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Expect Equal Treatment In APC, Kaduna Commissioner, Mamman Lagos Assures PDP Defectors

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Governor Inuwa Yahaya Conferred With Award Of Executive Fellow By CIPDM

Voters Abandon Polling Units Over Alleged Overnight Voting In Kogi

*SDP calls for cancellation of results

*APC's Uzodinma wins Imo, INEC official missing in Bayelsa

*PDP's Diri leads in Bayelsa

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON & ADAMA
JOHN, Lokoja

The off season elections in three states in Nigeria, Kogi, Bayelsa and Imo has witnessed much drama, with prospective voters in Ogori-Magongo Local Government Area of Kogi State abandoned polling units on Saturday over alleged pre voting by some unknown persons that took place the previous night.

Ogori-Magongo is one of the local government areas that constitute the Central Senatorial District of the state with 67 polling units.

Apparently confirming the fears that election malpractices took place by unscrupulous persons, our correspondent learnt that it was by whiskers that a man suspected to be the mastermind of the nocturnal voting survived the wrath of anxious voters on Saturday.

It took the intervention of security personnel in conjunction with local vigilantes that the middle aged man who was arrested with already filled INEC result sheets and #1m cash in Ogori-Magongo Leas of state would have been lynched by the angry voters.

Reports said no INEC officials reported to the polling units with election materials in any of the polling units in the council area until much later after the official hour on Saturday.

A resident who spoke to Journalists said the election did not hold in Ogori-Magongo because voting had already taken place over the night on Friday till the early hours of Saturday which was the official election day.

The source said that a man was seen dropping filled INEC Election Result Sheets from one polling unit to another in the area which attracted vigilant residents who arrested him with some filled election result sheets and One Million Cash in his kitty.

However, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has reacted to reports of pre-recorded result sheets in

some local government areas in the central senatorial district of the state.

Taking to its verified X handle (former Twitter), the electoral umpire said it viewed the situation with all seriousness.

"Our attention has been drawn to a report that filled result sheets were discovered in some polling units in Kogi State".

"Our senior officials deployed to the State are currently investigating the incident(s). The Commission will communicate its decision earnestly," INEC, said.

*SDP calls for cancellation of results in Kogi

Kogi State chapter of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) has called for the cancellation of the governorship election of November 11 in the state.

The request for the cancellation came as the candidate of All Progressives Congress (APC), Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo is leading the announced results by wide margin and trailed by Muritala Ajaka of SDP.

The party made the call at the Collation Centre, where the party's collation agent, David Edibu, submitted a petition to INEC, calling for cancellation of results in Okene, Okehi, Ogori/Magongo, Adavi, and Ajaokuta Local Government Areas of the state as well as some parts of Lokoja LGA, alleging corrupt practices, vote buying and over-voting.

He added that agents of SDP were not allowed to get close to the polling units in the five local government areas.

The state's returning officer, Prof. Johnson Urame, received the petition on behalf of the commission and assured the SDP that the petition would be reviewed.

On its part, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) has also said that it aligns with the petition of the SDP.

The collation agent of PDP, Abubakar Mahmood added that the incidence of malpractices in the said local government areas was alarming.

Meanwhile, the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC)



while reacting to the call for cancellation of the elections in parts of the state, said that the PDP cannot blame anyone for not deploying agents to the polling units.

*Our officials held hostage in Bayelsa, says INEC

Meanwhile, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), yesterday, said some of its officials on election duty were held hostage in the Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

The commission said that it is closely watching the situation in Brass LGA of Bayelsa State where its officials are held hostage.

The commission expressed this in a statement on its official X handle.

The electoral umpire while condemning the action, described it as "detrimental to credible elections" and called on security agencies including the police to swing to action and rescue the electoral officers.

"We call on the security agencies to immediately facilitate their release," the commission said.

In a dramatic twist on Saturday, Bayelsa State Governor, Duoye Diri, accused the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Timipre Sylva, of being behind electoral violence recorded in the Nembe-Bassambiri area of the state.

The incumbent governor, Mr Duoye Diri of the Peoples Democratic Party is slugging it out with a former Minister of

State For Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva.

Sylva, the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate in the poll, served as Bayelsa governor from May 2007 to April 2008 and later between May 2008 and January 2012

In Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA, out of 65,364 Number of Registered voters, 24171 were accredited, APC got 5,349 votes, LP, 22, while PDP got 18,465.

Ogbia LGA LGA, of former President Goodluck Jonathan saw APC get 16,319, LP, 57 and PDP 18,435 out of 119, 571 registered voters, with 36, 955 accredited.

The state capital, Yenegoa LGA, with 218,394 registered voters, saw 54,380 accredited, with APC getting 14, 534, LP, 244 and PDP, 37,777.

*APC's Uzodinma declared winner in Imo

Meanwhile, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) yesterday, declared Hope Uzodinma of the All Progressives Congress (APC) winner in the Imo State governorship election.

According to INEC, Uzodinma won in all 27 local government areas (LGAs) of Imo State.

The collation of results at the State Collation Centre in Owerri, the state capital, commenced at 02:30am yesterday and saw Abayomi Fashina, Vice Chancellor of the Federal University, Oye Ekiti, serving as the state Returning Officer for

the election, announce the result. It would be recalled that INEC has held the first off-cycle polls since the 2023 general elections with Bayelsa, Imo, and Kogi State residents deciding on who governs them.

A total of 46,084 regular and ad hoc staff were deployed in the three states, according to the electoral body.

At least 126 national and international organisations were accredited with 11,000 observers deployed for the elections, while 80 media organisations applied to deploy 1,203 personnel, including journalists and technical/support staff.

All 18 political parties contested in Kogi, while Imo and Bayelsa have 17 and 16 candidates, respectively. The parties deployed 137,934 agents made up of 130,093 polling and 7,841 collation agents for the election.

To ensure a secure environment for electoral conduct, the police mobilised a total of 92,565 personnel, including 27,000 in Bayelsa, 25,565 in Imo, and 40,000 in Kogi, and several assets such as five helicopters and 15 gunboats.

The Federal Road Safety Corps also deployed 1,500 operatives and 105 vehicles.

According to the INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, the elections would be held in 10,470 polling units across 649 electoral wards in 56 local government areas.

Edo South Leaders Meet, Harp On Unity

By: RAPH AEL OKHIRIA, Benin City

In a bid to foster unity and strategies for the sustainable development of Edo South Senatorial District, prominent leaders, and other stakeholders in the senatorial district converged on Benin City, the Edo State capital, to chart a course for the region's advancement.

Presenting the eight-point communiqué reached at the end of the meeting to journalists in Benin City, former Governor of Edo State, Chief John Odigie-Oyegun said the parley became necessary to set an agenda for the unity and sustainable growth and development of the senatorial district.

The communiqué reads: "The meeting was convened at the instance of a core group led by His Excellency, John Odigie-Oyegun (past Governor,

Edo State), with His Excellency Godwin Obaseki (Governor, Edo State) and His Excellency, Lucky Igbinedion (past Governor, Edo State) as co-hosts.

"In attendance was an impressive cross-section of Edo-South sons and daughters from the public and private sectors, different professional and social backgrounds, and cutting across political divides.

"There was a consensus on the underlying objective to meaningfully interrogate, articulate, redefine, and refocus the collective interests of all the people who constitute the population of the Edo-South Senatorial District within the context of Nigeria's prevailing political and economic realities.

"After exhaustive discussion of different

perspectives to the stated objective, a number of resolutions were arrived at."

It further noted, "It was resolved that a broad-based elite consensus be engendered to enable us strategically leverage on the competitive advantage of our demographic strength, and the unique creative and productive potentials of our people in order to reverse the progressively diminished relevance and influence of our people in all spheres - national and sub-national.

"It was further resolved that, in pursuit of our stated goals of seeking to effectively reposition the Edo-South Senatorial district for the critical challenges that lie ahead of our State and the nation, we must rise above political partisanship in all its ramifications. Our singular focus must be the interest of Edo-South.

"Also resolved was the decision to engage, and where feasible, cooperate with other similar groups within and outside Edo State to the extent that such engagement results in the promotion of our stated objective.

It added, "As the platform for the aggregation of the interests of the Edo South Senatorial District, the meeting will be held on a regular basis."

Other leaders at the meeting include former Health Minister Dr. Osagie Ehanire, Prof. Dennis Agbonlahor, DIG Parry Osayande (Rtd), HRH Enogie of Evbuobanosa, Prof. Greg Akenzua, Dr. Tonnie Iredia, Engr. Greg Obeifun, former Speaker of Edo State House of Assembly, Elizabeth Ativie, Sen. Neda Imasuen, Market Women Leader, Blacky Ogiamen, and Dr. Victor Enoghama,

Docile Citizenry Breeding Bad Governance In Nigeria - Don

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

A renowned Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Prof. Akpan Hogan Ekpo has identified docile citizenry as a factor that has given room for bad governance in Nigeria. Prof. Ekpo who said that the situation remains a problem for ensuring good governance, challenged citizens to demand their rights both political and economic from governments.

He spoke as a Guest Speaker on the 1st Annual Civil Society Conference in Akwa Ibom State, with the theme, "The Civil Society and Good Governance in a Democracy" organized by the Center for Human Rights & Accountability Network (CHRAN) over the weekend.

Ekpo, who is the Chairman, Foundation for Economic Research and Training, and former Vice Chancellor, University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, decried the rate of inflation, economic downturns, corruption, infringement of human rights, abuse of rule of law and other socio-economic crises bedeviling Nigeria.

Represented by Prof. Ntiedo Umoren, Prof. Ekpo urged the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to wake up to their duties of advocating for the poor masses and engaging government to provide the basic needs of life to at least 80-85 percent of citizens.

He also harped on good followership, saying that, the CSOs and the followers must synergize, monitor and ensure good governance to avoid uncommon misery under the democracy.

His words, "Citizens must be awake of their responsibility to demand their rights from government - these rights are both economic and political. There is a level of poverty that frustrates citizens and inhibit them from asking for good governance. They become helpless."

On their part, "The CSOs must always be the peoples watch-dog thus ensuring that government performs its responsibilities to the citizens. This include the right to food, clothing, health, education, and shelter. You can never have good governance when people are poor and hungry. A visionary and

transformative leader must give the people hope in a democracy. It is expected that the present leadership in Nigeria with its renewed hope agenda would ensure good governance".

Speaking earlier, Director, CHRAN, Akwa Ibom State, Mr. Franklyn Isong in his welcome address explained that the conference was aimed at bringing all members of CSOs, human rights groups, CBOs, NGOs and other professional bodies from the South South together for self appraisal and plan on how to effectively discharge their core mandate as the watchdogs of democracy rooted in the Constitution.

"We are here to renew our avowed commitment to continue to press forward with profound advocacy that will enhance the living condition of the voiceless, the oppressed and the deprived masses of the Nigerian State in spite of the many challenges that encumbered our advocates.

"The Center intends that this Conference shall amongst other things, serves as a yearly training platform for the participants, particularly members of the civil society groups and the human rights community who are always in the Frontline of our struggle to ensure good governance, rule of law and accountability in government at all levels.

Describing the conference as apt to set agenda for new governments in the country, the CHRAN Director said, "It is coming at the time when the new administrations in the Country are yet to fully commence the process of implementing their blueprints for the benefits of the citizenry."

He called on the Akwa Ibom state governor, Pastor Umo Eno to streamline the projects and programmes into few that can easily be achieved within the tenure of his administration given the availability of funds, starting with projects that are identified as the low hanging fruits.

New Nigerian observed that CHRAN in a way to spur up citizens' patriotism to service, conferred Excellence Awards on some deserving individuals, public and private entities in Akwa Ibom for their contribution to the development of the state and humanity



L-R: Obaseki and Oshiomhole

SGF, Sultan, Security Chiefs Condole Ambassador At Large To African Region, IHRC Dr Ma'aji Over Loss Of Wife

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna
Expressing their grief, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume and the daughter of the President, Iyaloja Folasade Tinubu-Ojo have extended condolences to the Ambassador at Large to the African Region, International Human Right Commission (IHRC), Dr. Malami Shehu Ma'aji who lost his wife, Hajiya Khadijah Malami Shehu during

child delivery.

The SGF, Senator George Akume and his entourage were at the Ambassador's house in Abuja to officially condole him over the death of his wife.

Among the dignitaries who paid condolence visits, sent messages were Minister of Water Resources, Barrister Bello Gwaranyo, Chief of Defence Staff, DG SSS, Brig Gen. Buba Marwa (Rtd), Chairman NDLEA; Permanent Secretary Ministry of Police Affairs, Dr.

Nasiru Sani Gwarzo; former EFCC Chairman, Ibrahim Magu; and former Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu.

Others are Major Hamza Almustapha (rtd), Senator Abu Ibrahim, Buba Galadima, and Professor Yahaya Kuta.

Other dignitaries are traditional leaders, Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar, the Etsu Nupe, Emir of Kagara and Emir of Borgu among many others.

Ambassador Malami Shehu used

the opportunity to express his kind appreciation to the dignitaries who were there physically or sent messages despite their tight schedules.

"I want to use this medium to appreciate you all, particularly the SGF, daughter of the President, Sultan of Sokoto, Ministers, Senators, Head of Security agencies, traditional leaders and politicians for being with me and my family at this critical time", he said.

Meanwhile, the Ambassador at

Large to the African Region, International Human Right Commission, Amb/Dr. Malami Shehu Ma'aji MFR continues to receive condolences and visits from groups and individuals at his residence at Usman Danfodio Crescent, Aso Rock Villa, Abuja. Hajiya Khadijah Malami Shehu died on Friday October 27, 2023, shortly after giving birth to twins, and her burial took place at Unguwar Sarki Burial Ground in Kaduna, in accordance with Islamic rites.



Ambassador African Region of IHRC Dr. Malami Shehu received on Condolences Visit SGF Senator George Akume



Ambassador African Region of IHRC Dr. Malami Shehu received on Condolences Visit SGF Senator George Akume



Ambassador African Region of IHRC Dr. Malami Shehu received on Condolences Visit Major Hamza



Etsu of NUPE Representing the Sultan of Sokoto, and the Emirs of Kagara, Borgu and Kershi during the condolence to Amb. Malami Shehu in Abuja



Dr. Sani Gwarzo Permanent Secretary Fed. Ministry of Police Affairs And S.A.N - Muhammed Ndirani.

Yobe Association Of School Headmasters, Principals Endorses Gov Buni's Reforms

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Association of Primary School Headmasters and Principals of Junior Secondary School in Yobe State, have unanimously endorsed Governor Mai Mala Buni's reform agenda on education in the state.

This was disclosed during an interactive session on Friday,

that lasted for over two hours between the acting Education Secretary, Nguru Local Government Education Authority of Yobe State, Mallam Hamisu Ado Nguru, the Association of Headmasters and Principals of the Government Junior Day Secondary Schools in Nguru.

Presiding over the meeting, the ES informed the gathering that the state government has

already approved promotion and benefits of all teachers across the state towards motivating them and improving the working conditions as well as welfare of the entire teachers across the state.

According to him, presently, government has set machinery to improve on the level education facilities and amenities among others, by putting in place all the necessary

mechanism needed to address observed lapses in the education sector.

He also urged all the school administrators to remain focused and contribute positively towards revitalizing the education sector of the state and actualizing the dream of the governor.

Responding, both chairmen of the two groups, Abubakar Badamasi and Mallam Waziri

Abba prayed for the success of Governor Buni's administration and his determination to take Yobe State to the promised land.

They all assured the ES that their teachers are dedicated staff and highly committed to their work towards improving the learning standard of their students through quality and standard teaching.



Political Relevance: Sadiq Mamman Lagos Fuels PDP To APC Shift In Kaduna - KCF

By; EMMANUEL
AGBO, Kaduna

Kaduna Citizens Forum (KCF) has said that the political sagacity of the Commissioner Local Government, Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos is responsible for Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) members decamping to All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kaduna State.

The forum in a statement issued to newsmen in Kaduna on Saturday by its spokesperson, Abraham Adeyemi, said Mamman's political prowess has resulted to many prominent PDP faithful leaving the party for the ruling party in Kaduna.

Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos is the Honourable Commissioner of Local Government Affairs, nominated by Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani, and confirmed by the State Assembly, a steward that the citizens' forum describes as a heavy political weight, who is determined to see the APC government succeed in the state.

They further asserted that under Sadiq's leadership, a surge of political energy has been witnessed, particularly within the PDP camp, adding that through his impressive strategic intelligence, he has managed to sway several prominent PDP figures and generate enthusiasm for Uba Sani and the APC.

"In recent political developments, the Commissioner of Local Government Affairs, Hon Sadiq Mamman Lagos, has emerged as a key figure in shifting the allegiance of prominent People's Democratic Party (PDP) members to the All Progressives Congress (APC).

"With his insightful strategic intelligence, Mamman has successfully mobilized support for the APC and, more specifically, for Governor Uba Sani, whom he is determined to see succeed. "This article will delve into the rise of Commissioner Sadiq Mamman and his

influential role in building alliances and rallying politicians around Uba Sani.

"Commissioner Sadiq Mamman brings with him a wealth of political experience, having previously served as the executive Chairman of Kaduna North and as an adviser to the governor. Being an old hand in political circles, Mamman has earned a reputation as a loyal and trusted right-hand man to Uba Sani. This association has further strengthened his influence, enabling him to form strategic alliances and garner support for the governor.

"Under Commissioner Sadiq Mamman's leadership, a surge of political energy has been witnessed, particularly within the PDP camp. Through his impressive strategic intelligence, he has managed to sway several prominent PDP figures and generate enthusiasm for Uba Sani and the APC. Mamman's compelling vision for the future, coupled with his persuasive skills, has paved the way for politicians who were once aligned with the PDP to develop a newfound admiration and support for Uba Sani.

"Mamman's commitment to Governor Uba Sani's success is unwavering. His ability to foster strong alliances and attract influential politicians has significantly boosted Uba Sani's chances of winning key political battles. Mamman's network and adept political maneuvering have enabled him to bring together diverse interests and consolidate support, making Uba Sani a formidable contender.

"Commissioner Sadiq Mamman Lagos has emerged as a potent force in the political landscape, harnessing strategic intelligence to facilitate a major shift of support from the PDP to the APC. Through his efforts, he has rallied politicians around Governor Uba Sani, building a formidable alliance of support.

Election Violence In Kogi, A Creation Of Media - Yahaya Bello

By; ADAMA JOHN,
Lokoja

Governor Yahaya Bello Of Kogi State has alluded the much noised electoral violence during elections in the state, while his administration held sway as media creation and figment of the imagination of those not on ground in the state.

The governor made the remarks on Saturday in Okene soon after he cast his vote alongside his wives and family members.

According to the governor,

"we have all come out in numbers to cast our votes with my family members and others are casting their votes."

Commending the conduct of the election by the National Independent Electoral Commission (INEC), the governor said that there have been no complaints from any quarters as the conduct of the election by INEC so far has been so fantastic, coupled with the fantastic efforts of security agencies put in place.

He observed that voters were exercising their

franchise freely without rancour, adding that the people of the state are united and are happy over the exercise.

According to Yahaya Bello, "by the special grace of God, we are going to come off very triumphant in this particular exercise".

Comparing his eight years of governance in the confluence state with previous administrations, "You will discover that the regime of Governor Yahaya Bello conduct of elections have been the freest, the most free, fair

and credible and violent free elections".

The governor noted that the conduct of free, fair and credible election is in the hands of both security agencies and the electoral umpire, while the citizens have the onerous task of conducting themselves very orderly and cordially. He assured Nigerians that he will bequeath this legacy to the next administration championed by Alhaji Usman Ahmed Ododo who will take over from him and build on what he has left behind.



Governor Yahaya Bello at the function

Bandits Allegedly Tax Farmers Before Harvest In Kaduna community

By; AMOS TAUNA,
Kaduna

Bandits terrorising Kaduna communities are forcing villagers to pay levies before being allowed to harvest crops from their farms in the state.

The affected farmers from Kidandan and Galadima villages were allegedly

being forced, while those from Angular Fala'u and Kerawa villages were constantly harassed and kidnapped while working on their farms by bandits.

A source from Kidandan village, explained that their people, mostly farmers, pay from N70,000 to N100,000 before they can harvest their farm produce.

He explained that those who refuse to pay are either kidnapped, killed or have their farm produce seized by the bandits.

He listed the names of the bandit warlords terrorising residents in the area to include Buhari, his deputy, Gana'i, while the third in command is called Kwalameri.

He warned, "There could

be a shortage of food crops in the state if care is not taken, because many farmers have abandoned their farms due to banditry in the area."

The Kaduna State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Mansir Hassan could not be reached by phone to comment on the development.

Ebonyi Govt Embarks on Beautification Of Capital City

*Approves Close to 100 Building Plans and Bus stops

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Ebonyi State Government has embarked on beautification of Abakaliki, the state capital with various aesthetic designs and plans which will revamp socioeconomic activities across the state.

The Commissioner for Capital City Development and Urban planning, Hon. Inyima Elechi Sunday disclosed this while addressing journalists in Abakaliki, stating

that the core duty of the Ministry of Capital City is to ensure that everything about physical control in the capital city falls in line with the regulations and laws guiding building development, which they have been doing since they came on board.

According to him, close to 100 building plans have received approval as well as the approval for the construction of bus stops, traffic bus shelters and traffic lights in all the strategic places in Abakaliki.

He also urged intending landlords to always adhere strictly to the building plans approved by the ministry as failure to do so will not be tolerated.



The commissioner further noted that since the past administration has transformed the city by bringing up the roads and lights; they are going to upgrade the aesthetic nature of the city to make life good and meaningful for people, adding that their goal is to make Abakaliki become a smart city, where every facility and sectors of government is working effectively.

"The core duty is to ensure that everything about physical control in the capital city falls in line with the regulations and any law guiding building development, and that we have been doing since we came on board. A lot of building plans have been

brought here, up to 140 and are in process now. The ones we have approved are between 89 to 100. So many fencing permits which were brought before us shall receive approval after inspection.

"I want people to abide by the drawings they gave to us and if they fail to abide, you will see our tax force coming to ensure that the laid down procedures are followed.

"However, for the fact that we want to enlarge our scope in the area of beautification of the city, we have submitted proposal to the governor, some of them, he has approved.

"We submitted proposals

on building of bus stops and construction of bus shelters. He has approved the construction of bus shelters and has passed through procurement process and will be awarded. When awarded, it is going to be pre fabricated construction. The ministry is doing something great.

"Since the past administration has opened up the city by bringing up the roads and lights; we are going to bring up aesthetics to

make life good and meaningful for people living here in the city. We want to see Abakaliki become a smart city because it is a city where every facility and sector of government is working effectively. There will be clean environment, traffic should be controlled, and water shall be reticulated across the state.

"We have received approval to put traffic lights back in all the junctions of the city in Abakaliki," he informed.

Hon. Inyima also played host to the House of Assembly Committee on Capital City, who visited the ministry as part of their oversight function.

313 Bureau De Change CEO Calls For Collective Efforts In Stabilizing Naira

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of 313 Bureau de Change, Abuja, Alhaji Murtala Bashir has stressed the need for a collective effort to ensure Naira stability at the Forex Market in Nigeria.

Alhaji Murtala Bashir advised Federal government and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to as matter of urgency, constitute a strong committee to monitor and ensure the stability of the naira against the dollar at the Forex Market.

Alhaji Bashir emphasized in a statement that, the committee should include

representatives of the Federal government, CBN, Commercial banks Business men, Bureau de change, EFCC and security agencies.

"The committee should be saddled with the responsibility of monitoring the FOREX Market and at the same advise the government on any problem observed and come up with a solution to resolve it," Alhaji Murtala Bashir stressed.

The Managing Director 313 who commended CBN on its efforts toward stabilising the naira at Forex Market observed that restoring transparency and engendering investors confidence are the next step if Nigeria must unlock Dollar flows needed to support the Naira.



Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of 313 Bureau de Change, Alhaji Murtala Bashir.

Zamfara APC Stalwarts Dexamp To PDP Over Alleged Fear Of Arrest

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

An insider source from Zamfara State Government House, who declined to mention his name for security reasons, has alerted some of his friends who are members of the All Progressives Congress (APC), to leave the state with immediate effect, alleging that, "the government of Dauda Lawal has

an underground plan to arrest and detain them, a development that has seen some decamp to the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

He further alleged that those fingered to be arrested by the government are some staunch loyalists of the APC.

According to him, "Dauda Lawal's administration has concluded arrangements on this plan and will anytime from now,

start to arrest and detain some former commissioners, Special Advisers, Heads of agencies and parastatals, who openly declared their loyalty to the government of APC and their total loyalty to the Bola Tinubu-led administration"

The source further alleged that the decision followed an advice given to Governor Dauda Lawal Dare by a top retired police officer who vowed to facilitate

the arrest and level criminal charges against them with a view to stopping them from attacking the Dauda Lawal administration, as well as defending the policies of the Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration.

He said, "being a person with so many friends in the APC, I have since alerted my targeted APC friends to take refuge or possibly leave the state for their safety.

Some of those mentioned in the

proposed mass arrest include, two former speakers of Zamfara State House of Assembly and a former Deputy Speaker who was recently released from detention for charges in monumental corruption, Rt Hon Mamman Bawa, Bature Umaru Sambo, and Murtala Adamu Jangebe who have already decamped to PDP on hearing the planned massive arrest by the Lawal Dare's administration.

AVM Maisaka Murder: Kaduna High Court Sets Jan For Adoption Of Final Addresses

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna

In continuation of the court hearing of late Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Musa Umar Maisaka's murder, which took place on November 8, 2021, the Kaduna State High Court 09 has adjourned the hearing of the case to January 23, 2024 for the adoption of final written addresses before the court delivers judgement.

Speaking in an interview after the court proceedings on Thursday November 9, 2023, the state government lawyer, Barr Joseph Marcus Bobai explained that the process has been going on smoothly right from the beginning and they expect a fair judgement at the end of the day.

He added that, the court has closed hearing of the case from all parties and has adjourned the case to January 23, 2024 for them to come and adopt their final written addresses before the court delivers judgement, while they are expecting justice.

He said, "It's not for us to get conviction at all costs, but for the public to be seen that the process leading to judgement was free and fair. Justice is not just one sided, it is an all

round thing, justice for the family, justice for society that in this case is kaduna state government who's law has been violated by killing a citizen and also justice to the deceased family and so we expect justice.

"As you know, there are other defendants that we listed them in the charge as unknown person's which is allowed in law when you don't know the identity of the person who committed the crime, and we do not know them, so we had to like proceed with the defendant, who is the person we know and if eventually the identity of other persons are uncovered, subsequently we still proceed to arrest them as we have done in the defendant standing trial at the moment."

Also speaking, the counsel representing the family of the deceased, Barr. Nuhu Ibrahim disclosed that the proceedings are so far good, hence the prosecution has since closed its case and the defendant, Mohammed Giwa has presented himself as his witness,



Late AVM Maisaka

while the case is adjourned to January 23, 2024 for adoption of final addresses.

"Actually, the essence of trial is knowing that even when someone is telling the truth, it will come open and so if someone is also telling lies, so in this case, it is very surprising that the defendant who's denying knowing anything about the allegations is now given statements that are contradictory.

"At first, he admitted the statement he gave to the police, but at the moment he has denied everything, so it's very clear that

there's a clear contradiction and as far as we are concerned, that will work against him, so the proceedings is going normal and we appreciate the court for handling the matter the way it is going." While responding, the defendant's lawyer, Barr. Chris A. Ekhasemomhe disclosed that they are satisfied with the proceedings, especially that the judge has granted them the audience to present their own witnesses and the accused denied any involvement in the killing of the late deceased AVM Maisaka.

Kwara Gov Names STEM Expert, Dr Ariyike Salau Special Adviser On Education, Other New Aides

By BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, Abdulrahman AbdulRazaq has appointed Dr. Adetola Ariyike Salau as Special Adviser on Education, with a focus on policy development in the critical sector.

Dr. Salau, an indigene of Ifelodun, is a renowned education policy expert with specialisation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) — an area in which she has published several books and articles, including STEM is Key — a Resource book for understanding and deploying STEM education; STEM Activities in Algebra Geometry and Personal Finance; and STEM Activities for Primary and Junior Secondary Schools. She was until May 29, 2023 a Senior Special Assistant to the Lagos State Governor on Education.

Salau holds a doctoral degree in Curriculum, Instruction,

and the Science of Learning from University of Buffalo, State University of New York. Her first degree was from Fordham University, where she was the best graduating student, while she had her master's degree from Syracuse University.

The Governor has also appointed Alhaji Saadu Salahu, a public relations expert and community leader, as Senior Adviser and Counsellor.

The Governor has similarly reappointed Mr. Kolo Majin Isaiah, a community leader from Patigi, as Senior Special Assistant on Media and Public Relations, a portfolio he had held in the last dispensation.

The Governor also appointed the following persons: Salihi Jemilat (Special Assistant, SDGs); Abdulmumini Kane Habibat (Technical Assistant, Grassroots Empowerment); Ahmed Usman Babakano (Special Assistant, Non-Governmental Affairs);

Lawal Abimbola Monsurat (Senior Special Assistant, Women Mobilization); AbdulKareem Alimat Motunrayo (Technical Assistant, Grassroots Empowerment); Falilat Saka (Technical Assistant, Grassroots Empowerment); Abdullateef Atolagbe Adebara (Special Assistant, Humanitarian Affairs); Mindadi Umar Ndagi (Senior Special Assistant, Social Development); Isiaka Yakubu Agodi (Senior Special Assistant, Grassroots Sensitisation).

Other new appointments include: Alashi Obasanjo (SSA Domestic Affairs); Caleb Ono Bobi (SSA, Non-Indigenes Relations); Comrade AbdulKareem Onagun (SSA Labour); Engineer Yusuf M.O. (SSA Infrastructure); Abdulmutalib A. Shittu (SSA Geographical Information Service); Moshood Tayo Gobir (SA Security); Issa Isiaka Jega (SA Intercommunity Relations, Hausa); Dr. Rabiati Alabere

(SA & Focal Person National Social Investment Programme); Soliu Habeeb Babaloye (Special Assistant, Special Needs); Chukwugozie Angus Igwebuikwe (Special Assistant Inter-Community Relations, Igbo); and AbdulHameed Ibrahim Labaeka (SA, Artist).

The Governor has also appointed narcotics expert Olamilekan Mukail Aileru as Special Assistant on Drugs Abuse Prevention and Control, while famed young techie Kayode Ishola is named the Special Assistant on Digital Innovation.

Other new appointees are Ogundele Joseph Olabisi (Special Assistant Local Community Outreach); Ajayi Peter Femi (Special Assistant Social Mobilization); Olateju Rashidat (Special Assistant Urban Markets); and Muhammed Abdullahi (Special Assistant Inter-Community Relations, Fulani).

True Federalism Will Correct Threats To Corporate Existence Of Nigeria - Prof Aloba, Alhaji Danmuttaga

BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Professor of Law and Jurisprudence, Joshua Aloba, and Alhaji Sani Salisu Danmuttaga, the Sarkin Samarin Jihar Yamma for 17 Southern States of Nigeria, have said true federalism will correct injustice and marginalisation threatening the corporate existence of Nigeria.

The Professor of Law and the Sarkin Samarin Jihar Yamma stated this in Ibadan at the annual colloquium, International Conference, and Award ceremony, themed, "National Restructuring of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for Economic Prosperity" organised by the EDEXCEL University, Benin Republic in conjunction with the Association of Business Technologists of Nigeria.

According to them, restructuring should begin from individuals, to the families, communities, local governments, and states before it will be done at the federal level.

Speaking, Alhaji Danmuttaga, the Sarkin Samarin Jihar Yamma for 17 Southern States of Nigeria, said "The more we are demanding for restructuring, the more crisis we will have. He emphasized that, "The first restructuring we need to have is self-restructuring. You need to believe in yourself and you must be ready to serve the nation selflessly."

"You have to believe in one Nigeria, and other things will come to play because, those that are demanding for restructuring, even if they are given, they will still come again and ask for something. It will be a continuous demand", he said.

Alhaji Danmuttaga added, "But whenever we have sincere leaders, no one will ask for restructuring. Even, those that are asking for restructuring, have they restructure where they re coming: families, communities, local governments, state and federal. So, to start restructuring at the federal level should be the last thing to be done."

Professor Aloba in a lecture on the theme of the event, stated: "Nation-building is hard, but it needs not be as difficult as we make it in Nigeria. Nation-building is also intentional. It doesn't happen by accident."

"The real test is in the leadership and the actions that create a real spirit of nationhood, and the willingness of every

stakeholder to build a united, stable an cohesive nation. Sixty three years after independence, we are still confronted today with the imperative of defining a future for Nigeria that escapes our country's past", he said.

Prof Aloba added, "The problem in our country is the we avoid honest dialogue, jich sometimes involves telling ourselves uncomfortable truths. The cries of marginalisation, restructuring and secessionist tendencies are, at their core, a cry for justice in our country". "Some compatriots will go beyond their disagreement with secessionist rhetoric in the South East, South West, and South South today, to treat their fellow Nigerians with unjustified suspicion because of their beliefs about how Nigeria can be repaired or indeed, if our country should remain one country.

He stressed, "Our country is currently anchored on injustice in many ways, and that arrangement won't last forever. We can take that to the bank. The Federal Government of Nigeria and all our countrymen and women should therefore take the increasing potent agitations by various groups in Nigeria with the seriousness the matter deserves.

"The Nigerian state must engage the agitations and address, as well as redress their root causes that lie in decades of self-evident marginalisation that several groups have experienced in post-civil war Nigeria.

"The hurt feelings and the suspicions they breed have not just hampered the progress of nation-building in Nigeria, they are creating the foundations of certain state failure if further mishandled, as the bonds that hold our country together in an imperfect union continue to fray. This brings us to the question: where do we go from here? Really, there is no alternative to the constitutional rearrangement of the Nigerian federation, if we are to remain one country. You can call it restructuring, reconfiguration, redesign, or what you will.

According to him, "We can't achieve greatness as a country without national unity, stability and cohesion... All that is required is that we bury the winner-take-all mentality driven by ethnic and religious irredentism and design structure that works for us all. This is doable with real leadership, political will and committed.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya Conferred With Award Of Executive Fellow By CIPDM

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, has been honoured with the prestigious Award of Executive Fellow by the Chartered Institute of Public Diplomacy and Management (CIPDM).

A statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, at the weekend, said that this, according to the institute, is in recognition of Inuwa's exceptional leadership qualities, outstanding achievements, and unwavering commitment to transparency and integrity.

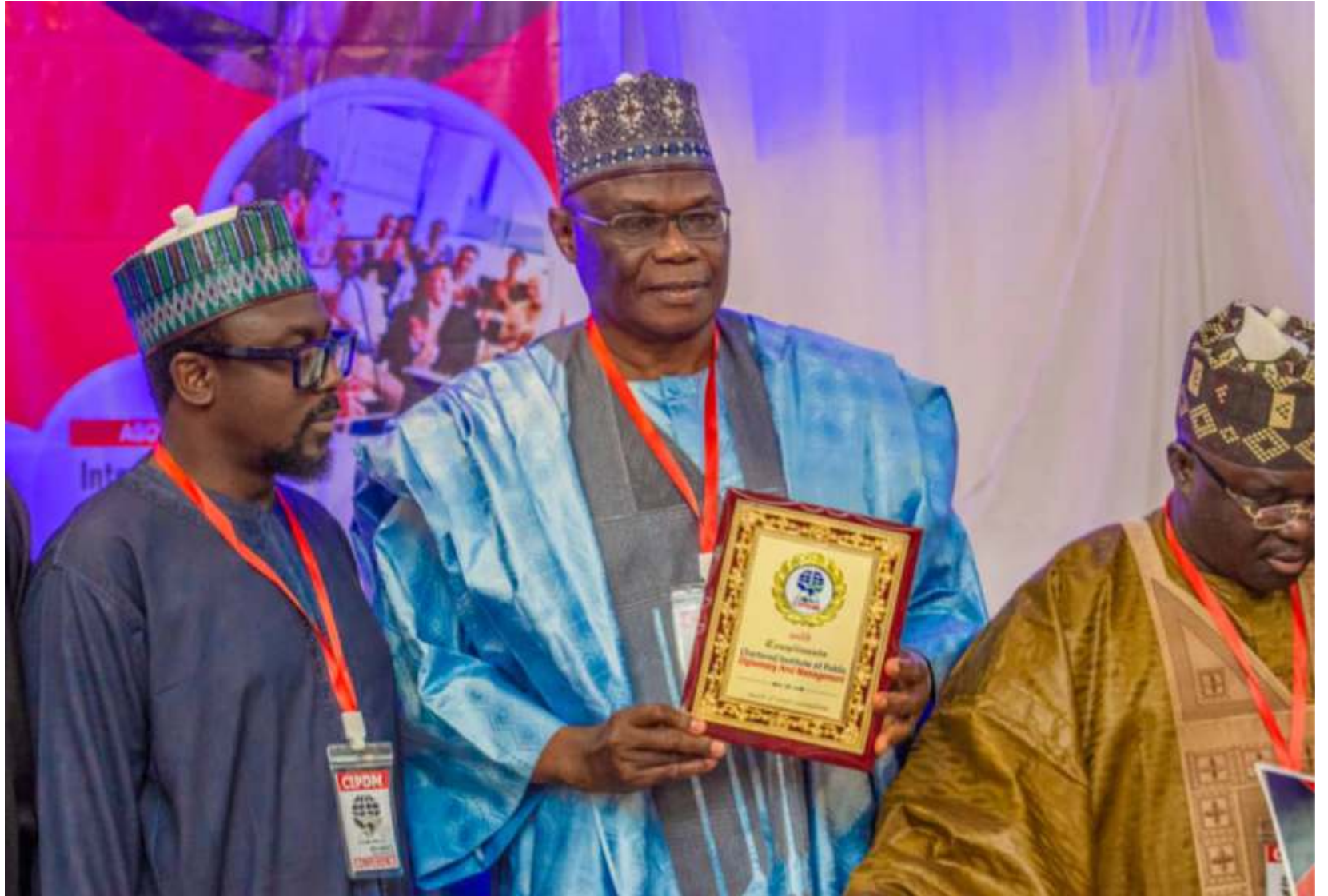
The award ceremony, which took place this Saturday at the International Conference Center Abuja, celebrated Governor Inuwa Yahaya's visionary leadership that has set Gombe State on a trajectory of positive transformation.

The CIPDM acknowledged the governor's remarkable accomplishments in various sectors, including infrastructure, agriculture and food security, ease of doing business, pioneering efforts in digitalization, and sound financial management.

The award is also a reflection of the trust and respect Inuwa Yahaya has earned, not only among his fellow governors but also from the people he leads.

It also highlighted the role Governor Inuwa Yahaya plays in the evolution of a new Gombe State.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya, represented by Ambassador



Edward Sarki, expressed gratitude for the recognition, assuring that it will spur him to continue to do more for the advancement of Gombe State.

In addition to Governor Inuwa Yahaya's recognition, other distinguished personalities from Gombe were also among those honoured.

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, received the

Distinguished Fellow Award, while the Head of Civil Service, Ahmed Kasimu Abdullahi was presented with an Honorary Award. Both recipients dedicated their prestigious awards to Governor Inuwa Yahaya.

Further adding to this achievement, Gombe State Commissioner for Trade, Industry and Tourism, Nasiru Mohammed Aliyu and his

Finance and Economic Development counterpart, Muhammad Gambo Magaji were inducted as fellowship members of the Chartered Institute of Public Diplomacy and Management.

The recognition not only accentuates the achievements of Governor Inuwa Yahaya, but also highlights the collective commitment of Gombe State's leadership to excellence and

positive transformation. CIPDM is a professional institute for the professionalization and advancement of public diplomacy and public management practices with the vision to create a positive work environment and work relations through robust diplomacy and practical positive policies and actions.





COMMUNITY FOCUS

Bichi Emirate Anti-Drugs Abuse Mobilization Association Visits NDLEA Kano Command

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN,
Kano

Bichi Emirate Anti-Drugs Abuse Mobilization Association has paid an advocacy visit to the Kano State Commandant of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), where they successfully introduced the association's activities in the war against drugs abuse across the emirate.

The association which was formed in order to reduce drug abuse across the emirate, has already engaged in fighting drugs abuse, public enlightenment and community mobilization in Bichi Emirate, which comprises of nine local government areas.

Speaking at the NDLEA Command Headquarters, the leader of the committee, Malam Ali Ibrahim Bichi told the commandant that they were at the command's headquarters in order to present the association as one of the most formidable non-governmental organisations



that fights drugs abuse and other related offences in the societies.

He disclosed that, "we are working seriously to ensure that our communities remain exemplary, especially with the issue of drug abuse becoming a great threat to the forthcoming generation and from what we have seen here at the command, the agency deserves respect and gratitude in its quest to rid Kano from being a drug abuse state like what we are now witnessing". Malam Ali Bichi commended the commandant, Comrade Abubakar Idris Ahmad and his lieutenants for their commitment and determination to ensure that Kano State becomes free from drug abuse, reassuring that his association would continue to work for the sanity of the drug addicts and to

promote peace and stability in Bichi Emirate.

Responding, the state commandant, Comrade Abubakar Idris Ahmed told the visitors that NDLEA welcomes any association that is working as part of its mission, which is sanitizing the society through various programmes as the globe is now changing gradually.

He assured that his command would continue to partner "Bichi Emirate anti-drug abuse mobilization association" to join hands together towards the promotion of peaceful coexistence through different methods of fighting drug abuse for better societies and to ensure that the younger generation remains resourceful to the nation at all levels.

Integrating Traditional Rulers Into Governance Will Stimulate Development - Gov Makinde

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, has declared that the traditional institution remains important to the socioeconomic development of the country, pointing out that Obas should be integrated into all efforts by states to develop the society.

Governor Makinde said this while delivering the guest lecture titled, "the role of traditional institutions in socioeconomic development in Nigeria," during the 70th birthday anniversary and 17th Coronation Anniversary of Oba Victor Adesimbo Kiladejo, CFR, held at the Oba Adesanoye Civic Centre, Ondo, Ondo State.

Governor Makinde who was also installed as the Jagunmolu of Ondo Kingdom said traditional rulers' contributions towards securing the society and ensuring peaceful trade relations are integral of development in the state.

According to him, for the traditional institutions to be able to make these contributions, they must be integrated into the existing structure nation-state, saying the concept of homegrown democracy came from the recognition of the traditional institutions and the great roles they play in the socioeconomic

development of their respective societies.

The governor stressed that the Nigerian society must return to the drawing board to study how the traditional institution was able to contribute to the society and apply same principles towards achieving peace, security and economic prosperity for the current society.

"I am an advocate for strong traditional institutions. I believe that when traditional institutions are strong, they promote a value-driven society. And it is in the entrenching of these values that we achieve socioeconomic development", he said

Governor Makinde added, "I will be highlighting three ways that traditional institutions contribute to socioeconomic development. These are: Contributing to security through community policing; maintaining peaceful trade relations and keying into the development architecture of the state.

"Of course, this is only possible when the traditional system is integrated into the state structure. So, I am also making a case for this integration. If these systems work well, why do we need additional bureaucracy for a federal-operated local government architecture? Each state can now determine what local authorities they want to



Gov Seyi Makinde, Osemawe of Ondo and the Gov's wife

run and how they should run. I know this is not a very popular stand I am taking. We must discuss these reforms and chart a new course for our nation."

Congratulating Oba Kiladejo on his 70th birthday and 17th coronation anniversary, the governor said Ondo Kingdom has witnessed unprecedented development under his reign, adding that he is committed to the progress and development of Ondo Kingdom as one of its

chiefs.

Stressing that he has always been excited to associate with the people of Ondo State because his mother, Mrs Abigail Omojogbe Makinde, hailed from Akure, the governor later unveiled a compendium on Ondo history.

Among those at the governor's entourage included his wife, Engr (Mrs) Tamunominini Makinde; former Deputy Governor of Oyo State, Engr Hamid Gbadamosi;

former Speaker of the Oyo State House of Assembly, Senator Monsura Sunmonu; Chairmen of the Oyo State Elders' Council and Oyo State Advisory Council, Dr Saka Balogun and Chief Bolaji Ayorinde, SAN, and members of the respective councils; members of the South-West PDP Executives led by the acting chairman, Chief Rahman Owokuniran; commissioners and other top government functionaries.

OIC, Arab League Warns Of Consequences Of Israeli Military Actions On Gaza

*Demand immediate seizure

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

A communique from the Summit attended by world leaders of states and governments of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the League of the Arab States has called for an immediate halt to all Israeli military operations in Gaza and rejected any rationalisation of the war.

The Communiqué which was made available to the New Nigerian by Rabiuh Ibrahim, the Special Assistant to the Minister of Information and National Orientation claiming that, it was a continuation of the 1967 aggression against Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and East Jerusalem.

The Joint Arab Islamic extraordinary summit was convened on Saturday, November 11, 2023 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and also reiterated the need for International Peace Conference through which a realistic peace would be launched.

The Communiqué demanded for a decisive and binding resolution by the

United Nations Security Council that would impose a cessation of aggression and put an end to Israeli occupation practices that violate international law, international humanitarian law, and international legitimacy resolutions.

"The most recent of which is UNGA Resolution No. AES-101.25 dated 10/26/2013," the Communiqué emphasized.

The Summit charged the UN Security Council to "adopt an immediate resolution condemning Israel's barbaric destruction of hospitals in the Gaza Strip, the prevention of the entry of medicine, food and fuel into it, and the cutting-off of electricity, water supply and basic services, including communication and internet services, being a collective punishment that constitutes a war crime under international law."

It said failure to heed to the demands amounts to legitimization of Israel's violent onslaught, which ends in the deaths of innocent people, children, the elderly, and women, and the destruction of Gaza, adding that it was imperative for Israel to lift the blockade it has imposed

on the Gaza Strip for years.

The Summit condemned some nations' shipment of arms and ammunition to Israel, which it said have been used to commit horrific crimes such as the killing of Palestinians and the destruction of their houses, hospitals, schools, mosques, churches, and other facilities, asking, therefore, for the International Criminal Court Prosecutor to complete the investigation into Israel's war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against the Palestinian people in all occupied Palestinian territories, including East Al-Quds.

Consequently, the summit mandated General Secretariats of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States to establish two joint specialised legal monitoring units to document the crimes, with a view to Prepare legal arguments regarding all violations of international law and international humanitarian law committed by Israel, "the occupying power, against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the rest of the

occupied Palestinian territories, including East Al-Quds."

However, the Summit condemned the killings of journalists, children, and women, as well as the targeting of paramedics, and urged the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to investigate Israel's intentional use of banned chemical weapons on the civilian population in Gaza.

Accordingly, the summit was rejecting any proposals involving the "separation of Gaza from the West Bank, including East Al-Quds, and insisted that any approach to Gaza's future must be placed within the context of a comprehensive solution that guarantees the unity of Gaza and the West Bank as the territory of the Palestinian State, which must be embodied in a free, independent, sovereign state with East Al-Quds as its capital along the borders of June 4, 1967."

The Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit was attended by President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Nigeria and other prominent government figures.

Expect Equal Treatment In APC, Kaduna Commissioner, Mamman Lagos Assures PDP Defectors

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Kaduna State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon Sadiq Mamman Lagos has assured defectors of People's Democratic Party (PDP) of equal treatment and better deals in APC--led administration of Governor Uba Sani.

He gave the assurance over the weekend, while welcoming into the All Progressives Congress (APC) Chairman of Chikun Local Government Council, Salasi Musa and hundreds of his supporters, including eight councillors who left PDP.

The Commissioner enjoined the new members to mobilize people at the grassroots by serving as links in the chain of delivering dividends of democracy and good governance to beneficiaries so they could be carried along in policies of the present administration.

Mamman Lagos stressed

the need for effective enlightenment of people at the grassroots to understand the best way they could contribute their quota towards ensuring the success of Gov Uba Sani administration which he described as pro-masses.

He declared that the former PDP Chieftains and their supporters had made the wise choice by joining the APC, a decision he said they would never regret.

"I believe you must have been attracted by good policies of our leader in the state, Governor Uba Sani who has demonstrated that governance is all about service to the people.

"I can assure you that you won't live to regret your decision of joining the APC as you will be carried along in all state affairs.

"Our Governor is making so much positive impacts across board and is fast correcting the wrongs made in the past by returning to people what belongs to them so they could have a sense of belonging in the present dispensation," he said.



Alaghodaro Summit: Oyegun, Igbinedion, Oshiomhole, Dangote, Others Commend Obaseki's Devt Strides

By: RAPHAEL OKHIRIA,
Benin City

Three former governors of Edo State, Chief John Odigie-Oyegun, Chief Lucky Igbinedion and Comrade Sen. Adams Oshiomhole as well as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, have commended Governor Godwin Obaseki for his developmental strides in Edo State.

The former governors who were guests at the ongoing 2023 Alaghodaro Investment Summit in Benin City, commended the incumbent governor for his developmental strides across all sectors of the State economy.

Other dignitaries at the occasion include the Edo State First Lady, Mrs. Betsy Obaseki; Governor of Delta State, Sheriff Oborevwori, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Alaghodaro Economic Summit Ltd/Gte, Asue Ighodalo, Secretary to the Edo State Government, Osarodion Ogie Esq., former Edo State Deputy Governor, Mike Ogiadomhe and Speaker of the Edo House of Assembly, Hon Blessing Agbebaku. Chief of Staff to Edo State Governor, Osaigbovo Iyoha, Edo State Head of Service, Anthony Okungbowa Esq., Chief Judge of Edo State, Daniel Okungbowa, amongst others.

Speaking at the event, Governor Godwin Obaseki, said his administration since the past seven years, have been re-engineering Edo State for growth and development, and consciously laid a solid foundation for the State's future.

Obaseki, said the government focused on six thematic pillars including institutional reforms, economic revolution, social welfare, infrastructure development, environmental sustainability and arts and culture, noting that the bold reforms have positively impacted the lives of millions of Edo people, placing the State on the path of sustainable and accelerated growth and development.

The summit in its seventh edition had the theme, "The Edo Story: Creating Shared Opportunities into the Future."

The summit is a rallying point for stakeholders in Edo's shared vision of prosperity and greatness to deliberate and reach key decisions that drive programmes, initiatives and policy of government, which



have so far, transformed Edo to emerge as Africa's most competitive sub-national.

Governor Obaseki, who noted that Edo has the potential to produce 70 percent of Nigeria's imported products and reduce the burden on Foreign Exchange (Forex), said his government has attracted investments in agriculture, manufacturing, retail, health, arts and culture, tourism and hospitality, among other sectors.

Noting that his government has delivered on promises made to Edo people, the governor said, "In the civil service, we have introduced a Computerized ERP System (E-Gov). We operate the highest paid Civil/Public Service in the Country and have set up a world-class training infrastructure at the John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy, trained over 6,000 of Civil/Public servants and delivered over 10,000 devices across the Service and delivered new infrastructure (workspace) to 76 MDAS in the State."

"Since 2016, our monthly IGR collections have consistently increased as a testament to the conscious investments we have made into boosting our local economy. Our partnerships and popular 'MOUs' have set Edo on the path of financial

sustainability. Projects like the Benin Port, and Enterprise Park, among others, will further impact the Internal Generated Revenue of the State for years to come."

Earlier, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Alaghodaro Economic Summit Ltd/Gte, Dr. Asue Ighodalo, commended deliberate efforts by the Governor Godwin Obaseki-led administration to grow the State's economy over the past years, noting that the State's economy has grown by over 140 percent from \$10.6bn to \$25.8bn. According to him, this is against the four percent growth recorded at the national level over the same period.

Ighodalo, who is also the Chairman of Sterling Bank Plc, disclosed this in his welcome address at the 2023 Alaghodaro Investment Summit taking place in Benin City, the Edo State capital.

He said, "Over the past eight years, Edo State has grown 140 percent from an economy of \$10.6 billion to \$25.8bn today, while Nigeria's economy grew at 4 percent.

"Edo State can become first world economy regardless of the challenges of Nigeria. The new investments attracted from new investors is put at \$4 billion

sourced from Nigeria and from joint partnerships as the State has the capacity and will.

"Edo State must set out at dawn to make progress and pull other parts of Nigeria and other regions up. We must continue to show in Edo that there is great hope for Nigeria through Edo State. The State can drag Nigeria out of its untapped potential, re-directing the nation to a point of development.

"Edo story tells us we are not a State that lacks capacity to do well. The Alaghodaro phrase means progress, moving forward, and looking ahead as the word should be a challenge to us in Edo and the purpose of the summit is to set Edo on the path of growth and development."

On his part, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, said Edo State has comparative advantage over every other State in the area of agriculture and agro-processing as well as culture and tourism, noting that the Governor Godwin Obaseki-led administration has repositioned the State, leveraging its comparative advantage to drive growth and development across all sectors.

Aliko who is the keynote speaker at the event, commended the governor for his government's

business-friendly reforms that have continued to spur the influx of investors into the State.

The Africa's richest person, who was represented by the Dangote Group's Managing Director, Mr. Olakunle Alake, said the safety and security as well as reforms in the agriculture and tourism sectors have repositioned Edo State as a tourist hub and investors' haven.

He said, "Edo State has comparative advantage over every other State in the area of agriculture and agro-processing as well as tourism sectors.

"Investments are coming into Edo State because of the friendly environment created by the governor for investors and today, Edo has become an investment destination.

"The State boasts of tourist sites across various locations in the State and the State Government has taken advantage of it to turn the State into a tourism hub.

"The ease of doing business in Edo State is the point of attraction for investors to invest in various locations as infrastructure plays a major role in ease of doing business in the State.

"The State is also secured and it has promoted many investors to invest in the State and this has gone a long way to grow the economy of Edo State."

Tinubu's Administration Committed To Development Of Tertiary Education In Nigeria - Adelabu

*Says it will make educational institutions globally competitive.

By; BAYO AKAMO
Ibadan

Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu at the weekend, said President Bola Tinubu is committed to the development of education in the country.

Chief Adelabu made this known in Ibadan, while speaking at the commissioning of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND)-sponsored projects at the University of Ibadan and The Polytechnic, Ibadan.

The minister declared that education forms an integral part of President Tinubu administration's Renewed Hope agenda", adding, "hence the Federal Government will continue to provide necessary support towards making our educational institutions globally competitive for economic and technological development of the country."

"I wish to reiterate that education forms an integral part of President Tinubu administration's Renewed Hope agenda, hence the Federal Government will continue to provide necessary support towards making our educational

institutions globally competitive for economic and technological development of the country", he said.

The minister added, "It is on record that over the years, TETFund, through the support of the Federal Government has performed exceptionally in the provision of physical infrastructure, support for academic staff training and development, book publication, ICT, Research and development, among other interventions in public tertiary educational institutions across the country.

"I am delighted to note that three projects valued at N869,912,075.44 will be handed over to the institution's management in the Faculties of Business and Communication Studies and Financial Management".

Lauding the support of the Federal Government towards making Nigerian educational institutions globally competitive, the minister said government's support will further enhance the economic and technological development of the country.

President (Bola Ahmed) Tinubu has demonstrated great commitment towards the development of education since the commencement of his administration in May 29, 2023, such as the introduction of the students' loan initiative to improve access to tertiary education for indigent students, meeting personally with the leadership of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) to discuss the welfare of Nigerian students and recently, approving waiver of the 'No Work, No Pay' order on the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), which would pave the way for members of the union to receive part of their withheld salaries".

According to Chief Adelabu "These are part of conscious efforts being made by this administration to address students' challenges and create industrial harmony between staff unions and Government".

The Minister of Power noted "you will recall that in recognition of the role of TETFund in the development of public tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria, and

in a bid to further support and strengthen the intervention activities of the Fund, the President also approved the implementation of the upward review of Education Tax (EDT) to three percent with effect from September 2023. This will, in no small measure, contribute more to the improved funding of the education sector and development of our public tertiary institutions."

Stressing further that the projects commissioned and handed over to the two institutions would further enhance teaching and learning and improvement in academic standards", he said. "Very soon there will be an independent power plant for the University of Ibadan and it will be embedded into the existing distribution network, without passing through the National grid. That's the only way we can energize our institutions, In their separate remarks the Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Prof Kayode Adebowale and Rector of The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Prof Adebisi Kazeem commended the Federal Government for the good gestures to their institutions

Sanwo-Olu Congratulates Uzodinma Over Imo Guber Polls Victory

By; RAYMOND
TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has congratulated his Imo State counterpart and the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Governor Hope Uzodinma, on his victory at Saturday's governorship election in the state, saying his re-election is well deserved.

Governor Sanwo-Olu in a congratulatory message issued by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Gboyega Akosile, yesterday in London, said Governor Uzodinma's success in the election is a validation of people's acceptance of his administration, having impacted positively in the lives of the citizens during his first term in office.

He said the people of Imo State deserve commendation for coming out en-masse to perform their civic responsibility and for defying all odds to vote for Governor Uzodinma-led APC administration in the state. Sanwo-Olu said Governor Uzodinma's victory is a clear manifestation that the APC remains the party of choice for Nigerians, stressing that the party will continue to work in the best interest of Nigerians in line with the Renewed Hope agenda of President Bola Tinubu.

He said: "I congratulate my brother and the Chairman of the Progressives Governors Forum (PGF), Governor Hope Uzodinma, for emerging victorious in Saturday's gubernatorial election. I am glad that Governor Hope Uzodinma was returned by the good people of Imo State after a convincing victory over his opponents as declared

by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) at the poll.

"Governor Hope Uzodinma's re-election affirms his administration's good performance in the last four years. I believe strongly that he was re-elected because he delivered beyond the expectations of the Imo people during his first term.

"The APC candidate's victory across the 27 local government areas in Imo State with over 400,000 vote margin against his main opponent, is a confirmation of the trust and belief of the people in the APC-led administration in Imo State, having benefitted immensely from the various people-oriented programmes of his administration.

"The real winners at the end of the day are citizens of Imo State because they have re-elected a "talk and do" governor. The victory is deserving. It is an assurance to us that the APC government at the state and national levels is doing something right. We know there are areas of improvement and we are determined to ensure that we give Nigerians the best they deserve."

Governor Sanwo-Olu also commended President Bola Tinubu for creating a level playing ground for the gubernatorial elections in Imo, Kogi and Bayelsa states.

He said the President deserves commendation for deepening democracy and the electoral process in Nigeria, considering some successes recorded in the Imo governorship election and gubernatorial polls in Kogi and Bayelsa states.



Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu commissioning one of the projects

A'ibom First Lady Commissions Skills Acquisition Centre In Obot Akara

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Wife of the state governor, Pastor Patience Umo Eno has inaugurated a Multipurpose Development/Skills Acquisition Center in Obot Akara Local Government Area of the state on Friday.

The project, an entrepreneurship subset of the ARISE Agenda of the state government, was executed by the Chairperson of Obot Akara Local Government Council, Mrs. Agnes Udoenwenwen, to serve as a vocational hub where indigenes of the area will learn diverse skills and get empowered with starter packs on completion.

Speaking at the commissioning of the project at Obot Akara Local Government Council Secretariat, the Governor's wife applauded the council chairperson for her foresight in encouraging entrepreneurship amongst the women and youth of the area.

The First Lady who said she was very impressed by the performance of women holding public offices in the state, noted

that there was need for more women to be given opportunity to serve in government.

"You have all seen how well she has performed since she assumed office about three years ago. This is one chairperson who has been outstanding in her duty. She has been outstanding in her delivery to this Local Government as evident in this project.

"The way the women are rejoicing here is a proof that she has been good to them. I congratulate you on this achievement. Well done," she remarked.

Welcoming Pastor Umo Eno to her domain, the Obot Akara Chairperson, Mrs. Agnes Udoenwenwen, said she was delighted to welcome the Governor's wife and her entourage to Obot Akara to commission project undertaken by her administration.

She noted that having been sworn into office on the 7th day of December, 2020, she has embarked on various life touching projects to justify the rationale behind the democratic

principles of political responsibility to the electorates.

She added that the Multipurpose Hall/skills Acquisition Centre would help in training youth, women and men on various skills to alleviate poverty and uplift the standard among the people.

In their separate goodwill messages, stakeholders in the area including Senator Emmanuel Ibokessien, Member representing Ikot Ekpenel/Obot Akara State Constituency in the AKHA, Hon. Jerry Otu, Immediate past House Member, Rt. Hon. Idongesit Ntepere and the PDP woman leader, Mrs. Grace Umoren, thanked the Governor's wife for visiting the area to inaugurate the Multipurpose Hall built by the Chairperson of the Council, Mrs. Agnes Udoenwenwen, for the benefit of the people.

While promising to stand by the administration of Governor Umo Eno as he delivers dividends of democracy to the area and the state at large, they asserted that the people of Obot Akara would make good use of the facility provided.



Mrs Patience Umo Eno



R-L: Professor Ebenezer Olatunde Morakinyo President of IARSA, presenting certificate to Dr. Asebiomo Ayodele Mandela, as the newly elected Secretary General of International Association of Researchers and Administrators (IARSA) held at LCCI Conference and Exhibition Centre Alausa Ikeja Lagos. Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO

Governor Mutfwang Swears In Jos North Transition Committee Chairman, Calls For Unity, Peaceful Coexistence

By: BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State has sworn in Mr Samuel Umaru, as the Transitional Committee Chairman of Jos North Local Government Area.

Mutfwang, represented by his Deputy, Mrs Josephine Piyo, called on him to engender unity within the local government area.

The governor stated that the appointment was to fill the vacuum created by the exit of the Sole Administrator of the council following his retirement from service.

"You must get yourself acquainted with the vision of the administration, aimed at engendering unity within the local government.

"You are expected to channel your energy towards uniting people in Jos North, irrespective of ethnicity or religion to provide the required dividends of democracy.

"Our citizens yearn for good governance and quality service delivery and they expect nothing less than that. It is therefore pertinent that you use your wealth of experience to serve Jos North and Plateau State better.

"I am pleased to welcome and have you on board today as a critical stakeholder in building a new and a prosperous Plateau. I urge you to be committed and be diligent

in handling all your assignments," he said. Mutfwang said that his administration would not tolerate any act of corruption, urging the new council boss to be guided by the fear of God and work assiduously for the peace and prosperity of the state.

He added that his government is determined to ensure equitable provision of social and basic amenities to all strata of the society.

The governor thanked citizens for their endless support for the administration, stating that justice will prevail for Plateau people, urging them to remain optimistic amidst the prevailing challenges and trust the judicial processes.

Mutfwang reaffirmed his administration's commitment to deliver on the mandate bestowed on them by the good people of Plateau, stating that the government would continue to carry out its primary responsibility of ensuring the security of lives and property and creating a conducive atmosphere for citizens to carry out their lawful businesses.

Umaru, thanked the state government for the confidence reposed on him, promising to unite the people of Jos North LGA and promote peaceful coexistence.

He promised to overhaul the local government, ensure it experiences development and give it the credence it deserves.

Nigeria Committed To Ideals, Policies, Programmes Of UNESCO - Minister

By ; I M R A N A
ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

The Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman has said that the Federal Government is committed to the ideals, policies and programmes of UNESCO to achieve SDGs and other Global Development Agenda.

Mamman spoke at the 42nd Session of the UNESCO General Conference in Paris, France.

This was contained in a statement issued yesterday in Abuja by Dr Armaya'u Yabo, Special Assistant to the Director and Chief Executive of the National Teachers' Institute (NTI), Kaduna, Prof. Musa Garba-Maitafsir.

Mamman said, "We remain committed to hosting a UNESCO Category 2 International Institute for Media and Information Literacy and will work with UNESCO to make this a reality.

"Other activities in the sector include and not limited to the implementation of the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy, building national capacity for emerging technologies by establishing a National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics and developing a National Policy on Artificial Intelligence and its ethical use, as well as its integration into the educational curricula.

"Excellencies, in conclusion, Nigeria appreciates the successful outcomes of the Nigeria-UNESCO cooperation over the years. However, the recent development in the Abuja office, especially, the location of its Communication and Information sector to the Multi-sectoral Regional Office in Dakar is a concern.

"While the Abuja component is functional, the Dakar component is not, and no budgetary appropriation as yet to Abuja. We therefore strongly appeal that UNESCO relocates all the sectors to the Abuja Office. Although we reason with the exigency of a reform, the Abuja Office should function in full capacity in all UNESCO's areas of competence."

According to the minister, the global community is

still dealing with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, accentuated by other global challenges such as economic crisis, increased conflicts, climate change, disaster risks and deprivation of rights to education.

Mamman said, "In spite of these, UNESCO has continued to be relevant in proffering solutions where its mandates apply. Nigeria believes in the value UNESCO adds to our collective and individual national efforts in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

"We shall continue to expand the frontiers of this partnership and remain resolute in the commitment to uphold UNESCO's mandates as follows: 1. In Education, we note the increased availability of resources to the African region and decentralization as it affects the sector.

"We are pleased with the Director-General's pragmatic proposals of the Case BASE budget scenario within the Integrated Budget Framework. Nigeria is consolidating the Safe Schools Initiative as well as reviewing progress in our commitments to the declaration.

"National Commitments made during the Transforming Education Summit are driving our domestic action and we will continue to monitor progress of Education 2030 as we look forward to the "Summit of the Future" in September 2024.

"Therefore, the government is sustaining the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme; the Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA) and a number of other programmes that target Out-of-School Children, especially the establishment of a National Commission for Almajiri and Out of School Children Education."

The minister said that, "to increase the employability of our youths, Nigeria has developed critical innovations such as Open, Distance and Flexible E-learning systems, STEM Education, Inclusive Education for the challenged, the Nigeria Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) and a



Tertiary Education, Research, Applications and Services (TERAS) platform.

"Let me also inform you that Nigeria is "greening" her curriculum with climate change and environmental education contents at basic and senior education levels to enhance understanding of environmental justice, stewardship and global citizenship.

"With the establishment of the new Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, a national capacity programme for ocean literacy is being initiated in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

"Nigeria has initiated capacity development opportunities for teachers and school leaders in the use of technology, to build resilience in learners against disruptions, enhance teachers' career growth to contribute to the statistical framework of the 2021 International Standard Classification of Teacher training programmes (ISCED-T). 2.

"In the Natural Sciences, Nigeria again appreciates UNESCO's partnership in establishing an Ecohydrology demonstration site at the Jabi Lake in Abuja and count on our continued cooperation for the full realization of the project.

"We organized two Regional meetings with the 15 West African countries;

two National Stakeholders' Workshops on Ecohydrology; and a sub-regional training workshop for Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe. We count on UNESCO's support for ongoing projects. 3," the minister added.

According to the minister, In Social and Human Sciences, the government's policies and programmes to overcome poverty and illiteracy are mostly targeted at improving the living conditions of the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized.

Mamman said that the government's 8-point agenda provides a critical transformational framework of national development priority for attaining the SDGs, adding, "we note the opportunities in the Draft Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 and crucial cross-cutting themes for the effective delivery of UNESCO's priorities.

"Therefore, in consonance with SHS strategic focus, Nigeria is effectively tackling exclusion, youth restiveness, violent extremism, terrorism, climate change, as well as creating social protection mechanisms against the excesses of emerging technologies, through the adoption of ethics and ethical instruments for regulating Digital Technologies, biotechnology, artificial intelligence and the

establishment of a National Bioethics Committee, among others. 4.

"On culture, Nigeria's Cultural Policy is being reviewed for actions that align with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. To reflect our support for Creative Cities mechanisms, viable cities are being nominated into the Network.

"The new Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy will significantly promote culture as an economic value in response to global challenges targeting the Agenda 2030. 5."

The minister said in the Communication and Information Sector, critical issues including engaging the social media platforms for a common code of conduct to reduce fake news and hate speech are being addressed.

He said, 'Nigeria is pleased to have hosted the 2022 UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Week, which produced the "Abuja Declaration on Global Financing for Media and Information Literacy."

Also speaking, Garba-Maitafsir, who traveled to Paris alongside Yabo, ensured that the institute's needs in the focus areas were clearly defined and reflected during the conference.

The director also pressed to obtain the benefits in terms of attracting UNESCO's project to the Institute and Nigerian teachers in

general.

Yabo said, "Consequently, Garba-Maitafsir secured a training collaboration with UNESCO to organise a capacity building workshop for 250 teachers from Cross River, Imo, Kaduna, Lagos and Taraba on Family Life and HIV Education (FLHE).

"This is to strengthen the capacity of in-service teachers and FLHE desk officers to drive Family Life and HIV Education that responds to specific needs of adolescent and young people.

"This includes those living with disabilities and those in humanitarian settings, which will commence by the end of November or early December, 2023."

Yabo quoted Garba-Maitafsir as reiterating commitment to continue partnering with international development partners in the training of teachers and ultimate transformation of NTI as an international distance learning institute.

It would be recalled that NTI has a long history of series of collaboration with UNESCO in the area of advancing teacher training and distance education in Nigeria.

In this regard, thousands of teachers were trained on the use of mobile technology in teaching and learning through a programme called, 'Mobile Learning Programme'.

Gombe Line Township Shuttle: A Soothing Relief For Commuters Amidst High Cost Of Transport Fares

By: YAKUBU BAYAMBE

Recently, the administration of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON through the state owned transport company, popularly known as Gombe Line, introduced a town service shuttle to cushion the daily transportation challenges faced by commuters within Gombe metropolis due to the rise in transport fares occasioned by the removal of fuel subsidy in the country. The transport company had in a statement preceding the launch, said the decision to provide the township shuttle is consistent with Governor Inuwa Yahaya's policy which often revolves around the general welfare of the people. Perhaps it is important to state that this is the first time the Gombe State Transport Service is introducing such a welfarist transportation system since the creation of the state in 1996.

To this end, the decision to deploy a section of Gombe Line buses to meet the daily transportation needs of commuters within the State capital, has since been greeted with great joy and excitement by car and non car owners alike and generally described by resident of Gombe metropolis as a welcome development.

However, the situation before now concerning transportation in Gombe metropolis was that of anguish and despair as

residents within the state capital had to literally pay through their nose to be able to meet their daily Transportation needs.

The announcement of the removal of fuel subsidy by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, saw an astronomical rise in transport fares by almost 200 percent across the country, Gombe inclusive. For instance prior to the removal of fuel subsidy the maximum a passenger can pay for a drop within Gombe metropolis was one hundred and fifty naira. Today however, the least a passenger pays for a drop within the State capital is between two hundred and fifty to three hundred naira. Little wonder that the introduction of the township shuttle by the Gombe Line to cater for the this critical transportation needs of the residents of Gombe metropolis came as a huge and soothing relief.

Under the new regime, commuters within the State capital will be charged one hundred naira irrespective of wherever they wish to go within the State capital.

The administration of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya had before



Gov Inuwa Yahaya

introducing the township shuttle, mandated the Gombe State Transport Service to commence operations along Bajoga Nafada and Dadinkowa routes to effectively cover the entire state.

Aside from the inter state travels which Gombe Line has carved a niche for itself, passengers within the State wishing to access any part of the it can now do so using the welfarist transportation system introduced by the administration of Governor Inuwa Yahaya.

Many are of the opinion that the introduction of the township shuttle and other intra state routes will not only bolster economic engagements as it was in the past, but will also encourage social cohesion among the citizens of the state as well, giving that transportation plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic economic development of a people. The introduction of the township shuttle by Gombe Line and other innovative measures under the leadership of the new sole administrator, Dr. Sani Sabo

are commendable strides towards enhancing transportation accessibility in Gombe State.

Dr. Sabo's vigour and innovation in expanding the routes align with Governor Inuwa's disposition towards the general welfare of the people.

It is also important to acknowledge the foundational work done by the immediate past sole administrator of Gombe Line, Usman Kamara for repositioning the company and putting it on a sound footing through diligence and meticulous approach. The combined efforts of these leaderships contribute significantly to the positive transformation of Gombe Line, ensuring it plays a vital role in the state's social and economic development.

Bayambe is a Special Assistant (Media) to Gombe State Governor



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

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3	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine)	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
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PA GE 4 O R 5	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
PA GE 6 O R 7	325,000.00	24,375.00	349,375.00
FR ONT PA GE M A S T H E A D E A R P I E C E	215,000.00	16,875.00	231,875.00
FR ONT PA GE S O L U S	312,500.00	23,437.50	335,937.50
FR ONT PA GE S T R I P	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
B A C K PA GE E A R P I E C E	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00
B A C K PA GE S T R I P	250,000.00	18,750.00	268,750.00
C E N T R E S P R E A D (C O L O U R)	837,500.00	62,812.50	900,312.50
D O U B L E S P R E A D (C O L O U R)	700,000.00	52,500.00	752,500.00
C E N T R E S P R E A D (B L A C K & W H I T E)	575,000.00	43,125.00	618,125.00
D O U B L E S P R E A D (B L A C K & W H I T E)	590,000.00	44,250.00	634,250.00
FR ONT PA GE (10" X 6)	3,250,000.00	243,750.00	3,493,750.00
R O P S T R I P (C O L O U R)	125,000.00	9,375.00	134,375.00
R O P S T R I P (B L A C K & W H I T E)	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

Renewed Hope For Unity And Progress

By: HASSAN GIMBA

This was a speech delivered by Dr Hassan Gimba, publisher of Neptune Prime online newspaper and a syndicated columnist, at the Ebony Herald Hall of Fame and Dignity, held at the Stonehedge Hotel and Suites, Abuja, on 09/11/2023.

Ladies and gentlemen, I say good evening to you all. This is not a topic of my choosing, but one given to me by the organisers. Nonetheless, I will try to do justice to it.

When we say "renew", we are talking about restoration, revival, regeneration, rebuilding, repeating, resuming, etc., while "hope" is to anticipate expectations of fulfilment. On the other hand, "unity" denotes oneness, unification, and harmonious relationship between various parts. "Progress" can be said to connote a journey, expedition, forward movement, advancement, gradual betterment, etc. Putting them together in a simple form, we may be talking of "the resumption of fulfilment of desires necessary for oneness and advancement that was abandoned."

And we need to know that it is hope, hope that tomorrow shall be better, that keeps us alive. Some who have lost it commit suicide. Now, why "renewed hope"? These two words betray the fact that there was a time when there was hope, but the expectations were truncated midway or even before the journey took off.

In my article entitled "The PDP will not return to power, the APC has lost it ...and Nigeria is the loser!" published on the 3rd of December, 2017, I observed that President Muhammadu Buhari has had opportunities to redefine Nigerian politics and position himself in the class of the Nelson Mandelas, the Mahatma Gandhis, the Lee Kuan Yews, etc. of this world, but that he flunked it each time.

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

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

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

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

The second opportunity missed was the day

he was sworn in as president. He famously said he "was for everybody but belonged to nobody". Laudable. And that was what everybody expected because, in the political history of Nigeria, no campaign was ever as intense and nationally engaging as his was. The election that saw him emerge as president was unlike any other before it. It was not like Obasanjo's, certainly not like Yar'Adua's, and not like Jonathan's.

Majority of Nigerians, irrespective of their political persuasions, religious leanings and tribal roots, elected Buhari across the board, if you may.

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

On July 6, 2020, I wrote that real leaders did not look at their people in the face condescendingly and patronisingly, point a finger at them, and sing "change" while they indulged in the vices of yore. In Nigeria, we were promised "change" and we fought to bring in its spearheads. Some lost their capital, others their health, while some paid the supreme price, but we all heaved a sigh of relief and proclaimed, "It has come!" We wanted change, and we thought fairness and justice would take the place of selfishness and impunity; that transparency and accountability would replace corruption and, above all, that our lives and property would be secure.

We have seen how our leaders of old discarded our homemade cars, food, clothes, hospitals and schools and embraced those of foreigners for themselves and their families - at public expense. We were witnesses to our leaders collecting stupendous salaries and allowances, while our most vulnerable slept on empty stomachs. We thought the change would bring leaders who would put everything in order so that the wealth of the land would cascade down to the least of us. That was the hope.

For a long time I have worried about many things, among which is: if the American system, from which we copied our presidential system of governance, does not provide for the government feeding its president (American presidents feed their families from their salaries), why should we? We also asked why we spend hundreds of billions keeping other countries' economies afloat by buying cars from them instead of patronising our homemade ones. Can you just imagine the ripple effects of such monies going into enhancing our local car production efforts? The glass manufacturing industries, car upholstery, tyre production, etc., which would sprout up, as a result, will surely help in cutting down our unemployment rate and arresting galloping inflation by strengthening and stabilising our battered currency.

Well, what caused the last hope to be unrealised that warranted a renewal? Buhari too promised that the difficulties experienced then, as are being experienced now, would be transient. We are now the wiser.



Hassan Gimba *Monday Column*

Even though we are seeing some positive signs, especially with the current appreciation of the naira against the dollar, there are certain things wrong with Nigeria that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu needs to address to set us on the journey of hope, unity, progress and development.

Therefore, our hopes can only be renewed when, first of all, we feel secure and can sleep at night with both eyes closed, while travelling around the country will no longer be a journey of life or death.

Then the people must have access to justice when hurt. The president needs to urgently undertake judicial reforms so that the courts will be actual sanctuaries for justice seekers. No crime should go unpunished, whoever the perpetrator. Sheikh Usman Dan Fodiyo said in his book, *Bayan Wujub al-Hijrah* alal ibad: "A kingdom (nation) can endure with unbelief, but it cannot endure with injustice."

Election petitions should be done with before inauguration otherwise the process will be unfair to three sets of people: the petitioner who is fighting an incumbent with a lot of resources at his disposal, the judge who will adjudicate in a matter concerning he who appoints him and the incumbent who, based on human instinct for self-preservation will use whatever in his reach to triumph.

Then he should look at the Independent National Electoral Commission: the way its management team is appointed and how to

unbundle it. We must go further than that to strengthen our institutions, for a nation with strong institutions gives hope to its people. And voter registration must be on-going so as not to deprive one who reaches the age of voting a day to election from exercising his civil rights.

Mr President will do well to make his government look inward and avoid capital flight. Buying foreign cars instead of locally assembled ones should no longer be acceptable. If we prefer foreign brands, why don't they come here and set up assembly plants?

And Tinubu's government must cut down on wastes and the cost of governance. To do that he must be ready to look political office holders and civil servants eye-ball to eye-ball and tell them that the era of contract fraud – the most deadly forms of financial malfeasance in Nigeria - is over.

We must become a nation that produces what it eats, wears, and drives; we must produce what we use and use what we produce. Rather than go abroad for healthcare or education, we should become a centre that attracts the world because of its first-class hospitals and schools.

Finally, in the values that can renew the hopes of Nigerians, the president must lead by good examples. Mouthing platitudes will not work.

Are we on course?

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

Traders Count Losses As Mysterious Fire Devours Gamboru Market In Borno

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR,
Maiduguri

Traders are licking their wounds and counting losses as another Maiduguri famous market, Gamboru market has been consumed by fire disaster yesterday morning.

The source of the fire outbreak was yet to be ascertained as at time of filing this report, but good Samaritans and vigilante groups including the CJTF and residents were seen busy making frantic efforts to put off the inferno as fire fighting vehicles were yet to arrive, despite the emergency.

However, it would be recalled that Maiduguri city, the state capital of Borno State suffered similar fire incident about nine months ago, when the Maiduguri famous Monday Market was engulfed by similar fire outbreak that left property and other valuables worth billions of Naira destroyed during the



election period.

The fire incident attracted sympathy of individuals and organisations within and outside the state, leading to over N7 billion was expended in reconstructing and redesigning as well as decongesting the market alongside disbursement of over N5 billion cash to over eight thousand traders in the market including wheel barrow pushers and roadside sellers at three different

occasions by the state government, North East Development Commission (NEDC), individuals and organisations among others, before and after the reopening of the Monday Market two weeks ago.

Although, investigations revealed that, it is on record for over a decade, that the issue of fire disaster in markets within the state capital, Maiduguri City and its environs, is almost an annual event due to congestion, lack of

sanitation, poor electricity wiring, lack of functional fire service stations at the markets and lack of adequate parking space for visitors, among other factors.

CJTF sources that spoke to our correspondent close to the scene of the inferno at Budum, said, "we are also at a loss to how the fire started at the market. And you know the market is full of shops and stores with cartons, leather and nylon or plastic items.

"The fear is the fire may go far and reach other places within the market, if fire fighters are not mobilized to arrive on time as the fire is too much for us to put off with water or sand. You can see residents and passers by are all overwhelmed and just watching the fire.

"Yes. Nobody can stop the boys or youth from looting. There is the possibility of such acts, but you can see we are stopping children and even the youth from going near the market.

"They can easily enter the market through other routes, even though there are also CJTF stationed in some places, there but children and youth may overpower them to go and loot shop owners property inside the market. It is possible because it has happened in the past, but all we are after is quick intervention before everything becomes uncontrollable," eye witnesses said.

At the time of filing in this report, the fire service vehicles were yet to arrive the scene of the inferno at about 8:43am.



Kaduna Govt Committed To National Target Of Achieving 27% Contraceptive Rate By 2024 - Perm Sec

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Government has said that it is committed to financing family planning to achieve the Federal Government's 27 percent modern contraceptive prevalence rate (MCPR) among women of reproductive age by 2024.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Kaduna State, Dr. Aisha Sadiq, stated this over the weekend in Kaduna, during a Project Mid-Dessemination meeting of the Society for Family Health's Adolescent 360 Amplify Project (A360) in partnership with the Ministry and Primary Health Care Board tagged: 'Repositioning Towards Sustainable and Scalable Impact, Empowering Adolescents for a Healthier future'.

The A360 is a four-year project funded by the Bill & Belinda Gates Foundation and Children Investment Fund, led and implemented by Population Services International and the Society for Family Health in Nigeria (SFH).

According to her, the current phase of the A360 Amplify program has placed a strong emphasis on Human-Centred

Design (HCD) and integration into Government health and development systems.

She said, "I am happy with the program and how it targets married adolescents in the community by improving the knowledge base and empowering them to aim for higher status in life, adding it is evident that the objectives with these girls, where they educate them on sexual reproductive health, communication skills, financial risk management, menstrual hygiene, and also trained them on manufacturing products, which I have patronize them myself."

She added that the project has helped change the behavior of these married adolescent girls and it has reduced KD the negative implications of maternal mortality and child mortality, stressing Kaduna State Government has already put modalities to sustain and improve the programme.

The Deputy Project Director (DPD) A360 Amplify, Haj. Rakiya Idris, disclosed that the project tagged 'Matasa Matan Arewa' aims at improving the sexual health reproductive education of married adolescent girls aged 15-19 years in the North,

explaining that the concept was first conceived in 2016 in the South-South tagged "Naija girls" and because of the peculiarity of the North, the project was tagged Matasa Matan Arewa.

She stated that one unique thing about the project was the use of the systemic methodology called human-centered design (HCD) in which the adolescent married girls, are involved in co-designing of the program strategies and activities to reach the girls for better implementation.

She urged the Kaduna State Government to domesticate the contingency project so that they can take appropriate actions to the challenges affecting these groups in the community by brainstorming on innovative approaches to sustain the program, emphasizing that the importance of their work extends far beyond the lifespan of A360 by institutionalizing the program strategies.

A-360 Amplify project State Manager, Dr. Tanimu Salisu, noted that the project has helped in strengthening human capacity for health through training 250 providers on C4C and Youth-Friendly Health Services (YFHS) in

the State. 439 mobilized trained, 539 MIPCA and about 1206 community and religious leaders trained to provide an enabling environment for these services.

He said these combined efforts resulted in over 420,000 girls being reached with Family Planning counseling and 370 girls taking up modern contraceptives for the first time.

He explained that the Matasa Matan Arewa continue to improve the human capital development of adolescent girls in Kaduna, as the program has over 2000 graduates from the economic empowerment program who are currently running business and catering for their families.

He expressed confidence that the State would take ownership and improve on the project to ensure that the young married girls become more informed and get access to free services for their sexual health.

Some of the participants expressed satisfaction over the dissemination meeting for the achievements made over the project and commitment towards sustaining and improving the program for the benefit of all young adolescent girls in the state.

Katsina Governor Appoints Mads For KEMCO, State Hotels Board

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has approved the appointment of two managing directors and two general managers for the state agencies.

They are the Katsina State Mining Exploration Company (KEMCO), Hotels Board, Katsina State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (KTARDA) and the State Farmers Supply Company (FASCOKT).

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed, indicates that Geologist Bello Isah Doro was appointed as the new Managing Director of KEMCO, while Sani Aminu is now the new General Manager of the State Hotels Board.

According to the statement, Alhaji Abubakar Dabo will pilot the affairs of KTARDA as its new Managing Director, while FASCOKT's new General Manager is Alhaji Mustapha Abdu Radda and the four new appointments are with immediate effects. Governor Radda, while congratulating the new chief executives tasked them to justify the confidence reposed on them.

He also charged them to see their appointments as a call to serve the people of the state.

In a related development, Governor Dikko Radda has also approved the appointment of his Deputy, Faruk Lawal, as the new Chairman of the State Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).

The trio of Alhaji Suleiman Nuhu Kuki, Alhaji Hassan Doguru and Alhaji Abdullahi Faskari, were also named as Members of the Bureau.

Similarly, in a statement signed by the chief press Secretary to the Governor Ibrahim Kaula Muhammad, Malam said Dikko Radda also

approved the appointments of Alhaji Bello Musa Yantumaki, Alhaji Bello Idris Daura, Alhaji Abdulwahab Suleiman Variety and Hajiya Hassana Ibrahim Mani as Members of the Katsina State Universal Basic Education Board-SUBEB.

Governor Radda appealed to the new appointees to align their visions with his administration's Building Your Future Agenda for Katsina people.

In another development, Katsina State Governor Malam Dikko Umaru Radda, has approved the appointments of two new Executive Chairmen for the Katsina State Anti-corruption Commission, and Katsina State Local Government Services Commission.

They are retired Justice Lawal Garba as the new Executive Chairman of the Katsina Anti-Corruption Commission and Alhaji Usman Mamman Maska as the new Executive Chairman of the Local Government Services Commission.

For the Katsina State Anti-Corruption Commission, seven new part-time members were appointed.

They are, Surajo Doro, Abba Mato, Alhaji Kabir Aliyu Maska, Nafiu Kuringafa, Bello Danmusa, Barrister Usman Dalhatu and Dr. Jamilu Abdussalam who is to serve as the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

Also, seven new Permanent Members namely Alhaji Abubakar Abdulkadir, Abdul'aziz Lawal Danyari, Mansur Murnai, Shafi'u Inono, Sani Aliyu Jarkuka, Alhaji Abdullahi Kutawa and Alhaji Lawal Dalhatu were also appointed for the Katsina State Local Government Services Commission.

While felicitating the new appointees, the Governor tasked them on exemplary service to the government and people of the state.



Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke presenting 2024 Budget to the House of Assembly Osun State on Thursday. Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO

Nasarawa Govt Reaffirms Support To Lobi Stars FC, Charges Team To Maintain Momentum

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Nasarawa State Government has, for the umpteenth time, assured officials and players of Nigeria Premier Football League side, Lobi Stars FC of Makurdi, Benue State, of a serene and hospitable environment for the period of their stay in their adopted home ground, the Lafia City Stadium.

Governor Abdullahi Sule gave the assurance when he met with players and officials of the "Alia Boys" as Lobi Stars are nicknamed, on the sidelines of the Nasarawa United versus Zamfara United 2023/24 Nigeria National League curtain raiser at the remodelled Lafia City Stadium on Saturday evening. Sule noted that Nasarawa and Benue states have a lot in common and that it's only natural to work together for the attainment of their common

goals and aspirations.

He charged the team to remain focused and work hard to win the league title.

Vice Chairman cum Chief Executive Officer of high-flying Lobi Stars FC, and former Nigerian International, Dominic Iorfa, who led his team to the Lafia City Stadium on Saturday in solidarity with the Solid Miners in their first game of the NNL new campaign, thanked the governor for providing an

uncommon ground for his team to prosecute the 2023/24 NPFL Season's matches.

He also appreciated the peace-loving people of Nasarawa State for their unwavering support to the cause of the Benue team since adopting the Lafia City Stadium as their home ground.

Iorfa disclosed that the ambience and finesse provided by the State Government is largely responsible for his team's excellent start to the Season,

promising to sustain the tempo and reciprocate the benevolence and gesture of Nasarawa State.

Lobi Stars slugged it out against visiting Sporting Lagos FC in the NPFL match-day eight tie yesterday, at the Lafia City Stadium.

The "Alia Boys" currently top the NPFL table after seven matches with 14 points, three points ahead of their yesterday's opponents.



2023 AFCON: Ufitfly Collaborates Supporters' Club To Give Fans Big Treat In Cote d'Ivoire

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Ahead the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2023 scheduled to kick off in the Ivorian cities of Abidjan, Bouake, Korhogo, San Pedro and Yamoussoukro from January 13 to February 11, 2024, popular tour broking firm, Ufitfly as unveiled its plan for soccer lovers that might want to take a tour of Cote d'Ivoire.

Speaking with the sporting press in Lagos, Akewusola Akeem Olanrewaju of the destination management firm that has its offices in major cities in Nigeria, revealed that it has perfected plans to work with the Super Eagles Supporters Club to give a seamless travel arrangement for any intending football lover that will want to witness the live matches during the AFCON 2023.

Interested soccer lovers according to Akewusola, should

visit the Lagos office of UfitFly at No. 36A Toyin Street opposite Ibis Hotel, Ikeja or any of their branches across the country to register as the registration will close November 30 in order to perfect good preparation ahead of January 13, 2024 that the competition will commence in Cote D'Ivoire.

"At Ufitfly, we will depart Nigeria, January 12th till February 12th as we go on a tour of these wonderful cities where these matches will be played. Our package includes the entire travel service of return road trip, one month accommodation, daily breakfast, bus transfer to all match venues, free match tickets and souvenirs, flight ticket (based on request)," Akewusola noted.

"You have the opportunity of paying only twice with more than half of the fare for the total packages as first installment.



The TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations Cote d'Ivoire 2023 gives you a feel of a different travel experience from the conventional destinations. Let's go and cheer our dear Super Eagles and also have travel

experience while exploring the French speaking West African Nation," he added.

There is also predict and win promo, where football lovers will win fantastic prizes as it would be recalled that many

soccer fans that took part in the last 'Predict & Win promo' run by the firm during Africa Cup of Nation held in Egypt, won \$30 dollars each after the continental tournament, courtesy of Ufitfly.

World Cup Qualifiers: Coach Peseiro Arrives Uyo For Nigeria/Lesotho Clash

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Head Coach of Super Eagles, Jose Peseiro has arrived Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital ahead of Thursday's 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Lesotho, just as the team's camp opened

yesterday.

Peseiro who was received by members of Akwa Ibom State Football Normalization Committee at the Victor Attah International Airport, was accompanied by his foreign assistants, Maykel Moreira,

Acacio Santos and Vitor Hugo, Nigeria's Super Eagles would face Lesotho in a FIFA 2026 World Cup qualifier on Thursday November 16, 2023 at the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium, Uyo by 5pm. The Portuguese tactician had

called up 23 players for this month's World Cup qualifying fixtures against Lesotho and Zimbabwe.

According to the team's travelling schedule, eight players are expected to arrive camp on Monday, while fifteen others would join on Tuesday for the

first full training session ahead of the game.

Meanwhile, sporting fans Akwa Ibom are high spirits to cheer up the country's number one football team to a win against the the visiting Likuena (Crocodile) of Lesotho.



Super Eagles Coach Jose with his team in Uyo.

**World Cup Qualifiers:
Coach Peseiro
Arrives Uyo For
Nigeria/Lesotho Clash**

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Nigeria Among Highest Immunization Zero Dose Children - UNICEF

By; ADAM MUHAMMAD, Gusau

The United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) has alerted that based on recent data from its flagship report, the State of the World Children's Report (SOWC) 2023, Nigeria lists as one of the countries with highest immunization Zero Dose children.

The UNICEF said, reference to children who didn't receive a single dose of antigens they should have taken at their age to give them protection from vaccine-preventable diseases.

According to the report, out of the 67 million children who missed routine vaccination between 2019 and 2022, 48 million didn't receive a single regular vaccine.

"As of the end of 2021, India and Nigeria had the most significant numbers of zero-dose children". UNICEF said

The Chief UNICEF field office in Sokoto State, Dr. Maryam Darwesh disclosed this at a two-day media dialogue on routine immunization campaign and zero

dose reduction campaign held at Sokoto Guest Inn on Saturday.

Dr. Darwesh who was represented by Dr. Shamina Sharmin, Health Manager, UNICEF Sokoto Field Office, stated that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the situation as it interrupted childhood vaccination almost everywhere, mainly due to intense demands on healthcare systems.

Dr. Darwesh pointed out that based on the National Immunization Coverage Survey (NICS) 2021, Nigeria has made progress in immunization, with national Routine Immunization coverage of children receiving all three doses of the pentavalent vaccine at 57 percent.

According to the survey, completeness of routine immunization coverage is 36 per cent for North West Nigeria, which indicated that the figure is only 25 per cent.

Dr. Darwesh hinted that the vaccine hesitancy is as old as vaccination itself, adding that the nature of the challenge continues to shift with the social landscape

adding that the World Health Organization declared vaccine hesitancy a top threat to public health.

The UNICEF suggested that Nigeria needs to build on the gains made in routine immunization by sustaining awareness of the importance of routine immunization in the minds of caregivers, communities, decision-makers, and the public.

The UNICEF emphasized that the disseminating accurate information and allaying the spread of misinformation is essential to ensuring every child is protected with life-saving vaccines..

UNICEF suggested that Nigeria needs to build on the gains made in Routine Immunization by sustaining awareness of the importance of Routine Immunization in the minds of caregivers, communities, decision-makers, and the public.

"UNICEF is committed to providing caregivers and communities with fact-based information on vaccines and ensuring a through community-

level engagement and building partnerships, UNICEF works to build trust.

" There is also need to involves developing alliances with the media, civil society organizations, and faith-based organizations to increase awareness in undeserved and under reached communities".

Dr. Darwesh hinted According to UNICEF, states covered by the Sokoto FO have the highest burden of unimmunized children in Nigeria, with the FO harboring 22 LGAs out of the 100 high burden zero dose LGAs in Nigeria.

UNICEF attributed that the the recent outbreaks of Diphtheria in Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara states were found to have occurred in locations with zero-dose children.

"UNICEF's to build a strong partnership with the media to sustain messaging on the importance of Routine Immunization, highlighting what parents, caregivers, communities, traditional and religious leaders, decision-makers, and stakeholders should do to promote

Routine Immunization.

"This points to the imperative of strengthening Routine Immunization as the outbreaks signpost the danger posed to children's lives by low immunization coverage levels," UNICEF warned.

Dr. Darwesh stated that, UNICEF to build a strong partnership with the media to sustain messaging on the importance of Routine Immunization, highlighting what parents, caregivers, communities, traditional and religious leaders, decision-makers, and stakeholders should do to promote Routine Immunization.

"As Immunization is one of UNICEF's Global Advocacy Priorities, keeping conversations on Routine Immunization on the front burner of Nigeria's public discourse is essential."

Dr. Darwesh explained that strategic and constructive engagement of the media with its mass-mediated news and information dissemination platforms is paramount to UNICEF.

PSC Applauds Police For Resisting Miscreants From Hijacking Kogi, Imo, Bayelsa Elections

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Police Service Commission (PSC) has applauded officers and men of the Nigeria Police for being courageous and prevention of miscreants from hijacking the Governorship Elections held at the weekend Kogi, Imo and Bayelsa states.

According to reports by Staff Monitors deployed by the commission to the concerned states, Police Officers at the several polling units visited were courteous, approachable and professional.

A statement by Ikechukwu Ani Head, Press and Public Relations, the PSC also noted that the police officers also contained pockets of attacks in Brass and some other locations in the riverine areas of Bayelsa State.

It added that some arrests were recorded in many places especially in Kogi State, as there were incidents of attacks on voting units, some arrests were recorded in many places especially in Kogi State.

The release reads, " The Police Service Commission Staff Monitors deployed to the nine Senatorial districts of Kogi, Imo and Bayelsa states says the Police men on election duty were courageous and fairly contained intermittent cases of attempts to hijack the elections.

" The Officers in several of the Polling Units visited were said to be courteous, approachable and professional.

" Although there were incidents of attacks on voting units, some arrests were recorded in many places especially in Kogi State.

" The Police were said to have also contained pockets of attacks in

Brass and some other locations in the riverine areas of Bayelsa State.

" There were however reports of vote buying in the three states but without the connivance of Police officers on election duties.

" The Commission monitored five of the eight local governments in Imo West. In Imo North and East, there were visible patrol of Policemen in collaboration with the Military on the major roads with Police helicopter said to have hovered over the voting space throughout the election period.

" Police Officers were said to have arrived in most of the voting units in Bayelsa very early, properly dressed and exhibited high level of professionalism.

" PSC Monitors sighted an average of two policemen in most of the voting units while in few others one Police personnel were seen.

" The Police were said to have sent early signals in Kogi State where it reportedly arrested several miscreants who attacked Polling Units. The Officers on election duty were complimented by Officers from sister Agencies".

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Commission Dr. Solomon Arase, CFR, retired Inspector General of Police who monitored the exercise in Kogi State has commended the three Deputy Inspectors General of Police who supervised Police operations in the states for their quick responses to the Commission's intermittent requests for Police intervention in troubled areas. The DIGs were, Frank Mba; Sani Habu and Daniel Isokari-Pedro.

Dr. Arase advised that the Police should remain on guard and prepared to forstal any breakdown

of law and order after the announcement of the election results.

He also directed that in the few places where there were pockets of Police misconduct, the Police Management should quickly investigate and forward its recommendations to the Commission for immediate disciplinary action since every act of misdemeanor must have commensurate consequences.

Dr. Arase said the Commission will continue to monitor police conduct during elections as it serves to put the Police on its toes for optimal performance.

The PSC Staff Monitors operated from the nine Senatorial districts while the National Coordinating team partnered the Civil Society groups and operated from the Situation Room in Abuja.