman Lagos has tasked local government chairmen to make judicious use of allocated resources by delivering dividends of democracy to people at the grassroots.

Mamman Lagos declared that putting smiles on faces of the masses forms a core mandate that must be delivered by actors in the administration of Governor Uba Sani.

He stated this while chairing the State Joint Account Allocation Committee for the month of October 2023 at the Ministry For Local Government Affairs.

The commissioner, while stressing the need for bosses of local governments to be good

ambassadors of the present administration in the state by prioritizing the welfare of people at the grassroots so citizens can have a lasting sense of belonging in the current democratic experiment.

"As we receive our respective monthly allocations for October, I charge us all to make judicious use of the resource by putting social and economic infrastructures in order so that you can beat your

chests anywhere without fear that you have delivered on basic plans of Uba Sani for the people of the state

"By your virtues as the closest to the people, you have the leverage to know areas of their needs such as health, education, social infrastructure and what have you.

"Our amiable governor has made it clear that he is out to serve the people as demonstrated in policy implantation and steps

taken so far in the last five months.

"The people are yearning for interventional strides from you that could cushion the effects of subsidy removal and rising cost of living that has made life difficult.

"I enjoin you to go back to your respective communities and put back these resources into meaningful projects capable of impacting lives positively at the grassroots," he said.



Stop Persecution Of Northerners In Abia, Igbo Group Cautions Alex Otti *Gives gov 48 hours to rescind outbursts, apologize to Northern traders

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

An Igbo group, under the aegis of Coalition of Igbo Unions of Nigeria (CIUN) has cautioned the governor of Abia state against alleged persecution of Northerners in the state.

The Igbo group warned that move by governor Alex Otti to forcefully eject the Northern businesses at the Cattle market out of the state "will have a negative boomerang effect on Igbo traders in the North and across Nigeria."

In a statement released on Friday in Abuja, signed by some of the leaders of the group, asked governor Otti to "rescind his ethnically motivated outbursts and apologize to the Northern traders."

The said the vacate ultimatum issued by Governor Alex Otti to the Northern business owners have greatly increased the already tensed socio-political atmosphere in the country.

The statement signed by group's Chairman, Obinna John Okoroafor, the secretary, Udoka Onwuka and the Public Relations Officer, Maduabuchi Ibe Madu, also condemned "the indiscriminate demolition of shops and residential homes and demand that alternatives be provided for our Northern brothers without delay."

The statement reads: "Our attention has been drawn to the ongoing crisis at the Abia Cattle Market situated in Umunneochi LGA of Abia State.

"While we acknowledge the importance of Security of lives and property of all Nigerians living in every part of the Country, we STRONGLY CONDEMN AND DISSOCIATE OURSELVES FROM THE ETHNIC PROFILING being perpetrated by Mr Alex Otti against our brothers from Northern Nigeria doing business at

the Umunneochi Cattle Market.

"This is because the thoughtless move by Alex Otti to forcefully eject the Northern businesses at the Cattle market will have a negative boomerang effect on Igbo traders in the North and across Nigeria.

"We have observed with grave displeasure that Mr Alex Otti is selectively persecuting Northerners in the Market instead of taking a holistic approach that confronts the criminality going on in the Area.

"We have carefully observed that the 'vacate the Cattle Market' ultimatum issued by Governor Alex Otti have greatly increased the already tensed socio-political atmosphere in the Country.

"The plight of Northern Traders in the Cattle market if not handled satisfactorily will set a dangerous precedent which will ignite violence and clashes in various parts of Nigeria against Igbos.

"We, therefore, wish to distance ourselves from the reckless utterances and thoughtless actions of Mr Alex Otti whom we believe is playing to the gallery for political gains."

While urging the security agencies to redouble their efforts in curbing the menace of kidnapping and criminality in Umunneochi, Abia State and Nigeria in general, the statement added: "We remain Nigerians and are committed to the actualization of a peaceful and just environment for all Nigerians irrespective of ethnicity, religion or tribe.

"To ensure stability and peace, we are giving Mr Alex Otti, 48 hours to immediately rescind his ethnically motivated outbursts and apologize to the Northern Traders who have cohabitated peacefully with their host communities hitherto."

Kano CIBN Visits Murtala Mohammed Specialist Hospital, Donates Cash To Patients



By; **JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano**

The Kano State Branch of the Chartered Institute Of Bankers Of Nigeria (CIBN) have paid a sympathy visit to the Murtala Mohammed specialist hospital where the executive officers made some cash donations to some of the patients to enable them settle some medical fees.

The leader of the delegation

Alhaji Aliyu Wada Nas with his entourage were received by the representative of the chief medical officer of the hospital Alhaji Isah Haladu where he took the CIBN officials round the hospital where they met with the patients and make some cash donations instantly.

In his introductory remarks, Alhaji Aliyu Wada Nas disclosed that CIBN decided to organise the visitation into the hospital as

the institute's 2024 activities which includes hospitals visits to sympathize with some patients and to donate cash to some categories of patients as charity projects which is one of their programmes.

He reassured that the "chartered institute of Bankers of Nigeria would be a continuous programme and we may also extends our projects to other sectors in order to bring more

succour to the people especially at present when the livelihood is getting more tough". He emphasized.

Alhaji Aliyu Wada Nas on behalf of the institute, thanked the management of Murtala Mohammed Specialist Hospital for being selfless in governing the affairs of the hospital and reassured that more helping hands would continue to be provided without bias.

Responding, the representative of the Chief Medical Director of the hospital, Alhaji Isah Haladu commended Kano State Branch of the Chartered Institute Of Bankers Of Nigeria for the sympathy visit and called on the well meaning citizens, organisations, individuals and corporate bodies to emulate CIBN's gestures to the hospital.



Group warns against smear campaigns against FCTA Permanent Secretary

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Permanent Secretary of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) Mr. Adesola Olusade has been described as a thoroughly bred civil servant who is committed to his job and is determined to always make it better.

The description was contained in a statement issued yesterday by a civil society organisation, Pro-Impact Initiative and signed by its coordinator, Dr. Osamudiamen Isokpehi.

The group which was reacting to smear campaigns against the permanent secretary, urged the public to disregard the fabrication of lies against a man who has put in his best to make the FCTA a better and efficient place to work.

Dr. Isokpehi appealed to those carrying out such, "satanic acts and their sponsors to redirect their time, energy and resources to ventures that would improve their lives and impact the society positively".

He noted that since the coming on board of Mr Olusade, "Regular Training is now being done with the ugly old practice of doing trainings on 'man knows man bases.' 40 per cent of Training Funds from each Department is expected to be pulled into the Department of Human Resource for them to identify people based on their specified training needs.

"Targets have been placed for trainings under the SOPs and Departments who failed to meet their quota are usually called to order where complaints emanate from the staff."

The group noted that the payment of Peculiar Allowance to staff soon after the exit of the former minister, Mal. Mohammad Musa Bello is a testimony to the welfarist posture of Mr. Adesola who believes that when workers are well motivated, they tend to give their best.

Dr Isokpehi went further to argue that Mr. Adesola is equally reputed to have "used his Office to raise the Internally Generated Revenue of FCTA which made a monumental leap from N92.7bn in the first half of the year when compared to N150bn in 2022, N124bn in 2021 and N102bn in 2020.

"Under these reforms, revenue collection from the Six Area Councils are now



harmonized into the FCT-Inland Revenue Service eliminating the need for consultants."

Operations of the Department of Roads Traffic Services are now digitalized while the new Park and Pay Policy is smoothly on course courtesy of the Permanent Secretary's Civil Service Reform Initiatives.

The group further pointed out that "over 3,000 staff of FCTA have so far received Basic Digital Skills in an effort by the Permanent Secretary to meet the Digitalization efforts of the Administration. By 2025, Government Operations in the FCT are expected to be fully digitalized. This is courtesy of the deliberate Policy Initiative of the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Adesola Olusade who wants every staff to be digitally compliant ahead of the targeted date to completely transform the Civil Service in FCTA."

Speaking on promotion of staff, Dr

Isokpehi affirmed that, "Regular Promotion of Staff as at and when due with payment of the Promoted benefits has now become the norm in FCTA with the reform instituted by the Permanent Secretary.

"Before his posting to FCTA as the Permanent Secretary, backlog of Promotion Arrears amounting to Billions of Naira was owed staff. As I write, none of the over 32,000 strong workforce is being owed a dime. 100 Deputy Directors have now been promoted to the rank of Directors after a very highly competitive process.

"Recently a Personnel Payroll Audit was announced by the Permanent Secretary which will be digitally performed with the view to weeding out ghost or non-existent workers in attempts to drastically reduce the monthly wage bill of N8B which the Territory is incurring every month on recurrent expenditures."

The group noted that, "It is also on record

that Mr. Olusade streamlined all contract payment processes to make it easy for anyone who came into the FCT and becomes the Minister or Permanent Secretary to easily understand files that were paid with references, name of the project and level of completion backed up with pictorial evidence and dates.

"National Shopping has not been business as usual since Mr. Adesola became Permanent Secretary. He reformed this process by putting in place guidelines that must be put on board to merit National Shopping, a Procurement Term for handling emergency issues in the office that cannot wait for the long tendering process of procurement."

Dr. Isokpehi went further to state that "due to the Permanent Secretary's insistence, the Annual Staff Recognition Award System commenced in FCTA for the first time in the first quarter of this year in line with the Federal Executive Council in 2021. This introduced a healthy competition among staff for awards with concomitant effects on increased productivity that is driving service delivery in FCT.

"Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), a Federal Government's policy that things should be done in a structured manner which is meant to reduce expenditure on trainings was introduced by Mr. Olusade Adesola. So far 17 Departments in FCT are now fully automated and are deploying their SOPs accordingly.

"Through SOPs, the Annual Performance Evaluation Report (APER) will soon give way to the Performance Management Systems (PMS) where each staff will have their job prescription and every quarter, staff and their supervisors will seat down and analyze work done and review work plans for the future."

Also speaking on the allegations that the permanent secretary is a tribalist, Dr Isokpehi challenged those "peddling such lies to go round the FCTA and check how many of his tribesmen are in key positions compared to some other tribes. This was how the former permanent secretary, Sir Christian Ohaa was accused of being a tribalist by these same characters and taken to berekete radio for crucifixion. Many thanks to the ordinary president, Ahmed Isah who investigated and found it to be a big lie".

Gowon Expresses Confidence On NYSC Trust Fund Bill

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

A former military Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon has expressed confidence that the Trust Fund Bill of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), will be attended to.

A statement signed by the Director, Press and Public Relations, Eddy Megwa, said Gowon made the observation on Friday in Abuja when the Director-General of the NYSC, Brigadier-General Yushau Ahmed led some directors, staff

and corps members on a visit to celebrate his 89th birthday.

According to the statement, Gowon urged the scheme to be hopeful of the success of the bill and as well, keep the NYSC flag flying with special innovations.

"The former military head of

state charged the corps members to continue to be disciplined, loyal and patriotic in their service to the country," the statement explained.

The director-general of the scheme, Brigadier-General Ahmed, had earlier

congratulated the former head of state who turned 89 years.

He prayed God to further bless the former head of state with more years as the scheme was still benefitting from his wealth of knowledge when he initiated it.

Gov Dauda Holds The Scepter Of Leadership, Driving Zamfara To Greater Heights

By; TOM GARBA, Yola

Nigeria is lucky to have a man currently holding the scepter of leadership for the people of Zamfara, North West Nigeria, His Excellency, Mr Dauda Lawal, the Executive Governor of the state.

The man Dauda was not crowned the governor because of his strength or wisdom, he was because God formed and predestined him to be and God saw what no man, not even the prophets of the land were able to see in him.

The young man in the build up of the 2023 elections, became a man after the people of Zamfara's heart, a God's choice who has the heart and nature of a great leader.

He risked his life through a journey of wilderness experience as an educated individual, a business technocrat and a highly skilled and trained leader, having gone to leadership schools both home and abroad in preparation for the call of leadership on him for the people of Zamfara. The true mark of leadership bequeathed on him by nature and destiny.

He is firmly holding the scepter, a staff in his hand as a leader signifying knowledge, wisdom, passion, focus, innovation,

precision, and an enigma of sovereign authority. With this virtue on him on resuming office, the young visionary governor hits the ground running by assuring the people of Zamfara State of nipping in the bud, the activities of bandits raising their ugly heads and meeting all sorts of uncivil and lawless attacks on unarmed civilians.

He pledged to sustain the war of fighting bandits who have commercialized and legalized kidnapping and illegal mining in the state. The heinous activities of bandits in the state before Dauda came on board with a scepter of true leadership to turn the state into an enviable state of development. No wonder, his few months in office have since become a sigh of relief for the people of the state concerning the evil acts of bandits. Kingpins like Dogo Gide and his sponsors and cohorts have taken to their heels, running and hiding because Dauda has unleashed the terror of true leadership on anyone who is refusing to be law-abiding.

Zamfara is one of the agrarian states as land with the promising working governor, has started turning the economy's potential through agriculture. One of his policy statements is to revive

agriculture in the state, where agricultural products can be exported.

Because of how Dauda is ready and positioned to take Zamfara to the next level, everything seems to fight for his attention; news of his new dreams for the state, gossip of his new approach to governance, and cause the support of the stakeholders, people in the ruling communities supporting his revving policies.

A leader's ability to lead excellently depends on his perception and ability to recognize God's handiwork in every atom. This is another area that Dauda believes that the Government of Zamfara, with him sitting on the driving site navigating the affairs to a haven great development is an act of God Almighty. He has not failed in the area of prayers for God to make him another Moses or David of our time.

One of the many tests a great leader undergoes is the TEST OF INSIGHT. God will test your ability to accurately discern before He commits the destinies of people into your hands. For me, Dauda is an endorsement of God for the people of Zamfara. He is working and putting every single part of the system in place. The ability in him is so glaring that even the opposition with



Governor Dauda Lawal

their machinations at the lower courts are falling flat because no one can be content with the will of God, Dauda Lawal is God's ordained, designed, prepared, and packaged well for the people of Zamfara.

He is with the scepter, standing as an emblem and symbol of the good leadership prepared by God to lead. It's good to say that God has used men from time immemorial to meet the needs of men. He reveals the destinies of

people and nations to leaders. Dauda is another man I can tentatively say God has sent for not only Zamfara State, but Nigeria as a nation.

I call on all Zamfara sons and daughters to give him the maximum support.

Tom Garba, FICM, FBMC, SPSP wrote this article from Abuja-Nigeria. He can be reached via; 08030525759, 08172570959 or tomgarba5@gmail.com

Evolve Effective Insurance Schemes For Journalists, NUJ President Tasks Media Organisations

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The National President of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Chief Chris Isiguzo on Thursday, tasked all media organisations in the country to evolve effective insurance schemes for journalists in their employment. Chief Chris Isiguzo gave the task while observing the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists held at the NUJ National Secretariat, in Abuja.

The NUJ National President while lamenting that threats and physical violence against Journalists still occur regularly and are often carried out with impunity, condemned acts of repression against journalists who are denied the right to freedom of expression through censorship that continue to manifest in various forms. According to the NUJ National President, there is the need for a halt to such acts of impunity and



Chris Isiguzo

says that the Union will renew its efforts in the months ahead to tackle threats to journalists, campaign for improved working conditions and build a stronger

voice for journalists in the Country.

Observing that election coverage is one of the most dangerous assignments for journalists in the

country, Chief Isiguzo urging the authorities to allow all journalists who wish to cover elections to do so without obstruction or censorship.

"We urge all media organisations in the country to evolve effective insurance schemes for journalists in their employment. We also want an end to the harassment of journalists for exercising the right to free expression and demand respect for their human rights - including their right to access to information - they should be allowed to do their jobs without fear of intimidation or arrest", he said.

Chief Isiguzo added, "We note the difficult working environment in which journalists are currently operating, including poor wages and exploitative conditions. Nigerian journalists are yearning for better wages, more secure contracts and decent working conditions", he explains.

"Local and foreign journalists should be able to follow the events on the ground and keep the public informed about the democratic process, because Press freedom is central to any free and credible election".

While condemning acts of repression against journalists who are denied the right to freedom of expression through censorship that continue to manifest in various forms, Chief Isiguzo called for a halt to such acts of impunity, saying the Union will renew its efforts in the months ahead to tackle threats to journalists, campaign for improved working conditions and build a stronger voice for journalists in the Country.

He therefore, appealed to the Federal Government and all States of the Federation, to take effective measures for better protection of journalists and to fully implement the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa.

Gwantu Traditional Council Describes Publication On Rejection Of Traditional Title As False

By; ISAAC ODEH,
Kaduna

The Gwantu Traditional Council has said that a malicious publication by an online news medium over a purported rejection of the traditional title of the "DANMASANIN GWANTU" by one Mr. Isa Waziri the erstwhile "Wazirin of GWANTU District under the present GWANTU Chiefdom in Sanga Local Government Area of Kaduna State, as false.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Secretary, Gwantu Traditional Council, Aliyu David Ajetu, made available on Saturday.

"Ordinarily, the GWANTU Traditional Council wouldn't have joined issues over the fabricated lies printed and have been circulated to weep cheap popularity and public sympathy but it has become imperative to correct the wrong notions being created and set the records straight.

"Firstly, the prestigious traditional title of the Prime Minister (Wazirin-Gwantu) was bestowed on Dr. (Alhaji) Yahaya Abdullahi Mohammed by the Chief of the defunct Numana Chiefdom, late Malam Gambo Makama. Subsequently, the District Head of GWANTU under the then Numana Chiefdom, Alh Bashir Mohammed also bestowed a similar traditional title of "Wazirin-Gwantu" on Dr. Isa Waziri without recourse and adequate consultations with stakeholders.

"Consequently, following the dissolution and changes on the various traditional institutions in Kaduna State by former Governor Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai two new Chiefdoms were created out of the defunct Numana Chiefdom namely GWANTU and Arak Chiefdoms," the statement said.

It explained that on ascension to the throne in December, 2022, the present Chief of GWANTU (Etum GWANTU) Alh Balarabe



Abdullahi Karma deemed it wise and pertinent to dissolve all traditional titles bestowed on individuals under the then Numana Chiefdom and provided a virile platform for the erstwhile title holders interested on maintaining their title to reapply for same under his leadership.

"To this end, therefore, the then "Wazirin Numana" Dr (Alh) Yahaya Abdullahi Mohammed did apply for reappointment as the "Waziri" under the present GWANTU traditional Council and was considered and approved by the Paramount Ruler, Alh Balarabe Abdullahi Karma.

"This position was duly acknowledged and recognised as well as gazetted in the archives of the present GWANTU Chiefdom. This confirmation is to lay to rest the purported claims by Mr Isa Waziri that he was unjustly removed and was being compensated through an offer by the District Head of GWANTU of the title of "Danmasani" a very arrangement that the District Head waived as a pigment of fabricated lies through a letter addressed to Mr Isa Waziri of

Ahmadu Bello University Staff quaters, Zaria and dated 3rd November, 2023 in which the District Head even denied making him the offer for the title of the Danmasani GWANTU.

"Similarly, the GWANTU traditional Council wishes to state in unambiguous terms that it is the exclusive prerogative, privilege, right and preserves of His Royal Highness the "Etum Gwantu" to exercise the powers of bestowing such traditional titles and not even a District Head.

"Again, let it be on record that Dr (Alhaji) Yahaya Abdullahi Mohammed the Substantive "Wazirin-Gwantu" did not lobby for the position but was considered worthy to be reappointed and reaffirmed for the enviable position. On the final note, let the public be aware that the present "Wazirin-Gwantu", Dr (Alhaji) Yahaya Abdullahi Mohammed was conferred with the Waziri title first by the late chief of Numana, Malam Gambo Makama long before Mr Isa Waziri was turbaned with a similar title by the District Head of Gwantu who was a lower level traditional leader under then Numana Chiefdom before the

recent transition to Gwantu Chiefdom.

"The claim by Mr Isa Waziri that the District Head of Gwantu, Alh Bashir Mohammed deliberately removed him as the Wazirin-Gwantu with a view to replacing him with his younger brother, Dr (Alhaji) Yahaya Abdullahi Mohammed is a cheap blackmail and a well calculated attempt to ridicule the Gwantu Traditional Council before the eyes of the government and the general public which is regrettable and unfortunate.

"Lastly, the Gwantu traditional Council hereby reiterates that there is only one "Waziri" of Gwantu Chiefdom in person of Dr (Alhaji) Yahaya Abdullahi Mohammed and the general public is to take note and disregard in its entirety the slanderous claims by Mr Isa Waziri against the district Head of Gwantu of been shortchanged in favour of his younger brother.

"The Gwantu traditional Council finally enjoined all her illustrious sons and daughters to always respect constituted authorities in the interest of peace, unity and societal development".

How Jigawa Village Head Allegedly Rapes, Impregnates, Infects Girl With HIV

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Village Head of Dan Gulam in Gwaram Local Government Area of Jigawa State, Umar Ibrahim has allegedly raped, impregnated, and infected one Hanatu Yahaya (not her real name) with HIV.

This was contained in a letter (dated October 16, 2023) to the Secretary of Dutse Emirate Council, Dutse Emir's Palace, by Senior State Counsel in Jigawa State Ministry of Justice, Kabiru Abdullah Esq., with the title, "Notification of arraignment of Umar Ibrahim (Village Head of DanGulam) on the offence of rape contrary to section 3 (1) (A and D) of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law 2021".

Findings revealed that there was unnecessary pressure on the emirate to sweep the issue under the carpet, despite appeals and state government intervention through the office of the Attorney General in the state.

According to that letter, the accused claimed to have initiated a defamation of character suit against the girl, her father, and one Sule Umar of Dangulam village before Upper Shari'a Court Gwaram.

But, the investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department of Jigawa State Police Command established criminal conspiracy and rape cases against Umar Ibrahim.

The letter read, "I have been directed by the Hon. Attorney General of Jigawa State to write and notify your Highness that, a complaint of rape and infection with HIV Virus was lodged at the Office of the Hon. Attorney General by one Ya'u Muhammad 'm' in which he alleged that Umar Ibrahim (Village Head of Dan Gulam) had engaged his daughter in an illegal sexual intercourse

which resulted to her pregnancy and infected her with HIV.

"Upon receiving the complaint, parties were invited and in the course of discussion with the Hon. Attorney General, Umar Ibrahim (the village head) revealed that he had filed a case of defamation against the girl, her father, and one Sule Umar of Dan Gulam village before Upper Shari'a Court Gwaram.

"The Attorney General directed for the case at Upper Sharia Court Gwaram to be taken over and all parties were referred to State CID Dutse for investigation of the two cases.

"After the investigation by the Police at State CID, the case diary was sent to the Ministry of Justice for legal advice.

"The legal advice was given and it revealed that prima facie case of criminal conspiracy and rape were made against Umar Ibrahim who to the Hon. Attorney General's greatest dismay is a traditional leader as village head of Dan Gulam, Gwaram Local Government Area, Jigawa State.

"In view of the above fact and that he will soon be arraigned before court for prosecution and to avoid arraigning him as a traditional leader.

"It is based on the foregoing fact that the Hon. Attorney General/Commissioner of Justice directed me to write and notify Your Highness of the position of the case for appropriate steps to be taken".

Meanwhile, the family of the affected girl is calling on civil society and non-governmental organisations to intervene in the matter to save the girl's life and to ensure justice is served following the provision of the VAPP Law 2021 of Jigawa State.

Oyo Road Traffic Management Team Visits Lagos To Understudy Effective Traffic Management

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Officials of the Oyo State Road Traffic Management Authority (OYSRTMA) have visited the headquarters of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) to understudy the mode of operations with a view to replicate same in Oyo State.

The General Manager of LASTMA, Mr. Bolaji Oreagba, while playing host to the visitors in his office at Oshodi, informed them that the primary purpose for the establishment of the Agency in year 2000 by the then administration of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu was to transform the state's transportation system and to ensure free flow of traffic and reduction in road incidents

across the state.

Mr. Oreagba disclosed that to properly manage and control traffic in Lagos, the Agency operates an efficient operational guideline with a viable structure that is enhanced by Lagos State Transport Sector Reform Law (2018).

The General Manager added that the 22 year-old Agency, in achieving its mandate, has close to 5000 personnel managing traffic across the metropolis for the desired goal of free flow of vehicular movement.

In a statement by Adebayo Taofiq Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of LASTMA, Oreagba further stressed that the deployment of modern technology is to aid efficient service delivery of LASTMA.

According to him, the use of Traffic Management Solutions (TMS) Device now helps to capture real-time traffic offences, reduces direct physical contact with offenders and also prevents back and forth argument between offenders and traffic officials"

Earlier during his address, the Chief Executive Officers of Oyo State Road Traffic Management Authority; Major Adekoya Adesagba (Rtd) disclosed that their visit to LASTMA Headquarters is to understudy modes of operation, how offenders were captured and how data being generated in order to replicate same in Oyo State given the achievement and success LASTMA has recorded in Lagos.

The General Manager of

OYSRTMA, Mr. Adeoye Ayoade Kola profusely thanked the management of LASTMA for the warm reception and robust enlightenment given to them during the discussions.

As part of the courtesy visit, Officials of OYSRTMA visited Lagos State Traffic Radio and Lagos State Command & Control Centre located at Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja Top management Officials of Oyo State Road Traffic Management Authority at the meeting include Akinade Sunday (Provost Head), Obisesan Abiodun (PRO), Olalere Olaniyi (Zonal Commander), Adisa Oluwakayode (D.S.C Rescue), Sbdullahi Rofiat (D.S.C Special Duty) and Adesokan Saheed (S.C).

Governor Mutfwang Encourages Research Towards Revolutionizing Natural Medicine



Gov Mutfwang

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

The Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang has charged the National Association of Natural and Traditional Medicine Practitioners of Nigeria to exert energy in research towards the revolutionizing natural medicine to meet global best practices.

The governor made this call at the Plateau State Natural Medicine Day with the theme, "Exploring the Potentials of Natural Medicine" which took place at Crispin Hotel, Jos. Governor Mutfwang who was represented by the Plateau State Commissioner of Information and Communication, Musa Ibrahim Ashoms, acknowledged the laudable contributions

natural medicine practitioners have made and are making to the growth of the society through the prevention and treatment of physical and mental illnesses.

The Chairman BOT/National President of the Association of Natural and Traditional Medicine Practitioners of Nigeria, Chief Dr. Luka Peter Doka said that natural medicine if properly harnessed, will be a money spinner for the country especially Plateau State.

He also used the occasion to thank His Excellency, Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang for supporting the body and agreeing to host the event.

The Plateau State Natural Medicine day was hosted by the Plateau State Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.



Officials of OYSTRMA and LASTMA during the visit.

Yobe: Prof. Bewarang Unveils New Testament Bible In Kare-Kare Dialect

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former President and the Current Chairman Board of Trustee, Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN), Reverend Professor Soja Bewarang has unveiled the maiden Kare-Kare New Testament Bible in Potiskum, the headquarters of Potiskum Local Government Area of Yobe State.

The clergy charged the Kare-Kare tribe to ensure they use the Bible both at church worships and at home for their spiritual growth and preaching the gospel.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Chairman of the Kare-Kare

Bible language translation, Mr. Yusuf Musa revealed the move for the translation of the New Testament Bible into Kare-Kare language began in early seventies, but could not see the light of the day until now.

According to him, almost all the pioneer committee members have been called to glory, with the recent demise of Elder Andrew Njayo who was the chairman until his death.

Among the sons and daughters of Kare-Kare tribe, Professor Dauda Bitrus Bawa who was the chief launcher at the occasion, expressed happiness for witnessing the day after years of struggle.

According to him, the unveiling

of the New Testament Bible would support the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ among the Kare-Kare tribe.

In her remarks, the Executive Director, Nigerian Bible Translation Trust represented by Value Josephine, thanked the committee for working hard to ensure the New Testament is launched.

She also urged the Yobe State

Government for introducing Kare-Kare dialect into its curriculum to be taught in primary schools, being one of the major languages in the state.

Highlight of the occasion was singing of the National Anthem, Bible Recitation and Special Numbers in Kare-Kare dialect as well as the launching of the New Testament Bible.



Kwara Gov Restates Support For SMEs As Muslimapreneur Hosts 2nd Trade Affair

By **BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin**

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq yesterday, restated the administration's resolve to strengthen small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and make the environment more conducive for businesses to thrive.

The Governor spoke in Ilorin at the official opening of the second edition of the Muslimah Entrepreneurs Trade Affair, where a variety of locally made products and services are being displayed for patronage.

The programme, which was organized by the Muslimaprenuer Forum, and will last for three days, has started attracting buyers from nooks and crannies of the state.

"As you have seen so far, this administration has been supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the entire business community, and we will continue to do that. On our own, we have a lot of programmes coming up next year for women entrepreneurs and youths who are in the tech space, SMEs and so on," he said while declaring open the Trade Affair. AbdulRazaq, who was represented at the event by the state Commissioner for Business, Innovation and Technology Hon. Damilola Yusuf, said they would not have been able to come together for a trade exhibition if the government had not made the environment conducive for businesses to flourish.

He hailed their entrepreneurship spirit to market Kwara-made products for Nigeria and the world at large, urging the residents



to troop out and patronize them.

"To be honest, we are very proud of Muslimah Entrepreneurs. They have come through, and have been able to market for each other. Honestly, they have the entrepreneurship spirit. And I have even seen a lot of products here that are made in Kwara for Nigeria. And I think they have a very big potential.

"I implore everybody to patronize them. I like how they are focused on natural products. I have seen some products that have NAFDAC numbers already, which are good for the body system. I can see that they are very focused on what they do. This, I believe, has been encouraged by the government which created an avenue for ease of doing business in the state," he

added.

Co-convenor of the Trade Affair and CEO Baytu Tejmeel, Hajia Fatimah Saliu Adejumo, in her remarks, said they came up with the second edition of the Affair to create ease and comfort for people, who she said are currently hit by inflated prices of goods and services in the markets.

She said at least forty vendors are participating in the exhibition, and that their goods and services are cheap and affordable.

"It has not been easy putting this together. We, as a profit making organization, came together to make this happen. We have seen that things are a bit on the high side in the markets. So, we want to try our best and make it easier for our customers and co-vendors," she said, asking kwara residents to come out en masse for this opportunity.

"We have over forty vendors exhibiting here, and they all came with discounts and affordable goods services for everybody in Kwara state".

Adejumo said Muslimaprenuer Forum is open for partnership and has been working towards that, adding that they have offered such interest to some governmental agencies and relevant stakeholders.

"This is the second affair we are having. And we thank God Almighty. So far we have some turn up and we are very hopeful more people will come.

"We are open to collaboration with governmental agencies. This is an entrepreneurship platform. We are expecting them. We have gone to KWACCIMA (Kwara Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Agriculture) and several offices to achieve that," she said.





Mutawalle

Gov Lawal

Kebbi Autocrash Claims 11, Injures 10 Others

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

No fewer than 11 passengers reportedly lost their lives in a fatal motor accident which occurred in the early hours of Friday in Sokoto State, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt.

Ten others were said to have sustained varying degrees of injuries and undergoing treatment at Shanga General Hospital. Our correspondent gathered that the incident happened along Koko-Yauri Road at about 6.00am, when the driver of a Volvo DAF truck, marked KWA 230 SKK lost control.

As learnt, the truck driven by one Alhaji Sule, 49yrs

of Gada Local Council of Sokoto, which was loaded with passengers and bags of beans going to Ibadan, Oyo State somersaulted on reaching Giron Masa village.

The Kebbi State Police Command Spokesperson SP Nafiu Abubakar, who confirmed the incident in a release said the victims were evacuated to the hospital by police operatives attached to Shanga Police Station.

"ON the 3rd November, 2023, at about 0600hrs, there was a fatal motor vehicle accident along Koko_Yauri road, involving a Volvo DAF truck with registration number KWA 230 SKK, driven by one Alhaji Sule 'm' aged 40yrs of Gada

LGA of Sokoto State.

"The truck which was loaded with passengers and bags of beans was coming from Sokoto to Ibadan, Oyo State. On reaching Giron Masa village, Shanga LGA, the driver of the truck lost control. As a result, it somersaulted and Twenty One (21) passengers sustained various degrees of injuries.

"On receipt of the report, a team of Policemen from Shanga Division rushed to the scene and evacuated the victims to General hospital, Shanga, for treatment, where a medical Doctor confirmed Eleven (11) dead, while the remaining victims are responding to treatment".

Meanwhile, the

Commissioner of Police, Kebbi State Command, CP Chris Aimionowane, psc, mnips has prayed for the souls of the departed to have an eternal rest.

He also prayed that may their immediate families and friends have the courage to bear the irreparable loss.

The CP also called on the NURTW, NARTO and other road users to always ensure they emplace adequate safety measures in their vehicles and be conscious, with a view to preventing future reoccurrence.

He equally advised them to observe speed limit, avoid overloading, recklessness and be more careful while driving.

Call Gov Dauda Lawal To Order, Group Tells Zamfara Elders, Ulamas

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Northern Professionals Development Group (NOPDEP) on Friday asked elders, ulamas and political leaders in Zamfara State to call their governor, Dauda Lawal to order, over his suspected involvement in propaganda and media attacks on President Bola Tinubu and his Minister of Defense (State) and immediate past governor of the state, Bello Matawalle.

Coordinator of the group in Zamfara, Barr Bashir Ibrahim Shamaki in a statement, expressed deep concern over the development warning the current administration in the state to focus on fulfilling his campaign promises to the people of the state.

The group lamented that rather than providing good governance, security, political cohesion, and progress in the state, "some officials of the Zamfara State government have now become agents of recruiting protesters, media mercenaries for political attacks against the policies of the federal government in Abuja and Kaduna State respectively".

The group described such attitude as alien to the unity, development, and political maturity in the North.

The group then advised the Government of Zamfara State under Dr. Dauda Lawal to sheath its sword and face

numerous challenges facing the state to bring succour to the people of the state.

The group further condemned poor outing of governance and continued use of the state's meager resources in sponsoring some individuals and groups to protest and organise media conferences "while hundreds of thousands of Zamfara people are dying from hunger, and insecurity challenges among others.

"There's no political solidarity or support from the Zamfara people over what their governor is allegedly doing against the Federal government or his predecessor.

"So why continue spending such millions of naira to finance non-indigenes away from Gusau to protests against issues of political interest?

"Instead of such failed jamborees, reckless spending by the state government to non-profit ventures, why not cooperate with Federal government towards bringing an end to insecurity, bringing peace and cohesion in the state", he said.

The group however, asked Zamfara elders, ulamas, and other political leaders to urgently call the governor to order and seek intervention in bringing all the two warring leaders together for harmony, peace, and progress of Zamfara and Nigeria as a whole.



Some of the passengers affected in the accident

Why Kano Tribunal Judgment Cannot Stand

BY: KABIRAKINGBOLU

In the last few days, the media, both electronic and the conventional media have been awash by all sorts of reports and analysis about the recent judgment of the Election Petition Tribunal that nullified the governorship election and return of Alhaji Yusuf Abba as the governor of Kano state. To my mind, I think and believe that this judgment and series of opinion or analysis that followed have all failed to decipher the real position of the law with regard to the major reasons why the Tribunal nullified the election.

As shall be demonstrated anon, the Tribunal lacked jurisdiction to declare the APC candidate in the election as the winner after nullifying certain votes, given the state of our electoral jurisprudence. Before going further, it is pertinent to state that the jurisdiction of any court, including an election petition tribunal, is determined by the statute, a fortiori, an Election Petition Tribunal, whose jurisdiction is not only donated but also circumscribed by the statute, that is, the Electoral Act, 2022 and the 1999 constitution (as amended).

This means that a court of law cannot act outside the statute that established it. See *Alhassan V. Ishaku* (2017) All RWLR (pt 866) 209 at 297-298, where the Supreme Court held that the jurisdiction of a tribunal is circumscribed and limited in power by the enabling statute or law. Therefore, looking at the major ground or reason given by the tribunal in nullifying 165,673 votes, it will be observed that it was based on the failure of the Presiding Officers of the affected polling units to sign, date and stamp the results issued, according to the tribunal.

Now, the question to ask are: can the mere omission to sign or stamp an election result constitute a ground to nullify same? Assuming it can (which is not conceded) does the tribunal have the jurisdiction to declare APC candidate the winner in the circumstances? It is submitted most humbly that the Tribunal's order declaring the APC candidate the winner of the election completely turned the law upside down, for undisclosed reasons.

This is because section 60 (1) and (2) of the Electoral Act, 2022, upon which the judgment was based is not sacrosanct. For ease of reference, section 60 (1) and (2) of the electoral Act 2022 provides:

(2) The presiding officer shall, after counting the votes at polling unit, enter the votes scored by each candidates in a form to be prescribed by the commission as the case may be.

(2) The form shall be signed and stamped by presiding officer and counter signed by the candidates or their polling agents where available at the polling units.

It is submitted that non adherence or observance of the above provision cannot render the result of an election invalid because looking at the provision, it commanded two major obligations, namely: The presiding officer shall sign and the candidates or his agents shall sign. Fair enough, but there had been several instances where agents of the candidates were available but refused to sign the results of the election and the court held that it is not mandatory neither did it nullify the results of the election. See *Ikpeazu V Otiti* (2016) 8 NWLR (Pt.1513)



at 54.

That being the case, if the failure of an agent to sign an election result is held not sufficient to nullify an election result, it then follows that non signing by the presiding officer or stamping is not fatal, especially given the fact that the presiding officers' names are subscribed to the foot of every result and that suffices to give it validity. That apart, in *Ishola V. Ajiboye* (1998) 1 NWLR (Pt. 532) at 71, the court held that similar provision should be interpreted in the same way.

Therefore; the courts overtime having interpreted that the failure of the agents not signing results to be of no moment cannot now hold that non signing and stamping of same by presiding officers is fatal because the two obligations are provided for by same statute and in the same section. How then will the court give two different interpretations to the same provisions? It is impossible.

Moreover, the Electoral Act, 2022 in Section 60 (6) prescribes punishment of N500,000 or six months imprisonment for any presiding officer that fails to comply with the provision of section 60 relating to failure of the presiding officers to sign and stamp the results in the polling units. It follows to reason that since the electoral Act has prescribed a sanction and consequence for the delinquent act, the court or tribunal cannot do otherwise.

It is submitted that if the framers of the law had wanted the results not so signed and stamped to be invalid, they would have so provided expressly in the law. Be it noted, however that Section 60(6) of the Electoral Act, 2022 is an innovation which was not provided for in section 63 of the Electoral Act, 2010 which ended at sub section (4). For emphasis, section 63 (1, 2, 3 and 4) of the Electoral Act, 2010 is ipsissima verba with section 60 (1, 2, 3 and 4) of the 2022 Electoral Act but with

the addition of two new subsections, namely sub sections 5 and 6 of the Act.

Being a new innovation, it means that is the remedy provided by law which is punishment and not cancellation that is relevant.

Also, in section 120 of the Electoral Act, 2022, the failure by presiding officers to stamp is also criminalized. And what is more? Section 63(1) and (2) states further that a ballot paper that fails to bear official mark prescribed by the commission shall not be counted but section 63(2) whittled down the extensive provision by giving the officer the latitude to make use of any ballot paper without official mark. For clarity, section 63(2) reads "if the returning officer is satisfied that a ballot paper which does not bear the official mark was from a book of ballot papers which was furnished to the presiding officer of the polling unit in which votes was cast for use at the election in question he or she shall notwithstanding the absence of the official mark, count the ballot paper.

A close look at the above provision would reveal that what the law gives to the returning officer is a blanket power which may be exercised anyhow because it is the exclusive preserve to perform the obligation so imposed by law. In doing this, his discretion is needed which the law did not provide. In *Menkiti V Menkiti* (200) 8 NWLR (Pt.667) 154, it was held that exercise of discretion cannot be subjected to any rule or procedure neither can it be circumscribed by human made guidelines, though it must be in compliance with natural justice. See also *University of Lagos V Aigoro* (1985) NWLR (Pt.1) at 143.

Stretched further, a more analytical dissection and juxtaposition of sections 60 and 63 of the Electoral Act 2022 would reveal that while section 60 deals with

election results, section 63 deals with ballot papers.

Unfortunately, the tribunal applied section 60 which deals with stamping, signing and dating of election results and not ballot papers. For this, we submit that the tribunal misapplied the law and therefore, its findings are perverse, unjust and cannot stand.

Although, the electoral Act did not specify what an "official mark" means, it is submitted that any mark or name of any official of INEC suffices. In *Aiki V Idowu* (2006) 9 NWLR (Pt.984) at 49, or *Aiki V Idowu* (2006) All FWLR (Pt.293) 361 at 375, the court held that any mark constitutes a signature Also, by virtue of clause 5, of the INEC Regulation and Guidelines for the election, upon collation of results, INEC ward collation officer is deemed to have resolved any discrepancies.

It is submitted that by parity of reasoning, once the result of the election is taken and announced by the electoral officers, it is deemed that the result is valid.

In any case, clause 36 of the Manual and Guidelines on the election seems to suggest that water mark constitutes official mark. We submit that if that were to be taken, then, the tribunal was wrong to rely on the CTC or copies of the result because water mark can only be seen in original copies of ballot papers because water mark is a hidden security features in the ballot. What is more? Our courts over the years have reiterated the point beyond any peradventure that there is presumption of regularity in favour of any result declared by INEC. See *Livinus Gwaza Ujumatyu V Titus Tyoapine uba & Ors.* (2019) LPELR 48859.

Although, the presumption of regularity which enures in favor of INEC results by virtue of section 168 of the Evidence Act is a rebuttable one, the burden of proving otherwise is squarely on the person alleging any irregularity. Unfortunately, the Tribunal got it wrong in this regard when it held at pages 215-216 of the judgment thus: "The 1st Respondent, in demonstrating that the ballot papers were valid, ought to have pleaded and further called the returning officer to give more particulars as to the validity of the official mark and also the 1st Respondent ought to have identified before the tribunal thumb printed ballot papers which the hoodlums brought".

Ditto no evidence was led by the 1st Respondent to show that the Returning officer was satisfied that the ballot papers used in the aforementioned local government areas which did not bear the official marks, was from a book of ballot papers which was furnished to the presiding officer of the polling unit in which the vote was cast or use at the election in question. The tribunal was left with no option but to work (SIC) the ballot papers tendered and relied upon by the petitioner. It is the view of this tribunal, that election petition results and reports are very important documents, as held by the Court of Appeal on the implication of undated election results and election report in the case of *Adihige V. Nwogu* (2010) 12 NWLR (Pt. 1209) 419 at 481.

To be Continued



Bullies Everywhere

By Safiya I. Dantiye

INTERNATIONAL Day against Violence and Bullying at School, including Cyberbullying was declared by UNESCO member states on the first Thursday of November, which fell yesterday on the 2nd.

Therefore, while steps are taken to fight against bullying at schools, the bullies themselves should be made to face their 'crime' no matter how small they are. Because if we always think of small children as little adorable innocents and overlook their 'wickedness' where it is apparent, we would encourage the development of monsters that would become difficult to tame later in life.

Under the theme, 'No place for fear: Ending school violence for better mental health and learning,' it aimed to, "highlight the strong links between school violence and mental health."

"The strong links between mental health and violence in school are worrying: experiences such as violence, bullying and discrimination at school can contribute to poor mental health and affect learning, while feelings of safety are linked to better mental health and education outcomes. We must end violence and promote good mental health in schools to ensure learners learn and thrive in safe and supportive spaces," said UNESCO.

Almost everybody that attends a school knows some bullies, even if you are not a direct victim, you know their victims. And while many believe that children are too innocent to do harm, it is glaring that at very young age, some children can be wicked and thus children can be cruel.

The bullies form a gang of like minds. Or the head bully is surrounded by minions who would goad him in tormenting those they perceive as weaker than them.

Some are tormented for being very brilliant, for being punctual and for being very neat. Still some are bullied for being different as in having a defect.

Some people attended a two-week programme and one woman was always the first to arrive. Another participant on observing this said, "Why are you so punctual?" When she told her the second time, the woman said, "You know what, if we were children, I may have decided to be late so as not for you to bully me. It is none of your business. By the way why are you always late?"

When children are reluctant to go to school because of bullying, parents report to the school or tell their children to fight

back, which they could hardly do.

Some years ago, a final year student in a boarding secondary school had to be transferred to another school because of bullying. She was always crying and couldn't cope, so it was the only solution.

But after twenty years, she still remembers it with bitterness; it is not something that you can easily forget.

In some cases, it leads to severe injuries or even death to the victims of bullying. They have gone beyond abuse, mocking and derogatory nicknames. Where it leads to fatalities, people wonder how the school authorities didn't see what was happening under its nose.

The International Day against Violence and Bullying at School including Cyberbullying marked yesterday would hopefully draw attention to the torments bullying causes its victims and the solution to it. Bullies do not have a right to make other people's life miserable.

Therefore, while steps are taken to fight against bullying at schools, the bullies themselves should be made to face their 'crime' no matter how small they are. Because if we always think of small children as little adorable innocents and overlook their 'wickedness' where it is apparent, we would encourage the development of monsters that would become difficult to tame later in life.

Some schools suspend or dismiss bullies depending on their faults or even the schools. Some schools are more lenient than others.

The issue of bullying does not however happen only in schools. It happens in many places where people with bullying tendencies bully colleagues in a subtle way to annoy and make fun of them.

Some people attended a two-week programme and one woman was always the first to arrive. Another participant on observing this said, "Why are you so punctual?" When she told her the second time, the woman said, "You know what, if we were children, I may have decided to be late so as not for you to bully me. It is none of your business. By the way why are you always late?"

The other participant apologised and said she was only joking.

The International Day against Violence and Bullying at School including Cyberbullying marked yesterday would hopefully draw attention to the torments bullying causes its victims and the solution to it. Bullies do not have a right to make other people's life miserable.

Prof Jibril Back As Kwara SSG, Prince Mahe Now CoS As Kwara Gov Inaugurates Top Officials

By; BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON) on Friday inaugurated three top officials of the government, with Prof. Mamman Saba Jibril returning as the Secretary to the State Government (SSG).

The governor swore in Prince AbdulKadir Aliyu Mahe, who was until Friday afternoon, the SSG, as the new Chief of Staff (CoS).

The governor similarly inaugurated Barrister Murtala Sambo as the Special Adviser on Legal Matters, the position he occupied until May 29, 2023 when the last dispensation wound down. The governor urged the new officials to be people-centric as they embarked on their official duties.

His words: "The tasks ahead are truly enormous. I urge you to be transparent, loyal, and be propelled only by public interest.

"We want to leave a legacy of improved well-being of our people, especially human capital



Gov, AbdulRazaq

development. Kwara is now a reference point in many positive areas. Our goal is to beat our own records positively.

"At this time of national belt tightening, I urge all of you to act in a way that reflects the current realities of our country.

"As senior government officials, you have a task to properly coordinate of government and ensure harmonious relationships between the government and the people.

"I congratulate you and

wish you God's guidance and protection in the service of our people."

Jibril, in his response to their inauguration, thanked the Governor for the confidence reposed in them and prayed to God to guide him and make the administration succeed in all ramifications.

The swearing-in was attended by a few government officials, including House of Representatives member (Ilorin East/South) Hon. Ahmed Yinka Aluko.

Council Boss Commends FUDMA VC For Establishing Bichi Study Center

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The Executive Chairman of Bichi Local Government Council, Dr Yusuf Mohammed Sabo has commended the Vice Chancellor, Federal University Dutsinma; (FUDMA), Professor Armayau Hamisu Bichi for establishing a study center at Bichi, headquarters of Bichi Local Government Area.

Dr. Sabo said that establishing the study center by the university, will definitely satisfy the educational needs of the people of Bichi Local Government Area and also the best thing providence can bequeath

to any community.

"I wish to congratulate the newly appointed director of the center, Dr. Sani Barau Bichi, whom we are



Bichi Council boss

optimistic that his leadership would bring succour to all aspects of educational progress especially at present, when the sector is rapidly becoming more profitable as a tool of development". He emphasized.

Dr Yusuf Mohammed Sabo called on the people of Bichi Local Government Area, especially parents and guardians to encourage their wards to become beneficial of the study center for quality education, assuring that Bichi Local Government Council would continue give maximum cooperation to the centre in order to succeed.

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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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TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

PDP Will Not Return To Power, APC Has Lost It And Nigeria Is The Loser!

By: HASSAN GIMBA

It's worth noting that this article was originally published on December 3, 2017, yet its relevance persists to this day.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is not seriously planning to return to power. It is more focused on the inordinate ambitions of its stakeholders and how much money they can make from each. If Nigeria is on the minds of some of its members, it is regarding what can be made out of it with the party as the vessel. Even at that, they are not ready or desirous of reinventing, re-positioning, and strengthening the vessel. It is not taking the path to recovering its influence in national politics.

Allow me to tell you one or two stories about reinvention and re-positioning.

Before September 2006, Ford Motor Company was broke. By 2008, its stock price had fallen to as low as \$1.01 a share. It was neck deep in debt, as in 2006 alone it incurred losses to the tune of \$12.7 billion. Everybody expected the company to file for bankruptcy.

Then it brought in Alan Mulally from Boeing as its CEO. Ford had achieved remarkable, history-making revitalisation by 2014 when he retired; Mulally had achieved a remarkable turnaround for the Ford Motor Company.

In 2005, Ericsson had around 47,000 employees, down from a peak of around 107,000. It had lost billions of dollars - including \$3.7 billion between March 2001 and March 31 2002 - and had asked its shareholders for \$3 billion.

Then it brought in Carl-Henric Svanberg, who was leading another Swedish company, Assa Abloy, in 2003. By the time he was through with it in 2009, he had managed to build the Swedish vendor into the undisputed leading network equipment vendor in the world.

There is also the story of Sanjay Jha of Motorola and many others in the business world.

Helmut Kohl served as the Christian Democratic Union's (CDU) Prime Minister for a long time and he presided over German unification. However, when he became embroiled in a party funding scandal that was threatening to cost the CDU the election of 2005, Angela Merkel, an unassuming politician untainted by past party sleaze and who represented the fresh face of the party, was drafted in.

She is the first Chancellor from Eastern Germany and someone described her as "lacking the attributes long associated with political success... she did not work through the ranks as a political foot soldier, had no support network of troops in key positions, and little eloquence or media charisma."

Political parties—just like businesses—that are keen on reinventing themselves always 'recruit', from among themselves or outside their cocoon, people they believe would give them the necessary fillip for a resurgence. But they have to be parties that are populated with selfless members and elders who have a love for and the interest of their parties and the nation at heart.

The PDP has potential presidential candidates who are capable of challenging any opponent, but they must prioritize

credibility. Despite Jonathan's control over the nation's resources, Buhari's perceived integrity outshined him in 2015.

The PDP should follow the example of international businesses and credible political parties in developed countries. Their leaders prioritize the revival of their organizations instead of personal ambitions and egos. It is hoped that Nigeria shall remain until the end of time and likewise, political parties as conduits or platforms through or on which the nation will be catapulted to the top.

The PDP gladiators or stakeholders warming up to vie for its presidential ticket would do well to sit down and 'recruit' someone from among its rank and file, the academia or business class. Someone who the people do not consider a thief, someone younger than Buhari and better educated. This would give the electorate an option when it comes to perceived credibility and integrity, while the other qualities would give him the upper hand.

This is the only way it can hope to sanitise our politics, deepen democracy, give hope to the nation and be a real and formidable opposition. It is not about the tons of money an aspirant or a party has. While money is necessary for logistics, the masses should not see the PDP as a party that thinks money is everything.

As long as the party continues in its ways, it will remain outside the gates of power until it atrophies, dies and comes a cropper.

Some may say that there have been a few 'comeback wizards' who, like Apple's Steve Jobs, rejuvenated their businesses or some political leaders who returned to power and made great developmental strides. But it must be noted that such people were not encumbered by intellectual or moral misconceptions.

The All Progressives Congress

The All Progressives Congress (APC) needs to be honest and stop being hypocritical. You cannot claim to be a saintly party, accuse a man of being corrupt and then turn around to call him "reputable" when he joins you. For God's sake, you cannot accuse a party of "ruining" the country yet continue to work with its members that people know are corrupt. It is either you are lying or you want to continue ruining the country. You cannot run with the hares and hunt with the wolves; you cannot eat your cake and have it.

What is the difference between the APC and the PDP when its members are crying that they worked for it and therefore need to be "compensated"? None of them ever talk of Nigeria, it is always "We pushed the car, and it has left us in the dust."

Nigeria is seen as little more than a cash cow by the generality of its citizens—the followers, the leaders and those aspiring to lead.

President Muhammadu Buhari

He missed every chance to redefine Nigerian politics and position himself among outstanding leaders like Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Lee Kuan Yew, etc.

He had two very great opportunities to change Nigeria's politics forever and also have his name etched in the country's history as "the founder of modern Nigeria", along with many lesser ones, which I will



Hassan Gimba Monday Column

highlight presently.

The first opportunity missed (probably in a bid to tell Nigerians he had no money) was when he said that he took a bank loan to buy his nomination form. It was a sad day. In the first place, he knew, just as everybody knew, that many party stalwarts could have bought the form for him, assuming he didn't have the money. After all, they were sponsoring him with their money, however they made it, so what was the difference?

Nigeria at that time and the APC in particular were ripe to be owned by the people. Had it been told that he could not pay for the form, contributions from the masses alone would have bought it many times over. From then, he should have made it known that members should contribute periodically, no matter how little, towards the upkeep of the party and we would have by now achieved a real people's Northern Elements Progressive Union (NEPU). An opportunity missed.

But as it is, APC, the party of "Change", is being financed the way the PDP was—from government coffers, in the states at least. No difference!

The second opportunity missed was the day he was sworn in as president. He famously said he "was for everybody but belonged to nobody". Laudable. And that was what everybody expected because, in the political history of Nigeria, no campaign was ever as intense and nationally engaging

as his. The election that saw him emerge as president was unlike any other before it. It was not like Obasanjo's, certainly not like Yar'Adua's, and not like Jonathan's.

Nigerians elected Buhari, not APC members alone, not northerners alone, not Muslims alone. He was elected across the board, if you may.

Therefore, the election was an opportunity to unify Nigerians for Nigeria, irrespective of political leanings, tribal roots or religious beliefs. Buhari could have been the 'father of the nation' if he had picked the best from among the various 'tendencies' that abound in the country. There are patriots in ALL political parties, tribes and religions, just as there are also crooks.

Please forget the notion of winner takes all; Nigeria's case is unique and was especially so. Nigeria would have been united and the better for it by now.

They don't do that in America, you say? Well, they don't budget for feeding and utensils for the President in America either. The President of America feeds his family from his salary. The President there buys his family's needs from his pocket. Let's not be choosy.

While Nigeria continues the search for a genuine leader who may be the long-awaited messiah, those in positions of power should know they will one day give account to a higher authority.

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

Rethinking Food And Nutrition In Face of Climate Change: A Case For Early Warning Systems In Nigeria's Agriculture

By: AISHA HADEJIA

Between May and October 2022, flooding in Nigeria displaced over 1.4 million people.

According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the floods resulted in the tragic loss of over 603 lives, with an additional 2,400 people injured.

The impact of the floods stretched beyond human casualties; 82,035 buildings were damaged, and 332,327 hectares of land were ruined.

These severe floods also resulted in an estimated N700 billion loss of agricultural investments, signalling the overwhelming crisis in Nigeria's food and nutrition landscape, affecting the livelihoods of millions.

Presently, Nigeria is facing unprecedented challenges as a result of irregular and increasingly harsh weather patterns that disrupt the typical agricultural cycle. Unpredictable rains, extended droughts, and severe floods have become increasingly common, posing a danger to crop output and the well-being of farming communities.

This has resulted in a never-ending cycle of crop failures and food insecurity. Farmers are left in a precarious position as they figure out when to sow, irrigate, fertilize, and harvest their crops. These challenges affect not only crops but also livestock productivity, disrupting the nation's food supply chain and increasing the cost of food.

This reality begs the question: How is it that a country renowned for having the best Meteorological Agency in Africa is facing these challenges?

The Sahel Food Systems Change makers Conference convened by Sahel Consulting on the 12th of October 2023 in Abuja shed light on this situation. The Director General and CEO of NiMET, Prof. Mansur Matazu, and Dr Sanjo Faniran, UN Food Systems convenor, discussed these issues extensively in a session facilitated by Oge Funlola Modie, Chairperson of Wellspring of Life International and Board Member of Sahel Consulting Agriculture & Nutrition Limited.,

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) is among the oldest public institutions in the country. It has the critical responsibility of providing meteorological information to the Government and citizens through forecasts and warnings for prompt early action by actors and the socio-economic impact of weather and climate changes



across different government sectors.

The importance of agrometeorology to sustained agricultural productivity and public safety cannot be overemphasized. Incorporating climate advisory into farming has proven to increase yield by approximately 30% and reduce risk. Indeed, a key factor in the mitigation of climate change-induced disasters is early warning advisory to smallholder farmers- and here lies the challenge for Nigeria.

NiMET generates and analyses frequent weather and climate data and has developed numerous products for real-time weather and climate services to farmers, herders, and fishermen to promote sustainable agricultural development, increase productivity, and contribute to food security in Nigeria.

However, last-mile information dissemination to small and medium-scale food entrepreneurs and rural smallholder food producers who need it the most is grossly inadequate. Low literacy rates and even lower internet usage in rural communities compared to urban areas limit farmers' access to these essential products.

Although donor-funded programs that support the integration of weather and climate early warning advisory into smallholder farming operations exist, these are not at scale and are limited to project

focus areas and priority value chains.

In addition, the Agri-Extension package in Nigeria does not include weather and climate advisory. Coupled with the crippling shortage of extension agents in Nigeria, this creates a hopeless situation where smallholder farmers in hard-to-reach areas have no chance of getting this critical information. Recommendations:

1. Integrate Weather and Climate Advisory Systems into the Sub-National Level: So far, early warning efforts in Nigeria have been concentrated at the Federal level, but State and Local Governments must invest in efforts and partnerships to downscale seasonal climate prediction information to the district levels where it is most needed. For optimal implementation, local actors must be involved to ensure ownership, resilience, and sustained adoption at the grassroots level.

2. Collaborate with Existing Farmer Networks: To further drive last-mile dissemination of essential weather and climate advisory services, NiMET must partner with farmer and industry associations like the All-Farmers Association of Nigeria and the Nigeria Agribusiness Group to reach smallholder farmers at scale. These organizations can potentially provide an organized way to reach farmers at the local and district level with targeted information.

3. Create Strategic Partnerships with the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and Telecommunication Companies: Strategic partnerships between NiMet and the NCC and private telecommunication companies must be fostered to support the creation of affordable and accessible information delivery systems via SMS and USSD codes. This would aid the creation of a standardized alerting protocol for early warning that will support smallholder rural farmers and SMEs with credible information.

4. Review Nigeria's Agri-extension Package: The Extension Department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) should collaborate with NiMET and other relevant stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive review of the National Agri-Extension package to include real-time weather and climate advisory.

This would entail a re-vamp of the current extension delivery structure to include an electronic medium. To facilitate this, FMAFS should leverage the National Adopted Village for Smart Agriculture (NAVSA) initiative currently being implemented by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA). NAVSA's digital platform and training facilities on digital capabilities in agriculture can be utilized to attract tech-savvy

youth into e-extension jobs.

5. Capacity-Build Farmers: Donor-funded programs like The Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project in the Niger Delta of Nigeria (LIFE-ND) that support climate education for farmers should be scaled to other parts of the country. These farmer programs would enhance their ability to interpret data effectively and make educated choices in response to weather forecasts.

6. Approve National Framework on Climate Services: The National Framework on Climate Service was developed by NiMET in 2019 but is yet to be approved by the Federal Government for implementation.

This framework was designed to foster collaboration among Ministries such as

Agriculture and Food Security, Budget and Economic Planning, Environment, Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, and Interior to co-generate forecasts and develop specialized advisories for each sector.

Actors such as Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG) and AGRA- Sustainably Growing Africa's Food Ecosystems must collaborate with NiMET to advocate for the approval of this essential framework.

The challenges facing the Nigerian food and agriculture sector due to climate change are undeniable.

To ensure food security, maintain economic stability, and uplift millions of livelihoods, Nigeria must embrace modern weather early warning systems at all levels.

With a dedicated approach and investments in these systems, the nation can provide farmers with the tools and information they need to navigate the uncertain climate future, securing a brighter agricultural landscape for all. Sahel Consulting stands ready to collaborate with all relevant organizations to implement ideas and strategies and to support sustainable business models that will drive accelerated growth for a sustainable food ecosystem.

Aisha Hadejia is an Associate Partner at Sahel Consulting and a prominent advocate for gender equality and inclusion within the agricultural sector

Insurance: A'ibom Assures Improved Healthcare Services Through Scheme

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Commissioner for Health in Akwa Ibom State, Prof. Augustine Umoh has hinted of a healthier population in the state through the health insurance scheme recently introduced in Nigeria.

This follows the state government's commitment to key into the scheme after signing the Health Insurance Bill into Law in December, 2021 ahead of the global target of achieving health for all by 2030. Prof. Umo gave the assurance in Uyo, the state capital, when he declared open a five-day training workshop organised by National Health Insurance Authority for staff members of the State Health Insurance Agency which ended on Friday. The health insurance scheme is expected to provide Basic Minimum Package (BMP) of healthcare services at the primary healthcare centres as well as referral to secondary healthcare facilities. Expected to draw funding from the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund, the state government is to make a counterpart funding of 25 percent while the federal government will support the scheme with 75 percent of the fund.

Umoh who pledged the readiness of the state government towards its success said it would greatly improve access to

healthcare services in the state as the challenge of finances would be reduced describing "the future of health insurance as bright the state."

The Commissioner, tasked the participants of the training workshop to make the best use so the state could leverage on their knowledge and skills acquired and from many other training that would be held.

Speaking, official of the National Health Insurance Authority, Mr. Agboola Olasunkanmi said the training followed a request by the Akwa Ibom State Insurance Agency as a result of the gaps identified during a study tour of the state insurance agency.

Olasunkanmi who scored Akwa Ibom high in her preparedness said the health insurance scheme is facility-based for equitable access by all, especially the vulnerable group in the society.

"Akwa Ibom State is in a better position to get the programme right. The scheme is facility-based and the National Identification Number (NIN) will be the criterion for enrolment.

According to him, the next step after the training will be the accreditation of health facilities that will participate in the scheme which he said would be followed by enrolment of the beneficiaries.

Speaking also, the Executive Secretary, Akwa Ibom State Health Insurance Agency, Dr Author Igbemi, said the training was an indication of the strong collaboration between the state insurance agency and NHIA which he said was to ensure the success of the scheme in the state.

He commended the state government for the programmes being implemented to ensure universal health coverage in the state.

Earlier, the state coordinator of NHIA, Williams Ebiokobo said though health insurance was relatively new in the country with the revised guidelines recently unveiled in the country, he stressed the need to put all hands on deck for its success.

"The concept of health insurance is relatively new but we have a few experts here and there, there is nothing wrong in having to draw from their own expertise." He said.

Commenting on the benefits of the five-day training, a beneficiary, Mr Idongesit Edikan Ackley said he has benefited significantly from the training, described it as a capacity pack.

According to Ackley, the workshop would open the State Health Insurance Agency to arrays of protocols and guidelines which

the Agency will explore and see ways of improving upon its mandate in the state.

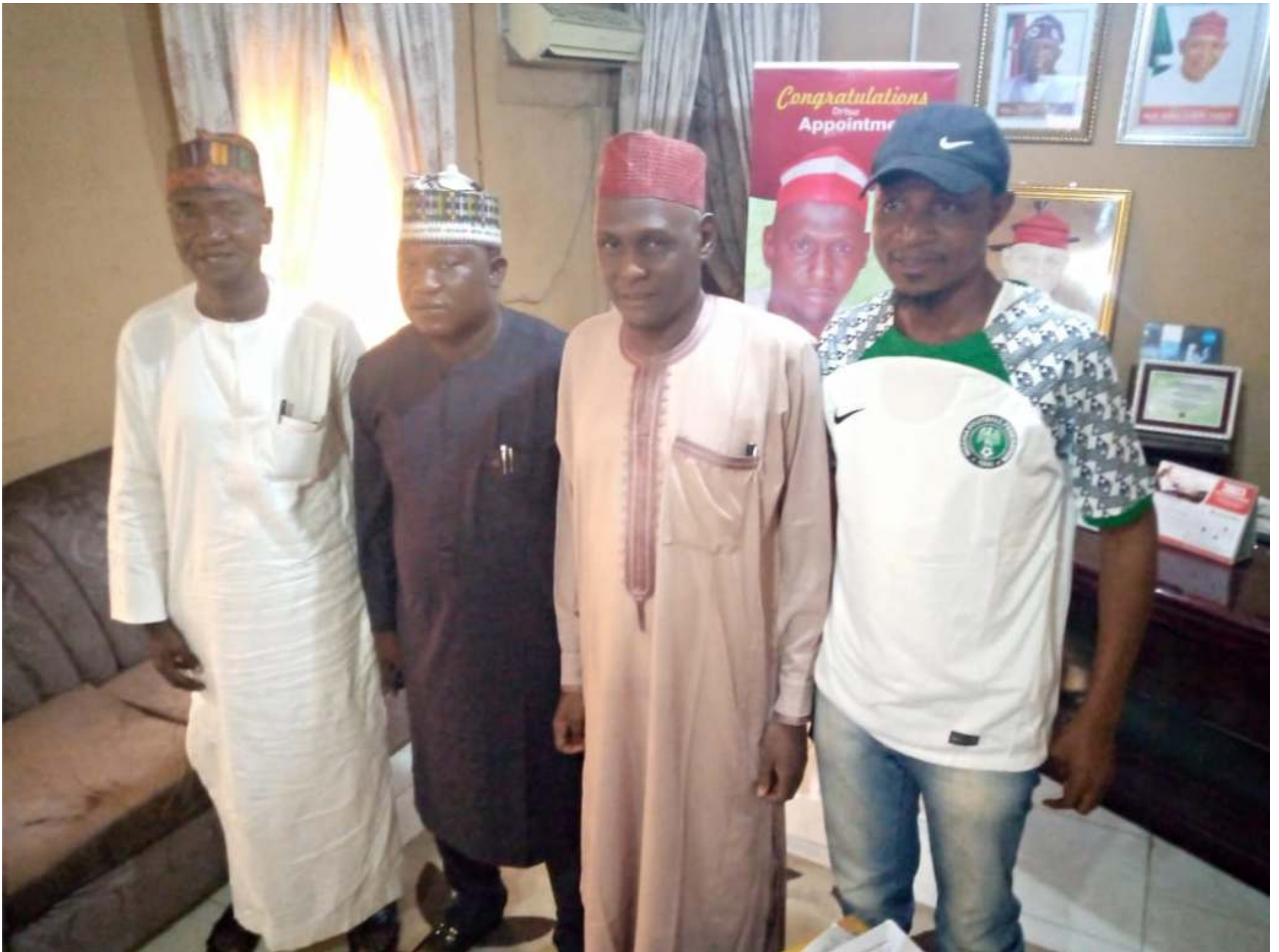
He added that the universal health insurance coverage is achievable in Nigeria, while the best way of attaining it, is through the health insurance scheme.

New Nigerian observed that the 1st and 2nd stages of the scheme in the state, which are setting up of the office/staffing and human capacity building have been achieved. Next is the accreditation of the health centres to be carried out by National Health Insurance Authority before enrollment of beneficiaries who will include the vulnerable groups such as elderly, children under the age of five, pregnant women among others.

Recall the State Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) during her October's Congress, had commended the state government for establishing the State Health Insurance Agency and cueing into the scheme to benefit the populace, in view of the enormous advantages in healthcare service delivery.

The congress advised the agency to step up the sensitization campaign so that more persons could be enrolled into the scheme, while also appealing to the state government to ensure the functionality of the Agency to play the expected role in healthcare delivery.





SWAN President's Visit To Kano Excites Galadima, MD Radio Kano, Others

The visit of the President of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) Mr Isaiah Kemje Benjamin to Kano State has received commendation and applaud from Alhaji Dr. Ibrahim Galadima, Managing Director of the Radio Kano, Hon. Hisham Habib and other sports stakeholders in the state.

In a statement issued by the President's SA Media, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, the SWAN President was in Kano to honour an invitation as a guest to the final football match competition in honour of Dr. Galadima, who has contributed immensely to sports development in Nigeria and Kano State.

Dr. Galadima was the former President of the defunct Nigeria Football Association (NFA), Immediate past Chairman of the Kano Sports Commission and also was Chairman Kano Pillars Football Club at some point.

The final which was between Kano Pillars Jnr and FC Azhuba, played at the Sani Abacha Stadium Kofa Mata, ended 1-0 in favour of the Pillars at the end of regulation time.

The winners and runners-up went home with medals and trophies, while some dignitaries were awarded certificates of recognition for their contributions to sports development.

The match was graced by other

dignitaries, including the former Chairman of Gombe State Football Association, Alhaji Ahmed Shuabu Gara Gombe, former Chairman Kano Pillars, Alhaji Tukur Babangida, ex international, Dr. Mohammed Musa, Sports Director BUK, Rabiuh Mohammed, Professor Musa A.A. among others.

Speaking at the end of the tensed match, Dr. Galadima in whose honour the competition was organized, commended the SWAN President for honouring the invitation and thanked the organizers for finding him worthy of organizing the football competition which is the second edition in his honour.

Earlier, the MD Radio Kano who received

the SWAN President in his office, congratulated him on his emergence and expressed readiness to assist his administration in any way possible, adding that sports is a very important sector that must not be taken for granted.

The SWAN President who was accompanied by the Kaduna State SWAN Chairman, Shehu Abdullahi was received in Kano by the association's Vice President North West, Mansur Mohammed, former national officer, Alhaji Ado Salisu and later had interaction with the immediate past Vice-President North West, Alhaji Idris Malikawa Garu, Kano State SWAN Chairman, Zaharadeen and some other members on the way forward for the association.

Beach Volleyball: Mbah, Yaro To Represent Nigeria At FIVB U21 World Championship

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The pair of Esther Mbah and Naomi Yaro will represent Nigeria at the 2023 FIVB U-21 World Beach Volleyball Championship in Thailand.

The Nigeria U-21 Beach Volleyball team led by coach Christiana Amadi will depart Nigeria yesterday (November 5) via Ethiopian Airlines.

The FIVB World championship is scheduled from 8th to 13th November at the Beach Event Roi Et, Thailand.

The coach of Nigeria U-21 Beach volleyball team, Christiana Amadi expressed optimism that the players would perform well at the championship.

Amadi said the fitness level of the players is high following the one month camp and their participation at the just concluded 2023 National Beach Tour in Jalingo, Taraba State.

She said, "I have confidence in the girls because they have shown courage, determination and zeal in every championship they attended. If you watched the last CAVB U-21 championship in Casablanca, you will discover the girls put in their very best

from the start of the tournament till the final.

"The players were in camp for a month under the tutelage of the head coach, John Iwerima before proceeding to the beach tour in Jalingo, Taraba State. They played against an experienced G-Ranks and were able to defeat them. The tour served as part of their training tour before the Championship".

She extended gratitude to the board members of the Nigeria Volleyball Federation for ensuring Nigeria did not miss another World Championship.

Amadi said, "I want to thank the Nigeria Volleyball Federation led by Engineer Musa Nimrod for ensuring the country features in the World Championship. I believe we will give a good account of

ourselves and make a statement at the World Championship.

"We missed the last edition of the championship due to the outbreak of the Omicron virus

but This time we are going back there and we are going to show the world what we are made of," he added

Nigeria women qualified for the championship after placing

second position at the 2023 CAVB U-21 Beach Volleyball Championship in Morocco in September.



New NIGERIAN

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FULafia: Tambarin Mubi Congratulates HRH Isa Over Chancellor Appointment

By; TOM GARBA Yola

The news of the appointment of His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr.) Abubakar Isa Ahmadu, CFR, FFPM, the Emir of Mubi by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the new Chancellor of the Federal University of Lafia (FULafia) has elated Mallam Abubakar Suleiman Tela, the Tambarin Mubi. Suleiman in a congratulatory statement, welcomed the development and described it as an appointment well given to

the right person.

He said Isa is a respected Nigerian monarch his character, wisdom, and knowledge of managing public Office and Mubi Emirate are uncontested. He assured President Tinubu and Nigerians especially the people of Lafia and Nassarawa State as a whole of a wise counsel to improve the standard of education in Nigeria.

While thanking President Tinubu he congratulated His Royal Highness Isa Ahmadu for the new feather in his royal cap.



HRH Isa

26.5m Nigerians In 26 States To Face Acute Food Crisis - Report

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A report released in Abuja and presented to the Federal Government, says that about 26.5 million Nigerians in 26 states and Abuja may face an acute food crisis.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in partnership with the World Food Programme and other agencies presented the report to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security received the report on behalf of the government. The Cadre Harmonisé report is a unifying tool that helps to produce relevant, consensual, rigorous, and transparent analyses of current and projected food and nutrition situations.

According to the report, the key drivers of the projected food crisis included the removal of

subsidy on Premium Motor Spirit, popularly called petrol, the naira re-design policy, floods, conflict and insecurity.

According to the Nigeria Cadre Harmonisé Acute Food and Nutrition Insecurity Analysis, the UN and its partners, "About 26.5 million people, including Internally Displaced Persons (528,000 in Borno, Sokoto and Zamfara states) in 26 states and FCT of Nigeria, are expected to be in crisis or worse between June and August 2024."

The UN FAO Representative in Nigeria and ECO WAS, Dominique Koffy, in his address during the presentation of the report explained that the agency went to various states in Nigeria to identify populations at risk of food and nutrition insecurity.

Represented by the Assistant FAO Representative

Programme, Abubakar Suleiman, Koffy provided some of the main results for zones affected by food and nutrition insecurity in the 26 states and the FCT.

He noted that going into the lean season (June to August 2024) households might experience slight to moderate deterioration in food consumption, which might plunge several states into the crisis phase on food consumption.

He said that the unacceptable thresholds of food consumption may have resulted from significant spike in staple food prices following increases in fuel prices, inflation rate and high cost of food production.

The report significant reduction in household stock was reported among more than 60 per cent of households, with more than 35 per cent having no stocks in 2023 when compared to 2022 and five-year average on the evaluation of livelihoods.

It stated that the low levels of stocks resulted from the washed away of several hectares of matured ready-to-harvest cropped fields, particularly in states most affected by the 2023 flash floods (Kogi, Taraba, Plateau and Niger states).

The report stated that in crisis-affected states of Adamawa, Borno Niger, Zamfara, Kaduna Katsina, Sokoto and Yobe, including parts of Benue and Plateau states, limited production activities were reported. Although global markets stock supply appears to be stable, increases in prices have continued to limit food access across all analysed states.

According to the report, the malnutrition current situation for May to September 2023 covering Adamawa, Borno and Yobe (North-East), and Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara (North-West) showed the prevalence of crisis to worse nutrition situation across the states.

Beach Volleyball: Mbah, Yaro To Represent Nigeria At FIVB U21 World Championship

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Ganduje Uniting APC With Wealth Of Experience - Ambassador Tsoken

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The National President, APC Initiative For Good Governance (APC-IGG) disclosed that the party's national chairman, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje's leadership has brought unity and progress within the party across Nigeria with his long term political wealth of experience.

Speaking to our correspondent in Kaduna, Ambassador Musa Tsoken reiterated that the immediate past Governor of Kano State is a well known politician who opted into active politics with a zeal towards Nigeria's democratic progress, which is a clear indication that APC is in

best hands.

"From what is happening, APC is now becoming the best party in Africa especially how our national chairman is using his wealth of experience to boost it's might by receiving many prominent personalities across the six geo-political zones, and I am certain that Dr. Ganduje would deliver". He added.

The APC-IGG National president called on the people of Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi states to vote for APC in the forthcoming 11th November Gubernatorial elections for the development of their stst, and reassured that APC-IGG would continue to work for the success of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration.



Tsoken