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President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola @ the Police Council Meeting held in Abuja. Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO



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Alleged Financial Crimes: EFCC Releases Arrested 59 OAU Students

*VC calls for EFCC, Tertiary Institutions partnership to sensitize students on evils of financial crimes, cyber criminalities

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

As the Ibadan zonal office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) released 59 of the arrested students of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, the Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Adebayo Bamire has urged EFCC to partner with the management of various institutions of higher learning in educating students on evils of financial crimes and cyber criminalities.

Prof. Bamire in a statement by the Public Relations Officer of the University, Abiodun Olarewaju said in doing this, there is the need to organise workshops for students across Faculties to sensitise the students about the danger of financial crimes and cyber criminalities.

The Vice Chancellor lauded the EFCC officials for the quick profiling and eventual release of the students in less than 24 hours.

Professor Bamire appealed to students who were victims of the EFCC raid to put the experience behind them and move on with their lives.

Also, the OAU Vice Chancellor commended other students of the

university who rallied round their affected colleagues for being their brothers' keepers without being violent nor exhibiting any acts of vandalism.

"After a spirited effort by the management of in Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, which sent representatives to the Ibadan zonal office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission to intervene in the case of arrested students, the EFCC has released 59 of the students", it said.

The statement added, "Apart from parents and guardians who came to secure the bail for their children and wards, the management of OAU secured the release of the remaining students".

While thanking the officials of the EFCC for the quick profiling and eventual release of the students in less than twenty four hours, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Adebayo Simeon BAMIRE urged the EFCC to partner with the management of various Institutions of higher learning to organise workshops for students across faculties to sensitise the students about the danger of financial crimes and cyber criminalities.

Press Freedom Essential For Upholding Democratic Values, Promoting Transparency - Senator Alli

*Calls for Govt, international bodies collaboration to ensure safety, protection of journalists

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Chairman Senate Committee on INEC Senator Sarafadeen Alli yesterday, said that press freedom is essential for upholding democratic values, promoting transparency

Senator Alli made this known in a statement by his Special Adviser on Media, Mr Akeem Abas in commemoration of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, a UN-recognised international day.

The Senator representing Oyo South Senatorial District stressed that it was imperative to express solidarity with all journalists and join them in the fight against any form of violence or harassment they encounter.

According to Senator Alli, there is the need to address issues of impunity and ensure that those who commit crimes against journalists are brought to justice and that there is the need for the creation of an environment where journalists can operate without impunity and contribute to the betterment of our societies.

"As we commemorate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes



Senator Alli

Against Journalists, it is crucial for us to recognize the significant role that journalists play in society. It is disheartening to note that journalists around the world continue to face threats, harassment, and violence, which hinders their ability to carry out their work fearlessly", he said.

Senator Alli added, "On this day, let us recommit ourselves to upholding the freedom of the press and protecting those who play a vital role in our society". Emphasizing that journalists are the

watchdogs who bring forth vital information for a functioning democracy and hold those in power accountable, he said conducive environment must be created for journalists to operate freely without fear of reprisals.

"Today, we honour and remember journalists who have lost their lives in the pursuit of truth. Their sacrifice is a stark reminder of the risks faced by those who bring us the news. It is our responsibility as

lawmakers to enact and enforce laws that safeguard the rights of journalists and bring an end to impunity"

He maintained, " This involves strengthening legal frameworks that protect press freedom and ensure the safety of journalists," adding, "journalists should be able to investigate and report on issues of public interest without intimidation"

Senator Alli stressed further that the society as well as other stakeholders must work towards creating a culture that respects and value the important work done by journalists.

The lawmaker charged government as well as international bodies to collaborate towards ensuring the safety and protection of journalists, saying "We must prioritise efforts to investigate and prosecute those responsible for crimes committed against journalists.

"This will send a strong message that attacks on the press will not be tolerated. It is our duty to ensure that journalists are empowered to carry out their work without fear, while those who seek to silence them are held accountable,"

KASU Staff Lament Unexplained Salaries Deduction

■ Allege deductions ongoing for three months ■ SSANU PRO declines comments

■ KASU PRO says staff should wait for pay slip to know why

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Some staff of Kaduna State University (KASU) at its main campus in Kaduna, have cried out over what they termed ongoing deductions from salaries without any explanations whatsoever from the school's management.

Speaking to our correspondent yesterday, one of those affected who pleaded anonymity, said that the deductions have

been ongoing for three months, without any reasons given to those affected.

"This is something that has been bothering me and some other colleagues affected by the deductions from salaries paid in.

"This has been going on for three months. In the first month, over fifty thousand Naira was deducted when I saw my alert. I complained and was told it must have been an error that would be

corrected.

"The second month, when September salary was paid, the same amount was again deducted from my pay.

"The worst is when October salary was paid, I noticed that over sixty thousand Naira was deducted, a situation that is beginning to affect me because even the full pay does not meet my needs with the current situation of our country's economy," the source lamented.

Speaking further, the source said that presently, the car being used to the office has been parked due to the rising cost of fuel following subsidy Removal.

Another source told our correspondent that from the October salary, over thirty thousand was deducted when the alert was received.

"We appreciate the government of Kaduna State for prompt payment of our salaries, however,





Ohinoyi: Sultan's Delegation Pays Condolence Visit To Yahaya Bello

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

A six-man delegation from the Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence Sa'ad Abubakar III has paid a condolence visit to governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State over the passing of Ohinoyi of Ebiraland, His Royal Majesty, Alhaji Ado Ibrahim.

Led by the Etsu Nupe, His Royal Majesty, Abubakar Yahaya, the delegation delivered a letter of condolence to the governor just as they prayed for the repose of soul of late Ohinoyi.

The Sultan empathised with Governor Bello, the government and the good people of Kogi State over the demise of the paramount monarch of

Ebiraland, Dr. Ado Ibrahim who passed on last Sunday aged nine-five.

Receiving the delegation, Governor Bello expressed gratitude to the team for identifying with the state, the people of Ebiraland and the government of Kogi State.

"I want to sincerely thank you for finding it worthy to commiserate with us and also finding time to pay a condolence visit.

"Late Ado Ibrahim, the Ohinoyi of Ebiraland, lived well and made a huge impact on the lives of his people during his time just as he acknowledged the symbiotic relationship that existed between them.

"While he was alive, we had a father and son relationship because we come from the same

lineage", governor Bello said.

The bereaved governor also reiterated his administration's commitment to prioritizing the welfare of traditional rulers in the state, a policy he assured would be continued by his successor.

Furthermore, Governor Bello highlighted the positive relationships that the late Ohinoyi had fostered with the Sultan of Sokoto and all traditional rulers in Nigeria.

He emphasized the harmonious coexistence and collaboration between the government and traditional rulers in Kogi State for the greater good of the people.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, the Etsu Nupe

conveyed the condolences of the Sultan and the entire Northern Traditional Council of Chiefs to the governor, offering prayers for the peaceful repose of late Ohinoyi's soul.

He commended Governor Bello for establishing and maintaining a strong relationship with traditional rulers and particularly highlighted the priority the governor placed on the welfare of traditional rulers in Kogi State.

The delegation said during their visit to the deceased's family in Okene on Monday, they were briefed about the government's support to the family and commended the governor for his care, love, and respect for the traditional institution.

Kano Deputy Governor's Office Denies Report On Eye Surgery Sponsorship

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The Kano State Deputy Governor's Office has denied a false report published by an online medium, claiming that the Deputy Governor, Comr. Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo, failed to honour his promise of sponsoring 52 indigent patients for eye surgery.

A statement issued to newsmen, the Deputy Governor's Press Secretary, Ibrahim Garba Shuaibu, described the report as "misleading" and "unfounded."

He explained that the Deputy Governor never made such promise, and that the reporter claimed to have obtained his source of information from a tweet on September 9, 2023, on an unverified X handle formerly Twitter of the Deputy Governor.

The reporter claimed that all efforts to speak with the Chief Press Secretary of the Deputy, Ibrahim Garba Shuaibu, were not fruitful. To set the record straight, Garba said that the investigation lacks basis as there was no official press release showing that the Deputy Governor sponsored the indigent patients for eye surgery.

Ibrahim noted that the only press release from his office was on July 10, 2023, stating that "Over 500 Benefit from KNSG Free Mobile Eye Screening in Gwarzo LGA."

"The press release reads as follows:

"Over 500 Benefit from KNSG Free Mobile Eye Screening in Gwarzo LGA* *In a collaborative effort between the Kano State Primary Healthcare and Management Board and the Makkah Specialist Eye Hospital, over 500 individuals in Gwarzo Local Government Area (LGA) and its surrounding areas have received free mobile eye screenings."

According to the statement issued to newsmen by Press Secretary to the Deputy Governor of Kano state, Ibrahim Garba Shuaibu,

the mobile eye screening initiative aimed to identify and address eye-related health conditions among the residents of Gwarzo LGA.

"Kamilu Saleh Dokadawa, the Kano State Coordinator for Primary Eye Care, reported that a total of 536 patients underwent screenings during the campaign.

"Among them, 162 patients were identified with cataracts and were referred for surgical intervention. Additionally, 69 individuals were screened for glaucoma, and those requiring further treatment were also referred accordingly.

"To further support the initiative, the Makkah Specialist Eye Hospital generously donated 130 eye drops and 70 pairs of glasses as a complementary gesture to the people of Gwarzo LGA" Kamilu revealed.

"Expressing their gratitude, two beneficiaries of the screening, Aminu Adnan and Ruqayyah Salihu, both residents of Gwarzo LGA, commended the Kano State Government under the leadership of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf and his deputy, Comr. Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo, for their timely intervention and commitment to the welfare of the community." Garba further explained that the Deputy Governor does not have any link with the sponsorship of the patients. Instead, he only facilitated the mobilization of the patients from Gwarzo LGA to the Makkah Specialist Eye Hospital in Kano Metropolis.

Ibrahim, however, called on the general public to disregard the misleading report, as it is at the instances of mischief makers who are out to damage the hard-earned reputation of the Deputy Governor, who is a man of remarkable integrity.

Garba reiterated the state government's dedication to bolster the economic development and welfare of Kano State citizens.

KASU Staff Lament Unexplained Salaries Deduction

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■ KASU PRO says staff should wait for pay slip to know why

this deduction that took place without explanation leaves me confused. It is difficult meeting family obligations as the bread winner," he said.

When contacted, the

Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), KASU, Istifanus Tanimu declined comments, saying he doesn't know

our correspondent, hence he wouldn't speak, hence neither confirming or debunking the allegations. When called on phone, KASU PRO, Adamu Bargo confirmed that

deductions were taking place.

He however, said that affected staff should wait till they get their pay slip to know why such amounts are being deducted.

Customs Says Current Government Policy In Nigeria Requires Zero Duty Payment For Export

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has defined its role in ensuring smooth flow of goods across borders, stressing that "the current government policy in Nigeria requires zero duty payment for export." While focusing on its critical role in facilitating export trade, the NCS posited that it stands at the forefront of Nigeria's efforts to boost its export economy.

According to a statement by the National Public Relations of Nigeria Customs Service, CSC Abdullahi Maiwada, the Customs Area Controller of Lilypond Export Command, Comptroller Ajibola Odusanya unveiled the procedures in facilitating export trade by the Customs in a chat.

Odesanya described the command as a one-stop shop for export business, stating that "the current government policy in Nigeria requires zero duty payment for export."

"Exporters don't pay export duties, except on special occasions, where goods that were otherwise imported and are being re-exported, they pay 2.5 per cent levy on the current value of the goods with the government's permission." He added. Comptroller Odusanya gave a data analysis of exports the command has facilitated within the last year.

He said, "From January to the end of September 2023, the Command has facilitated the export of 12,438 export containers; if you break them down, we have 6524 x 20-foot containers and 5914 x 40-foot containers with a FOB value of \$518,690,852.93."

"For the goods, we have Agricultural produce such as cocoa, cashew, soya, ginger, hibiscus flower(zobo leaves), cotton, sesame seeds, etc., locally manufactured goods like cigarettes, cosmetic items, beverages, etc. And solid minerals such as Aluminium, copper, magnesium, lithium and Zinc.

"We have other sundry

commodities like foodstuff, personal effects and others." He explained. Stakeholders within the export terminal maintained that processing their documents with Customs is an efficient one but suggested more manpower from other government agencies stationed at the export terminal to ease their clearance processes. Comrade Augustine Umnakwe, the Maritime Union Chairman, Lilypond export terminal-Unit, said, "Customs Officers are efficient in terms of their work, but where we have challenges with shipping companies because of less manpower attending to us."

"Another thing is that, though government agencies are doing their work, in terms of clearance, their representatives should be stationed here to make the work more efficient." He added.

Abdulsalam Babatunde, the Head of Processing Diamond Star Port and Terminal Limited, stated that, as an export processing terminal, there is a strong relationship and collaboration with the shipping lines and Government Agencies. In his words, "We facilitate the processing at the Port, we have our handshake with the major shipping lines and the terminal, we confirm the bookings to ensure that whatever leaves this terminal goes directly to the vessel, we ensure their quality and their quantity."

"We don't do it alone. We work with NPA, ETP, and Customs as well and make sure that we do not export anything that has not been duly released by customs." Babatunde explained.

Emmanuel Ekle, the Principal Trade Promotion Officer at Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) Southwest, disclosed that registration for exporters is a seamless process that is done online. Emmanuel also revealed that the Council supports trade promotion activities and administer export incentives as well as export expansion grant.

Seriki Hausawa Of Ibadanland Announces Indefinite Suspension Of Seriki Sasa

*Alleges insubordination

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Seriki Hausawa of Ibadanland, Alhaji Ali Dairu Zungeru on Wednesday, slammed an indefinite suspension on the Seriki in Sasa area of Ibadan, Alhaji Haruna Maiyasin.

Addressing his Chiefs and some other prominent Hausa people in his palace at Mokola area of Ibadan, the Seriki Hausawa of Ibadanland accused the Seriki Sasa of alleged insubordination.

Alhaji Zungeru said the indefinite suspension of the Seriki Sasa was as a result of his alleged activities saying, "the activities of Alhaji Haruna Maiyasin, is becoming unbearable and if not quickly checked, can lead to crisis".

According to the Seriki Hausawa, "The activities of Alhaji Haruna Maiyasin, who is calling himself Seriki Sasa is

becoming unbearable and if not quickly check it can lead to crisis.

"To start with, Ibadanland has only one Seriki Hausawa, which is me, Alhaji Ali Dairu Sungeru. In 1982, then Seriki Hausawa Alhaji Shuaibu Diko granted the request of Alhaji Haruna Maiyasin and installed him as Mengeruwa, which is equivalent to Baales, that's community leader. He has no power to install or give chieftaincy title to anyone", he said.

The Seriki Hausawa added, "Recently, Alhaji Mayasin wrote petition against me and my council to the Commissioner of Police, we were invited by CP and stated our own side of the story, the CP directed us to go and write statement at Iyaganku State Criminal Investigation Department. That all of us should not do anything that can truncate the peace of the state.

"Secondly, I am the sole authority who can appoint Mengeruwa to any community that merits it in Ibadanland, and I had appointed Alhaji Ado Sulaimion as the Mengeruwa of Akinyele, in Akinyele Local Government Area, but Haruna Maiyasin had gone to appoint another person. Also, I have been duly informed that he was planning to install more Chiefs, so before he causes crisis, I have decided to suspend him indefinitely over insubordination."

Alhaji Zungeru maintained, "we were very good in trading, especially, in kolanut, cow, clothes, and so on. In recognition of our contributions, the Olubadan of Ibadanland in 1949, gave us here, Mokola as our Sabo community, not that alone, Kabiyesi also approved the appointment of the

Seriki Hausawa of Ibadanland which I, Alhaji Ali Dairu Sungeru is the fifth to be on the throne.

"Hausas and Yorubas particularly the Ibadan have been living in peace, we have three thousand of our son's and daughters that had married Yorubas. Me that am the Seriki Hausawa today was born and brought up in Ibadan here. So me and my council can never allow anyone to truncate the peace of Ibadan, because if there is crisis in Ibadan it will escalate to the entire Southwest if not entire Nigeria".

New Nigerian recalls that the Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lekan Balogun last week, said only the Seriki Hausawa of Ibadanland has the recognition of his authority as the head of the Hausa community in the entire ancient metropolis.



Alhaji Zungeru and his subjects in Ibadanland during the meeting.



Oba Lekan Balogun receiving the NECO Zonal Director and her team yesterday.

Plateau Police Rescues 6 Captives From Kidnappers' Den, Dislodges Captors

*One notorious kidnapper killed

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

The Plateau State Police Command in its relentless efforts to get rid of criminal elements in the state, has trailed a gang of notorious kidnappers to their den, dislodged them, rescued six kidnapped victims and gunned down one kidnapper.

A statement by the command's Public Relations Officer, Alfred Alubo said while acting on a credible intelligence about a horrible kidnap incident, that some unidentified suspected kidnappers invaded

Gwalfada village in Toro LGA of Bauchi State and forcefully kidnapped some residents of the area to a rocky forest in between Tumu, Tsaya and Rumfar Gomna in Bassa LGA, the Divisional Police Officer of Jengre, led a combined team of battle ready Police operatives, STF, Security Help Groups to the kidnappers' camp.

On sighting the security operatives, the kidnappers engaged them in a fierce gun fight, but they were subdued by the superior fire power of the security operatives.

"However, six (6) victims

namely: Rashida Hamisu, Mummi Usman, Ibrahim Isa, Ya'u Yahaya, Bala Aminu and Alh. Ishaku Usman all of Gwalfada, Toro LGA, Bauchi were rescued from the operation, while one of the kidnappers was gunned down and his cohorts fled with various degrees of bullet wounds but sadly, one Nuhu Titus, a hunter who aided the security in the rescue operation lost his life," he said.

He added that efforts are being intensified to arrest the fleeing suspects and rescue other kidnap

victims.

The Commissioner of Police Plateau State Police Command, CP Okoro J. Alawari, psc, assured Plateau residents of the commitment of the Police to combat crime and criminality in the state.

He vowed to do all within his powers to ensure that all the 17 local government areas continue to remain safe for all citizens of the state.

The CP warned kidnappers to repent from their atrocious activities or leave Plateau State before the Police apprehend them.



The rescued victims

Olubadan To NECO : Declare War On Exam Malpractices

*Supervisors are responsible - Zonal Director

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lekan Balogun yesterday, tasked the National Examination Council (NECO) to wage war on the menace of examination malpractices. Oba Balogun gave the task while playing host to the new South West Zonal Director of the examination body, Mrs. Deborah Fukop, who led her management team on a courtesy visit to the monarch.

The royal father stressed that this became necessary in view of the fact that examination malpractices has become a stain on the body, adding that the strategic position occupied by the examination body as the gate-keepers for the higher institutions across the country confers on it the need to wage war against the vice.

"The future of this country is in your hand in that whatever you turn out as finished products through our national examination, the Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSSCE) is what our tertiary institutions must as a compulsion admit because, they must admit students if they don't want to close down", he said.

Oba Balogun added, "You owe it a duty to give us the best for the sake of our future. The news we normally hear about the conduct of your examinations is not at all cheering, yet, it is compulsory that our children pass through you. One cannot but acknowledge the efforts being made to tackle the

menace by way of sanctioning schools and some individuals involved, we want you to do more because of our future".

Speaking, the NECO Zonal Director, Mrs. Deborah Fukop said the problem of examination malpractices is largely that of the supervisors, who are teachers, saying, "They are the ones that compromise on integrity and not the council.

"We are conscious of our revered father's observation and we are not folding arms because of the importance and strategic position we find ourselves. We cannot afford to fail the country, but our Royal Father would agree with me that we only conduct examinations while our supervisors, who are teachers are responsible for the execution", she said.

The Zonal Director added, "There are enough mechanisms in place to check malpractices before, during and after the examinations, but, if and when those saddled with the responsibility at any of the stages compromise the system, we become helpless".

"Nevertheless, we are up and doing as we give sanctions to schools and individuals found culpable as remarked by Your Imperial Majesty", Calling for collaboration of all the stakeholders with the examination body, the NECO Zonal stressed that everybody must be conscious of the need for integrity and to come to the realization that whatever is done to compromise the examination system is a crime against the country.

Health: Governor Inuwa Yahaya Receives PSN Leadership, Seeks Strategic Collaboration

**Support we received from Gombe Govt unprecedented – PSN President*

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

The Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) has lauded Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON for his commitment to strengthening health system in Gombe and elevating the state to a noteworthy status.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available on Wednesday November 1, 2023, PSN President, Professor Cyril Usifor made the commendation when he led the leadership of the professional body on a courtesy call to the Governor in Gombe.

He pointed out projects such as good roads, functioning street lighting, advancements in the healthcare sector, and elevating Gombe's reputation as one of Nigeria's cleanest and most hygienic states among many other which stood Gombe out.

Professor Usifor explained that they were at the Government House to express their gratitude to Governor Inuwa Yahaya for the support that has been provided by the government towards ensuring the success of their annual conference being held in Gombe.

He further commended the unprecedented level of support they have received, from organizing the summit to other



Gov Yahaya

various gestures, describing it as the most significant in recent years for the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria.

"We want to show appreciation to Your Excellency for making sure that our stay in Gombe since we came has been very comfortable. Not only that, you came to declare the ceremony open, your deputy was also there to give a keynote address, and also your commissioners and other members of your government have also graced the

occasion. This is an unprecedented gesture", the PSN president said.

He further mentioned that based on what they have seen in Gombe, majority of them as well as other participants would leave Gombe fully satisfied with the level of its security, development and hospitality, pledging to serve as ambassadors for the state anywhere they may find themselves.

Receiving the PSN delegation, Governor Inuwa Yahaya

expressed his gratitude to the organisation for choosing Gombe as the host state for their 2023 Annual Conference, highlighting Gombe's reputation as a hospitable place.

"Let me extend my appreciation to you for choosing Gombe as the host state for your 2023 Annual Conference. Since your arrival, I trust you have experienced our warm hospitality. We firmly believe in a united Nigeria, and that is why our doors are open to all, whether

for business or tourism," the governor stated.

Speaking on the importance of a more unified Nigeria, the governor remarked, "We ought to be a united people despite the differences among us. We share many commonalities and a shared destiny. Together, we can achieve greatness, as we have a substantial population of productive young individuals, comprising more than 50% of our citizens. Together, we can propel Nigeria towards its desired destination and I urge the PSN to be part of this project."

Governor Inuwa expressed his administration's readiness to partner with the PSN towards actualizing his administration's ultimate target of strengthening the health system and providing quality healthcare services for all citizens of Gombe State.

He said his administration recognised the significance of pharmacy and other medical professionals in healthcare delivery, which is the reason the government is committed to fostering an environment where pharmacists and other medical professionals can thrive and make meaningful impacts, promising continued support and increased investment in their professional development in Gombe State.



Lover-boy In Akwa Ibom To Face Hangman Over Robbery

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

My girlfriend, Victoria, now at large told me to go and rob the Vice Principal Academics of Community Secondary Commercial School, Ikot Andem Itam in Itu because the lady was sitting alone at the School's Compound." Ndifreke Essien Urua, 28 year-old condemned armed robber in Akwa Ibom State confessed to police.

Yesterday, after over six years of standing trial at Uyo High Court in the state capital, Ndifreke

bagged a death sentence as the presiding judge relied on his confessional statement and ruled on the case.

Learnt from the ruling, our Correspondent reports that the Vice Principal was on a duty call in the school premises, when the incident occurred at about 1:30pm of 25th February, 2017.

The convict, a native of Ikot Andem Itam, armed with machet robbed his victim of her handbag containing recharge cards worth N200,000, a Nokia phone and N16,000 cash.

In his confessional statement, he explained that his girlfriend, one Victoria now at large, informed him that there was a lady sitting alone at Community Secondary Commercial School, Ikot Andem Itam and that he should go and rob her.

He said both of them immediately rushed to the school and threatened to kill the 56 year-old Vice Principal, forcing her to hand over all her properties to them.

The robber said it was at the point of selling the NOKIA phone that

his girlfriend, who had escaped with other loot, was caught by youth of Ikot Andem Itam village and she spilled the beans, leading to his arrest by the Police.

The presiding judge, Justice Edem Akpan in his judgement, agreed "with the submission of the state that the prosecution has proved its case beyond reasonable doubt through the confessional statements of the accused."

Justice Edem Akpan found the accused guilty of armed robbery, which is contrary to Section 1 (2)

of Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions) Act Vol. 14, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and convicted him accordingly.

The court held that the accused person, Ndifreke Essien Urua, who is the last child in the family of eight, be hanged to death and prayed God to have mercy on his soul.

The condemned robber had pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, saying it was his first time of involving in a armed robbery operation.

ABLEGOD Women Development Forum Inaugurates 5,000 National, State Executives

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Director-General of The Able God Women Development Forum, Ambassador Funmi Gafar on Wednesday disclosed that the Forum is organising an award/ inauguration of 5,000 members of her national and state executives.

Addressing a press conference, Ambassador Gafar also said the Forum will hold a fund-raising for empowerment on food security on Saturday, 4th November at the Moshood Abiola Stadium, Abuja.

She stressed that contributions made to the organisation would make the organisation to provide essential resources, create sustainable livelihood opportunities and promote education and skill development for their members Nationwide.

Ambassador Gafar noted that all the national, state and local government executives to be inaugurated would be part of the Road Walk on Thursday 2nd November, 2023 in Abuja.

She maintained that the Forum has a well developed comprehensive programme that focuses on empowerment and food security to address the specific needs and challenges of its over 1.7 million members across the length and



. Ambassador Gafar

breadth of Nigeria.

According to the Director General, the event which is expected to start at 10am will have important dignitaries including the APC National Chairman, Dr. Umar Abdullahi Ganduje, the First lady, Sen. Oluremi Tinubu, as special guests of honour.

Others are the Executive Governors, Distinguished Senators, House of Rep members, Chief of staff to the President, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila, the SGF, H.E. George Akume, DG, Women Development Centre Hajia Asabe Vilitas, DG, Amalgamated APC Support Groups, Dr. Nasir Ladan and a host of others as special guests at the event.

Also, she said other invited dignitaries are influential leaders, community members, special guests who support the Forum's mission in the 774 local government areas of the nation.

The forum's primary goal is to foster the growth and development of women, enduring equal opportunities and brighter future for all women, knowing full well that when women thrive, the society benefits as a whole.

The event is being brought together to launch the initiative and also create awareness about the importance of women empowerment and food security in the nation.

Father Of 7 Bags Death Sentence For Kidnapping In Akwa Ibom

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Akwa Ibom State High Court sitting in Abak has sentenced a 59 year-old man, Pius Udo Ben to death for kidnapping a four-year old boy, who has not been found till date. Pius Udo Ben, a father of seven from Ikot Use Ekong in Eket Local Government Area, was standing trial alongside one Emmanuel Dickson Assam, a 62 year-old carpenter, who was charged for aiding Ben to escape, contrary to Section 12 subsection B of Akwa Ibom State Internal Security and Enforcement Law, 2009. The particulars of the offence shows that the four-year old victim was sleeping in his mother's shop at Iko Eket in Eket Local Government Area, where the convict who came with a motorcyclist, now at large, tricked his 11 year-old sister to leave the shop and search for

change for iced fish of N100.

She was said to have returned without seeing her brother and the kidnapper left behind the iced fish he came pretending to buy.

The incident occurred on June 5, 2014, with the then village head elect of Iko Eket summoning the entire villagers for a parade and the sister of the missing boy identified the kidnapper in the crowd.

In her one hour judgement, the presiding judge, Justice Eno Isangedighi said she read the addresses of the defense and the prosecution against the background of the facts adduced in evidence which she described as "straightforward".

Justice Isangedighi discharged and acquitted the second accused, Emmanuel Dickson Assam for lack of evidence and found the first accused, Pius Udo Ben guilty of kidnapping and

sentenced him to death by hanging.

She held that whether the four-year old boy is alive or not, the clue lies with the convict, who from the fact of the case, has decided to keep mum and face the consequences alone.

"He may well not be alive again or he is being raised in a strange environment to be who God did not create him to be. Whatever happens, it is expected that justice must be done." Justice Isangedighi held.

She also said that she has "listened to the allocutus of the first defendant and considered the passionate plea for mercy by the defense counsel. I have also double checked the provisions of the law to see whether it allow any latitude for discretion on the Court during sentencing. What I find is very clear and it states that "any person who contravenes subsection 1 of Akwa Ibom State Internal Security and



Enforcement Law, 2009 commits an offence and shall on conviction, be liable to be sentenced to death."

"Very sadly, the Court has no discretion for power to lessen the sentence. Had there been such discretion, the Court would have taken into consideration, the fact that the first defendant has been

in custody for about 10 years. But as it stands, I am powerless to do so."

"The sentence of this Court upon you, Pius Udo Ben is that, you are hereby sentenced to death. You shall be hanged on the neck until you die. May the Lord have mercy on your soul." Justice Isangedighi held.

GOC 3 Div Tours Areas Of Responsibility, Underscores Civil-military Cooperation For Operational Successes

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Division Nigerian Army (NA) and Commander Operation SAFE HAVEN (OPSH), Major General Abdulsalam Abubakar has reiterated the significance of cordial civil-military relations in achieving operational successes.

He stated this when he visited Government House Yola and traditional rulers in Adamawa and Gombe states.

Appreciating the Adamawa State Government for creating an enabling environment for socio-economic activities to thrive, the GOC/Commander OPSH harped on the significance of placing premium on security issues as collective affairs of all.

He further commended the tremendous support and cooperation the troops enjoy from the state.

Receiving the GOC, the Executive Governor of Adamawa State, Rt Hon. Ahmadu Fintiri represented by the Chief of Staff Adamawa State, Dr Edgar Amos Sunday, appreciated the efforts of the Nigerian Army in securing the lives and property of the people of the state.

He noted that, security remains



the topmost priority of the state, as no meaningful development can thrive without peace and security.

He reassured of continuous collaboration with the NA to ensure peace flourishes in all communities of the state.

While at the palace of the Lamido of Adamawa, Dr Muhammadu Mustapha and the Emir of Mubi, Alhaji Abubakar I s a A h m a d u , t h e GOC/Commander OPSH noted the strategic roles of traditional institutions in the security of the

communities.

He thanked the traditional and community leaders for playing key roles in galvanizing support for the NA.

The traditional rulers on their part pledged their unwavering support to the security agencies.

They reassured of continued preaching the message of unity and peaceful coexistence to their subject.

On his part, the Emir of Gombe, His Royal Highness Alhaji (Dr) Abubakar Shehu Abubakar III CFR revealed that the visit to the

palace was a demonstration of the respect the NA has for traditional institutions and the cordial relationship existing between the good people of Gombe and the NA.

Addressing the troops at Headquarters 23 Brigade, Yola, 232 Battalion Tactical Headquarters in Mubi as well as troops of 23 Brigade Special Battalion located in Maiha at a border town with Cameroon and troops of 301 Artillery Regiment, General Support Gombe, Major General AE

Abubakar reminded the troops on the command philosophy of the COAS, especially on the administration and welfare of personnel and their families.

He conveyed the goodwill message of the COAS and charged the troops to discharge their duties professionally and to avoid any act capable of dragging the good name of the NA to disrepute.

General Abubakar also narrated the recent steps employed by the Army hierarchy to address the critical welfare needs of troops and their families.

He further enjoined the troops to remain committed in the fight against criminal activities, just as he urged them to maintain good relationship with the host communities.

He also charged them to be at alert and remain vigilant against emerging threats.

The GOC/Commander OPSH during the visit was earlier briefed by the Commander 23 Brigade Yola, Brigadier General MJ Gambo, the Commander 301 Artillery Regiment, General Support, Gombe, Colonel SM Ahmed as well as Commanding Officer, 232 Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel TB Dzarma and the Commander 23 Brigade Special Battalion, Major Danfulani.

EFCC Arrests 69 Suspected Internet Fraudsters In Ile-Ife

*Recovers include exotic cars, 190 mobile phones, 40 laptops among others

*OAU students storm EFCC Ibadan Zone to protest arrest of colleagues EFCC Arrests 69 Suspected Internet Fraudsters In Ile-Ife

*Recovers include exotic cars, 190 mobile phones, 40 laptops among others

*OAU students storm EFCC Ibadan Zone to protest arrest of colleagues

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) early Wednesday, arrested 69, suspected internet fraudsters in Ile-Ife Osun State.

However, students of the Obafemi Awolowo University, (OAU) claimed that the 69 arrested suspects are students of the university.

According to EFCC, the suspects were arrested at Oduduwa Estate area of Ile-Ife, following actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in fraudulent internet-related activities.

EFCC stressed that credible intelligence allegedly linked Oduduwa Estate with activities

of suspected internet fraudsters. The commission identified the arrested suspects as, Dankuwo Eniola Erioluwa, Mustapha Monsuru Oluwanisola, Adeyeye Timilehin Ebenezer, Toromade Hammed Adedeji, Busari Abdulazeez Ayodeji, Adeleye Olumuyiwa Emmanuel, Oluwasakin Moyosore Favour, Olubini Pere Michael, Oluwadara Emmanuel Benny, Gbadamosi Okikola Omotola, Okusipe Tobiloba Paul, Nnekwelugo Enaemeka, Aghwaritoma Wisdom, Adesina Gbolahan Khalid and Micheal Olugoke Oluwaseun.

Others are, Obafemi Joshua Mayowa, Eronmonsele Anthony Igberaese, Salau Oluwawumi, Jaiyeola Yinka Temitope, Ajayi Ayodeji Olanrenwaju, Oguntade

Oluwabukunmi David, Abdulmumini Abdulsamad, Tolulope Oduola Folaranmi, Kayode Abdulraheem Ajuwon, Akinyemi Oluwagbenro Aduragbemi, Ayodeji Olumose Adedeji, Alawode Femi Segun, Junaid Hafiz Adeyinka, Akolade Oladele Sunday, Oyeniyi Banji Andrew, Oladusu Lanrinde Morakinyo, Ojo John Ifeoluwa, Akwuaka Tochukwu Blaise and Ogunleye Daniel Ayobami and Adebowale Omodesire Diekola. The rest are, Arekemase Olayinka Ridwan, Ajigbolamu Ayomide Ademola, Asegun David Damola, Adibe Elvis Ebubechukwu, Ohakanu Chidubem, Adeoye Mayowa Irejah, Adesokan Charles Adekunle, Olorunfemi Isaac Oladimeji, Odeyemi Femi

Victor, Alimi Ajibola Akorede, Okeke Ifaenyi Francis, Fawehinmi Ayomide Simeon, Soniola Olumide Elijah, Yahaya Isah Salihu, Daramola Junia Olamide, Agbabikaka Mojuolaoluwa and Kingsley Ejike Nweake.

The commission stressed that others are, Camara Abdullahi, Aminu Kehinde, Bayo Adegoke Iyanuoluwa, Alao Kolawale Oluwaseun, Oloruntoba Oluwatosin Adeniyi, Idowu Philip Oluwaseun, Maiye Daniel Olasile, Oyelami Peter Oluwaseyi, Emmanuel Nsochukwu, Komolafe Tosin, Praise Izuagie, Umehidi Obinna, Olujulo Lucas Ifeoluwa, Omejeh Stanley, Latilo Tolu, Oluwaseun Akinrelere and Great Onufomah. EFCC in a statement, listed items recovered from the

arrested suspects to include exotic cars, 190 mobile phones and 40 laptops among others.

It stressed that the suspects have made useful statements to the EFCC and will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

Few hours after the early morning raid, about 200 students of the Obafemi Awolowo University, (OAU) Ile-Ife stormed the Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Iyaganku, Ibadan to protest the arrest of 69 students of the university.

The students arrived the EFCC office in Ibadan in three coaster buses and three hummer buses demanding release of the arrested students.



The suspects

Senator Diket Plang's Tribunal Victory, A Win For Democracy, Rule Of Law

By: BUHARI. B. BELLO, Jos

Plateau Central Senator, Diket Plang, Senate Committee Chairman on Employment, Labour and Productivity and also Deputy Chairman, Federal Character Commission has been duly affirmed by a tribunal sitting in Jos, as the legitimate winner of the February 25, 2023 general election.

In what is regarded as a triumphant victory

for democracy and the rule of law, as soon as the verdict was passed in favour of the lawmaker, the people of Central Zone took to the streets in massive jubilation and celebration.

The tribunal dismissed the petition filed by the overly defeated PDP Senatorial Candidate, Yohanna Gotom, who filed a petition against Sen. Diket Plang challenging his victory.

Accordingly, the tribunal, after about six

hours of intense reading of the judgement's summary via Zoom.

Justice Omaka Elekwa dismissed the petition based on facts including, that the result of the election is credible and valid, that the claim of over voting by G.Y Gotom is not evidential and substantial. Also, the results of Gagdi Ward, comprising of 34 polling units were declared valid and authentic.

The judge equally stated that Prof. Sunday

Dabi had no legal right to have cancelled them in the first place.

Furthermore, the tribunal holds that, the petitioner G.Y Gotom, was not properly sponsored by a political party and as such, lacked the legal backing to challenge the outcome of the election.

Chairmen of the tribunal, Justice Tukur and Justice Adetujoye concurred with the lead judgment.



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Iju Day 2023: Ondo Community Appreciates Akeredolu, Targets N250m To Catalyse Development

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

Iju Community in Akure North Local Government Area of Ondo State, under the auspices of IPU Progressive Union has once again appreciated the Governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, on the status upgrade of the Okiti of Iju, Oba Amos Adelakun Farukanmi to Grade A Traditional Ruler.

At the press conference to herald the Iju Day 2023 Celebrations held at the Iju Utility Centre, the National President of Iju Progressive Union, IPU, Akin Oluwalade; said programmes for the day are carefully crafted to rejuvenate the unity, oneness and self-help spirit of the town.

The IPU National President said the most important of the programmes for the celebration to hold on Saturday 4th November, 2023 will be the raising of N250 million which will be spent on various community projects like the second phase of the Palace of the Okiti of Iju.

Oluwalade expressed happiness that several sons and daughters of the town at home and abroad have contributed significantly towards meeting the target. While outlining the variety of programmes for the day, the IPU National President said guests, sons and daughters will have the day in their memory to the extent that they will always look out for subsequent editions of Iju Day.

"We assure our numerous invited guests to this year's Iju Day Celebration, the best of hospitality that Iju is noted for while

earnestly waiting for your generous donations," the President said.

He added that a team of medical experts will be on hand to attend to everyone who desires their services without any cost.

"There will be free health programme for the citizen. Covering health checks (various tests and examinations) and prescription and distribution of free drugs.

"The Day will be Chaired by a renowned Legal Luminary, industrialist, philanthropist of international repute and politician – Hon. (Barr) Olumuyiwa Adu. The Chief Launcher will be Barrister Temilolu Adamolekun, our illustrious son, to be supported by other prominent Co-Launchers.

"Personalities being expected at the occasion include: the Ondo State Governor of Ondo State Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, CON; the Secretary to the State Government, Princess Oladunni Odu and members of the State Executive Council with our lawmakers at the National and State Assemblies and other political appointees and friends of the community.

"The Chief Host, Senator Tayo Alasoadura will be on hand to welcome all guests while the Honourable Commissioner for Youths and Sports in Ondo State, Hon. Dele Ologun will equally be a special guest", he said.

Personalities at the Press Conference include: the Osemawe of Iju, High Chief Aarinola Enikanoselu; Chairman of Iju Progressive Union, Headquarters, Engr. Tunde Fagbuyi; Iju Community Development Council, ICDC, Evangelist



Solomon Ogunbuyide; Chairman Palace Building Committee, Chief Dipe Adegboye; Kunle Olotu; Ajayi Ore, Hon Tayo Fayanju and the Youth Leader Deji Ogundeji.

Some of the IPU National Officers who

joined the President to the Press Conference include: General Secretary, Tayo Adaramodu; Treasurer, Hon. Caroline Ogunsusi; Assistant Secretary, Tosin Falebita and Publicity Secretary Taiwo Ajayi.



Katsina Governor Orders Rehabilitation Of Primary School During Unscheduled Visit

***Teaches pupils, assesses level of understanding during visit**

By; BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS,
Abuja

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda has expressed concern over the deteriorating condition of Kukar Getsa Primary School in Katsina town which is on the verge of collapse.

The governor early yesterday morning, paid an unscheduled visit to the school and expressed dismay over its dilapidated condition.

He immediately ordered for its rehabilitation.

A statement by Isah Miqdad, Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Digital Media said the governor during the visit also took time to assess the level of students understanding and monitored teaching activities.

Governor Radda's visit was marked by hands-on involvement, as he not only monitored teaching sessions but also personally engaged with the pupils, offering guidance and support where needed.

This visit demonstrates Governor Radda's commitment to enhancing the quality of education in Katsina State and fostering a brighter future for its youth.

The rehabilitation of Kukar Getsa Primary School is a vital step towards achieving these objectives and providing students with better educational opportunities.



NITDA Boss Scores Akwa Ibom Tech High In Technological Growth

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Director General/Chief Executive Officer of National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) Mr. Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi said Akwa Ibom Tech Community has made huge contributions to the growth of technology in Africa.

Abdullahi stated this at Akwa Ibom Tech Week 2023 with the theme: "Africa's New Tech Destination" held at Sheraton by Four Points Hotel, Ikot Ekpe on Tuesday.

Represented by Mr Aristotle Onu, the NITDA Boss congratulated Ibm Innovation Network, the community of innovators, hubs, the Akwa Ibom state government, and all organisations and stakeholders that contributed to bringing the programme to reality.

"As of 2022, the total population of Africa amounted to over 1.4 billion. According to Statistics, the population of the continent will increase to around 2.5 billion by 2050.

"I trust that the seed you are sowing today will grow to positively impact your environment with innovative solutions to elevate the State and Nigeria in general into a higher echelon of sustainable economic development.

"Akwa Ibom Tech Community is on the rise. The time is ripe for Akwa Ibom to transform Nigeria into Africa's new tech destination. Akwa Ibom Arise!" He said.

Setting the tone for the event, the President, Ibm Innovation Network, Hanson Johnson stressed the need for investment in the tech ecosystem and urged government and other public spirited individuals to rally behind the entrepreneurs and innovators.

He called for enabling

environment for tech advancement such as power and internet connectivity even while thanking Akwa Ibom state government for sustained peace which would help the state to achieve its dream of becoming Africa's New Tech Destination.

His words "As we position to start reaping from our technology licenses and royalties from our patent and intellectual properties, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the state government and the people for the steadfast support in our endeavors and for preserving peace in our land. We call upon them to continue this journey with us, investing in our dream to become Africa's New Tech Destination.

"The peace that our state enjoys is a testament to our government's unwavering dedication to ensuring a secure and conducive atmosphere for tech enthusiasts. The cost of living here is friendly and provides a unique advantage in building and growing tech startups.

He expressed optimism that they would start reaping from their technology licenses and royalties from the patent and intellectual properties in no distant time.

Speaking on, "Building A Global Career From Your Local communities" CEO Rapid River software, Mr Nick Mardon applauded Ibm Tech Community for the milestone so far reached and recommended Schooling, self study, internship mentorship, connection as approaches to widening the Tech development funnel.

He identified electricity as a big problem and therefore stressed the need for collaboration to handle it.

Speaking on branding and marketing Akwa Ibom State as an emerging Tech Destination in Africa, the Senior Special



Assistant to the Governor of Brand Management and Marketing, Mr Raphael Edem acknowledged that Tech hubs in the state is a world class things. Edem said between 2014 when the first Hubs were launched and now, there has been a remarkable progress in the tech ecosystem of the State, as the seven hubs identified nine years ago currently have a staff strength of 132, training over 4,229 people, and have already successfully trained 15,701 people, thereby providing both direct jobs and highly sought after digital skills. He encouraged Tech experts in the state to ensure a continuous dialogue and partnership between the state government and the tech community, assuring that the Governor

appointed Assistants into core tech offices to assist in the development of the sector.

"In the ARISE Agenda, the Governor specifically states some of his strategies for the tech industry to include; Promoting home-grown digital hubs, Building capacity for ICT and media stakeholders Fa One of the easiest ways to make Akwa Ibom a tech destination is to keep people coming to the state for tech events.

He called for an expansion of the the ecosystem: "Right now, tech activities are majorly concentrated in Uyo, and it is rightly so for obvious reasons with Eket and Ikot Ekpe coming at a distance. I believe the entire State is very fertile for the revolution. But we can start

the expansion process by building the ecosystem in the form of activities around institutions like the Maritime Academy in Oron, Akwa Ibom State University in Mkpatt Enin and Oruk Anam, College of Education in Nsit Ibom, and so on.

"Turning Akwa Ibom to a tech destination in Africa is achievable. Individually, the hubs in the state have done remarkably well so far. But going forward, there will be a need for multidimensional collaborations. The state government is open to partnership and ready to provide as much support as it can". He assured.

Appeal Court Confirms Ned Nwoko's Victory In Delta North Senatorial Election

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

In a decisive verdict, the Court of Appeal, has upheld the tribunal's judgment, validating Prince Ned Nwoko of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) as the legitimate winner in the Delta North senatorial election.

The court's ruling, delivered in Lagos, marks the culmination of a legal battle that saw the appeals of Peter Nwaoboshi from the All Progressives Congress (APC) and Ken Kanma, the Labour Party candidate, dismissed on grounds of lacking merit.

The National Assembly Elections Petitions Tribunal, situated in Asaba, Delta State, had initially ruled in September, confirming Prince Ned Nwoko's resounding victory in the senatorial election that transpired on February 25, 2023.

The Court of Appeal's endorsement of this decision further solidifies Nwoko's triumph, securing his position as the rightful representative for Delta North in the Senate.

Gov Abdulrazaq Names Prof Oba, 10 Others For State University Of Education

By Biliqis Onaolapo Olajumoke, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has appointed former Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Shuaib Oba Abdulraheem (OFR) as chairman of the study, planning and implementation committee for the establishment of Kwara State University of Education, according to a statement on Tuesday.

The 11-person committee also comprises, Deacon Pastor Afolayan J. Babatunde (Secretary); Professor (Mrs) Medinat Salman; Prof. (Mrs) Sidikat F. Adeyemi; Prof. Umar Gunu; Engineer Sa'ad Belgore; Mrs. Mulikat Lawal; Femi Aina; former Special Adviser on Special Duties Alhaji Abubakar Abdul-Razaq Jiddah; and a representative each of the Ministries of Housing and Urban Development and Justice (the latter being a female).

The administration has since started preliminary

efforts to birth the university of education using one of the three existing Colleges of Education as the launchpad.

The state is similarly pulling the strings to have Abuja adopt one of the CoEDs as a Federal College of Education, while the third one adopts dual-mode that empowers it to issue bachelor's degree in line with the recent laws governing Colleges of Education in Nigeria.

The 11-person committee will work out the modalities for the establishment, workings, and funding of the school. It will, among other things, develop the rationale and justification for a state-owned specialised university of education, including an assessment of the existing conventional, non-degree awarding —NCE/Diploma — colleges or university which limited facilities may fall short of the eligibility for automatic registration with the Teachers' Registration Council.



Gov AbdulRazaq

Appeal Court Declares Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan Winner Kogi Central Senator

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja.

The appeal court in Abuja Tuesday upheld the judgement of the Kogi state election petition tribunal that sacked Senator Sadiku Ohere representing Kogi Central Senatorial district of the state.

Delivering the judgement in Abuja, the court of appeal upheld the decision of the tribunal that declared Natasha Akpoti as the legitimate representative of Kogi Central.

It held that the appeal of Sadiku-Ohere challenging the judgment of the tribunal lacked merit.

Recall that the election petition tribunal sitting in Lokoja had earlier declared Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan as the winner of the February 25 Kogi Central Senatorial election.

Natasha H Akpoti was born on the 9th December, 1979, she is the second of four children and the only daughter of a Nigerian father and a Ukrainian mother.

Her mother, Ludmila Kravchenk, is a Ukrainian from Rakitna in the region



Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan

of Chernivtsi. Her father, Dr. Jimoh Abdul Akpoti is from Obeiba-Ihima, Kogi State.

She spent her early years in Ihima, Okene Kogi State.

She lost her father in 1998 and the family had to relocate.

She studied at the University of Abuja from

2000 to 2004 and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree. She was called to the Nigeria bar in 2005 upon graduation from the Nigerian Law School in Abuja.

In 2011, she proceeded to the University of Dundee and graduated with a Masters of Business

Administration in oil and gas management from the University of Dundee.

She is a mother of three kids.

On the 5th March, 2022, she married the Alema of Warri, Chief Emmanuel Uduaghan, in a ceremony at her native home, Ihima.

Mysterious Fire Destroys NAN Correspondent's Residence In Zaria

*Fire Service blames lack of fuel for not showing up

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

A mysterious fire outbreak has destroyed a multi-million Naira residence of Mohammed Lawal, Kebbi Correspondent of News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Zaria today Wednesday at about 2.p.m and lasted for about an hour.

The fire destroyed all the property in the compound

which is located at Buzai, behind Kofar Gayan Low-Cost, Zaria City, Kaduna State.

According to the victim, "I was about to take my bath after coming from the mosque, when we discovered traces of smoke in one of the rooms in the three bedroom bungalow.

"We made efforts to

extinguish the fire, but our efforts were not successful. We resorted to calling the Fire Service at Kofar Doka in Zaria.

"They (Fire service officer in charge) said they had no fuel to respond to our calls. We also asked them to give us the phone number of Federal Fire Service at Sabon Gari (Zaria), but the officer didn't oblige," the

victim said.

He added that, "as you can see, we didn't remove anything from the house, everything has gone except the clothes we are wearing".

On the cause of the incidence, the victim said, "we are suspecting electric power fluctuations to be the cause of the fire incidence."

HH Foundation Trains Over 150 Yola Kids With Disabilities In Arts

By; TOM GARBA, Yola

A Non Governmental organization (NGO), Helping Hands (HH) has trained over 150 Children with special disability in Adamawa State.

HH taught the kids creative arts using waste fabric, clay, sand and grass to create art earrings and wristbands with clay sand.

They were trained to make designs with used cartons and trashed pieces of cloth. The creation of robots, houses, cars,

bridges, airplanes, etc in imitation was also some of the training they got.

HH in an Art Ability Project training organized by the founder, Mrs Esther Dokyoung said one of the organization's visions is to expose teachers, Parents, and learners with intellectual and learning disabilities to inclusive learning and creative performance for emotional and mental well-being.

The event, which took place at

Remi Foundation, equally exposed the children to art education, multi sense-discovery, circular economy and design thinking.

According to Mrs. Dokyoung, her aim through the HH mission, is to all the time equip special kids by helping them in discovering who they are and who they can be.

The children were drawn from Lutheran Centre for children with Special Needs (Deaf Centre), Remi Foundation

School, Yola FOMWAN Special School, and Song Local Government Special School for Children with Disabilities.

Mrs Dokyoung in an interview with journalists, reiterated that her passion for children with various physical challenges is to bridge the gap by trying to help them live a normal life.

She said her zeal is to also build their confidence and help them stand shoulder-high against any form of stereotype and molestation by bringing out their

gifts and talents.

She revealed that her love for the children with Special needs made HH become among the best 25 finalists of cohort 3 HH MSII SDG Challenge.

Speaking to press, Mr Pam Yakubu Admin Officer of Remi Foundation School Yola loudly applauded HH Foundation for reaching out to children with special needs in the school.

The children did well in various artworks by producing beautiful art after the training.



A'Court Upholds Waive's Victory, Upturns Tribunal's Ruling On His Qualification

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Court of Appeal sitting in Lagos on Wednesday November 1, 2023 set aside the judgement of the National Assembly Elections Tribunal Asaba and affirmed the victory of Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive as member representing Ughelli North, Ughelli South, and Udu Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives.

It would be recalled that the lower court had ruled that Waive was not qualified to contest the 2023 general elections because the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) failed to publish his educational qualifications

which were submitted to INEC as required by law. Waive, who is a member of the All Progressives Congress (APC), challenged the tribunal's verdict, arguing that he submitted all the necessary documents to INEC and that the non-publication of his qualifications on the INEC portal was not his fault and that it's not a ground known to law for the nullification of an election.

In a unanimous judgement delivered today, in the case with suit number: CA/AS/EP/HR/DL/17/23, WAIVE EJIROGHENE VS. SOLOMON AWHINAWHI & 3 ORS, the appellate court upheld Waive's appeal and dismissed the cross-appeal

filed by his opponent, Solomon Awhinawhi of the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

The court granted all the reliefs sought by Waive and awarded #500,000 each as cost against Solomon Awhinawhi, PDP and INEC.

The court held that the non-publication of Waive's qualifications by INEC was not a ground for disqualification and that there was no evidence to prove that he forged or falsified any document.

The court also affirmed Waive's victory at the polls, saying that he scored the highest number of valid votes cast in the constituency.

Reacting to the court verdict, Waive expressed gratitude to God and his

constituents for their support and confidence in him. He also commended the justices of the Court of Appeal for restoring justice and faith in the judiciary.

"I am forever grateful to God Almighty for the privilege to serve my people. I appreciate the entire people of Ughelli North Ughelli South Udu Federal Constituency for their massive support. I commend the Justices of the Court of Appeal for restoring justice and faith in our judiciary by ensuring that an ordinary citizen without money and connections gets fair hearing and judgement" he said.

Edo Govt. Begins Palliative Works On Failed Portions Of FG Roads

By; RAPHAEL BOKHIRIA, Benin City

The Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, has directed the reconstruction of the old Benin-Agbor Road.

The palliative work on the failed portions of the Federal Government Benin-Agbor Road in Ikpoba/Okha Local Government Area of the State, and others, is to ameliorate the sufferings of motorists and other road users who ply the road.

Obaseki, who yesterday inspected the ongoing palliative work being undertaken by the state government, following the refusal of the Federal Government to attend to the road and other failed federal government roads across the state, lamented the poor condition of the road and the hardship imposed on the people due to the poor state of the roads.

Pained by the outcry and pleadings of the residents and commuters, who trooped out in their numbers to welcome the governor and his entourage, Obaseki immediately directed the reconstruction of the old Benin-Agbor Road as a last-ditch effort by the state government to end the sufferings of the people and commuters using the failed road.

He ordered the Commissioner of Roads and Bridges, Engr. Ethan Uzamare, who was part of the inspection team, to immediately mobilise contractors to the site.

Filled with joy and relief by the directive of the governor, the excited crowd commended and sang his praises for heeding their cries and pleas to end their sufferings and pains as a result of the hardship they go through daily commuting on the bad road.

He said, "I know that you people have been suffering for more than three months now. Your markets have gone down and you cannot even get to your homes. I

want to thank the youths for what you have been doing, and for maintaining order.

"Despite the suffering, you people have been peaceful. I want to thank you. The situation you have here today is beyond the state Government. This is a palliative work we are doing, it is remedial action and we have to go and look for money to do it so that we can ease the suffering.

"This road as you know is not our road. It's a Federal Road and the Federal Government has sold this road to somebody. They said they did a concession many years ago, about three years ago.

"So, they will not allow us to touch it. This one we are doing is by force because they know they cannot stop you and us but they are not going to refund us one kobo and we are not even going to worry asking them to refund us."

Obaseki added, "The permanent solution is, because this road is not our own and the Federal Government has refused to fix this road, we will now go and construct the old road which is ours.

"So, we will start the reconstruction of the old road this dry season and as usual we will put up barricades. No trailer or truck will follow the road. If the federal government likes, let them not do this road. The minister is from the South East and this is the main road to the South East. So, if he doesn't want his people to go for Christmas, he is on his own. We will look for a way to get to our homes.

"Please continue to be law-abiding; we will work for you, don't worry. With what is going on in Abuja, they don't care about us but we will care for you. Please continue to be peaceful. We will do all we can to make sure this road is opened in the next two weeks," he noted.

On the governor's entourage were members of the State Executive Council alongside other government functionaries.

3,000 NSCDC To Man Kogi Guber Polls

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja.

No fewer than 3,000 personnel of Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps will be deployed to man the penultimate Governorship election scheduled to hold on November 11.

The state commandant of the corps, Ahmad Gandi disclosed this midweek, while intimating journalists on the activities of the agency since his assumption of office.

The commandant assured that the command has concluded plans to give adequate coverage the election, stressing that no stone will be left unturned to ensure a hitch-free election.

To him, his short period in office in the state notwithstanding, the command has prosecuted 24 cases and secure over 90 per cent of convictions. He also paraded a 30-year-old Yomi Sunday who allegedly specialises in vandalising armour cables in Mopa Muro Local Government Area of the state.



Abubakar Audi NSCDC Commandant General

Gandi said the culprit was arrested by the vigilante group and handed over to the corps.

He said the vandalism has regrettably thrown seven communities in Kogi West, including Aiyeteju – Mopa, Amuro, Agbajogun – Lodo, and others within the national grid into darkness.

The suspect who was paraded with eight wrapped bundles of the cables for easy transportation, said, he used a cutter to cut and peel the electric cable with petroleum products

scooped into two half-litre bottles to wash his hands after the operation.

According to him, he was lured into the business by one unnamed businessman who comes to his community every Sunday and promised to pay him handsome returns for the products.

He added that the prospective buyer told him that he uses the cable to produce earrings, bangles and other ornaments, lamenting that he was caught on his first operation.

Yomi Sunday, a father of

five children and a motorcycle mechanic, hails from Itakete-Ide, a sleepy town in Mopa Amuro LGA, regretted his action, and called for clemency as he promised not to engage in such despicable activities.

The commandant, while warning criminals to desist from their nefarious activities, said the corps is

sufficiently prepared to stamp out crimes and criminality across the state.

He however, called on the citizenry to provide the command with timely and reliable information to enable the corps to fight crime and criminality, saying the fight against predatory elements is a collective action.

He added that the command would treat every piece of information with utmost confidentiality.

Diphtheria: Borno Collects 407 Samples, Analyzes 274, 41 Positive

*233 negative, 1 death recorded out of 653 suspected cases



By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Government in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Wednesday, organized a one day media dialogue and briefing on diseases outbreaks in Borno State at the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Press Center Maiduguri.

The State Immunisation Officer (SIO), Borno State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (BSPHCDA), Alhaji Maina Modu said that Nigeria is a signatory to the global and regional elimination agenda for vaccine preventable diseases (VDP) and Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAS), as one of the effective strategies to enhance herd immunity and

prevent outbreaks.

The SIO said Borno State Epidemiological Summary as at October 30, 2023, shows a cumulative number of suspected Diphtheria cases in Borno State, with 653 cases in four local government areas (LGAs), with the following breakdown MMC-294, Jere-191, Biu-80, Mobbar-28, Mafa-27, Konduga-8, Kwaya-Kusar-6, while five cases each, were recorded from Bayo, and Gubio, two cases from Mágumeri, Shani, and Nganzai and one case each from Bama, Dikwa, and Kaga.

He added that a total of 407 samples were collected and transported to the National Reference Laboratory (NRL). Where out of the 407, a total 274 samples were analyzed, 41 were positive and 233 were negative,

while the remaining sample results are pending and one death was recorded among the confirmed cases so far, which informed implementation process in four high risk LGAs out of the 27 in Borno State of Diphtheria OBR Campaign in October, November and December 2023.

On non polio Supplementary Immunization Activities (NPSIAS) for the implementation of 2023 Measles, he said the scope of the 2023 Measles include cluster Age group of 9 to 59 months in four phases from July to November 25, 2023 nationwide, where Kaduna is integrating measles with Yr and the duration is 12 days.

However, he said schedule of Vaccine Administration was

planned for target age groups for the measles between 9-59 Months with doses 0.5ml.

He added that the Nigeria has so far, implemented many rounds of measles, yellow fever, meningitis, and tuberculosis (TB) campaigns to improve herd immunity and prevent outbreaks were successfully conducted in 33 states + FCT (Phase 1-5) between 2018 & 2022.

Alhaji Modu disclosed that human beings are the only natural host for Diphtheria with carriers as reservoir and transit directly: person-to-person through respiratory droplets and Indirectly through contact with skin lesions or contaminated clothing and objects, while transmission can occur as long as the toxigenic bacteria are present in discharge and lesions, which is

normally two weeks or less, and seldom longer than four weeks. incubation period is 2 to 5 days (as high as 10 days), while symptoms ranges from mild to severe fever, sore throat, pseudo-membrane, difficulty in breathing or swallowing,, swollen neck with complications such as inflammation and damage to the heart muscles, nerves and kidney.

The SIO further explained that the treatment of cases and management of contacts involves administration of diphtheria antitoxin (DAT)-given IV or antibiotics therapy (after sample collection) with penicillin or erythromycin Isolation of case and initiation or completion of immunization against diphtheria.

Dauda Lawal: The NGO You Hired To Tarnish image of his Excellency, Bello Matawalle, Has Goofed

By; IBRAHIM DOSARA

Over the weekend, the government of Zamfara State, under Dauda Lawal, hired and sponsored a gang of directionless, overzealous miscreants to conduct a kangaroo press conference in Lagos, with a view to tarnishing the hard-earned reputation and image of the former Governor of Zamfara State, Bello Mohammed Matawallen Maradun.

I was opportune to go through the briefing by the leaders of the so-called NGO, who, like their pay master, lacked the understanding of government and governance.

I wouldn't have bordered to respond to the baseless and unfounded accusations against the former Governor by the people who have no idea and picture of Zamfara itself, talk less of happenings in the state.

I am terribly disappointed with the level of ignorance exhibited by members of the so called NGO.

The NGO, 'Civil Society Advocacy Groups for Accountability and Probity', rather than ridiculing the former Governor, ended up in disgracefully exposing the sitting Governor and his government, portraying it as unserious and unintelligent and a bunch of failed politicians, who greedily refused to study governance in order to understand its intricacies; who leaves its primary responsibility of governance, and who chase shadows in order to hide its inefficiency; and continue to chase the man that has served the state meritoriously and diligently.

You cannot start a government by witch-hunting and fault-finding and expect to succeed.

The NGO, a group of unpatriotic elements, embarked on wild allegations against someone who had demonstrated quality leadership; to support a man who was accused of money laundering up to the supreme Court.

The sitting governor, who since his inauguration about six months ago, never stayed in his state for a complete week, but is always on foreign trips for his private businesses.

Dauda Lawal said his mission to the people of Zamfara State was to rescue it, to bring a stop to the



Matawalle

security challenge ravaging the state and to stop the wanton killings and destruction of lives and property of innocent people.

However, the Governor neither pay attention to the promises he made to the people, nor even stay in the state to understand its complexities and to even have the understanding of government and governance.

He engages in wild goose chase where there's none.

I ask! Would you spend the whole four- years of your term fighting former Governor Matawalle, instead of dissipating your energy, thinking of how to better the lives of the people you're claiming to have elected you?

Please, leave Matawalle alone. He is not your problem. Face the task of governance and improve the standard of living of people and security of Zamfara

residents! Or, in the alternative, resign if you are not capable of executing the task that you promised and swore to execute.

In the last five months or so since you assumed office, the only song in your mouth has been, Matawalle violates one public service rule or the other. What is wrong with you Mr Governor Sir? Are you envious of the achievements of Bello Matawalle to the extent that you

are overwhelmed and cannot concentrate on your job? It is obvious that you and your appointees, including the Professors you hired to misrule the state, lack the understanding of government and governance, which has robbed the people of the state of quality service delivery from your government. Just in case you don't know, your supporters and that of your party are already lamenting the failure of good governance in their lives.

Contrary to what was promised Zamfara residents, the government has been very busy pursuing shadows in the name of fighting your successor; and trying hard without success in the last few months, to paint in bad light, the well respected former governor, who is now the minister of state for defence.

The Ink have dried and you cannot change the Will of God your Excellency!

Ibrahim Dosara is the Coordinator, Matawalle Media office

You cannot start a government by witch-hunting and fault-finding and expect to succeed... Please, leave Matawalle alone. He is not your problem. Face the task of governance and improve the standard of living of people and security of Zamfara residents! Or, in the alternative, resign if you are not capable of executing the task that you promised and swore to execute.

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ADVERT RATES FROM JANUARY 1, 2022

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

SPECIAL POSITION

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

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

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

Ombatse: Umbugadu's Tribunal Victory May Raise Ethnic Cleansing In Nasarawa

By: TOM GARBA

Many have faulted the Tribunal victory of Mr. David Umbugadu, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) candidate in Nasarawa against the incumbent Governor, Engr Abdullahi A. Sule of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

The fear of many indigenes of the state, especially the non Eggon tribes is however, the growing spate of the known Eggon ancestral occultic group led by its former traditional leader, late Baba Alakyo because of Umbugadu's victory.

It would recalled that years ago, there was a heinous killing of security agents reported to have occasioned by the Ombatse Group and at the instance of its spiritual leader, Baba Alakio.

Since the declaration of Mr. Umbugadu at the election tribunal petition fears are ride in other tribes in Nasarawa over the Eggon ancestral group, Ombatse, rearing its ugly head.

The killing of over one hundred Nigeria security men years ago by the Ombatse group is still fresh with scaring looks on the minds of the people.

Umbugadu whose victory was widely celebrated among the Ombatse group, has now made other ethnic nationalities, stakeholders of other tribes and security personnel afraid of the unknown.

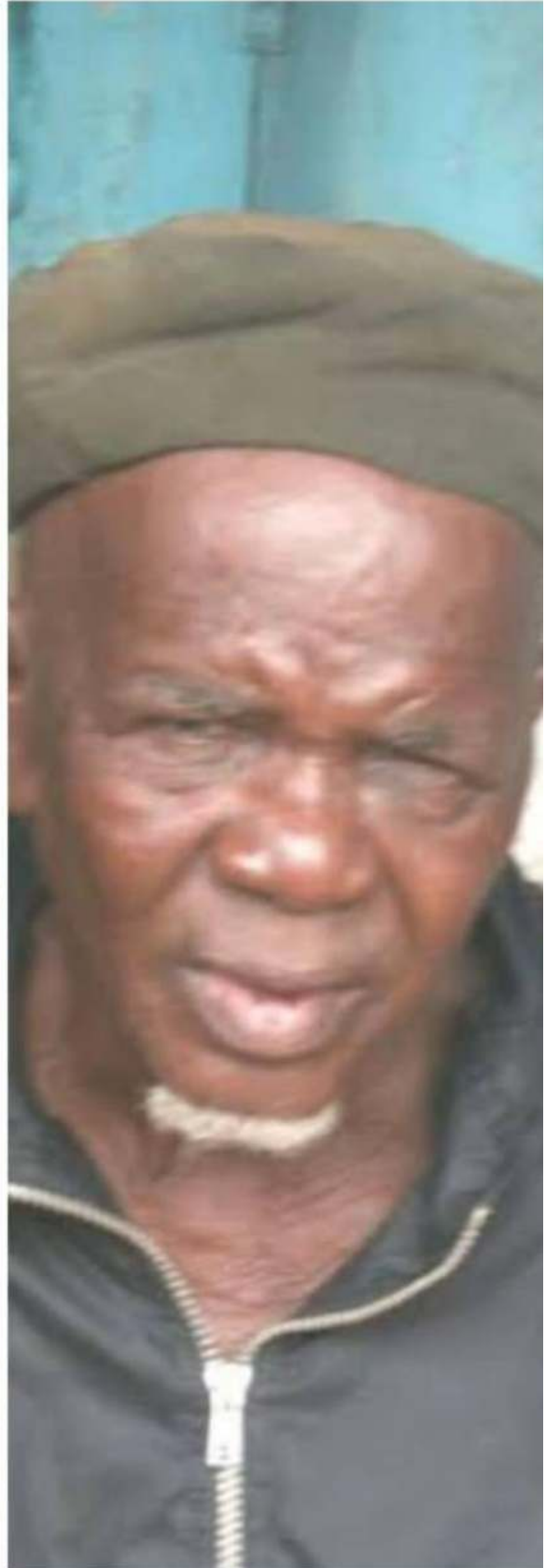
To people like Mrs. Mariam whose husband, a Police officer was killed by the Ombatse group years ago, the coming of Mr. Umbugadu as the Governor of Nasarawa state will no doubt, resurrect the activities of the Eggon group to even operate in a broad day light.

In Nasarawa and the whole of Nigeria, Tuesday the seventh of May 2013, was a black day to be remembered as the brutally that killed ruthless security forces by the Eggon local militia in Alakyo, Nasarawa Local Government Area.

The death of these security personnel was unabated ten years ago and killers are yet to be brought to book.

The Ombatse group is suspected to be growing stronger, while the country is moving on, but the families of the slain await to get justice.

The fear of many is that Umbugadu's victory may bring a lot of chaos to the state, with is Eggon group, feeling it's their time to do whatever they want to do.



Kaduna State 2023 Budget: Public Debt Service, A Deep Dive Into Revenue Performance

By: YUSUFISHAKU GOJE

The Kaduna State government had budgeted to expend N35.4 billion to service its debt burden in 2023. A further breakdown shows that N25.8 billion is to service our foreign debt, while N9.5 billion will go for domestic debt. In the light of the above, between January and September, the State has so far expended N21.6 billion on debt service, which is 61% of the total budgeted amount - with a balance of N13.8 billion. Out of the expended amount, N13.4 billion was used to service our foreign debt, while N8.2 billion was expended on domestic debt, a 51.9% and 85.5% performance respectively.

The N21 billion expended for debt service versus revenue performances is 27.7% of Government Share of FAAC, 36.1% of Statutory Allocation, 66.6% of Share of VAT, 55.1% of Independent Revenue and 71.5% of Tax Revenue. The amount is also higher than performance for Non-Tax Revenue, Aid and Grants, Other Capital Receipts and International Loans/Borrowing Receipts. This should be a source of concern not just for the government but residents of the State. As this is evident with the low total revenue and expenditure performances of 43% and 40% respectively, year-to-date.

A deep dive into the revenue performance further reveals a lot as at the third quarter. The performance of total revenue (including Open Balance) was 43%, that is N165.1 billion out of the budgeted N376.4 billion. On the other hand, only N157.4 billion of the budgeted N333.8 billion for total revenue (excluding Opening Balance) was realized, a 47% performance. A disturbing observation is the 18.1% performance for opening balance (N7.7 billion out of the N42.6 billion budgeted). This is an amount that is expected to be available at the beginning of the fiscal year, left-over from the previous year. We look forward to government's explanation on this.

The highest revenue performance was from Government Share of FAAC, with N78.0 billion out of the budgeted N94.1 billion realized, a performance of 82%. The performance breakdown of which are Statutory Allocation with 61.3% and Share of VAT with 105.5% respectively. However, Independent Revenue fell short of expectation in the same period, with 44%



Governor Uba Sani

performance, which is N39.2 billion out of the budgeted N89.2 billion. Disturbingly, Capital Development Funds (CDF) Receipt performed poorly, with only N24.7 billion realized out of the budgeted N93.8 billion - that is 26% performance.

A further deep dive into revenue performance leaves a lot to be worried about. Only the Ministry of Finance and Kaduna Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS) had

impressive performance of 78% and 71% respectively. However, it is worrisome that out of about 55 revenue generating MDAs - 44 had less than 50%, 29 had less than 10% and 16 had 0% performances. This validates the opinion of the Auditor-General of the State, in the 2021 and 2022 reports, that "the revenue forecast of the State appears to be exaggerated or too bogus to achieve. Most MDAs were

unable to meet their revenue target."

Ironically and disturbingly so, some MDAs are spending without generating a dime of revenue. For instance, the three Metropolitan Authorities generated zero naira out of their target revenue of N4.3 billion; but combined, had expended N13.9 billion out of its total expenditure of 19.8 billion, a 70% performance in the same

period.

Therefore, the government must go back to the drawing table to review its fiscal policy, particularly on non-tax revenue generation capability and debt sustainability. Going forward, realistic budgeting should now be the ultimate goal, especially in ensuring alignment with the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF, 2024-2026) budget size recommendation. The State government needs to also take its austerity measures a step further by cutting down more on the cost of governance and by strictly allocating the available revenue to strategic development priorities.

Lets engage, ask the right questions and hold the government accountable.

Goje is an Active Citizen, member of the Civil Society and OGP Enthusiast

A further deep dive into revenue performance leaves a lot to be worried about. Only the Ministry of Finance and Kaduna Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS) had impressive performance of 78% and 71% respectively. However, it is worrisome that out of about 55 revenue generating MDAs - 44 had less than 50%, 29 had less than 10% and 16 had 0% performances.

Pension, Gratuity: Kaduna Govt Releases List Of 1,051 Beneficiaries Of N3.1bn

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Government led by Uba Sani yesterday, disclosed that, "we are coming out with the list of 1,051 people in both retirees and death cases for payment of gratuity and death benefits.

Speaking on his behalf, Executive Director, Kaduna State Pension Bureau, Prof. Salamatu Isah stated this during a press conference in Kaduna.

On their mission, she said that Kaduna State Pension Bureau is leading other states in providing responsive and efficient services on pension, gratuity, death benefits settlement to all citizens and their beneficiaries in state.

According to her, in the last two weeks, "we all heard the state governor, Senator Uba Sani allocated 3.1 billion Naira to Kaduna State Pension Bureau for payment of gratuities and death benefits to retirees, pensioners and families of the deceased in the state."

She said, out of the amount, 2.6 billion Naira is allocated for payment to retirees in the old scheme, while 500 million Naira was allocated to retirees in the new scheme

Prof. Salamatu noted, "we have scheduled the list for payment, based on first in, first out, that is the principle which we use in the payment.

"The Pension Bureau has released the list of 1,051 beneficiaries in both the Defined Benefit Scheme (DBS) and Contributory



Professor Salamatu Isah

Pension Scheme. Eight hundred and seventy three of the beneficiaries are for both state and local government council retirees and families of deceased, amounting to 2.6 billion Naira".

She gave example that for local government retirees, the total number they are paying is 542, while for the state in the old scheme, they are paying 331 that gives them a total of 873 people as beneficiaries.

"The state has scheduled the list of 331 beneficiaries amounting to 1.2 billion Naira, while local government has 542 beneficiaries, amounting to 1.4 billion Naira. Thus, the total beneficiaries in DBS is 873.

"The sum of 500 million Naira was allocated to beneficiaries in the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), with 178 beneficiaries of state and local government councils.

"Consequently, for the new scheme which we

allocated 500 million Naira, we are paying 178 people, you will realise that the 500 will not be as much as what we had in the old scheme which is 2.6 billion Naira.

"However, this is what we have, the list has already been circulated, we are expecting that team from Pension Bureau will move to the three senatorial zones for the verification payment for retirees and the families of deceased next week Wednesday," she revealed.

She explained further, "why we are saying next week Wednesday is because we want to give this week for people to identify their names on the list that we have posted and next week, we start payment verification and immediately they are back, we will start the payment.

"Kaduna State Government has being paying gratuities and death benefits, we have principles of payment

which is first in, first out.

"When your file is being processed, when it comes to pension bureau, the date that your file reaches here, is what we will put against your name.

People will say they have retired in 2015, but before the file that is being processed comes to Pension Bureau, you find out that it is 2016 or 2017.

"It is one thing to say you have retired in 2015 and for us to have gotten your file for that period, there is nothing like names missing," she explained.

Prof. Salamatu noted that, "if we bring out a list, it is based on first in, first out, as we keep on saying that we are paying, it will reach everybody's turn as far as your name is in our data base.

"Therefore, your name is not missing in the sense that, we can find their names all together in our data base but it is just that we have not come down to their names in that list," she explained.

Kogi: NEN Wants Liberal News Online Portal Banned, Publisher Arrested Over False Security Alarm

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Northern Network (NEN) has demanded the arrest and prosecution of the publisher of the online portal, Liberal News, as well as the banning of the platform.

The call comes after Liberal News allegedly published false and malicious information that Governor Yahaya Bello had procured thugs and police operatives to invade Ayingba, Kogi State, to assassinate the Director-General of the Murtala Yakubu Ajaka Gubernatorial Campaign Organization Sheikh Ibrahim Jibril and the Youth Leader, Alhaji Ahmed Attah.

The NEN in a statement by its Chairman, Suleiman Abbah, argued that it is a criminal offense for a newspaper, whether online or mainstream, to publish unverified reports that could incite unrest and undermine law and order.

The Group accused Liberal News and its publisher of serving the governorship ambition of Murtala Ajaka and intentionally causing discontent and heating up the political climate and called on the government to ban Liberal News and other news outlets that undermine Nigeria's peace and security through irresponsible publications and actions.

"Obviously commissioned to serve the governorship ambition of Murtala Ajaka, Dayo, the author of the dangerous article and publisher of the portal, recklessly accused the Nigeria police of being detailed to burn down the palatial mansion of Sheikh Jibril and torch the family house of Alh Attah.

"In a blind attempt to drag the judiciary to contempt Dayo wrote that he is in possession of evidence that Yahaya Bello had procured a dubious court order from a pliant judge in Lokoja to justify the legal backing to assassinate our campaign leadership in the

guise they resisted arrest"

He went ahead to accuse Intelligence Response Team (IRT) of the Nigerian Police and the Anti- Kidnapping Unit of the FCT Police Command of collaboration in the fictitious assassination plot which is downright unacceptable and must not be tolerated by the Nigerian security agencies," the NEN said.

The group said it especially observed that the Liberal News portal and its publisher have not been particularly careful in their reportage of circumstances surrounding the build-up to coming elections in Kogi State, and ended up fanning the embers of discontent and heating up the polity.

"We have all along being hoping that the media would change to being more restrained in reporting on matters that affect the wellbeing and security of the people without resorting to unnecessary overkill.

"Thus, we expected the proprietors of the various media outfits, along with their professional bodies like NUJ, Nigerian Guild of Editors and NPAN to regulate themselves and abide by their own rules and etiquette regarding the dissemination and reportage of news of the farmers/herders conflicts.

"Alas! The position remains unchanged that whenever matters affecting or arising from Kogi State such as this one are reported or commented upon, the intrinsic bias of these media houses keeps becoming apparent.

"We call on the Federal Government to proscribe the Liberal News portal and all news outlets that make the habit of undermining Nigeria's peace, security, and peaceful coexistence through unguarded publications and deliberate actions aimed at fomenting unrest and engendering conflicts. Individuals associated with such organizations that incite others to violations must be decisively dealt with.

Customs Says Current Government Policy In Nigeria Requires Zero Duty Payment For Export

stationed at the export terminal to ease their clearance processes. Comrade Augustine Umunnakwe, the Maritime Union Chairman, Lilypond export terminal-Unit, said, "Customs Officers are efficient in terms of their work, but where we have challenges with shipping companies because of less manpower attending to us."

"Another thing is that, though government agencies are doing their work, in terms of clearance, their representatives should be stationed here to make the work more efficient." He added. Abdulsalam Babatunde, the Head of Processing Diamond Star Port and Terminal Limited, stated that, as an export processing terminal, there is a

strong relationship and collaboration with the shipping lines and Government Agencies. In his words, "We facilitate the processing at the Port, we have our handshake with the major shipping lines and the terminal, we confirm the bookings to ensure that whatever leaves this terminal goes directly to the vessel, we ensure their quality

and their quantity."

"We don't do it alone. We work with NPA, ETP, and Customs as well and make sure that we do not export anything that has not been duly released by customs." Babatunde explained. Emmanuel Ekle, the Principal Trade Promotion Officer at Nigeria Export Promotion

Council (NEPC) Southwest, disclosed that registration for exporters is a seamless process that is done online.

Emmanuel also revealed that the Council supports trade promotion activities and administer export incentives as well as export expansion grant.

8th Adamu Yola Gombe South Cup Kicks Off Registrations Amidst Exciting Partnerships

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of the 8th Adamu Yola Gombe South Unity Cup has declared the official commencement of online registration for interested teams aiming to participate in this edition.

Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), Promise Uwaeme, made the announcement during a press conference held on November 1, 2023 at Jewel Hotel Hall in Kaltungo, Gombe.

Uwaeme outlined the registration period, spanning from November 1st to November 11th, 2023, emphasizing that no extensions will be granted due to existing delays.

"The earlier you register, the better for you because there will be no extension as you can see that we are behind schedule," Uwaeme stated.

Each participating team is required to remit a registration fee of five thousand naira while enrolling their team and players via the online registration portal within the stipulated timeframe. Uwaeme underscored that the committee decided to maintain the five-thousand-naira registration fee, despite economic fluctuations, "Of course our registration money, we know that the economy is up

and down, we had several discussions on if we should increase the registration fee but we all agreed that we should still maintain the five-thousand-naira registration fee."

Furthermore, Uwaeme cautioned against registering previously suspended players, warning that doing so may result in disqualification from the tournament. He urged teams to stay updated via the Foundation's social media channels for additional information.

In a significant revelation, Uwaeme announced collaborations for this year's tournament, particularly with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Gombe State Command.

The theme "DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES" will be integrated into the 2023 Beyond Football Campaign Initiative.

Additionally, a partnership with the Gombe state office of Airtel Nigeria was disclosed, promising technical support for live match streaming and special packages for participating teams, "We have agreed with Airtel that they will provide us with technical support as well as provide free sim cards and registration for teams and they will also provide us with internet connections so that we can stream all our matches live for those who might not be present



in match venues and will like to watch."

The final round of the 8th edition is scheduled to be hosted by Billiri Local Government, a decision Uwaeme greeted with enthusiasm, recalling the successful 6th edition hosted in the same region, "I am glad to announce to you that Billiri will host this year's final round just as we did in the 6th edition."

Gilbert Ezeh, the Business Manager of Airtel Nigeria in

Gombe State, expressed Airtel's enthusiasm for the strategic partnership, underscoring the brand's alignment with the youth and local communities.

"This is the type of strategic partnership that Airtel looks forward to, the reason is, if you have noticed, Airtel is the most youth-loving brand in the country. And Airtel also looks for opportunities to give back to its local communities. We are

looking forward to continuing on this ground, in fact, if you have any proposition especially when it is right for humanity or when it is all-inclusive, we are up for it. So, when this opportunity came knowing that soccer is the most loved sport, we felt it was a big one that we can leverage on. So, we feel super excited to be part of this edition and hopefully we can continue on this ground."



Edo Queens Crowned Champions Of Third BOWFT Edition

By; RAPHAEL OKHIRIA,
Benin City

Edo Queens Football Club of Benin have won the third edition of the Betsy Obaseki Women Football Tournament (BOWFT).

In their final match of the competition, Edo Queens FC, defeated Bayelsa Queens 4-3 on penalty shootout after 1-1 draw at regulation time at the final of the match played at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium in Benin City.

Performing the ceremonial kick at the final, the First Lady of Edo State, Her Excellency, Betsy Obaseki, who expressed satisfaction on the success recorded so far in the tournament, said this year's edition has the highest number of First Ladies watching the final game at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium.

She noted that this year's tournament focused on addressing Gender-Based Violence in the country through football. She added that every year, the tournament seeks to fight against social vices ravaging the society.

"Every year, we seek to fight against different social vices in



the society and so far, we have made tremendous success in the fight.

"We thanked everyone that has travelled from around the country to Edo State to watch the tournament. This year, we have the largest number of first ladies

watching the final, we are really grateful."

On the match, Bayelsa Queens took the lead in the 12th minute while Edo Queens equalized in the 40th minute of the game, but in the second half, Suliat Abideen lost a penalty at added

time, pushing the game into a penalty which Edo Queens won 4-3.

The best coach of the tournament went to coach of Edo Queens, Moses Asuku, while Suliat Abideen won the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament.

Robo FC player, Folashade Damilusi, won the Golden Boot award with six goals.

The Best Goal Keeper of the Tournament went to Bayelsa Queens goalkeeper, Oniyan Okeke.



OAU Ready To Host Successful, Hitch Free 2023 WAUG - Management

*Holds Dec 16 to 23, Interior Minister, Tunji-Ojo to be Special Guest of Honour

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The management of the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, Osun State, yesterday, said that the university is ready to host a successful and hitch free West Africa Universities Games (WAUG). This was contained in a statement made available to journalists by the Public Relations Officer of the university, Abiodun Olarewaju.

According to the statement, towards ensuring this, the university management has put every machinery in motion

to face lift its sporting facilities

The statement stressed that WAUG which starts on Friday December 16, 2023 will have universities from across West Africa sub region competing for medals in sports like tennis, table tennis, basketball and athletics.

It hinted that the Honourable Minister of Interior, Hon. (Dr) Olunmi Tunji-Ojo, will be the special guest of honour for the opening and the closing of the games, with the grand finale holding on Friday December 22, 2023.

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Adamawa: Umaru Replaces Late Yuguda As Madagali LGA APC Chair

By; TOM GARBA, Yola

The office of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Chairman of Madagali Local Government Area (LGA) of Adamawa State has been under the control of an active chairman, Eiden Akutibariyu since the death of Umaru Abubakar Yuguda.

On Thursday November 2, Alhaji Maigari Umaru after the endorsement by the Madagali (LGA) APC stakeholders, was sworn in by the

Adamawa State working committee under the leadership of Barrister Idris Shuaibu.

Umaru who took an oath of office at the state party's office in Yola, administered by Barr Ali Abubakar Jatau, promised to be fair to all party members and uphold the supremacy of the party's constitution.

Umaru assured the APC members of Madagali and the entire state that his interest would not interfere with his official assignment as the substantive Chairman of the

party in Local Government.

The State Chairman, Barr Idris Shuaibu advised the new chairman to make APC a grassroots party that will be loved by members and the entire people of Madagali

He further advised him to work in harmony and as a team with other officials to bring success to the party in future elections.

Idris enjoined him to unite the party members and broker peace with perceived aggrieved members who might be hurt in one way or



Alhaji Maigari Umaru

the other.

"Make sure you relate to the state secretary on any matter or decision you will take with

your exco. Unity is very important, work in unity and operate with an open door policy." Idris said

Ned Nwoko's Appellate Court Victory Heralds Triumph for Delta North, PDP, Says Ochor Ochor

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In a resounding show of support and solidarity, Rt. Hon. Ochor Christopher Ochor, the immediate past Deputy Speaker of the Delta State House of Assembly and a staunch member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Delta State, has extended congratulations to Senator Ned Nwoko, the distinguished Senator Representing Delta North at the National Assembly, following his recent victory at the Appeal Court.

Hon Ochor's commendation came as a testament to the monumental significance of Senator Ned Nwoko's legal triumph, as it transcends individual accolades, resonating as a collective achievement for the entire Delta North constituency and the PDP at large.

Ochor underlined that the victory underscores

Senator Nwoko's steadfast dedication to the principles and values of the PDP, cementing his position as a stalwart within the party. It also underscores the tenacity and unrelenting effort displayed throughout the demanding legal journey. Senator Nwoko's unwavering commitment

to serving the people of Delta North was duly acknowledged by Hon Ochor, who lauded him as a resolute advocate for the interests and welfare of his constituents.

The recent legal victory, according to Ochor, serves as irrefutable evidence of the trust and confidence Delta North residents have

placed in Senator Nwoko's leadership.

Rt. Hon. Ochor Christopher Ochor conveyed a message of unity and shared accomplishment, stating, "As Senator basks in the glory of this victory, we encourage you to perceive it as a collective win for Delta North and the PDP.

It is an affirmation of our commitment to good governance and the welfare of our people. We firmly believe that, with your continued dedication, we will achieve even greater successes in the future."

The journey ahead, characterized by hard work and unwavering dedication, is paved with the overwhelming support and best wishes of the entire Delta North constituency. A brighter future for Delta North and the PDP lies on the horizon, as Hon Ochor expressed with optimism.



Senator Ned Nwoko

OAU Ready To Host Successful, Hitch Free 2023 WAUG - Management

*Holds Dec 16 to 23, Interior Minister, Tunji-Ojo to be Special Guest of Honour

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Customs Says Current Government Policy In Nigeria Requires Zero Duty Payment For Export

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has defined its role in ensuring smooth flow of goods across borders, stressing that "the current government policy in Nigeria requires zero duty payment for export."

While focusing on its critical role in facilitating export trade, the NCS posited that it stands at the forefront of Nigeria's efforts to boost its export economy. According to a statement by the National Public Relations of Nigeria Customs Service, CSC Abdullahi Maiwada, the Customs Area Controller of Lilypond Export Command, Comptroller Ajibola Odusanya unveiled the procedures in facilitating export trade by the Customs in a chat.

Odesanya described the command as a one-stop shop for export business, stating that "the current government policy in Nigeria requires zero duty payment for export."

"Exporters don't pay export duties, except on special occasions, where goods that were otherwise imported and are being re-exported, they pay 2.5 per cent levy on the current

value of the goods with the government's permission." He added.

Comptroller Odusanya gave a data analysis of exports the command has facilitated within the last year.

He said, "From January to the end of September 2023, the Command has facilitated the export of 12,438 export containers; if you break them down, we have 6524 x 20-foot containers and 5914 x 40-foot containers with a FOB value of \$518,690,852.93."

"For the goods, we have Agricultural produce such as cocoa, cashew, soya, ginger, hibiscus flower(zobo leaves), cotton, sesame seeds, etc., locally manufactured goods like cigarettes, cosmetic items, beverages, etc. And solid minerals such as Aluminium, copper, magnesium, lithium and Zinc.

"We have other sundry commodities like foodstuff, personal effects and others." He explained. Stakeholders within the export terminal maintained that processing their documents with Customs is an efficient one but suggested more manpower from other government agencies

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Comptroller Oresanya Lilypond Customs Command