

# New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 6 No. 222

Friday 10th November, 2023

Rabi Al-Thani 26, 1445 AH

Viral video:  
OAU Vows To Investigate  
Alleged Assault On Part  
2 Student By Lecturer

Story on Page 3

**Uzodinma, Sylva, Ododo: Nothing Besides Best, Says APC UK**

Story on Page 4

**Plot To Derail FCTA Development Control Director Uncovered**

Story on Page 5

**Kogi, Bayelsa, Imo Polls: Take Steps To Ensure Personal Safety, IPC Tasks Journalists**

Story on Page 2

## Without FG Intervention, Poultry Industry Will Crumble - PAN

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN) has tasked the Federal Government to find a lasting solution to the rising cost of poultry feed in the country. PAN made the call at the closing ceremony of the 12th edition of the Nigeria Poultry Show in Abeokuta yesterday, with the theme, "Mitigating the challenges of the Poultry Industry: Current perspectives, the role of government and the private sector".

According to the

association, the challenge of the rising cost of poultry feed as well as other challenges facing the poultry industry were greatly affecting the sector. Speaking, the Group Managing Director of A M O Group of Companies, Dr. Ayoola Oduntan in a paper at the event, said the Federal Government should support the agriculture sector to guarantee food security.

"Agriculture is 21% of GDP; it is the biggest employer of labour in this country. Subsidy is not a bad word if it is directed

Continued on Page 3



Members of Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN) at the 12th edition of the Nigeria Poultry Show in Abeokuta yesterday, with the theme, "Mitigating the challenges of the Poultry Industry"

**Let Emeziele Breathe, Northern Forum Tells Security Agencies**

PAGE 5



**IGP Egbetokun Deploys CP Disu To Rivers As 14 AIGs, 26 Commissioners Get Posting**

PAGE 3

**Plateau Citizens Protest Appeal Court Judgment That Sacked PDP NASS Members**

PAGE 2

*\*Insist pre election matters were thrown out in other cases*

## Kogi, Bayelsa, Imo Polls: Take Steps To Ensure Personal Safety, IPC Tasks Journalists

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The International Press Centre (IPC), Lagos yesterday, tasked journalists and other media professionals on electoral duty during the off-cycle governorship elections in Kogi, Bayelsa and Imo states on Saturday, to take all necessary steps to ensure their personal safety.

IPC in a statement by its Executive Director, Mr. Lanre Arogundade, also urged security operatives and other stakeholders to protect the journalists before, during and after the election.

The International Press Centre stressed that the call was necessary in the light of reported tension and violent conflicts in the

three States over which political actors have traded accusations.

"It is very important for reporters covering the off-cycle governorship election to be safety conscious while discharging their duties, particularly by knowing when and how to retreat from dangerous situations", he said.

Mr. Arogundade stressed that journalists should during the exercise "be non-partisan, dress smart, done INEC accreditation card and have their organisational identity card on as well;

"Cover violent situations from a reasonable distance and retreat as quickly as possible; and Maintain contact with your editors

and close relations; and Report any threat to the Police, your news medium and your professional bodies".

Mr Arogundade then admonished other stakeholders, especially the security agencies to undertake their tasks in a very professional manner. Speaking further, the IPC Executive Director urged the Inspector General of Police to put measures in place to ensure the protection of the rights of accredited journalists, because the media is a critical part of the electoral process and journalists should be accorded due rights and privileges to enable them carry out their social obligations as partners in electoral credibility.

"Other stakeholders, including elections observers should also proactively provide journalists covering the elections with accurate information to ensure that all work together for the success of the elections", Mr. Arogundade also stated.

Mr. Arogundade stressed as part of initiatives to keep tab on the safety of journalists during the elections, IPC's Centre for the Safety and Protection of Journalists would monitor and operate a situation room to be managed 24/7 by press freedom and safety alert officers to whom any journalist who is under threat or attack can report.

## Let Emezie Breathe, Northern Forum Tells Security Agencies

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Group, Concerned Northern Forum (CNF) yesterday, asked concerned security agencies of the federal government to let the embattled suspended Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr. Godwin Emezie breathe after being granted bail by a Federal High Court in Abuja. The presiding judge of the court in Maitama, Abuja, Olukayode Adeniyi had on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, released Emezie to his lawyers after being unlawfully detained for 151 days.

Chairman of the group, Ali Sani in a statement, said although the judge exacted a promise from Emezie's lawyers to present him in the court for trial whenever needed and also to deposit his international passport in the court, the condition which was immediately fulfilled by the defendant's counsel and Emezie was released into their custody.

"It is however, disappointing, that certain media organisations too busy being prejudiced and controversial, would publish that there is a controversy of any sort over the judgment.

"This is why these kinds of organisations should not be allowed to continue to publish in any legal entity as their intent is more to heat the polity than to publish real news.

"It is a fact that the honourable judge could not deny the fact that the fundamental human rights of the man who served the country for over nine years and in the private sector could not be denied. It is the right of any individual, having served or otherwise to enjoy fundamental human rights.

"Speculations and a witch-hunt kept him in jail for five months while he was meant to be legally considered innocent until proven guilty.

"But rather than being free while the investigation of the agencies of the federal government was still underway, he was kept in their custody, being justled from one agency to another. The question that should be on the lips of every well-meaning Nigerian is, how is this fair?"

"Now that he has finally been granted a right he should not have been denied in the first place, some individuals are working hard again to have him arrested or detained in his house.

"Can we allow Emezie to breathe and pursue whatever agenda in the courts? Can the federal government warn its agencies to respect the sanctity of the law and stop making a mockery of the country? Can we all stand up and demand that Emezie be allowed some respite? It is time to watch this

## Plateau Citizens Protest Appeal Court Judgment That Sacked PDP NASS Members

*\*Insist pre election matters were thrown out in other cases*



The protesting Plateau citizens in Jos.

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

Massive protest rocked Jos, the Plateau State capital in the early hours of Wednesday morning when Plateau citizens, including youth, women and men came out in their numbers to protest what they called injustice happening at the Appeal

where about seven National Assembly members were removed. The alleged injustice raised tensions and eyebrows after same court in other cases declared that the issue of nomination, qualifications and sponsorships all fall under pre election matters, but to the surprise of many, all Plateau cases came out

differently even after the Supreme Court had declared same in the presidential election petition tribunal. People came out in thousands, blocking major highways within and outside the state capital, some at the Maraban Jama'a, while thousands at the major Old Airport

roundabouts.

Some were crying, while others were holding placards to show dissatisfaction with the ugly incident happening at the Appeal Court. It was a peaceful protest, well monitored by security agencies, where there was no breakdown of law and order.

## Katsina Governor Appoints 19-member Pilgrims Welfare Board

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, KATSINA

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has approved the appointments of former Chairman of Kaita Local Government Council, Honourable Yunusa Abdullahi Dankama and Alhaji Kabir Bature (Sarkin Alhazai) as Executive Director and Chairman of the Katsina State Pilgrims Welfare Board, respectively.

However, 17 other persons were also appointed as members of the board by the governor.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to Governor Dikko Radda, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed said, that all the appointments are with immediate effects.

Other members of the Board include:- Dr. Badiya Hassan Mashi, Alhaji Bala Abubakar Daura, Hajiya Rukayya Umar Gojo-Gojo, Hajiya

Safara'u Masari, Hajiya Bilkisu Abdullahi, Sheik Dr. Munnir Jafar, Sheik Dr. Saifullahi Yakubu Musa, Sheik Nasir Abdurhamn, Mallam Aliyu Umar Imam, Alhaji Saminu Suleiman, Alhaji Abdullahi Abubakar Darma, Alhaji Bishir Dangambo, Alhaji Usman Umar Mani, Alhaji Inusa Tijjani Canada, Allarama Kafin-soli, Allarama Rufa'i Nasir and Alhaji Abdullahi Fikira.

Governor Umaru Radda urged the new Executive Director, Chairman and the 17 other board members of the Katsina State Pilgrims Board to be committed and faithful to serving the people and government of the state, wholeheartedly.

Governor Radda appealed to them to assiduously work towards making the Board effective in coordinating all pilgrimage-related activities."

## Viral video: OAU Vows To Investigate Alleged Assault On Part 2 Student By Lecturer

\*Apologises to alumni, others

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Vice Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile Ife, Prof Adebayo Bamiro is to investigate an alleged assault of a part two student of the university by a lecturer.

This was made known by the Public Relations Officer of the university, Abiodun Olarewaju in a statement made available to journalists.

According to the statement, "what happened in the viral video is not in our character. We are a decent and diligent set of people who will not tolerate any form of abuse or maltreatment from anyone".

"The attention of the authorities of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, has been drawn to a video which has

gone viral about a lecturer in the university who allegedly assaulted a part two student", it said.

OAU added, "Displeased with what he saw in the video, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire, has waded into the matter with a view to setting up a committee to unravel the circumstances surrounding the whole scenario".

"We, therefore, apologise to the people, especially our alumni, whose sensibilities might have been assaulted by that shenanigan.

We appeal to our students to remain calm and go about their normal academic activities. We assure all stakeholders that justice will be served accordingly and appropriately." It added.

## Without FG Intervention, Poultry Industry Will Crumble - PAN

towards production rather than consumption", he said.

Dr Oduntan added, "We would like the government to provide significant and specific support to agriculture; we have no business in importing foods.

"We need government support; we need to sit with the government to explain to them, walking the talk with them to bring agriculture to the rightful place".

Chairman of the South-West Zone of the association, Rev. Gideon Oluleye, said the show aimed to find lasting solutions to confront the challenges facing the poultry industry and revive it, saying, "Let the government increase funding into agriculture, particularly the poultry subsector. We are also enjoining the government to create a market for farmers through policies like the school feeding programme.

"Let them use our products to feed internally displaced persons (IDP) centres, the correctional centres. If there are concerted plans in this direction, I am sure we won't have the problem of sales," he said.

The association's National President, Mr. Sunday Ezeobiora, in his remarks, decried the high cost of production, listing funding, infrastructure and marketing as some of the challenges presently facing the poultry industry, adding,

"if these are not handled

well, they may kill the poultry industry in Nigeria."

The commissioners for agriculture from states in the South-West geopolitical zone were present at the occasion.

The Commissioners from Ogun, Mr Bolu Owotomo; Lagos, Hon. Abisola Olusanya and Oyo State, Mr. Olankunmi Oluleye, who was represented by Dr. Abimbola Oladapo all delivered goodwill messages during the opening ceremony.



Some PAN members at the show.

## IGP Egbetokun Deploys CP Disu To Rivers As 14 AIGs, 26 Commissioners Get Posting

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A major shake up has been effected among the senior cadre of the Nigeria Police Force, as the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun has ordered the posting and deployment of 14 Assistant Inspector Generals of Police and 26 Commissioners to various Commands and Formations across the country.

Notably amongst the newly deployed Commissioners of Police was the immediate past Principal Staff Officer (PSO) to the IGP, CP Olatunji Disu deployed as the Commissioner of Police Rivers State Command.

According to a statement by the Force Public Relations Officer, ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, the deployment was part of the IGP's mandate to have a professionally competent, service driven, rule of law compliant, and people friendly Police Force, and to reflect the new status of senior officers who were just recently elevated to their next ranks.

Amongst the posted AIGs are Ogundele Joshua Ayodeji, AIG Zone 7 Abuja,

Patrick Ogon Edung, AIG Zone 11 Osogbo, Badru Banji Lawal, mni, AIG Border Patrol FHQ, Bartholomew N.Onyeka, AIG Zone 8 Lokoja, Sulaiman A. Yusuf, mni, AIG DOPS FHQ, Idowu Owohunwa, AIG FCID Annex Alagbon Lagos, Rhoda Adetutu Olofu, AIG Maritime Lagos, Ukpo Dunukofia, AIG Zone 13 Awka, Godwin N.Aghaulor, AIG Office of National Security Adviser, Abuja, Effiom Emmanuel Ekot, AIG CTU FHQ Abuja, Anene Ndu Innocent, AIG Zone 16 Yenagoa, Odama Paul Ojeka, AIG Zone 4 Makurdi, Ebong E. Eyibio, mni, AIG Zone 17 Akure, Adebowale Williams, AIG Investment FHQ Abuja and Sahabo A. Yahaya, mni, AIG.

Other Commissioners of Police posted along side CP Disu are CP George Chijioko Chuku, Benue State, CP Ahmed Abdullahi Tijani, Jigawa State, CP Dan Mamman E. Shawulu, fsi, Niger State, CP Usman Hayatu, Gombe State, CP Danjuma Aboki, Imo State, CP Joseph Eribo, Taraba State, CP Isyaku Mohammed, Osun State, CP Mohammed

Barde, Safer Highways FHQ, CP Polycarp Nwonyi Emeka, PPP DLS FHQ, CP Shehu Kabir Abubakar, Anti-Human Trafficking, CP Lawal Babatunde Ayodeji Border Patrol FHQ, CP Emmanuel Agene, Maritime Lagos, CP Jude M. Azuka, Admin Airwing, CP Dan Sabo Idi, Commandant Police College Kaduna, CP Ibitoye Rufus Olajide Force Provost Marshal, CP Adamu Ngojin Isa, INEC, CP Nwanosike Wodi Okocha, Procurement DLS FHQ, CP Johnson Oluwale Adenola, PSO to IGP.

They include PAP Western Port Lagos -CP Olanrewaju Olawale Shola, Int'l Investigation INTERPOL - CP Shelling Umaru Yusuf, SEB FCID Abuja -CP Emmanuel Aina, Info-Tech ICT FHQ Abuja - CP Miller Gajere Dantawaiye, Director NPF-NCCC -CP Henry Ifeanyi Uche, DOPS FHQ Abuja - CP Vungmoh S.M. Kwaimo and Commandant Police College Ikeja -CP Fasuba A. Olabode. The Inspector General of Police has therefore charged the newly posted/redeployed officers to work in

tandem with the Force policy and support the agenda of government for economic recovery and growth as well as socio-political development of the country.

He also stressed the importance of entrenching professionalism and diligent policing services to all officers and men under their command, while calling on them to partner with all relevant stakeholders to bring policing closer to the people.

The posting is with immediate effect.

It will be recalled that the new Rivers State Police Commissioner CP Olatunji Rilwan Disu's prior engagement in the State include DPO Elimbu and Elelenwo Divisions, Commander SARS, Commander Anti Kidnapping, AC CID Rivers where he was transferred to Lagos to head the Lagos Rapid Response Squad (RRS).

He had also served as the O/C SARS Ondo and Oyo states respectively, including the defunct IGP-IRT Unit before his elevation as Commissioner of Police.

## Uzodinma, Sylva, Ododo: Nothing Besides Best, Says APC UK

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The All Progressives Congress (APC) in the United Kingdom has declared that the candidates of the party in the forthcoming governorship election in the three states of Imo, Bayelsa, and Kogi remain the candidates to beat.

The declaration was made known through a statement made available to the newsmen in Abuja yesterday.

According to the statement, the publicity secretary of the party in the United Kingdom, Mr Jacob Ogunseye asserted that All Progressives Congress (APC) has put out some of its best in the elections, describing the trio of Gov. Hope Uzodinma of Imo State, Chief Timipre Sylva of Bayelsa State and Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo of Kogi state as the finest of their generations with vast experience to rebuild their states.

Ogunseye appealed to the people of the three states to cast their votes for the candidates of APC in Saturday's election with the assurance of no regret as the candidates will go out of their way to ensure the best for the citizenry.

"Our people should consider other factors before casting their votes on Saturday. APC candidates remain the best going through any form indexes. In experience, these gentlemen stand out, their maturity is second to none, intellectual

capabilities required for such offices are much pronounced with these candidates.

"As a people, we have no iota of doubt in the capabilities of the men to turn their states around in the next four years, go to Imo state, the last 4 years have not been a business as usual, a lot of development projects were started, some of them have been commissioned, what of human capital development?"

"Gov. Hope Uzodinma has written his name in gold, and his efforts in revamping the health sector have become global spectacles, what of the giant stride in the education and other sectors? Despite the security challenges in the state, the governor has made himself a rallying point, it is necessary that we give him another chance to pilot the ship of the state to a glorious bay.

"In the case of Chief Timipre Sylva of Ebonyi state, the roads he built years back while serving as the governor of the state is an attestation to his stern leadership, his experiences as governor and two-term minister is an opportunity for the good people of Bayelsa state to one again re-ignite the fire of progress in the state. No doubt, the state is in the wrong hands, we need to strike the gold in Chief Sylva.

"As we all know, Kogi state is blessed with numerous politicians most especially from the ruling



All Progressives Congress (APC), as a great apostle of Governor Yahaya Bello, Alhaji Usman Ododo is a rare specimen of a politician with the blend of technocrat desperately needed to enhance the good work of the outgoing governor in the state. Alhaji Ododo has what it takes having been in the corridor of administration for some years, Kogi state people should be wary of those politicians who are only available during elections," the statement added.

Similarly, the chairman of the chapter, J K Adebola pleads with the voters to ensure free and fair elections to deepen our democracy. Adebola urged voters to ensure they vote

for APC being the party at the centre and for the experience of their candidates to ensure the best for their states.

"I am sure we are all aware of the coming election this weekend; it is a battle for either progress or otherwise, it is a fight between the downtrodden and a few rich, as a party, we stand with you at all times, we are the progressives, the cause of the downtrodden remain our core pursuit, elevating the poor remain our focus, we won't rest until these are achieved, this is why you should keep your fate in our great party by casting your votes for our candidates," the statement concluded.

## Stakeholders Urge Govt, Security Agents To Adopt Traditional System In Reintegration Process Of Deradicalized Insurgents

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Stakeholders have suggested for the return and adoption of old traditional system, pattern and protocol of administration of the society to be used in ongoing process, coordinating, managing and controlling the reintegration of deradicalized and rehabilitated repentant Boko Haram insurgents in Borno State.

The stakeholders also called on government and security agencies to restrict and monitor the unrestricted, rampant and reckless movements of the returnee repentant insurgents of moving in and out of the community anytime and anyhow into the Bush as some suspiciously return to the Bush and later return to the community while others still launch attacks on members of the community who go to farm or bush to fetch firewood.

This was submission of stakeholders at a one-day community dialogue held at the College of Nursing & Midwifery Maiduguri Conference Hall on Tuesday, from Old Maiduguri area of Maiduguri city for reconciliation, reintegration and sustainable peace which is targeted at strengthening capacities and will for implementation of transitional justice and reconciliation for Borno State.

The stakeholders further urged the government and security agents in charge of reintegration of the repentant insurgents, to liaise and collaborate with the community and religious leaders as well as ethnic groups, women and youth leaders as well as leaders of the repentant Boko Haram insurgents.

The participants urged people to forgive, embrace and show love to the repentant insurgents, stressing that they are part of the society but offended the people as a society.

It is a must and necessary people to show affection, care and love to the returnee repentant, relate with and live peacefully with them.

They also suggested government to establish

and consolidate on strategies and procedures of handling the reconciliation and reintegration of the repentant insurgents by the committee assembling them at the community leaders place for all members of the community to be aware and recognize those that have been pardoned and accepted to return back to the society.

The stakeholders observed also stigmatization as one of major problems and challenges hence stigmatization against the repentant insurgents by the people in the society and on the side of the residents, they don't trust and have confidence on their people and host community.

The other major issue on the both side of the community and repentant is the problem of trauma, especially, psychosocial trauma and unemployment among others, while the issue of empowerment and poverty alleviation support given to the repentant on their return to the community, makes them behave and conduct themselves with arrogance and pride against the people in the community.

Others called on government and non governmental organisations to also extend the same opportunities to the people in the community to balance the equation between the returnee repentant and residents of the community, who are so helpless and in poverty as well as enrolment of their children in schools.

The participants were further of the opinion that it is not easy and simple to forgive and forget those who killed families and relations of the community, pointing out that, some of the repentant are unreliable and untruthful to the laid down agreements they they signed before the government and security agencies.

Some solicited for tolerance, endurance, trust, unity, forgive, and be patient to move forward in order to build peace, and establish development in the society on the side of the community members and leaders.

## Katsina Govt To Establish State Development Management Board

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Government is to establish the State Development Management Board to be responsible for coordinating all development and related activities in the state.

Governor, Malam Dikko Umar Radda hinted this when he declared open the fifteenth meeting of the National Council on Industry, Trade and Investment held at the conference hall of the state secretariat.

The governor said the board would ensure all ministries, departments and agencies are aligned with the

state development objectives to alarm allow the state government has holistic approach to the policy implementation.

Meanwhile, Katsina State Board of Internal Revenue has embarked on an enforcement exercise for show me your vehicle particulars.

This is contained in a statement signed by the Public Relation Officer of the Board, Sada Shu'aibu.

Speaking during the flag-off of the exercise, the Executive Chairman of the board Alhaji Muhammad Aminu Isiyaku Funtua said the exercise has been carried out across the state.

The Executive Chairman represented by the Director Road

Tax Alhaji Abbati Yusuf said this was meant to ensure vehicles users have authentic and updated particulars.

He pointed out that a number of vehicles used by perpetrators of criminal activities are un-registered as such the exercise will assist in finding out the criminals and boost revenue generation to execute of developmental projects.

Alhaji Abbati Yusuf stressed that the exercise is not meant to witch hunt anybody.

He therefore called on vehicles users to give maximum support and cooperation to the personnel that conduct the exercise.

# Let Emefiele Breathe, Northern Forum Tells Security Agencies

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Group, Concerned Northern Forum (CNF) yesterday, asked concerned security agencies of the federal government to let the embattled suspended Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr. Godwin Emefiele breathe after being granted bail by a Federal High Court in Abuja.

The presiding judge of the court in Maitama, Abuja, Olukayode Adeniyi had on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, released Emefiele to his lawyers after being unlawfully detained for 151 days.

Chairman of the group, Ali Sani in a statement, said although the judge exacted a promise from Emefiele's lawyers to present him in the court for trial whenever needed and also to deposit his international passport in the court, the condition which was immediately fulfilled by the defendant's counsel and Emefiele was released into their custody.

"It is however, disappointing, that certain media organisations too busy being prejudiced and controversial, would publish that there is a controversy of any sort over the judgment.

"This is why these kinds of organisations should not be allowed to continue to publish in any legal entity as their intent is more to heat the polity than to publish real news.

"It is a fact that the honourable judge could not deny the

fact that the fundamental human rights of the man who served the country for over nine years and in the private sector could not be denied. It is the right of any individual, having served or otherwise to enjoy fundamental human rights.

"Speculations and a witch-hunt kept him in jail for five months while he was meant to be legally considered innocent until proven guilty.

"But rather than being free while the investigation of the agencies of the federal government was still underway, he was kept in their custody, being justled from one agency to another. The question that should be on the lips of every well-meaning Nigerian is, how is this fair?"

"Now that he has finally been granted a right he should not have been denied in the first place, some individuals are working hard again to have him arrested or detained in his house.

"Can we allow Emefiele to breathe and pursue whatever agenda in the courts? Can the federal government warn its agencies to respect the sanctity of the law and stop making a mockery of the country? Can we all stand up and demand that Emefiele be allowed some respite? It is time to watch this proceeding closely and demand complete transparency. Let Emefiele breathe", the statement read in part.



Emefiele

# Plot To Derail FCTA Development Control Director Uncovered

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Director of Development Control Department of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Tpl Muktar Galadima has been enjoined to focus on his work and not get distracted by falsehoods and petitions by "some blackmailers who don't mean well for Abuja"

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

The group described as, "Total fabrication of lies and malicious write up" a petition written against the director and submitted to House of Representatives Public Petition's Committee.

Dr Isokpehi pointed out that the "petitioners, blinded by their desire to destroy a proactive public servant, gathered all the falsehoods their brains can conjure, mix them with half truth to make them look genuine and put them on paper with the sole intention of derailing the Director from doing his noble job

" Firstly, they accused Tpl Galadima of registering many companies to launder money and do business. But they only mentioned two companies, claiming he registered them and still remains their director.

"Tpl Galadima was shocked to be linked to MERITAGE HOMESLIMITED, a firm he was hearing for the first time. We can tell the public that The Director was instructed by counsel to write to the company and demand explanation as to how and why he became a director of the company. The replied of the company gave completely exonerate him from



being part of the company as at no time did he agreed or sat in a board meeting to be a director in that company".

" The second firm, TERRESTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT LIMITED, we gathered reliably is a company he registered more than 20yrs ago to enable him participate in farming in his village but since 2002 when the company was registered he has not used

the company."

On allegations that the director enriched himself by allocating and acquiring plots of lands in the FCT, the group pointed out that "the power of allocating a land in the FCT is vested on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as contained in the Land Use Act and the President out of his wisdom, delegated that sole responsibility to the Minister of the

Federal Capital Territory who allocate land.

The Director has no power whatsoever, to allocate land to anyone since he has not served as Minister of FCT. If any FCT ministers in the past considered him worthy and allocated a plot of land to him as has been done to hundreds of thousands of Nigerians, he cannot be accused of enriching himself"

"Permit us to state plainly that, Tpl Galadima like every hardworking Nigerian has right to legally own land and property, either through direct purchase or allocation by a minister. There is completely nothing wrong in this. How did we reach this point when people will be petitioned on allegations that they own a land or house which is not a proceed of fraud or illegality?"

The group, however, called on the The National Assembly, precisely the House of Representatives' Committee on Public Petition to disregard petition against the Director of Development control department which is "only crafted by its writers to derail the Director from doing his job" for lack of substance and intention to blackmail.

Dr Isokpehi pointed out that, " with the kind of job the director does, the petition did not come to us a surprise. Ridding Abuja of Illegal structures and correcting land use contravention is a very tough and risky job. He stepped on toes of those who violate the Abuja master plan and refused to bend the rules for those who want compromise the system.

"Finding no fault in the discharge of his work, they now decided to go into other path in search of anything they can lay their hands on the destroy passionate public servant of repute," the group said.

# Guber Polls: 18 Political Parties Sign Peace Accord In Kogi

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Eighteen governorship candidates of political parties in Kogi State have signed peace accord on Wednesday to ensure hitch free elections before, during and after the November 11 governorship polls.

The ceremony, which was performed by the National Peace Committee, is aimed at ensuring peaceful and transparent conduct of the election by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Chairman of the National Peace Committee, General Abdulsalami Abubakar called on the Independent National Electoral Commission to use this off circle election due in the three states of Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi to redeem its tarnished image before Nigerians.

The Chairman of the Committee represented by Cardinal John Onaiyekan, gave this advice in lokoja during the signing of peace accord by the 18 political parties in kogi



state and their governorship candidates. He said Nigerians are beginning to loose confidence on the ability of the commission to conduct free, fair and credible election owing to its past record in previous elections in the country and urged the commission to match its words with actions.

To him, those responsible for peaceful and

transparent election are the electorate who are to choose credible leaders, the contestants who are to conduct themselves in a peaceful manner and the government agencies such as INEC, and security who are to remain neutral and transparent during the election.

General Abdulsalami urged the contestants and their political parties not to see the signing of the

peace accord as a mere ritual but to abide by the contents of rules and regulations guiding the election.

Responding on behalf of the INEC chairman, the National commissioner representing Kogi, Nasarawa and Kwara States, Alhaji Sanni Mohammed Adam reiterated the commitment of the electoral umpire to conduct free, fair, transparent and credible election.

He, however, called on the political players to caution their supporters to abide by the rule of the game and thanked the National Peace committee for organising the peace accord.

The Deputy Inspector-general of Police in charge of Force Intelligence, Mr A. H Sanni who represented the IGP on the occasion assured the Committee and indeed all the people in the state that the election will be peacefully as all necessary machineries for the conduct of the election have been put in place.

## Gombe Postpones Investment Summit 2023

*\*Announces new date*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Government has announced the postponement of the much-anticipated Gombe State Investment Summit 2023, tagged GoInvest 2.0 earlier scheduled for November 16 and 17, this year.

This was contained in a statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Wednesday November 8, 2023.

It explained that this development was conveyed by the Chairman of the Steering Committee for the summit and Deputy Governor of Gombe State, Dr. Manassah Daniel Jatau, in a letter he signed and made available to newsmen on Wednesday.

“The Steering Committee for the Gombe State Investment Summit 2023 (GoInvest 2.0) regrets to announce the postponement of the much-anticipated event which was originally scheduled for November 16 and 17, 2023”, the letter reads in parts.

“We deeply regret the necessity of this

announcement. We understand the significant investments of time and resources many of our valued participants and stakeholders have made in anticipation of this summit. Please know that this decision was made with great care and deliberation. Our unwavering commitment to the summit's success and the overall quality of the event remains resolute”, the letter added.

The committee further announced the rescheduled date of the event, which is to hold from Wednesday 7th to Thursday 8th February, 2024, expressing confidence that this rescheduled summit will emerge as an even more powerful platform for achieving shared objectives.

The committee also extended the appreciation of Gombe State Government to sponsors and partners for their support and solidarity, assuring them of continued commitment to nurturing enduring partnerships that will propel economic growth, drive investments, and foster development in Gombe State.

## Zulum Releases N500m Scholarships For Medical, Nursing Students

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State has approved the release of 500

million Naira as registration fees for 19 medical and 93 nursing students.

The Executive Secretary of the Borno State Scholarship Board, Malam Bala Isa, made this known on Tuesday in Maiduguri, while briefing newsmen on the development in his office.

He said the 19 indigent medical students are studying at Suez University of Egypt, while the 93 nursing students are in University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) Nursing School.

The executive secretary added that the scholarships payment is

part of Governor Zulum administration's commitment to the 25-year development plan and the 10-year strategic transformation initiative.

According to him, government is committed to sponsoring the students throughout the duration of their studies, while urging the students to be

hardworking and to take their studies seriously to justify government's confidence on them to excel and efforts towards sponsoring their education.

He expressed appreciation over the governor's empathy and concern to the students at a time, when majority of them and their parents are facing several challenges.

Responding, a nursing student from UMTH, Abdulazeez Mohammed, thanked the state government for the intervention and said the scholarships will assist them in many ways and facilitate their studies, as well as encourage them to study hard to impress both the government and their parents.

“We are grateful for this intervention, as many of us from poor parents were in dilemma before this major relief came.”, Mohammed said.



Zulum

## Release APC Supporters, Ododo Begg Security Agencies

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The governorship candidate of All Progressives Congress (APC) in the off circle election on November 11 in Kogi State, Usman Ododo, has called on security agencies to release chieftains of the party who were arrested in Kogi East on Tuesday on 'baseless grounds'.

A worried Ododo said that the APC chieftains that were arrested are noble people, with no questionable character, and have no reason to engage in thuggery or other vices.

"Just this morning again, about seven of my members were picked from my community. I don't breed thugs because I don't condone criminality. The security agencies should carry out their investigations and release our people with immediate effect," he said.

Ododo who spoke to journalists in Lokoja on Wednesday, said the laudable achievements of the current administration which the people of Kogi State have attested to, is enough for the party's landslide victory at the polls.

He attributed the ongoing activities of the falling politicians to the political upheavals stoking violence and leveling unfounded allegations.

He called on the security agencies to be fair to all and ensure the security of lives and property before, during and after the governorship election.

The governorship candidate lauded the security agencies for the good work they have been doing in the state, promising that he would always be available to honour their invitations any time the need arises.

"As a law abiding citizen and as somebody that has

worked on the field, somebody that carries out investigations, as auditor general for local government areas, I know what it takes to manage human beings. The people of Kogi State are looking up to the security agencies to ensure a peaceful election.

"My members that they have picked, I still base it on allegations. Let them do their investigations and I believe they will do that without bias. As soon as they are done, they will be released.

"But in a situation where security agents are harassing and detaining my members without saying what offence they have committed, I want to call on them to release them and face those criminals that went to Kotonkarfe to kill an APC supporter and get them arrested.

"That is what they should focus on and not the law abiding members of our party. So I call on them to hasten their investigations and release our members with immediate effect," he stated.

On allegations of witch-hunt by the opposition, Ododo sees that as jumping from one TV station to the other desperately everyday, leaving where he is supposed to be doing groundwork and courting voters saying that something serious must be wrong with him.

"As for us in the APC, we know we are winning. Governor Yahaya Bello has done the people proud and it is time to reward the party. The reward of hard work is more work and we are ready to serve again. We won't join issues with losers who have only ethnic agenda and violence in their dictionary", Ododo said. He urged his supporters to come out en masse on Saturday to vote for the APC, saying a vote for APC is a vote for unity, peace and progress of the state.

## Edurex Partners UI For Online Professional Courses, Certifications - Fasiku

By; BAYO AKAMO Ibadan

The Chief Executive Officer of a leading EdTech institution, Edurex Academy, Adedotun Fasiku has disclosed that Edurex has partnered with the University of Ibadan (UI), towards revolutionizing access to quality education by offering diverse range of online courses and certifications.

According to Fasiku, Edurex, known for its innovative approach to education, teamed up with UI to create unparalleled online learning experience, leveraging on cutting-edge technology and expertise of both institutions.

The CEO pointed out that the partnership would give learners access to world-class education from the comfort of their homes, saying under the collaboration, Edurex Academy and UI will offer online certifications and professional courses across various disciplines such as IT, Project Management, Accounting and Finance, Agribusiness, and Leadership among others.

"We are excited to join forces with UI to bring

high-quality education to learners worldwide. This partnership represents fusion of academic excellence and technological innovation, enabling us to reach learners in every corner of the globe", he said.

The Director of UI Distance Learning Centre, Prof. Babatunde Omobowale said, "Through our online certifications and professional Courses, we aim to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in today's competitive world."

"The online courses offered through this partnership will be designed to accommodate diverse learning styles and preferences," he said.

Prof Omobowale added, "Learners can expect engaging multimedia content and interactive learning modules, ensuring comprehensive educational experience, participants will also benefit from the guidance of experienced instructors and access supportive online Community."

Expressing enthusiasm



about the collaboration, he said "Our partnership with EDUREX Academy reflects our commitment to expanding access to quality education. By harnessing the power of technology, we can provide learners with flexible and convenient learning opportunities, empowering them to excel in their chosen fields." "Registration for the online certifications and professional courses offered through EDUREX

Academy and UI has commenced with the first set of professional courses, empowering learners nationwide and across Africa seeking to enhance their skills, pursue further education, or embark on new career paths.

"Interested learners and professionals are encouraged to visit the official website of EDUREX Academy," he advised.

## Katsina Police Confirms Bandits Attack On Sayaya Village

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Police Command has confirmed an attack in Sayaya village of Matazu Local Government Area by armed bandits where Five People died and many kidnapped.

The State Commissioner of Police confirmed the attack in a statement issued by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the command, ASP Abubakar Sadiq to newsmen in Katsina.

According to him, on the early hours of Monday November 6, the armed bandits in their numbers, carrying dangerous weapons such as AK-forty-seven rifles and shooting sporadically, attacked the village.

He said that the police operatives were immediately mobilized to the scene and engaged the bandits in a gun duel that led to the success of repelling the attack.

The Police Commissioner also said that five people were shot dead, two injured and five people kidnapped by the assailants.

He however, added that the injured ones were rushed to the hospital for immediate medical attention.

The Commissioner of Police extended condolences to the families of those affected by the attack.

He urged members of the public with vital information that would help the investigation, to come forward and assist the investigation as efforts are being intensified to ensure the unhurt rescue of the kidnapped victims and the arrest of the perpetrators of the act.

In the meantime Katsina State Government has reaffirmed commitment to support security organizations in the fight against security challenges in the state.

Governor Dikko Umar Radda stated this when he received the participants of the 96 Junior Division of the Armed Forces Command Staff College Jaji led by the Director of the Department of the land warfare Brigadier general Oluremi Obolo on a courtesy call.

The governor said the recent

formation of the community security watch corp was part of effort to support security personnel in the fight against the security challenges in the state.

He emphasized that the State Government is aware of the of the security challenges in all the regions of the country saying the demands on the military is too high.

The governor however, appreciated the military particularly the seventeen brigade for their up and doing in responding to all issues relating to security.

Earlier, the leader of the team Brigadier General Oluremi Obolo said the junior division course attracted participants from Nigeria and some African countries including Burkina Faso, Chad, Liberia and Togo among others.

He said the participants were in the state to assess the operations of the 17 Brigade Katsina after the theoretical aspect of the course.

He said all the participants would write their reports on return to the college.

### CHANGE OF NAME

ADAMU - I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Salamat Adamu. Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. SALAMATU ADAMU NURUDEEN. All former documents remain valid. All relevant authorities concerned should please take note.

# It's Our Responsibility To Resettle Displaced Kaduna Communities - Uba Sani

By; FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State has said that government is working in collaboration with the security agencies to ensure everyone displaced in their communities is returned back to their homes safely.

Governor Uba Sani disclosed this after the Kaduna State Security Council meeting on Wednesday, as part of the state government's efforts to promote peace and enhance security in the state.

Senator Uba Sani expressed this shortly after closed door meeting, in an interview with Government House Press Crew which took place at the Council Chambers of Sir Kashim Ibrahim House.

He said, "this meeting is a continuation of our meeting and consultation with relevant security agencies in Kaduna, this one is an expanded core security meeting that also involved the GOC 3 Division as well as GOC 1 Division.

"We usually call for this meeting to receive briefing and to look at the areas that the Kaduna State Government needs to support and assist agencies on the problem of insecurity in our state.

"I am happy to say that we have been receiving a lot of support, and on our part,

we made it clear from the inception that fighting insecurity in our state is number one agenda.

"I believe without resolving or addressing the problem of insecurity, we might not be able to achieve all the developmental agenda of our government.

"We have invested a lot in that area, but I believe addressing insecurity is key. As a government, we have promised to ensure that our people live safely in the communities and environment.

"That is the reason why in our agenda, we believe safety of our people, protecting their lives and property is number one and I am happy as a government, we have been very consistent.

"We will continue to fight the bandits and the criminals within the axis of Southern Kaduna as well as Birnin Gwari.

"I am happy GOC 3 Division, as well as GOC 1 Division and the Air Force are doing operations in Birnin Gwari as well as the report from the Director DSS have all shown that we are all making progress.

"We will continue to support them with all they need in terms of logistics and technology because that is the area they need to be supported.

"We are working together with them, the

safety and security of our people is the fundamental rights of our people, it is not something that the government needs to even think twice about doing.

Governor Uba said, "some in the state relocated or are moving from own home or location because of issue of security. It is our responsibility to make sure that they return back to their homes safely.

"Government will do that as our responsibility as our human rights in terms of building their communities," he said.

He added that, "the GOC 3 Division as well as GOC 1 Division, the Commissioner of Police and the DSS all agreed that we have to approach these issues.

Earlier in an interview with GOC 3 Division and Commander Operation Safe Haven, Major General Abdulsalam Abubakar, he said the first phase of the resettlement, will start with 15 communities.

He said, "what we did at the meeting was that, we reviewed the security situation in Kaduna State, but for me, I am responsible for Southern Kaduna.

"We have made some projections to Governor Uba Sani, because one of the

ways to measure the milestones of the achievements of Operation Safe Haven, is the ability to relocate those affected by crisis back to their ancestral homes, so that they can resume socioeconomic activities.

"What we are planning to do right now is to resettle about 15 communities back to their ancestral homes, hence they will be needing some logistics which the government will be providing to enable them settle back and start their normal lives once again".

On his part, the GOC 1 Division, Major General Valentine Okoro, said the government and the security agencies are harmonizing efforts with all security stakeholders in the state to be able to network security to ensure that gaps that were observed in their deliberations are effectively covered.

"Going forward, we expect to have tighter security, firmer collaborations between all security stakeholders that we believe will enhance peace and security for the people of Kaduna State.

"Banditry is the most potent threat in this operational environment and we are making efforts to ensure that it is reduced to the barest minimal," he assured.





Governor of Katsina State, Malam Dikko Umaru Radda on Wednesday November 8, 2023, received in audience, participants of Course 96 of the Junior Division, Armed Forces Command and Staff College Jaji. The team was led by Brig Gen O Obolo Below are pictorials from the visit. PHOTOS: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS





# COMMUNITY FOCUS

## Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Turbans Morrison As New Ezediohamma 1 Of Chikun Chiefdom

By: EMMANUELAGBO, Kaduna

Ohanaeze Ndigbo Kaduna State in conjunction with Turbaned Igbo Council of Ndieze, has turbaned Chief Morrison Ikpeamaeze as the new Ezediohamma 1 of Chikun Chiefdom, Kaduna State.

The coronation took place at the Esu Chikun's palace, His Highness, Mr. Ishaku Yari yesterday in Kaduna, with different council of elders from different walks of life present at the ceremony.

While appreciating God for the opportunity to witness the event, Mr. Yari remarked that, "it is a great opportunity from God to turban our brother today as the new Ezediohamma 1 of Chikun Chiefdom, Kaduna State.

"I want to advise you today to develop the culture of patience and perseverance. Leadership is a call to serve humanity against personal comfort and therefore I urged you to carry everybody along because there is no way you can succeed without people." He said.

Speaking with journalists shortly after the event, the outgoing Odum Igbo Ezeigbo I, Chikun Chiefdom HH Igwe Fred Awagu, said he is very happy to hand the baton of leadership to Morrison in his lifetime.

He added that he has passed through several hurdles, especially from opposition who never wanted to see him succeed on the throne, but God gave him the courage to overcome them all.

While soliciting support from the Gbagyi Kingdom whom he described as his backbone over the years, Igwe Fred urged them and other Igbo sons and daughters who mean well for the association to give their full support to his successor, disclosing that Igbo people are the most difficult people to lead on earth.

On his path, the new Ezediohamma 1 of Chikun Chiefdom, Kaduna State, Chief Morrison Ikpeamaeze expressed gratitude to God and everyone who made the event a success.

Ikpeamaeze said his rulership will be tailored towards the unity and togetherness of the Igbo Community and urged them to give him the needed support so as to be able to win together as a team.

Before his coronation, Chief Morrison from Abia was the Vice chairman Isialangwa South LGA Kaduna State branch, 2nd Vice President Abia State Indigenes' Welfare Association (ABSIWA) Kaduna, Chairman of All Kaduna State Labour Party Support Groups and State Coordinator for the Peter Obi Movement For President, (POMP) in the 2023 general elections.



# Oyo Govt Moves To Shutdown 'Mushroom' Primary Schools

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Commissioner for Education, Prof. Soliu Abdulwaheed Adelabu on Wednesday, said, "mushroom" schools would not be allowed to operate in the state.

Prof Adelabu who made this known at a meeting with basic education stakeholders in the state, disclosed that all substandard primary schools in and across the state are to be shut down.

According to him, in doing this, the state government would work with education secretaries, and heads of sections in all local government areas towards shutting down all the substandard primary schools.

Emphasizing that the Ministry of Education and OYOSUBEB will work closely with relevant stakeholders to tighten the

noose on operators of mushroom primary schools, he charged the education secretaries, heads of sections in the 33 Local Government areas of the state to get set, as the meeting was part of steps and institutional preparations towards the crackdown.

The Commissioner while expressing dissatisfaction with the report he gathered on the field, during a recent inspection, identified ways to forestall some basic errors in the basic education sub-sector called for unwavering commitment by all stakeholders by being part of the moving train, to better the lots of children in the basic education sub-sector and that relevant stakeholders should step up their game in the proper supervision of schools under their watch.

According to the commissioner, the standard in education must

not dwindle, and that education Secretaries and private schools' owners to take the issue of standard in schools seriously

Stressing that Oyo State Government under the supervision of Governor Seyi Makinde is making moves to address infrastructural decay in primary schools, the commissioner said the governor has given the ministry marching order to identify schools with urgent need of infrastructural overhaul.

"The Oyo State Government is doing everything possible to bring every child of school age on board. However, we must not compromise our commitment for quality and standard education in the state", he said.

On the issue of recruitment of primary school teachers, the Commissioner said, "We are aware that teachers are

retiring, and the staff strength in our primary schools are reducing. I assure you that, by God's grace, we will recruit more teachers in the basic education sector by February 2024," he said.

Coordinating Director, OYOSUBEB, Mrs. Olaide Ladipo while speaking said the board is committed to the betterment of public primary schools, saying the recent inspection of the Commissioner for Education, along with the management team of OYOSUBEB brought forth the areas where schools fall short, and where urgent attention is needed.

Speaking through the Director, Administration and Supply, Mr. David Isola, the coordinating director, said the meeting serves as a pivotal platform to address the challenges.

# Katsina: LG Boss Warns That Traditional Rulers Collaborating With Bandits Risk Sack

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Traditional rulers found guilty of conniving with bandits will be instantly sacked in Kankara Local Government Area of Katsina State.

Chairman of the local council, Alhaji Anas Isah gave the warning during a crucial security meeting with stakeholders in his office.

He said even if his son was involved, he would automatically be

eliminated.

The chairman also called on them to report any unfavorable situation to the relevant authorities for prompt action.

Alhaji Anas Isah revealed that the Local Government was aware of the problem of some farmers faced in evacuation of their farm produced because of the threat by bandits.

He assured that security operatives would be used to assist the farmers for safety evacuation of the harvested farm produce.

# Elder Statesman Cries For Help, Says 'I Am Dying In Hospital Bed'

By: Utebor Peter, Asaba

Elder statesman and former general secretary of the Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Chief Frank Kokori has cried out that he is dying in hospital bed.

According to Chief Kokori in a distress call to our correspondent in Asaba, Delta State, early hours yesterday, morning, the 'Abacha nightmare' said life is fast ebbing out of him where he's receiving treatment for kidney related ailment.

He lamented how NUPENG has abandoned their own to fate in the hospital, which air conditioner was switched off by the management possibly owing to a shortage of diesel.

"I have something to tell this country, please, please, do your best.

"Tell the world that Kokori is dead and risen. The only man in Warri that can handle kidney problems is Horeb Hospital Warri.

"But I'm facing other challenges. The air conditioner is not working, and AC cant be kept alive till morning. What a country!" He lamented.

The All Progressives Congress (APC) Chieftain in Delta State, described himself as a voice laden with excruciating pains that he's "dead and risen." He said, "Mobilise yourselves. I have something to tell this

country, please, please, do your best.

"Tell them that I can pay any amount, but let them switch on the AC for me because I'm dying.

"The AC went off. Please do your best. Flash it. I can come alive again but I just want the world to know that if I survive, I'll shame the leaders of this country.

"Shame to them. How can Kokori be in a third class hospital. The people are trying their best o, because I know it's diesel issue.

"The AC is off. Two of my foster children are here with me. I've sent one to meet the hospital management that they should do everything that the AC is switched on, that when I'm out, I'll pay. That I'm dying.

"I've called on NUPENG that this is what they've done to their leaders. That NUPENG could not even take care of me. It's sad.

"God bless everybody." The septuagenarian is said to have been in the hospital for some time, now before his distress call came at the wee hours of yesterday.

It would be recalled that Chief Kokori was at the forefront of the struggle to reclaim the mandate of the late winner of the June 12, 1993 presidential election, Chief MKO Abiola, which was annulled by the then President Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida and sustained by his successor, the late General Sani Abacha.



Professor Adelabu addressing the stakeholders meeting.

# Diploma Run By Universities A Misplaced Priority

By; AUWAL AHMED  
IBRAHIM GORONYO

Many things can go wrong while we see them as right, and the most dangerous of all, is when things go wrong in the sector of education.

For truth, when you find any degree programme in the Nigerian polytechnics, it is an affiliated programme for the benefit of the university system as it is accredited and managed by NUC, this is where things went wrong because universities seized everything even the Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) and Professional Diploma in Education (PDE). What is the essence of colleges of Education and polytechnics in Nigeria?

When I was a student in the university, I wondered why universities offer diploma programmes. Though I know, it is another means of internally generated revenue for the institutions, but the truth about the programmes is that they are not viable as that of the polytechnics, because many work places don't accept the certificates, but polytechnics do. For a reason NUC denounced the HND top-up programme proposed by NBTE when there are some schools managed by

NUC that do more harm than good to get money. For money, there are many universities in Nigeria that reduced their programmes of four years to three years and NUC is alive in Nigeria. Testament Business Academy with the following address: 2, Olorunwa Close, Off Karimu Laka Street, Egbeda, Lagos Nigeria is one of them. With many centres of learning in Nigeria, universities offer certificates in education, diploma programmes, professional diplomas in education, National Certificate of Education (NCE) and Professional Diploma in Education (PDE).

Professional programmes in Nigerian universities are money ventures. As a victim, I obtained a Diploma in Education for the purpose of becoming a member of the Teachers' Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), but I couldn't have it from the TRCN for reasons of invalidity, I didn't relent, I went for Professional Diploma in Education from Al-Nahar Academy, Unguwar Rimi, Kaduna affiliated to Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria but the certificate was rejected by the TRCN again, for unprofessional reasons. I felt like I was duped, while many of such

programmes are ongoing. But as Nigerians, the government allows it. Until just recently when something happened between National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and Nigeria Universities Commission (NUC) happened on top-up degree programme. It amazes me much for NUC to even condemn the top-up programme, which has been a modern educational system in the developed world. NUC has forgotten to talk about the problems and the malady that characterize the formation of degree programmes in some Nigerian universities.

Despite the tasks and the longer duration of academic system in the polytechnics, NUC challenged the HND top-up to degree, which however, is acceptable in the developed nations. Diploma in the polytechnic plus the industrial training after the programme is three years and HND amount to five years in the universities and such programmes in universities are for four years. This is why when HND holders seek admission outside the country, they are given direct masters to study.

The Nigerian university system is downplaying the fortunes of

polytechnic students and does not recognize the Higher National Diploma. Universities and some working institutions have no regards for the HND. This is why only Direct Entry of level two is allowed even with HND certificate, but the story is different outside the country.

It seems there is misplacement of priority in Nigeria's tertiary institutions. Skill is domicile in the polytechnics, while theories at the universities, but these two go on collusion, because universities in Nigeria want to take everything even in work places. In the developed world, skill is more viable than management.

Apprentices earn more than managers. University graduates are made managers and executive officers that breed concept of leadership, while polytechnic graduates are the labourers with the concept of doing perfect skill work. This is why at the beginning, polytechnics don't allow HND holders to be head of departments and rectors of polytechnics. Also, only university graduates were employed as lecturers, but this was before the universities become jack of all trades; a reason that churned out things

upside-down.

The Federal Ministry of Education has stopped universities from running diploma programmes and yet, they didn't heed to that. If things will go right, Nigeria will be on a path to greatness by toeing the path of developed nations.

This means, it is not a fault for universities to run diploma programmes, but the programmes should be solely managed by NBTE as degree programmes are managed by NUC, while HND top-up to degree is lawful and accepted internationally. On this, NUC should embrace best practices across the world and stop pulling Nigeria backwards, when the world is changing in anything.

This is how professionalism would be embraced in Nigeria's education. Meanwhile, dichotomy between HND and degree should be removed to be on the side of developed nations for Nigeria's greatness.

Auwal Ahmed Ibrahim, Goronyo is a lecturer of Department of Mass Communication, Kaduna Polytechnic and can be reached via [auwalahmed@kadunapolytechnic.edu.ng](mailto:auwalahmed@kadunapolytechnic.edu.ng)

## How We Are Confronting Menace Of Vandalism -Kaduna Electric

By; JACOB ONJEWU  
DICKSON

Kaduna Electric has expressed great concerns over the high frequency of incidents of vandalism of electrical installations across its franchise.

In the face of the difficult challenge however, it said it is doing a lot to tackle the menace.

The Chief Technical Officer, Engr Lawal Aliyu Mashi, disclosed in a statement, that, "about 172 cases of vandalism was reported across the four franchise states of the company between July and September this year". He added that the company lost N138,056,343 worth of equipment within the period.

Citing examples of some of the incidences within the period, the statement said 42 meters of earthing cable was vandalised at Abakpa Injection Substation while four meters of 500MM2 neutral incomer cables were also stolen at Katuru Village in



Badarawa, Kaduna. In Jere, the statement said since the community was put out of supply due to payment default, 174 spans of aluminium cables,

22 HT poles, 20 upriver cables, 34 cross arms, 142 channel irons and one set of feeder pillar unit had been vandalised. In Gusau, Zamfara state, 12 span of

150mm aluminium conductor was vandalised.

Similarly, the 300KVA FECT 2 substation was vandalised with 300mm 2 single core cable stolen.

Highlighting some of the efforts being done to combat the spate of vandalism in its franchise, Kaduna Electric's Chief Security Officer, Col. Ubale Abubakar (rrd), said the company has stepped up engagements with security agencies including the military, police and civil defence corps to help with the arrest and prosecution of suspects.

He said Kaduna Electric has devised a strategy of regular engagements with Divisional Police Officers, officials of the Criminal Investigation Department and State Investigation Bureau and heads of military formations in its franchise states to raise awareness on how it adversely affects its operations.

Col. Ubale also noted that the regional and area office

leadership have been holding regular engagements with community, traditional and religious leaders to sensitise them on the menace of vandalism.

He said although the efforts have been yielding results with the apprehension and subsequent conviction of some of the vandals, a lot more needed to be done to eliminate the vice.

He thanked all the security agencies that have been working tirelessly to support Kaduna Electric in the fight against criminal elements bent on sabotaging efforts to provide improved power supply to customers.

He tasked communities to be vigilant and take ownership of electricity installations in their localities.

He advised that any suspicious movement around electricity installations should be reported immediately to any Kaduna Electric office or security agencies.

**Chairman/CEO, Valuechain Oil and Gas Magazine, Musa Bashir Usman, Emir of Kano Aminu Ado Bayero, Secretary General APPO, Dr, Umar F. Ibrahim with others top dignitaries during the 6th Annual Lecture/Awards of Valuechain Magazine in Abuja. Photos: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS**



# IGP Egbetokun Deploys DIGs For Bayelsa, Imo, Kogi Guber Elections

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

In his resolve to ensure that the governorship elections in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi states slated for Saturday meet the highest standards of transparency and credibility, the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun has deployed three Deputy Inspectors General of Police to monitor the elections. They are Deputy Inspector-General of Police in charge of the Department of Training and Development, DIG Frank Emeka Mba, mni, DIG Habu Sani in charge of the Department of Force Intelligence and DIG Daniel Sokari-Pedro, psc (+), mni, in charge of the Department of Information and Communication Technology for Imo, Kogi and Bayelsa States respectively. The Force Public Relations Officer, ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi made the disclosure in a statement made available to journalists on Tuesday.

According to the statement, the Nigeria Police Force has undertaken comprehensive preparations to ensure the success of the upcoming elections.

"We have strategically deployed our personnel to these states to provide security and maintain law and order throughout the electioneering process following training on professionalism, neutrality, and best practice carried out for officers and men deployed for the election duty. Our objective is to create an environment where all citizens can exercise their right to vote without fear or intimidation.

"Similarly, the Inspector General of Police has severally and continuously emphasized the dedication of the Nigeria Police Force, particularly under his watch, to the principles of free, fair, secure, and credible elections. The Nigeria Police Force will play a pivotal role in safeguarding the democratic process and upholding the integrity of these elections as we are committed to ensuring that every eligible voter can participate in the electoral process without fear or hindrance.

"In the pursuit of our commitment to neutrality and part of the bid to enhance the supervision of the elections, the IGP has deployed Deputy Inspectors General of Police (DIGs) to oversee the security arrangements and ensure the elections run smoothly in the respective states.

"This added layer of supervision is intended to guarantee that the elections meet the highest standards of transparency and credibility. Therefore, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police in charge of the Department of Training and Development, DIG Frank Emeka Mba, mni, has been deployed to oversee elections in Imo State; DIG Habu Sani in charge of the Department of Force Intelligence to Kogi State; and DIG Daniel Sokari-Pedro, psc (+), mni, in charge of the Department of Information and Communication Technology to



*IGP Egbetokun addressing officers and men over the guber elections in Imo, Kogi and Bayelsa states.*

Bayelsa State.

"In a bid to ensure a smooth electioneering processes, the Inspector-General of Police has ordered the distribution of an additional 220 operational vehicles, including water canons, Armored Personnel Carriers, gun boats for riverine areas, helmets, bullet proof vests, tear gas canisters etc, to the three affected states to intensify security arrangements for the elections to augment the already deployed assets.

"Also, the IGP has ordered a restriction of all forms of vehicular movement on roads, waterways, and other forms of transportation, from 12.01 am to 6 pm on election day in the affected states with the exception of those on essential services such as INEC Officials, Accredited Electoral Observers, Ambulances responding to medical emergencies, firefighters, media, etc.

"The order which is part of measures emplaced to ensure a safe, secure, and conducive environment for the conduct of elections, is aimed at ensuring public order management, the safety of electorates, as well as assisting the security agencies in effective policing, thereby preventing hoodlums and criminally-minded elements from disrupting the electoral process. On that note, residents and travelers in the neighboring states should note and plan their movements to avoid any untold hardship during the election period.

"Similarly, the IGP sternly warns all security aides and escorts to desist from accompanying their principals and

politicians to polling booths and collation centres during the election as anyone found flouting this directive will be severely sanctioned. He emphasizes that only security personnel specifically assigned to election duties are to be seen within and around the designated election booths and centres. Also, the ban on the unauthorized use of sirens, revolving lights, covered number plates, and tinted glasses is still in force, and violators would be sanctioned appropriately.

"All State-established and owned security outfits/organizations, quasi-security units, and privately-owned guard and security outfits are also barred from participating in election security management".

The IGP while empathizing with well-meaning residents of the affected states on the inconveniences the restrictions may cause, the IGP urges all active electorates to be law-abiding and turn out en masse to exercise their franchise.

He however warns that the Force will deal decisively with any individual(s) or group(s) that might want to test our common resolve and might to ensure a peaceful election.

The IGP, therefore, enjoined all electorates and party supporters and leaders to shun vote buying, vote selling, hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation, snatching of ballot boxes, and other criminal act(s) as the Force and other security agencies will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that all violators of extant laws, most especially the Electoral Act 2022 (as amended), are caused to face

the full wrath of the law.

Egbetokun stated that the Nigeria Police Force is aware that it is essential for citizens to have quick access to security agencies in case of emergencies or to report any security concerns during the election period. Therefore, we have established dedicated emergency contact numbers that the public can use to reach out to the Joint Operation Room for the elections in each state. These numbers are: Joint Operations Room Imo State - 08034773600 or 08113659301

Joint Operations Room Kogi State - 07038329084

Joint Operations Room Bayelsa State - 07034578208 09167322691

Other numbers will be rolled out as soon as they become active.

"In conclusion, the Inspector General of Police, in his quest for secure elections, has left no stone unturned to ensure that the Nigeria Police Force is well-prepared to protect the electoral process in Bayelsa, Imo, and Kogi States. He assures that the NPF will continue to uphold the rule of law, ensure the safety of all citizens, and maintain our neutrality throughout this electoral exercise.

"The Inspector General of Police urges the public to cooperate with the Police and other security agencies, report any suspicious activities, and exercise their democratic rights peacefully.

"Let us all work together to make these elections a resounding success, a testament to the strength of our democracy, and a shining example of free, fair, secure, and credible elections", the release further stated.

# Akwa Ibom Workers To Enjoy Double Salary December Bonus

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Workers in Akwa Ibom State Civil Service will take home additional one-month basic salary in December as Christmas bonus, a gesture of the state government.

Commissioner for Information in the State, Comrade Ini Ememobong who announced to newsmen, said the gesture was part of decisions reached during the State Executive Council (Exco) meeting held at Government House, Uyo on Wednesday.

Ememobong said the exco also frowned at the choice of the Principal Officers of

Local Government Area to reside outside their jurisdiction against government's directive to that effect

Accordingly, he said, the Exco has directed the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs strictly enforce the extant law of the State House of Assembly, which mandates all Principal Officers of Local Government Areas to reside within their jurisdictions.

The Information Commissioner said the council also deliberated on the draft copy of the budgets for 2024 fiscal year presented by

Commissioner for Finance and adopted the figures under recurrent and capital estimates as presented.

Other matters decided was approval for emergency intervention at Afia Nsit Village in Eket Local Government Area, to stop the erosion and reconstruct the destroyed portion of the road.

Directive to the Commissioner for Water Resources and Sanitation to ensure that water works within the Uyo metropolis and select rural areas are reactivated and made functional, in the first phase of the drive to provide water across the state.

"Exco frowned at the

illegal reopening of the Chinese company Golden Tripod Company, which has been accused of undertaking operations that are hazardous to human health and inimical to the environment. It was resolved that the facility be permanently closed down and an alternative land allocated to them at the industrial estate at Itam." Ememobong stated. The meeting was chaired by the governor, Pastor Umo Eno and has the deputy governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, Secretary to the State Government, Prince Enoobong Uwah and commissioners in attendance.

# Disregard Those Bent On Destroying Former CBN Governor, Group Advises

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Nigeria Citizens Watch for Good Governance, has called on Nigerians to disregard those that are bent on destroying what is left of Mr Godwin Emefiele through the use of the media.

The group also urged the government to listen to the court and respect the law, accept that the era of prolonged and illegal detention by security agencies is over.

A statement issued yesterday by its chairman, Malam Ahmed Yahuza Tanimu, said, "We, the Nigeria Citizens Watch for Good Governance, would like to express our deep concerns regarding the recent reports of a plot to kill Mr. Godwin Emefiele, the suspended Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, while in detention. We believe that every individual has the right to a fair trial and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty. Any form of violence or threat against someone in custody is highly condemnable and goes against the principles of justice and human rights."

Malam Ahmed said that the group is saddened by the revelation of the plan by some security agencies to rearrest Dr. Emefiele on trumped-up charges to further suppress his fundamental human rights, saying that they are consoled that with the recent decisions of the courts, those who violate their decisions won't have where to run to.

The statement enjoined the judiciary to be on the watch for further disobedience to their

order.

The group commended the judiciary for their prompt action in ordering the immediate release of Mr. Emefiele, stressing that the decision upholds the fundamental principles of justice and reinforces the significance of respecting the rule of law and believe that it is crucial to provide every citizen with a fair and transparent legal process, and the judiciary's intervention demonstrates their commitment to upholding justice in the society.

While acknowledging the importance of maintaining law and order, the statement urged security agencies to exercise restraint and caution in their operations, pointing out that excessive use of force against civilians can lead to unnecessary harm and violate their rights and encouraged security agencies to focus their efforts on combating banditry and other criminal activities that pose a threat to the nation's security.

The statement strongly condemned the labeling of the bail granted to Mr. Emefiele as scandalous by some section of the media, believing that responsible journalism plays a critical role in upholding the truth and promoting democratic values.

It stated that it is disappointing to witness sensationalized reporting that undermines the credibility and integrity of the judicial system and urged media organizations to adhere to professional journalistic standards and respect the principle of fair and unbiased reporting.

# Customs FOU Zone A Apprehends 9 Suspected Smugglers, Intercepts N1.2bn Contraband

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

No fewer than nine suspected smugglers were arrested and contraband valued at N1.2 billion intercepted by the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Federal Operation Unit, Zone "A" Lagos in the month of October 2023 from the South West axis of the country.

The seized goods include 14, 825 litres of Premium Motor Spirit ( PMS),

5,033 pieces of hide and skin concealed in 730 sack in 40 feet container, 7,382 bags of parboiled rice 50kg each, loaded in 14 trucks.

The Controller in charge of the unit, Hussein Ejibunu who made the disclosure, also listed other seizures as 657 pieces of used tyres, 167 (202 kilogrammes ) parcels of Indoan hemp, 39 bales of second hand clothes, 100 packs of tomato ketchup, four

units of used motorcycles and 600 cartons of GIV soap.

Ejibunu added that in its quest to prevent revenue loss through various infractions such as under valuation, under payment and wrong classification, the sum of N115.4 million were recovered through the issuance of of demand notices to defaulters.

His words, "I want to state that this unit of the service under my watch will make the remaining part of 2023

and beyond tough for smugglers in the interest of our country.

"We are ready to intercept them and frustrate their antics of concealment, illegal route passage, false declaration band under declaration".

He noted that the unit is determined to implement all provisions of the Nigeria Customs Service Act 2023 including various penalties attached to offences while striving to ensure that perpetrators face the full wrath of the laws.

The Controller appealed to all well-meaning and patriotic Nigerians to continue to support the unit with credible informations that will assist in battling economic sabotage.

Ejibunu equally urged the media to always support the service by using their position to discourage smuggling and any act that contravenes the customs law.



## Commissioner Decries Low Level Of Business Registration In Kaduna

By ; **ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna**

The Commissioner, Kaduna State Ministry of Business, Innovation and Technology, Mrs Patience Fakai has expressed dismay over the poor level of business registration in the state.

Fakai, who stated this on Wednesday when she played host to members of the Tax Justice Network (TJN), who were on a courtesy visit to discuss how to improve tax compliance in Kaduna State, noted that noncompliance to business registration poses a serious challenge to the ministry. According to her, "We do registration of businesses, all businesses in the State are suppose to register with us but unfortunately just very few that come for registration".

Represented by the Deputy Director, Business and Industrial Development Department (BID), Bayei Peter Naman, the Commissioner appealed to business owners in the state to register their businesses with the ministry.

"As long as you are doing business in Kaduna State, you must register with business premises registration, it is through there that the ministry generates funds for the government".

Also, the Assistant Director, BID, Yakubu Ibrahim disclosed that citizens of the State don't pay tax voluntarily, saying that tax payment is key to every development.

Earlier in his remarks, Coordinator of TJN, Mr Simeon Olatunde, harped on the need for the network to collaborate with Ministries Department and Agencies (MDAs) involved in revenue generation to improve tax compliance in Kaduna State.

He explained that the aim of the network was to facilitate the development of effective legal and policy regime that promote fair, progressive and transparent tax system and administration in Kaduna State.

Olatunde also explained that partnership was necessary as it would enhance tax education and enlightenment that will improve people's understanding of various tax policies.

"Our vision is to have a human society with a fair, progressive and transparent tax system as the basis for promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty and creating equity for State residents".

"The Network advocate for equity and inclusive prosperity in Nigeria to foster socio-economic justice through an equitable and fair tax system".

"TJN is also advocating for pro-poor tax policies and strengthening of tax system to promote domestic resources mobilization and drive reform to institutionalize transparency and accountability in the public finance management system".



From Second Right: Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke with him from right are, Osun State SSG, Hon Teslim Igbalaye; Osun State Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi, Osun State Chairman Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP), Alh. Salawu Ganiyu, Osun State Commissioner for Health, Barr. Jola Akintola and Special Adviser on Health, Dr. Rasaq Akindele @ the flag off of health insurance enrolment for selected pensioners held @ the Osun State Local Government Service Commission Hall, Secretariat Abere Osogbo. Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO

## Seme Customs Command Generates Over N3bn, Surpasses Target

By ; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

A total of N3,050,100,912.28 has been generated by the Seme-Krake Border Command of the Nigeria Customs Service from January to October of 2023, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt.

With the amount, the command has so far surpassed its 2023 target.

The Customs Area Controller, Comptroller, Timi Bomodi, who made the disclosure, said most of the revenue were generated from baggage assessment goods and some from re-exported items which pay some percentage of duty for imports, that are re-exported from Nigeria.

He expressed hope that the command will double its revenue target for the year.

Speaking on taming smuggling activities during the yuletide season, Comptroller Bomodi said his officers have been put on alert to nib in the bud any attempt to smuggle items like rice, vegetable oil among other into the Country.

"We have several seizures and we are not relenting. Our officers are on red alert knowing full well that this season, smuggling

activities will be on the increase, our officers have been fully briefed on what to do".

On export trade, He said export activities is doing reasonable well at the Command, adding that he is encouraging all exporters to document their exports no matter how small it may be.

"We are urging all exporters through the border to document their exports no matter how small it may be, because this will provide adequate data and information about our export activities".

On community relations, Bomodi said the Command is having a cordial relationship with the Communities as he has visited the Akran of Badagry and other traditional rulers within the bordering towns. And also in a good working relationship with his Beninouse counterpart in sharing information at anytime.

Asked if he will champion for a Customs School to be established at the border area, as the Comptroller General has promised to establish Customs Schools in some States and areas where the Service operates. Comptroller Bomodi said "that is the prerogative of the



**Comptroller Bomodi**

Customs Management, if they deemed it fit to establish a School here it will be a good thing.

"Already we have an equipped and functional Customs Clinic which take cares of the communities. We also support some schools around here. We are planning to sponsor some competitions among the schools as a way of encouraging the students". As for the welfare and accommodation of officers, Bomodi said one of the priority of the

Comptroller General is welfare of officers, as such some block of flats have been completed at the new Customs barrack at the border and officers have moved in, while work is nearly completion on the remaining ones. He also said renovation works have been carried out at the old barrack.

According to him when works are completed at the new barrack, it will be able to accommodate all the officers in the Command.



**Gov Uba Sani**



# Governor Uba Sani: Responsiveness, The Need To Do More

By; YUSUF ISHAKU GOJE

As citizens it is our civic responsibility to demand from and hold public officials accountable. In equal measure, we are expected to commend and encourage them when they are responsive and take responsibility. This is because democracy is not about 'them versus us,' it is about collective consensus and action towards social justice and inclusive development.

Many of us called out the government when power supply was first cut-off for over five months on Kafanchan campus and recently the main campus of the Kaduna State University (KASU). The result of the debt of about N177.3 million owed the University by Kaduna Electric Company (KADECO). This was after realizing that the University management was in no financial position to settle the debt, despite paying N12 million. As the State 2023 budget shows, only N30 million was provided for electricity charges.

The students demonstrated peacefully under the Joint Leadership of the Kaduna State University Kafanchan Campus, articles were written by civil society actors like Abdul Usman Bako, media platforms reported it for free and petition by the KASU Academic Staff Union of University (ASUU), Kaduna Chapter, led by Dr. Adamu Peter.

This writer also wrote an article titled - A High Institution of Learning In Darkness, which also featured as special report on People's Daily Newspaper. It elicited a rejoinder by the University PRO explaining the



dilemma facing the management. The students of the Kafanchan campus, who suffered the blackout the most, had even wanted to boycott their examination in protest.

In view of the above background and now that the Governor has responded as captured in a press release by his Chief Press Secretary, it is duty bound to acknowledge and commend him for his responsiveness and show of empathy.

Excerpt of the release reads, "Kaduna State Governor, His Excellency Uba Sani has directed the immediate payment of all outstanding debts accrued from 2022 to the Kaduna Electric Company to enable the restoration of power supply to the

Kafanchan and Kaduna Campuses of the Kaduna State University."

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

What is gratifying is that the students that bore the burden of learning in darkness were elated to see the branded vehicle of KADECO drive into the Kafanchan Campus to begin the reconnection. Whether the response of the Governor was as a result of the above mentioned engagements is not the focus, but should be commended anyway for

ameliorating the suffering of the students and staff.

Beyond commending the government for intervening, it is important to further call on the Governor to ensure accelerated reconnection due to ongoing examination and modalities are put in place to forestall a repeat of this embarrassing situation for a State with the motto: Center of Learning. Finally, the Governor should visit the campuses to assess the current state of infrastructure, furniture and learning environment in general for further interventions.

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

*Yusuf Ishaku Goje is an Active Citizen*

# New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

**CORPORATE OFFICE:**  
AHMADU BELLO WAY  
KADUNA

Advert e-mail: joenibro@gmail.com || joe\_ibro@yahoo.com  
FOR ADVERT BOOKING AND PLACEMENT:  
Kaduna: 08033118023, 08028784378  
Lagos: 08033257282, 08117876009

## 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

# As The World Watches The Genocide In Palestine

By **Jibrin Ibrahim**

ON OCTOBER 24, a statement by United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, caused a sharp reaction by Israel. He had condemned in the strongest terms the massacre committed by Hamas on October 7, but also reminded the world that it did not take place in a vacuum. He explained that one cannot dissociate 56 years of occupation from our engagement with the tragedy that unfolded on that day. Israeli officials demanded Guterres's resignation, claiming that he supported Hamas and justified the massacre it carried out.

The key issue today is the interrogation by the world on why this ethnic cleansing was noted but not condemned by those who claim to occupy the moral high ground. As the world recalls the expulsion of 300,000 Palestinians during and in the aftermath of the 1967 war, and the expulsion of more than 600,000 from the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip ever since, it has become clear that understanding is deepening. Would the world allow the remaining 2.3 million Palestinians to be killed and expelled from their land? Since the election of the present fundamentalist messianic Israeli government in November 2022, the attacks on Palestinians have escalated with no words of caution to the perpetrators.

The Israeli media also jumped on the bandwagon, asserting among other things that the UN chief had demonstrated a stunning degree of "moral bankruptcy". The Israeli position has been that the definition of anti-Semitism be expanded to include criticism of the Israeli state and questioning the moral basis of Zionism.

From October 7th, the West – the United States, United Kingdom, France and some other countries in the European Union – came out strongly to try to force the world to talk only about October 7 and to stop talking about what had been happening before and after that date. For weeks, their media organs spoke only of the barbarism of October 7, the killing of 1400 people and the abduction of 240 hostages. Citizens of the United States, United Kingdom and France were told that they could not march to express their displeasure at the killing of over 4,000 Palestinian children and their mothers. The Western media whose reputation has been built on protection of "universal" human rights refused to criticise the bombing of hospitals, schools and United Nations shelters. A few bold ones

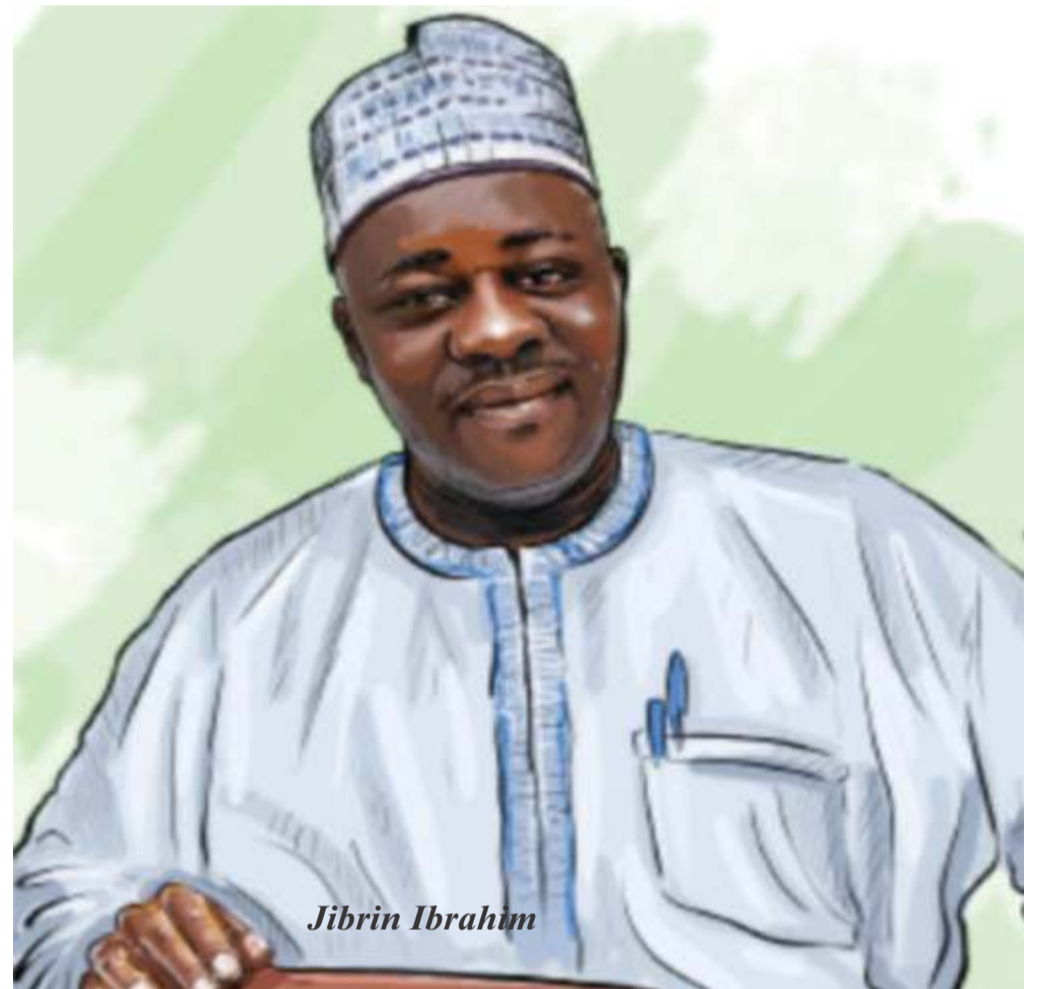
that did it were summarily sacked from their jobs. Rights that were supposed to have been entrenched in the constitution disappeared completely.

The countries also boldly and openly refused to allow significant entry of humanitarian support to those in dire need. Diplomats with long track records of warning the world on the imperative of strict compliance with international humanitarian law brazenly changed their language and started arguing that nothing can be done about "collateral" damage in situations of war. They then extended the argument by refusing to support a ceasefire to allow for help to reach over two million Palestinians in desperate need. In essence, they have come out to clearly support Israel's use of October 7th as a pretext to pursue ethnic cleansing and genocidal policies in the Gaza Strip. The world has been watching and understanding clearly what is going on.

The world is also being reminded that the process of ethnic cleansing of Palestine had been on-going since 1948 including the forceful expulsion of Palestinians into the Gaza Strip from villages on whose ruins some of the Israeli settlements attacked on October 7 were built. These uprooted Palestinians were part of the 750,000 Palestinians who lost their homes and became refugees.

The key issue today is the interrogation by the world on why this ethnic cleansing was noted but not condemned by those who claim to occupy the moral high ground. As the world recalls the expulsion of 300,000 Palestinians during and in the aftermath of the 1967 war, and the expulsion of more than 600,000 from the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip ever since, it has become clear that understanding is deepening. Would the world allow the remaining 2.3 million Palestinians to be killed and expelled from their land? Since the election of the present fundamentalist messianic Israeli government in November 2022, the attacks on Palestinians have escalated with no words of caution to the perpetrators.

The West by its actions has seriously undermined its credibility as an interlocutor in international conflicts. Its absolute commitment to escalating conflicts has been sobering. Increasingly, its sabres rattling of taking the war to Iran and China, having done so on Russia through Ukraine is awakening the world to the dangers they pose to humanity. Its refusal to accept that its centuries of hegemony over the world is



*Jibrin Ibrahim*

finally coming to an end is astounding. The G7 was initially set up half a century ago to discuss global economic problems, but its scope has since broadened to represent the collective voice of major industrialised countries on political and security issues. When it came out to oppose Russia, thinking it could cripple the country, it was biting more than it could chew. By thinking it can now add China, it is telling the world that it has lost touch with reality.

I condemn the killings and abductions of Israelis that occurred on October 7 but is that an excuse to massacre over 10,000 Palestinians in revenge killings and collective punishment in which almost half the victims are children. The world needs to learn to tell Israel and their supporters that the Palestinians will not disappear and will continue their struggle for liberation from settler colonialism and apartheid. Israel is currently reducing Gaza into rubble and hoping to send the entire population out of the territory. That cannot happen as there are other forces in the world today.

The unfolding crisis in Israel is a formal announcement that the world now knows there is no rules-based international order because the rules do not apply to Israel and the United States. There are also no values underlining international humanitarian law because the values that were evoked over Ukraine were revoked

for the Palestinians, when the world asked questions why, the West will not even criticise the killing of children in Gaza or bombing babies in hospitals.

The West by its actions has seriously undermined its credibility as an interlocutor in international conflicts. Its absolute commitment to escalating conflicts has been sobering. Increasingly, its sabres rattling of taking the war to Iran and China, having done so on Russia through Ukraine is awakening the world to the dangers they pose to humanity. Its refusal to accept that its centuries of hegemony over the world is finally coming to an end is astounding. The G7 was initially set up half a century ago to discuss global economic problems, but its scope has since broadened to represent the collective voice of major industrialised countries on political and security issues. When it came out to oppose Russia, thinking it could cripple the country, it was biting more than it could chew. By thinking it can now add China, it is telling the world that it has lost touch with reality.

Ibrahim is a professor of Political Science and development consultant/expert, and Senior Fellow of the Centre for Democracy and Development. He is also the Chair of the Editorial Board of Abuja-based online newspaper, PREMIUMTIMES.

# No Hope For Democracy

By Owei Lakemfa

**T**HE PRESIDENT of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Joe Ajaero, was on Wednesday, November 1, battered in Owerri, Imo State by armed hoodlums, some in security uniform. He was about addressing a rally of unarmed workers when the group was set upon by the assailants who came in several vehicles. Some of the labour leaders and workers sustained various degrees of injury and the attackers also dispossessed their victims of various sums of money, phones and other personal belongings.

Uzodinma is not a member of a trade union, but as the Chief Security Officer of the state, he decided to intervene in the internal affairs of an independent labour centre whose legitimacy and independence derives from Section 40 of the Nigerian Constitution which he swore as governor to uphold! What law or constitutional provision gives the governor of a state powers to intervene in the internal governance of a trade union or labour centre?

Apart from Ajaero being the President of NLC, the largest labour organisation on the continent, as a human being, the severity of the attack on him deserves empathy; no human ought to be subjected to such an attack in which he could easily have lost his life.

While there are disputes about the identity of the attackers which the state government claimed are aggrieved workers but the NLC says are thugs of the government aided by the police, the above facts on the actual attack, are indisputable. What any human being ought to feel or express, is empathy with the victims of the attack. Tragically, what came from the Imo State Government under whose jurisdiction the crime was committed, was a display of glee.

Hope Uzodinma, the state governor who should be concerned that such daylight savagery took place in a state he claims to be the chief security officer, showed neither sympathy nor concern. Rather, at the Aso Rock Presidential Villa where he had gone to receive a flag from President Bola Tinubu as the gubernatorial candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress, he sought to rationalise, if not justify, the attack.

He said: "What has happened in this ugly coincidence is that the National President of the Nigeria Labour Congress is from Imo State and has not been able to demarcate the difference between being a national leader of an organisation and an interested party in local politics."

Assuming, without conceding that Uzodinma's claim is correct, what is criminal in the national leader of an organisation being interested in local politics, especially when he is an indigene of the state? If truly Ajaero is interested in the local politics of the state, is the penalty death sentence by jungle justice as the attackers tried to do? Uzodinma went on: "I understand the sensitivity of this event (strike). But I want you people to be careful because there is an attempt to mix up partisan politics or an attempt to blackmail my government." If indeed, there is "an attempt to mix up partisan politics" with the denial of workers' rights in the state, what is the crime in it? Who says at the approach of elections, workers' rights must be buried and resuscitated only after elections?

If the claims of the governor is that he is not owing salaries and had surpassed workers expectations, why is he jittery that workers issues are being amplified? If he were telling the truth, he should be happy as this should fetch him more votes. If, as he claims, there is an attempt to blackmail what he calls "my government", what he needed to do was not to take the law into his hands or justify lawlessness, but to report this to the appropriate security agency for investigation.

It is tragic that Uzodinma was allowed to use hallowed halls of the country's Presidential Villa to spew such nonsense. His clear acts in Imo State endangers democracy in the country. If he were to belong to the opposition, he might have been accused of attempting to bring down the federal government. But since he belongs to the ruling APC, his principals must have an agenda to deny the country democracy. So, who exactly is Uzodinma; what is his agenda and who is he working for? Certainly not the Nigerian people.

Uzodinma then proceeded to make a most ridiculous assertion: that the NLC State Council disagreed with the national body and: "In the process, they decided to dissolve them to put in a caretaker. Of course, I'm the Chief Security Officer and I have a responsibility to intervene. I encourage the national leadership not to dissolve a management team that their tenure has not expired, and that was what



they did."

Wow! Uzodinma is not a member of a trade union, but as the Chief Security Officer of the state, he decided to intervene in the internal affairs of an independent labour centre whose legitimacy and independence derives from Section 40 of the Nigerian Constitution which he swore as governor to uphold! What law or constitutional provision gives the governor of a state powers to intervene in the internal governance of a trade union or labour centre?

If you carefully reflect on Uzodinma's claim of an alleged split in the labour leadership, you will realise that it is an unimaginative and poorly scripted attempt to claim that the vicious attack was an internal one by local Imo State workers against their national leaders.

It is tragic that Uzodinma was allowed to use hallowed halls of the country's Presidential Villa to spew such nonsense. His clear acts in Imo State endangers democracy in the country. If he were to belong to the opposition, he might have been accused of attempting to bring down the federal government. But since he belongs to the ruling APC, his principals must have an agenda to deny the country democracy. So, who exactly is Uzodinma; what is his agenda and who is he working for? Certainly not the Nigerian people.

The Imo State Police Command under Commissioner Mohammed Ahmed Barde also claimed that the attack was a result of "scuffles and heated arguments" during the strike planning meeting. This of course is false; there could have been no disagreements at a meeting that had not commenced.

Elections in the state are due for this

weekend, November 11. Ordinarily, Uzodinma would have been punished at the polls, but unfortunately, the votes may not count. They did not count four years ago, when Uzodinma came fourth. I am certain they will not count now. Tragically, while our entire democratic structure is endangered by people like Uzodinma, the rest of us seem to be mere onlookers.

A main part of the unfolding tragedy is the misuse of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF). It is a major instrument in the hands of anti-democratic elements like Uzodinma.

In the savagery we witnessed against the labour leaders, the NLC accused the police of being the instrument of perpetration.

The police however claimed it intervened just "to ensure the protection of his (Ajaero's) life that he was not lynched in the scuffle that followed". Is it not interesting that the labour leaders could not distinguish between their attackers and the police and would accuse the latter of the unlawful arrest of their leader?

The Imo State Police Command under Commissioner Mohammed Ahmed Barde also claimed that the attack was a result of "scuffles and heated arguments" during the strike planning meeting. This of course is false; there could have been no disagreements at a meeting that had not commenced.

The police also said there is a court order barring the proposed NLC strike. This to me is trying to justify the attack. It is not in the place of thugs or the police to physically attack persons suspected of an intention to disobey a court order.

If we were to continue in the path of executive lawlessness as displayed in Imo State, there will be no hope for democracy in Nigeria.

# Gusau Implores Falconets To Grab Colombia 2024 Opportunity To Enhance Career



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

President of Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau, yesterday, charged the country's U-20 girls, Falconets to go all out and win their FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup second round, first leg tie against Tanzania on Sunday in order to start paving their way to greatness in their chosen career.

Speaking when he visited the girls at the FIFA Goal Project inside the MKO Abiola National Stadium, Abuja, in what was their last training session before their trip

to Dar es Salaam, Gusau said the players must comport themselves appropriately on and off the pitch as they are ambassadors of Nigeria.

"Your first port of call is Tanzania, but your destination is Colombia, where the World Cup will take place next year. You must have it in mind that this is only the beginning of the journey. I have no doubt that you will conquer Tanzania and go ahead to qualify for the World Cup finals.

"Our country has never failed to qualify for the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup since the competition started more than 20

years ago, and I am sure you girls will not want to be the first set to be associated with failure. Therefore, you must put in extra effort, listen to your coaches and play to instructions."

Gusau told the players that the character they display off the field of play at all times is as important as the talent and skill that they advertise on it.

"As ambassadors of our great nation, you have a responsibility to be of the very best conduct on and off the field. You must fly the flag brilliantly and conscientiously, and emerge victorious. After the

Tanzanian hurdle, there are still more hurdles for you to overcome before earning the ticket to Colombia. So, it is a long journey with a lot of hard work and determination, but it is worth it to put your career on track and head towards greatness in your chosen field."

The Falconets' contingent will depart Nigeria today aboard an Ethiopian Airways flight to Addis Ababa and onwards to Dar es Salaam, where they clash with the Tanzanian U20 girls on Sunday. Both teams will again trade tackles at the MKO Abiola Stadium, Abuja on Sunday, 19th November 2023.



**Gusau Implores Falconets  
To Grab Colombia 2024  
Opportunity To Enhance Career**

Story on Page 22

## Centre Sensitizes Traditional, Religious Leaders On Proliferation Of Small Arms In Kaduna

### \*Poor governance aiding arms proliferation - Stakeholders

By: USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna  
National Centre for the  
Control of Small Arms  
and Light Weapons

(NCCSALW), North-West  
Zone, has sensitized traditional  
rulers and religious leaders on  
the effects of the proliferation of

small arms and light weapons on  
the society.

This is just as the stakeholders at  
the sensitisation meeting on

Wednesday at  
Kafanchan in Kaduna  
State, opined that poor  
governance is  
responsible for the  
proliferation of small  
arms and light weapons  
in the society.

In their separate remarks  
during the sensitization  
programme, they urged  
the government to live  
up to the need of the  
citizens in the area of  
health, education, road  
infrastructure, and  
provision of job  
opportunity for the  
teeming youth, among  
others.

These, according to  
them, will eradicate the

proliferation of small arms and  
light weapons in the society.

Speaking at the sensitization  
programme, the zonal  
coordinator, AVM Haruna Umar  
Mohammed, averred that the  
centre is mandated to checkmate  
proliferation of small arms and  
light weapons in the country.

According to the zonal  
coordinator, over 5,000 small  
arms and light weapons were  
collected, and 20,000  
ammunition of different calibre  
were handed over to the centre in  
the last few years.

AVM Mohammed however,  
explained that the centre was  
able to recover some of the  
ammunition through surrender,  
adding that sensitization exercise  
is also a major factor that has  
aided the recovering of the  
weapons.

While speaking, he said, "In the  
whole of these, security

agencies, traditional rulers,  
religious leaders, amongst other  
stakeholders, contributed to the  
success recorded. The credit is  
not only to the security agencies,  
but even the Civil Society  
Organisations (CSOs) also  
contributed to the achievement.

"As we speak now, the centre is  
heading towards being a  
commission, it has passed the  
first and second reading, and we  
are just waiting for the  
presidential assent.

"So, the centre is soliciting for  
your support in this struggle to  
rid our society of illicit weapons  
for the good of all."

Meanwhile, one of the  
participants, Joel Adegboyega  
urged that government must  
ensure that the chain of supply of  
the small arms and light weapons  
is totally blocked, using its  
security architecture.



## Uphold Guiding Principles Of Rescue Mission, Zamfara Governor Charges Newly Sworn-in Sole Administrators

By: IMRANA ABDULLAHI,  
Kaduna

Governor Dauda Lawal  
has charged the newly  
sworn-in sole  
administrators to uphold the  
guiding principles of his Rescue  
Mission.

The newly appointed 14 local  
government sole administrators  
were sworn-in in a colourful  
ceremony at the Nadama Hall, J.  
B Yakubu Secretariat in Gusau.

A statement by the Governor's  
Spokesperson, Sulaiman Bala  
Idris, said the sole administrators  
were tasked to work very hard to  
justify the enormous confidence  
reposed on them.

He added that the sole  
administrators were reminded of  
the administration's mission to  
ensure full implementation of  
policies and programmes that  
will assist in the positive  
transformation of people's well-  
being, particularly on security  
and infrastructure development

issues.

The statement read in parts:  
"Governor Lawal, while  
addressing the newly sworn-in  
sole administrators, said that the  
guiding principles in appointing  
them are competence,  
dedication, and experience.  
These qualities are the  
foundation upon which they  
were entrusted with the  
responsibility to oversee the  
affairs of the Local Government  
Councils pending the completion  
of all necessary preparations for  
the Local Government elections  
by the State Independent  
Electoral Commission.

"The sole administrators were  
carefully selected to run the  
affairs of Local Governments in  
recognition of their honesty,  
integrity, valuable contributions  
to their respective communities,  
and support to rescuing Zamfara  
from the morass of ineptitude  
and impunity.

