

Sam Maris Varsity Announces Opportunity To Change Institution On JAMB Site

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547,774 Candidates Jostle For Police Recruitment 5 Weeks To Deadline

■ 190,741 Applicants Rejected ■ Kaduna maintains first position with highest number of applicants with 40,272

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Five weeks into closure of recruitment portal, Police Service Commission (PSC) has said that it has so far, received a total of five hundred and seven thousand, seven hundred and seventy four (547,774) applications for recruitment into the Constable cadre of the Nigeria Police Force. Ikechukwu Ani, Head of Press and Public Relations who stated this in a statement issued yesterday, said that

November 26, 2023 will complete the mandatory six weeks requirement for the exercise by Federal Character Commission (FCC), having opened portal on October 15, 2023. According to Mr Ani, a total of 358,900 out of the 547,774 applicants were successful and have qualified for the next round of the recruitment process which includes the physical, credentials, medicals and strict background checks of the applicants. A total of 190,741 applicants including those with over age were



From left: Minister of Education, Prof Tahir Mamman (SAN) Chancellor, Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar; Ooni of Ife Oba Enitan Ogunwusi; Emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero at the 75th Foundation & Convocation day of University of Ibadan

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rejected. Applicants are expected to be between the ages of 18 and 25, Ani added. He said, Kaduna State maintains its first position as the state with the highest number of applicants with 40,272 with Anambra still stuck in the last position with 1664. Adamawa State is second with 36,398 applications, Bornu State third with 32,048. Benue State with 31,122 is fourth, Katsina State with 30,202 is 5th, Bauchi State with 30,604 is 6th while Kano with 30,004 is 7th. Ebonyi State with 2,132

applications is next to Anambra from the rear, followed by Lagos State with 2,324 applicants. Bayelsa State is 4th from the rear with 2,651 while Abia has 2,796 and 5th from the rear. The Head of Press and Public Relations said that the Chairman of the Commission, IG Solomon Arase (rtd), has expressed satisfaction with the number of applications already received, describing it as a show of incredible interest of Nigerian youths in pursuing their career in Nigeria Police.

His words, "Dr. Solomon Arase, CFR, retired Inspector General of Police expressed his satisfaction with the number of applications already received. He observed that it is obvious that Nigerian youths have decided to show incredible interest in pursuing a career in the Nigeria Police, a development he said augurs well for the new Police we are building". Dr Arase according to Ani, has appealed once again to the youths of the South-East to change its indifference to Police

work, insisting that embracing anti-government criminal gangs will not lead them anywhere. The Commission Boss advised that they should be concerned on what becomes of the region in the future as no development can thrive in a terror ravaged communities. He noted that the commission would do its best to ensure that the recruitment was strictly based on defined criteria with merit and justice prevalent throughout the processes.

FCTA Development Control Director Hails House Of Reps Dismissal Of Frivolous Petition



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The House of Representatives has thrown out a petition by a group against the Director of the Department of Development Control of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Town Planner, Mukhtar Galadima. The House dismissed the petition as the petitioner failed to show up to defend the petition.

At the case listed among those to be treated by the house committee on Thursday November 16, 2023. The Director and his counsel, Alkali Adamu Askira Esq were at the venue, room 429 before the 1pm slated time. Sadly, the petitioner was nowhere to be found.

The chairman of the House of Representatives committee on Public Petition, Honourable Mike Etaba subsequently threw out the petition.

Speaking to newsmen on the matter, counsel to the director, Alkali Adamu Askira Esq said, "We filed our defense and produced ten hard copies and one soft copy as demanded by the committee. Precisely by 2pm the clerk called the case but to our great dismay the petitioners failed to appear nor their counsel"

Speaking further he said, "As lawyers, we are minister in the temple of justice, we shouldn't appear to be on the side of injustice no matter what. When a matter is adjourned in your presenttce, it means you have dully served with notice of the next sitting, but failure to appear without any reasons

is like you abandon the petitions."

He praised the chairman and members of the committee, saying that they are absolutely right in striking out the petitions.

He disclosed that, "if not the committee are quasi administrative body, we would have asked for five million Naira cost for wasting our precious time to respond to this malicious petitions that lack merits in all its ramifications".

He thanked the committee's chairman and members for not allowing their, "noble office to be used as a platform of dragging good name of public servants down to the mud".

On his part, the Director of Development Control Department, Town Planner Mukhtar Galadima says with this petition thrown out he can now focus on his job with no distraction

In his words, "Abuja is growing too fast and the challenges of ensuring proper development is very heavy. Petitions like this are very distracting. The time one would spend in vetting and approving building plans should not be spent in reading and responding to frivolous petitions such as this one.

"I can now spend time with my team and colleagues in the department to monitor building construction, correct contraventions and remove illegalities where the need arises".

He praised the lawmakers for the decision, while calling on the petitioner to devote his or her energy on meaningful and fruitful ventures.

Oborevori Tasks Politicians On Serving With Humility

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Governor of Delta State, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevori yesterday, called on political officer holders to continue serving the people with humility to the glory of God.

Oborevori spoke at the thanksgiving service in honour of Majority Leader of the State House of Assembly, Hon. Emeka Nwaobi, at St Paul's Catholic Cathedral Church, Issele-Uku, Aniocha North Local Government Area of the state.

The governor, who described the celebrant, Emeka Nwaobi, as a good man, urged him to continue serving God with humility.

He urged him to use his position to bring the people of Aniocha North together for the good of the local government area and called on the people to continue thanking God for His good deeds upon their lives.

"As were coming here this morning, we passed through the Ogwashi-Uku Stadium where we came for PDP Governorship

primaries in 2006.

"I passed through that as a delegate then and today I passed through it as Governor of Delta State. It is only God that can do a thing like that and it is good to give thanks to Him for whatever happens because if Okowa had become Governor in 2007, perhaps I wouldn't have been governor today."

In his remarks, Hon. Nwaobi expressed appreciation to Governor Oborevori and the party leadership for finding him worthy to serve as Majority Leader of the House.

He pledged his unalloyed loyalty and commitment to the Speaker and members of the House and urged his Aniocha North constituents, particularly, Issele-Uku kingdom, to continue supporting the PDP for more dividends of democracy.

Earlier in his teaching on, "The Parable of Christ to His disciples", Catholic Bishop of Issele-Uku Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Michael Elue said God gives to man according to their abilities and urged Christians to excel with the talents given to them



From left: Minister of Education, Prof Tahir Mamman (SAN) Chancellor, Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar; Ooni of Ife Oba Enitan Ogunwusi; Emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero at the 75th Foundation & Convocation day of University of Ibadan

by God.

He said every talent and ability endowed unto man must be used to render service to the glory of God and in furtherance of God's kingdom.

The Bishop added that God rewards abundantly those who use their God-given talent for the service of God and His kingdom.

The thanksgiving service was attended by the State Deputy Governor, Sir Monday Onyeme, immediate past Governor of the State Senator Dr Ifeanyi Okowa and his wife Edith, Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Emomotimi Guwor and his wife, Timiebi; Speaker Anambra State House of Assembly Rt. Hon. Somtochukwu Udeze; Deputy Speaker Delta

State House of Assembly Rt. Hon. Arthur Akpowowo and wife, State Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Olorogun Kingsley Esiso; and members of the State House of Assembly. Also in attendance, were; former Deputy Governor of the State, Chief Benjamin Elue, Secretary to the State Government, Dr Kingsley Emu; Chief of Staff to the Governor, Prince Johnson Erijo; Senior Political Adviser to the Governor, Senator Emmanuel Aguariavwodo; members of the State Executive Council, Chairman Delta State Board of Internal Revenue, Hon. Solomon Ighrakpata, top government functionaries, amongst others.

NDLEA Apprehends Fleeing Notorious Drug Lord Seven Years After Jail Break, 28 Others

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

The long arm of the law has caught up with a notorious drug dealer following his arrest by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) seven years after escaping from prison custody.

Twenty eight others, including a female were also arrested in Ekiti, Ondo, Sokoto, Benue, Ogun and Imo States, and 63,767.3kgs of cannabis, 82,320 pills of opioids recovered in raids across 8 states.

Identified as Ibrahim Momoh, popularly known as Ibrahim Bendel, the fleeing ex-convict was said to have been found guilty and convicted for drug dealing before his escape from custody.

Described as a notorious major distributor of illicit substances within the Federal Capital Territory, the drug lord was said to have been arrested by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA during a raid of his hideout at Filin Dabo, Dei-Dei area of the FCT.

In a statement yesterday, the Director, Media & Advocacy of the narcotics agency, Femi Babafemi revealed how Ibrahim Momoh was first arrested on 27th November, 2014 with cannabis sativa weighing 385.1kgs, prosecuted, convicted and sentenced to seven and a half years in prison on 22nd July 2015 but while serving his jail term at Kuje, escaped from prison custody on 16th May, 2016.

According to him, "Following credible intelligence, NDLEA operatives on 20th November 2022 stormed the warehouse of the fleeing ex-convict, Ibrahim

Momoh, and recovered 81 jumbo bags of cannabis weighing 1,278kgs. The store was located within his poultry farm in Dei-Dei area of the FCT. Though Momoh was not around at the time, his warehouse manager, 55-year-old Ghanaian, Richard Forson Gordon was arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to two years in jail. The Agency thereafter declared Ibrahim Momoh wanted.

"The manhunt for the drug lord paid off on 5th November 2023 when operatives again raided his hideout at Filin Dabo, Dei-Dei area of Abuja where he was arrested with 56.9kgs of cannabis sativa and 42.7 grams of Diazepam. In another raid in the same area of the FCT on Monday 13th November, a suspect Yusuf Ibrahim, 27, was arrested with 75.3kgs of cannabis.

Meanwhile, a massive operation in the forest of Efon Alaye in Efon local government area of Ekiti state on Saturday 18th November 2023 has led to the destruction of 52,500 kilograms of cannabis sativa covering over 21 hectares of farmland while a total of ninety two bags of same substance weighing 1,380 kilograms were recovered and another 250 bags weighing 3,000kgs stored in different huts on the farm were also burnt.

No fewer than 15 suspects were arrested on the farm during the operation. They include: Okikiri Julius, 27; Ozoemene Friday Efajemu, 31; Tosin Ibrahim, 18; Israel Samuel, 25; Godwin David, 39; Friday Isaac, 19; Ayomide Igbekele, 18; Joshua Daniel, 27; Emmanuel Nwachukwu, 19; Emeka Onyeama, 31; Ani Augustine, 27; Obasi Ogbu, 32; Orsusue Peter, 23; Daniel Emmanuel, 18;

and Yinusa James, 22.

In Ondo state, five persons including another wanted drug kingpin, Christopher Onyebuchi, 40, were arrested at New Bridge Compound, Idoani on Wednesday 15th November and a total of 1,945 kilograms of cannabis recovered from them. Others include: Olorunda Ojo, 52; Femi Tomoye, 22; Abdurahman Salahu, 29; and Momoh Jimoh, 31. Onyebuchi had earlier been arrested by NDLEA on 25th March 2022 with 89kgs of same substance but jumped bail after he was arraigned at the Federal High Court, Akure.

Operatives in the state also on Sunday 12th Nov raided Upemen village in Owo where they recovered 1,834kgs of same substance with 273kgs also seized the previous day, Saturday 11th Nov at Ipesi Akoko. While NDLEA officers in Sokoto recovered 290kgs of cannabis from a female suspect, Fatima Salmanu, 20, at Gangaren Tashar, Illela Sokoto in Sokoto North LGA on Thursday 16th Nov, their colleagues in Edo state evacuated 808kgs of the same psychoactive substance stored in a forest at Igueben on Monday 13th Nov.

Not less than 231kgs of cannabis were recovered and five suspects arrested in a joint raid between NDLEA operatives and soldiers in Kwande council area of Benue



Exhibits recovered from the suspects nabbed by NDLEA.

state on Monday 13th Nov. Those arrested include: Denen Terhembra, 25; Liambee Iorhuna, 36; Iorhuna Sughnen, 20; Aboh Sonter, 23; and Msendoo Tyokaa, 36.

While operatives in Ogun state on Tuesday 14th Nov arrested a suspect, Tony Jonah at Abule Iroko, with cannabis sativa weighing 67kgs, those in Lagos arrested Chike Agu at Ago Palace way, Isolo with 364.3kgs of Loud, a variant of cannabis.

In Imo state, NDLEA operatives on patrol along Owerri-Onitsha expressway on Monday 13th Nov intercepted a truck marked XS 669KRD driven by one Orji Ifeanyi, 33. A search of the truck led to the seizure of 82,320 pills of opioids including Tramadol 225mg, and Diazepam as well as 32.5 litres of codeine cough syrup and 100 pieces of Molly weighing 49.62 grams.

The War Against Drug Abuse, WADA, advocacy campaign of the Agency continued in equal measure in schools, markets, worship places and others across the country in the past week. Some of them include: WADA advocacy lecture for Muslim faithful at Badagry Central

Mosque, Badagry, Lagos; WADA sensitisation lecture for students of Government Science College, Wase, Plateau state; WADA sensitisation lecture for students of Anglican Girls Secondary School, Ogidi, Anambra state; WADA advocacy lecture at St. Thomas Grammar School, Otan Aiyegbaju, Osun; WADA advocacy lecture for students and staff of Government Junior Arabic Secondary School, Maigatari, Jigawa state as well as students and staff of Mainland Technical College, Oron, Akwa Ibom state.

While commending the officers and men of the FCT, Ekiti, Ondo, Sokoto, Lagos, Edo, Benue, Ogun and Imo Commands for the arrests and seizures of the past week, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) urged them and their compatriots across all formations of the Agency to intensify the offensive action tempo against drug cartels as the yuletide season approaches while maintaining a balance with their drug demand reduction efforts.

Sam Maris Varsity Announces Opportunity To Change Institution On JAMB Site

By; **ADEBOYE ADO, Akure**

The Management of Sam Maris University (SMU), Supare-Akoko, Ondo State has notified the general public that candidates seeking admission into the institution can now change their choice of institution to the university on JAMB Portal.

The University's Registrar, Mr. David Daramola, gave the indication in a statement issued on Saturday, 18th November, 2023, and made available to

newsmen.

The statement reads: "Sam Maris University is pleased to announce the availability of Sam Maris University on the JAMB Portal for change of institution. As a prospective student, you can now visit the JAMB Portal, seamlessly change your choice of institution to SMU, and thereafter visit the University website at <https://portal.smu.edu.ng> to register for Post-UTME admission screening

exercise."

"Candidates undergoing this process must possess a minimum of five O' level credits in relevant subjects, including English Language and Mathematics in not more than two sittings. Such candidates must have scored 140 and above in the 2023 UTME. Choosing Sam Maris University comes with numerous advantages, including the option of payment of tuition fees in installments, thereby creating a flexible

financial arrangement for candidates, their parents and guardians. SMU also offers a conducive learning environment that engenders skills development, knowledge acquisition and comprehension."

"Sam Maris University is situated at Km 2, Etioro-Afaa Road, Supare-Akoko, Ondo State."

"For further details, please visit our website: www.smu.edu.ng or Call: 08034034188, 08132193344"

Oyo Woos Media Outfits On Cultural Tourism Promotion

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Commissioner for Culture and Tourism, Dr. Wasiu Olatubosun has advocated partnership with media houses and relevant organisations in promoting and exploring tourism potentials in the state.

Dr Olatubosun made the call during a corporate tour of media organizations, security outfits and the Pacesetters Transport Services in the state.

The Commissioner said the tour is part of the Oyo State government's efforts in the sustainable pursuit of Tourism drive for the Oyo State, through propagation, promotion and publicizing the Cultural-Tourism activities of the government.

He stressed that the state has over one hundred and sixty eight tourism sites, including Ado Awaye Suspended Lake; Old Oyo National Park; Rock formation, Agbele; Igbeti; Captain Bowers Tower; Agodi Garden; Akoru and Ofere Hills, Eruwa.

According to the Commissioner, some cultural centres are the Igbo Ologun, named after the ancient warrior of Saki land, the Basaori stream that history said used to lend those in need clothes and jewelries, the aluminum pot casting industry, the shea butter industry and the local blacksmith industry.

Proposing that collaboration with media houses in the areas of tourism and cultural

promotion would further strengthen the relationship with the country, the Commissioner said the infrastructural development projects embarked on by the Governor of Oyo State, Engr. Seyi Makinde have added value to tourism expansion in the State.

Dr Olatubosun maintained that this has opened up interconnectivity of road networks to the various geopolitical zones in the State, leading to an astronomical influx of tourists in the past four years of this administration.

Expressing the willingness of the state government to partner with prospective investors, adding that the present administration is ready to introduce policies that would promote rapid investment in the sector.

The Commissioner and his team visited the Broadcasting Corporation of Oyo State (BCOS), Agidigbo FM, Oyo State security outfit, Operation Burst; and Pacesetters Transport Services.

In his response, the Chairman of Agidigbo, 88.7 f.m Mr. Oriyomi Hamzat gave the assurance of his unflinching support to the ministry.

Also, the Executive Chairperson, BCOS, Mrs. Dotun Olaitan commended the Ministry for its remarkable programs within the time the Ministry was created.

Similarly, the Chairman, Oyo State Pacesetters Transportation Services, Hon. Dr. Ibraheem Dikko,

said, having established the Transportation System as an essential mobility factor in the sustainable development and growth of the state, the corporation will work out a common ground with the ministry.

Two Police Officers Gunned Down In Ebonyi As Armed Hoodlums Launch Attack

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Ebonyi State Police Command has confirmed the attack and killing of two operatives of the command on patrol at Nwofe road at the outskirt of Abakaliki, who were attacked by armed hoodlums using a tinted Highlander vehicle with registration number unknown.

According to the statement by the command's Public Relations Officer, SP Onome Onovewakpoyeya, the incident occurred around 8:30am on Friday,

November 17, 2023.

She further explained that two of the operatives were killed, while one is currently receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

The Commissioner of Police also visited the scene of the incident with her management team for on the spot assessment and used the medium to call on well meaning individuals of the state to avail the command with useful information that can lead to the arrest of the fleeing hoodlums, while assuring them of round the clock visibility patrol of the nooks and crannies of the state.

The press release reads in parts, "Today 17/11/2023 at about 08:30 am, Operatives of the Command on patrol at Nwofe road at the outskirt of Abakaliki were attacked by armed hoodlums suspected to be IPOB/ESN members using a tinted Highlander vehicle with registration number unknown.

Two (2) of the Operatives were fatally wounded while one (1) is currently receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

The Commissioner Of police, Ebonyi state police Command, CP Augustina Ogbodo Psc on receiving the distress call,

immediately dispatched Tactical teams to the scene, who equally swung into action by giving the hoodlums a hot chase but the hoodlums escaped.

The Commissioner of Police also visited the scene of the incident with her management team for on the spot Assessment.

She is using this medium to call on well meaning individuals of state to avail the Command with useful information that can lead to the arrest of the fleeing hoodlums while assuring them of round the clock visibility patrol of the nooks and crannies of the state."



Gov Adeleke Not Responsible For Osun CJ Stepping Aside - Attorney General

**Says State Assembly asked CJ to step aside*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice of Osun State, Barrister Wole Jimi-Bada has declared that Governor Ademola Adeleke is not involved in the stepping aside order on Mrs Adepele Ojo as the State Chief Judge.

Barrister Jimi-Bada who made this known in a statement on Thursday evening, that Mrs Ojo was asked to step aside from office as a result of a petition.

According to the Attorney General, a strongly worded

petition was sent to the Osun State Judicial Service Commission and the State House of Assembly, which lead to the hearing and eventual resolution of the State House of Assembly to ask the Chief Judge to step aside.

The Attorney General stressed that the House of Assembly further launched investigation into the allegation contained in the said petition and even summoned the Chief Judge to appear before its investigative committee.

As part of its investigation, the House

passed a resolution recommending that the State Governor should ask the Chief Judge to step aside and appoint an acting Chief Judge pending the outcome of the investigation by both the House of Assembly and the NJC to which the matter has been referred", he said.

Barrister Jimi-Bada added, "As the Governor believes so much in due process, rule of law and fear of God, he approved the recommendation with a caveat that if the Chief Judge is found to be innocent, she should return to her position.

" Governor Adeleke only acted to ensure that there is no vacuum by appointing an acting Chief Judge as a temporary measure. We want to assert that the Governor was not the writer of the petition nor is the Governor the retinue of persons who provided multiple evidence as regards the conduct of the Chief Judge, as contained in the petition".

The Attorney General stressed further " By appointing an acting Chief Judge, the Governor only acted to ensure there is no vacuum and there is no tampering with potential evidence while the investigation lasted".



Gov Makinde

Dexa Donates 698 Helmets To Okada Riders In Gombe



By; **ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe**

A pharmaceutical company, Dexa, the producers of Boska, has donated helmets to 698 Okada riders in Gombe.

The company said the essence is to provide protection and safety of lives during accidents.

The Commissioner for Internal Security and Ethical Orientation, Gombe State, Lieutenant Abdullahi Bello (Rtd), commended Boska for giving out such number of helmets to the commercial motorcycle riders in Gombe.

The commissioner said

their effort is a measure aimed at protecting people's lives because they are partners in progress in terms of revenue generation to the government.

He promised to extend the message to the governor, as a company, which came from afar donated helmets to thousands of the Okada riders in Gombe.

In his response, the Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Gombe State, Mr. Felix Theman, said the importance of helmets cannot be over emphasized, because it is very important to all Okada riders to wear

helmets for their own safety.

Theman commended the Boska Company for their support, adding that if such a company makes such a donation, it will assist them in their campaign for wearing helmets.

He called on the Okada riders to ride safely and use the helmets accordingly, because wearing helmets will reduce the number of deaths when accidents occur.

Mr. Tony Amadi, the Digital Marketing Manager of the company, said they gave out helmets to the Okadas

riders, just to protect their lives.

Adding that, they intend to donate more when the simulation calls for it, but that they have made such donations to 600 Okada riders in Sokoto, because helmets are very important while riding.

Some Okada riders who spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries, expressed happiness, even though the enforcement of helmet use was not observed in Gombe.

He said it would have been useful to them, thereby, calling on all to emulate Dexa, because it cared about their lives.

Unidentified Persons Attack, Injure, Former Governor Matawalle's Censorship Board Chairman, Children In Jos

By; **ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna**

Some yet-to-be identified persons on Friday morning, attacked and wounded an ardent supporter of former governor of Zamfara State, Dr. Bello Muhammad, Matawallen Maradun, Sani Nasiru Makari, alongside his two children in Jos, Plateau State.

Sani Nasiru Makari was the chairman, Zamfara State Censorship Board during the immediate past administration of Governor Matawalle.

The incident which occurred in the early hours of Friday in Makari's residence in Jos, left the victims seriously wounded.

According to an eye witness, Sani was shot at with a gun by one of the attackers, but the bullet missed its target, and bruised one of his sons in the head.

According to the witnesses, one of Sani's daughters was also stabbed with a sharp knife by one of the attackers when she held him crying and shouting at him to leave her father alone.

"When he was unable to shoot his victim, the attacker then used a sharp knife to stab him".

One of the eye-witnesses said the attackers came to the residence of the victim in a black Mercedes Benz; broke the gate and forced themselves into the house and started shooting indiscriminately.

The victims', Sani Makari and his two children are currently in a nearby health facility receiving treatment.

This is the second time the victim would be attacked by unidentified gunmen.

Sani Makari was alleged to have recently engaged in social media criticism of the present administration of Governor Dauda Lawal.

Emir Of Borgu Lauds FG Over School Feeding Programme

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The Emir of Borgu kingdom, HRH, Barrister Mohammed Sani Dantoro, has commended the Federal Government for its continued interest in the National Home Grown Feeding Programme for primary schools.

Receiving the Senior Special Assistant to the President on School Feeding, Dr. Yetunde

Adeniji, to his palace on Friday during a courtesy visit, the Emir disclosed that the programme will increase pupils' enrollment in schools significantly.

The Emir while expressed his commitment to providing continuous support for the program initiated by the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration, however raised concerns regarding the challenges facing the

school feeding program.

He emphasized that effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation are crucial for its sustainability.

The Emir highlighted the importance of meeting the expectations of the Renewed Hope Agenda of Mr. President in the overall implementation of the school feeding program

Expressing joy in President Tinubu

commitment to end hunger and ensure the vulnerable children are catered for under the School Feeding program, the Emir promised his unflinching support in achieving the success of the Program.

The Senior Special Assistant to the President, Dr. Yetunde Adeniji while speaking, said the essence of the visit was to seek the Monarchs' support in deepening the federal government school feeding programme.



Dr. Bello Muhammad

Kaduna Joins North West States At Code d'Ivoire To Seek AfDB's Intervention In Power, Agriculture



By; **FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna**

Kaduna State Deputy Governor, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe joined the governors of the North West zone at a meeting with the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire as part of a regional effort to seek AfDB's intervention in agriculture and power.

The governors, who met with the team from the African Development Bank led by the President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, presented a regional approach developed by the seven states to position the region to better utilize the opportunities offered by the Bank's Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Programme.

In her presentation at the meeting, Dr. Hadiza assured the AfDB's president of Kaduna State's commitment to the

collective vision of the northwest region, stating that the participation of Kaduna State in the discussions underscores the critical importance the administration of Governor Uba Sani places on fostering collaborations and partnerships for the advancement of the different sectors of the economy, especially the agricultural and power sectors, which she describes as “foundational pillars of our regional growth and development”.

Dr Balarabe stated that agriculture remains the fulcrum of Governor Uba Sani's development agenda. “We are endowed with vast arable land and resources. With support from the African Development Bank, we aim to modernize agricultural practices, enhance value addition to our produce, and empower our farmers with the knowledge and tools needed

for higher productivity. We are also concerned with the rural infrastructure that our farmers need to enhance their profitability.

“The criticality of the power sector to our vision cannot be downplayed, It is an indispensable enabler of economic growth and industrialization. We cannot put aside the fact that an adequate and reliable power supply is fundamental to attracting investments and fostering entrepreneurship while enabling and ensuring the success of our industries. It is in recognition of the transformative potential of a robust power infrastructure, that we seek and need credible partnerships to strengthen our energy capabilities and promote renewable sources, while also addressing challenges that have hindered our progress thus far.

The deputy governor further

called for AfDB's intervention in Kaduna State under the National Transmission Expansion Project to energize a 2 by 60MVA transmission substation for the Green Economic Zone, pointing out that Kaduna State has already conducted pre-feasibility studies for energizing 5000 off-grid communities. “We have done deep dives and investor pitch for 2 clusters of 42 communities and what remains is for them to be powered now”, Dr Balarabe said. She added that “Kaduna State Government welcomes the intervention of the AfDB in the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones program even as she disclosed that Kaduna is ready to move on with this project with the support of the AfDB to site a 2nd SAAIZ project in a different Zone of the State because of the peculiarities inherent in the State.

She expressed optimism that the

Special Agro-allied industrial zone will assist the state in overcoming major challenges just as it will serve to propel Kaduna towards achieving food self-sufficiency, job and wealth creation, and subsequently boost economic growth, especially the rural economy.

She noted that a coordinated regional approach to problem-solving is paramount, working together to seek the support of the African Development Bank in developing an integrated strategy for agriculture, power and even security, is not just desirable but necessary for the comprehensive and sustainable development of the region.

The delegation from Kaduna comprised the Commissioner of Agriculture Murtala Dabo, MD of Kaduna Power Supply Company (KAPSCO) Dolapo Popoola and Private Secretary to the Deputy Governor Hafsat Aminu Ashiru.



Governor Inuwa Yahaya Mourns Elder Statesman, Jibril Dukku



Alhaji Jibril Halilu Dukku

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has expressed profound sadness over the demise of elder statesman and iconic administrator, Alhaji Jibril Halilu Dukku who died on Friday in Gombe at the age of 91. According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, the governor described the deceased as a seasoned administrator and educationist renowned for his scholarly contributions, administrative acumen and humanitarian endeavours. He noted that the late elder statesman made indelible impacts across Gombe State and beyond during his glorious service and in retirement, adding that his legacy will live on through his multiple accomplishments and the lives he positively influenced.

"The demise of Alhaji Jibril Dukku leaves a profound void in our hearts, marking the end of an era characterized by exceptional service, wisdom, devotion and commitment to the advancement of the people, community and the nation at large".

Governor Inuwa said Gombe State has indeed lost a distinguished and highly respected elder statesman who served the State and nation with distinction and left behind

a legacy of honour and dignity.

"On behalf of the government and the people of Gombe State, I extend my heartfelt condolences to my dear sister and daughter of the deceased, Rt. Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku and the entire family members on the passing of this iconic personality," stated Governor Inuwa Yahaya.

He prayed Almighty Allah to forgive his shortcomings and reward his good deeds with Aljannat Firdaus.

Late Alhaji Jibril Halilu Dukku, aged 91, served with distinction in various capacities within the former Bauchi State, where he served as Permanent Secretary-designate at the Bauchi State House of Assembly, Permanent Secretary in the Bauchi Ministry of Education, Commissioner of Health, and Commissioner Works and Transport before his voluntary retirement in 1985.

He is survived by two wives and several children, notably among them are Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku, former member of the House of Representatives and Professor Sani Jibril Dukku, an academic with Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) Bauchi.

Governor Inuwa has earlier sent a delegation, led by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Manassah Daniel Jatau to the funeral prayer which took place at the Emir's Palace Gombe.

Kogi Governor-elect Receives Certificate Of Return

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The duo of Kogi State Governor-Elect and his Deputy, Alhaji Usman Ododo Ahmed and Mr Joel Salifu Oyibo respectfully were presented with Certificates of Return by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), having emerged as winners of the November 11 governorship election.

The ceremony was performed by the Resident Electoral Commissioner Dr. Hale Gabriel Longpet on Friday, amidst tight security and hilariously cheered by crowd at the commission's headquarters in Lokoja.

Ododo of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was declared winner of the off-circle

governorship election of November 11 by the Electoral body, having polled 446,237 votes to defeat his runner up, Muritala Yakubu Ajaka of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), who polled 259,052 votes.

Coming from the distant third position is Senator Dino Melaye of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) with 46,362 votes. Addressing the gathering in the hall shortly, Ododo assured people of the state that he would keep his campaign promise of building on the "sterling" achievements of Governor Yahaya Bello.

He expressed appreciation to the people of the state for their overwhelming support and votes at the polls and pledged to justify the confidence reposed on him and preserve the unity

of the peoples of the state. "My administration will be committed to sustaining the youth and women empowerment programmes of the present administration.

"My resolve to provide employment for our teeming youths and ensure that education occupies the front burner of our administration remains unchanged.

"My victory at last Saturday's election is a victory for all. We will run an all-inclusive administration, where everyone, irrespective of tribe, religion and political affiliation, will be carried along," he said.

The incumbent governor, Yahaya Bello who personally witnessed the presentation of the certificates of return, urged the people of the

state to join hands with the in-coming governor to build a greater Kogi State.

He said of his administration that every beginning has an end, "The election has come and gone and a winner has emerged. I call on the people of the state to work towards the unity and togetherness our administration has achieved," he said.

The INEC REC, Hale Gabriel Longpet while presenting the certificate, said the presentation was part of the commission's mandate describing the election as rancour free and devoid of political bickering in the state.

Longpet said Ododo was being presented the certificate, having met the constitutional requirements.



Kogi State Governor-Elect and his Deputy, Alhaji Usman Ododo Ahmed and Mr Joel Salifu Oyibo respectfully were presented with Certificates of Return by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC),

Our Foundation Will Collaborate With African Governments To Eradicate Poverty - Dr Timothy

**Says they are targeting reaching out to Ghana, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Ethiopia*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Head of a Non Governmental Organization (NGO), FUNMILAYO HEALTH FOUNDATION" Dr. Adeniran Michael Timothy has declared that the foundation will collaborate with African governments on how best to eradicate poverty in the continent.

According to Dr Timothy, in doing this, the foundation is targeting reaching out to some African states like Ghana, Zimbabwe, Egypt and Ethiopia and collaborate with the governments therein on how best to eradicate poverty among their citizens, youths' development schemes and provision of social infrastructures respectively.

Dr Timothy maintained that the foundation which is an household name among the Lagosians and some neighbouring African states has been impactful in the provision of welfare needs for the benefits of the citizens across some notable communities in Lagos.

Emphasizing that the beneficiaries cuts across the youths and adults, males and females and that " it is heart warming to note that the exercise has been devoid

of ethnic or tribal colourations"

. Stressing that the NGO'S charitable deeds were extended to the orphans and the physically challenged respectively"

, Dr Timothy listed other areas of the foundation operation as scholarship grants for the students, both in elementary and tertiary academic institutions, provision of free transportation for the citizens,

empowerment programmes for the traders and artisans, construction of boreholes for the supply of potable water, settlement of hospital bills, provision of lots more were the tasks accomplished by the organisation thus far.

" Under these arrangements, several traders, men and women, were provided with seed capitals while the artisans like Carpenters, Plumbers,



Dr Adeniran Timothy with some students beneficiaries.

Vulcanisers, Tailors, Bricklayers and a host of others were kitted with modern tools and equipment to enhance their efficiency at work", he said.

The foundation Head added, "the objectives of the organisation are to complement the government's efforts in the provision of basic social amenities to the populace, assists the needy and promote the quality of life

among the citizens".

While pointing out that government should not be seen as all in all, but limited in its functions owing to the scarce financial resources confronting it, Dr Timothy said the organisation is planning to expand its scope of operations to include sports development, viz; Soccer, Sprinting and Table Tennis, just to mention a few".

Kaduna Govt Signs MOU With Companies To Provide Solar Energy For Civil Servants

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Government has signed Memorandums of Understanding with Basscomm Nigeria Limited and Eneriv Power Limited to provide solar power to civil servants as a clean and affordable alternative source of electric power under its Solar-For-All programme. The Honourable Commissioner of Finance, Shizzer Nasara Bada who represented His Excellency, Senator Uba

Sani, the Governor of Kaduna State at the signing, said that the initiative is in line with Governor Sani's pro-people style of governance and commitment to seeking climate friendly sources of energy in the face of environmental challenges.

"In the SDG Goals, the provision of clean energy is a key factor to development. The Solar for All Programme is a brilliant initiative of the Kaduna Power Supply Company to make life easier for our dedicated

civil servants. It is our hope that we can expand this initiative to other residents as well, as it is all about accessibility to affordable energy," the commissioner said.

A statement from the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State, Muhammad Lawal Shehu on November 15, 2023, said that, "Nigeria is blessed with excess solar power that we have not tapped into. It is time that we look at renewable energy due to climate change," it added.

The Solar-For-All Programme aims to cater for over 70,000 public servants in the Kaduna State Civil Service. Through the programme, eligible workers can purchase high quality solar systems for their homes, small businesses or farms at stipulated rates with a payment plan of three years.

Additionally, these solar systems will be installed safely by certified solar energy providers to ensure compliance with international best practices and standards.

Governor Umo Eno Tasks NGE On Development Journalism

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno has charged the Nigeria Guild of Editors (NGE) to use the media to engender a new template of reportage that will be development oriented.

Governor Eno, who made the charge in his speech at the 19th All Nigerian Editors Conference (ANEC), held in Uyo, the state capital, positioned the need for media to hold public office holders in the country accountable but in a pleasant way.

According to the governor, the society does not accept a plaint media that act like the cheer leader to government, but one that has integrity anchored on professionalism.

He also advocated a free press, where journalists can praise, criticize, comment and advise where necessary, without undermining the ethics of the profession and tasked journalists to be conscious of their sacred responsibility of shaping people's orientation and social order, being the conscience of the society. Pastor Eno however, urged media practitioners to be cautious in breaking news to avoid breaking the fabrics of the society.

In his words, "I want to plead that you use the media, to engender a new template of reportage, one that is developmental-oriented, where our leaders are called to account without being overly obtrusive. No one desire a plaint media that act like the cheer-leaders to the government, but in trying to break the news, we should be careful not to break the fabric of the society. You need the nation first in order to freely practice your profession.

"Permit me to say that the

growth of any society is predicated on how such a society is being defined, its national ethos, characteristics, identity and defining values. If there is the constant drib-drib of negative reportage, where the challenges of the process of our nation-building are overly magnified and our symbols of authority, randomly demonized and our potentials routinely talked down on, in spite of how large such a market may be, foreign investors will be wary of coming to such a volatile environment." He stated.

The governor described the theme of the conference, "Stimulating Economic Growth, Technological Advancement: Role of the Media" as apt and timely to to address some concerned issues in media practice and professionalism.

He acknowledged and thanked the media for the support given him so far since his assumption of office and carefully rolled out his achievements in various key sectors including education, agriculture, rural development, aviation, security advancement, among others.

In their remarks, Chairman of the Conference and Founder of Vanguard Newspapers, Mr. Sam Amuka and the President, Nigerian Guild of Editors, Eze Anaba thanked Governor Umo Eno for the hospitality extended to members of the guild who trooped in from across the country for the 19th annual conference.

The 19th All Nigerian Editors Conference (ANEC which was declared open by President Bola Tinubu on Wednesday, ended on Friday November 17, 2023 at the Ibom Hotel and Golf Resort, Uyo.

Court Restrains Gov Adeleke, OSHA Others From Removing Osun CJ, Judicial Commission Secretary

**Case adjourned till December 12*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The National Industrial Court, Ibadan Division on Thursday, restrained Governor Ademola Adeleke, the Osun State House of Assembly, the Attorney-General, the Accountant General and the Osun State Judicial Service Commission from removing, suspending the Chief Judge and Secretary to the Osun State Judicial Service Commission by Justice Bola Adepele Ojo and Mr Obidiya. Justice J. D. Peters of the National Industrial Court gave the order while ruling on the separate suits filed by Chief Judge of Osun state and Mr Obidiya numbered NICN/IB/60/2023 and NICN/IB/61/2023 respectively at Ibadan Division.

The judge in the ruling in the motion ex parte after

hearing Oladipo Olosope SAN for applicant with O. G. Ige restrained the defendants from and or otherwise tampering with the enjoyment of the Offices of the Chief Judge and Secretary to the Osun State Judicial Service Commission by Justice Bola Adepele Ojo and Mr Obidiya pending the hearing of the applications on notice of the plaintiffs.

The rulings were delivered on 15th and November 16, 2023, by Hon Justice J. D. Peters in the separate suits filed by the said Chief Judge and Mr Obidiya and numbered NICN/IB/60/2023 and NICN/IB/61/2023 respectively at Ibadan Division.

"An order of interim injunction is issued restraining the Defendants by themselves or their agents or privies howsoever so—called from interfering with

removing, reversing or terminating the appointment and conditions of service of the applicant as the Secretary of the Osun State Judicial Service including but not limited to salaries and other pecuniary benefits pending the determination of the interlocutory application.

"An order of interim injunction is here issued restraining the Defendants from appointing Mrs. Abosede Fagbola to the position of secretary of the Judicial Service Commission and or giving effect to the circular issued by the Defendants dated 711) November 2023 transferring the said Mrs Abosede Fagbola to the Judicial Service.

"The 4th Defendant, Accountant General of Osun State, is here ordered and directed to continue to pay the salary, entitlements, emoluments, remuneration and other

benefits and moneys the claimant is entitled to as the secretary of Osun State Judicial Service Commission pending the determination of the interlocutory application." Justice Peters stressed, "Let me add because I feel it is important for me to so add that it is safe for me to and I do take Judicial notice of the obvious fact that His Excellency Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State is a beneficiary of the Judiciary and the Rule of Law. Thus I-lis Excellency would ensure compliance with this order by all and sundry in his administration.

"I direct that this order together with the motion on notice and all other processes in this case be served on the Defendants immediately. Case is adjourned to 12/12/2023 to hear the pending motion on notice. Hearing notice is also to issue and be served on the Defendants with; the proof of same in the file".

We Need African Solution As Catalyst For Unity, Development - NOA

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Director of National Orientation Agency (NOA), Dr Olukemi Afolayan has advocated an African solution as catalyst for unity and development on the continent.

Dr. Afolayan said this on Wednesday, at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan 2023 CULTURAL DAY Organised by African Studies Students Association (ASSA) with the theme "Embracing Africa heritage a path to unity and development in the 21st century".

She emphasized that solutions to problems on the continent can only be found in embracing African heritage, lamenting that the fact that development continues to elude most African countries despite our rich culture and heritage.

Dr. Afolayan pointed out that African indigenous society was haven of great civilization, interaction with external forces have led to African's heritage been falsified, sapped and plundered and that much of the socio-economic upheavals in the continent to the abandonment of our traditional culture and values.

"If we embrace our culture

and showcase our heritage, Africa as a continent has everything we need to be great," she said

Dr. Afolayan maintained that we must find an African solution to our problems by embracing heritage such as applying indigenous instruments of social engineering and development.

The heritage according to her included indigenous instruments as 'Omoluabi' concept of the Yoruba which signifies good character and citizenship and Ubuntu concept of the Zulu which signifies solidarity and kinship.

Tasking the audience at the symposium who were mostly youths to take pride in African literature, history language, fashion, cuisine, arts, music etc, she noted that cultural identity stands as a unique way to differentiate people from other human societies, particularly their social norms, core values and their ways of life in totality.

Emphasizing that an heritage passed from one generation to the other and should not be abandoned because it is who we are, Dr Afolayan lauded IAS for the leading role it has continued to play in the promotion of renewed interest in African culture and in essence preservation of African heritage.

Unknown Assailants Murder 69-yr Old Retired Perm Sec In Ibadan

**Steal her two vehicles, phones ATM cards*

** Investigations ongoing - Police*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Detectives from the Oyo State Police Command are investigating the gruesome murder of a 69-year old retired Permanent Secretary of the Oyo State Government, Ms Olaitan Gbenle in Ibadan by unknown assailants.

The retired Permanent Secretary was strangled to death at her residence, along All Saints College Road, Idi Ishin, near NIHORT, last week Friday.

It was learnt that the dead body of Ms Gbenle was found with her hands and legs tied on Friday morning with the dress she wore on Thursday on her, while the assailants escaped with her two vehicles, phones and Automated Teller Machine (ATM) cards.

The assailants were said to have stormed late Gbenle's residence few hours after she reported an alleged

threat to her life to the police that her life was being threatened by some hoodlums who used to smoke marijuana close to her house.

According to sources, the late Permanent Secretary was billed to host a meeting of retired permanent secretaries and heads of service in Oyo State on Thursday, November 16.

Already, the Association of Retired Heads of Service and Permanent Secretaries of Oyo and Osun States (AREHSPSOOS) in a condolence message, described the late retired Permanent Secretary as, "not only a loyally committed member of the association; she served on the last Executive Committee demonstrably!"

The condolence message, signed by the association's chairman, Chief Bisi Adesola, reads, "With the greatest

sore regrets, I, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Association of Retired Heads of Service and Permanent Secretaries of Oyo and Osun States, (AREHSPSOOS), announce the untimely death of Ms Elizabeth Olaniyan Gbenle".

"She was not only a loyally committed member of the Association; she served on the last Executive Committee demonstrably! Due to this sad event, our 16th November 2023 Quarterly meeting is hereby cancelled!. Further details on her funeral services shall be communicated as soon as they are made available to us by the family!"

As at the time of sending this report, reliable police sources hinted that investigations is on going on the incident by detectives from Oyo State Police Command.



Late Gbenle

Niger Govt Signs MOU With Alternative Bank On Sustainable Development

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Niger State Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with the Alternative Bank on sustainable development of the state.

The signing of the MOU which was done in Abuja, was on some basic segments of the economy, such as, education, health, agriculture, transportation, energy, and infrastructure among others.

Governor Mohammed Umaru Bago signed on behalf of the state government, while the Executive Director of the Alternative Bank, Garba Mohammed, signed for the financial institution.

The governor who expressed delight with the financial institution for its readiness to

partner the State government, said the state will maximize the opportunity to harness its agricultural potential.

Governor Umaru Bago who observed that the state has not been able to cultivate up to 1% of its arable land, disclosed that the state government intends to procure some earth moving equipment like caterpillar, bulldozers, pale loaders graders on a long lease to prepare land for cultivation of about 4.5m hectares which is half of it cultivable land in the next 10 years.

He further announced that the state is discussing with Almarai; a Saudi multinational dairy company for the production of Alfalfa plant havens discovered the economic value of the plant, adding that the protein content of the plant will be studied with a view to

getting better seedlings for planting.

The governor then directed his Deputy Chief of Staff and the Chairman, Niger Foods Limited to liaise with the Financial Institution to achieve the desired result of the collaboration.

In his remarks, the Executive Director of the Alternative Bank, Garba Mohammed, explained that the Financial Institution has created multi-million U.S dollar opportunities for Agricultural investment in the State.

He said an international partner has expressed willingness to invest 65 million U.S dollars to have a sugarcane plantation on five hectares of land in the State, with an estimated output of 50,000 tonnes of sugar annually, about 4,767 job opportunities, production of methanol,

40,000 tonnes of animal feeds and generation of 11mgwt of electricity.

The Executive Director also said another development partner from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is ready to invest between 1 to 10 million U.S. dollars for the exportation of the Alfalfa plant and that 100,000 hectares would be required for the cultivation of the plant.

On the purchase of earth moving equipment, Mohammed suggested that the state government should get Ijarah Sukuk at the capital market for between 5 and 7 years pointing out that it would reduce cost and the equipment would return the investment made without the State necessarily putting in much money into it.



BERWO A Call To Better Lives Of Ebonyians - First Lady

By ; M K P U M A
ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The wife of Ebonyi State Governor, Mrs Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru has said that, 'Better Health For Rural Women , Children And Internally Displaced Foundation (BERWO) is a call to impact positively and better the lives of Ebonyians.

The official flag off which took place at Ecumenical Centre, Abakaliki featured the unveiling of the foundation's logo and the launching of a rehabilitation centre for GBV survivors, among others.

In her address, Mrs Maudline Nwifuru said that one of her remarkable achievements over the period in office has been improvement in healthcare delivery and accessibility in all parts of the state to better the lives of rural dwellers.

She further noted that her

office has done a lot in community development, women and youth empowerment, crisis response and relief, cultural preservation and Heritage, among others.

Mrs Nwifuru also noted that it is evident that her leadership has already had a profound impact on our state as she has been bestowed with different honours and awards, adding that her tireless dedication, vision and commitment to service have set a remarkable precedent for what can be achieved when leadership is driven by a genuine desire to uplift and empower communities.

Responding, Governor Francis Nwifuru pledged to support the foundation by making life meaningful for rural dwellers and improve the standard of living of the people through this foundation.

He appreciated the wife

of the President, Oluremi Tinubu, for inspiring wives of governors towards providing quality life for the society.

Nwifuru added, "The initiative will serve as a base to address the health issues of rural women, their empowerment and uplifting from poverty." Umahi acknowledged that health as part of objectives of the foundation is most appropriate in improving the well-being of people of the state.

Umahi, the Minister of Works and guest of honour at the event, noted that Ebonyi State has continued progressively on the part of self actualisation, building confidence for growth and development.

While Commending Nwifuru's wife, he added: "The choice of your pet project is good because there is need to take care of women, children and other vulnerable groups."

Others who spoke at the event, including the Chairman of the occasion, Sir Edward Nkwegu and the Team Lead of BERWO, Nkechi Echiegu, further called for support for the Governor's wife.

Echiegu, wife of the Chief of Staff, Government House, Ebonyi State, Emmanuel Echiegu, explained that the initiative was not just a project but a manifestation of a shared vision to address pressing issues and to foster a better quality of life for all residents.

Echiegu added, "The project envisioned a society that supports women, youth and children to achieve their full potential with improved health care, better education and facilitating active involvement in economic empowerment."

Call For Resignation Of Foreign Affairs Minister: Nigerian Envoys Not Involved Says Ominyi

*Remains steadfast on diplomatic affairs, welfare of Nigerian Ambassadors

*Ready to return home once payment of passages and entitlements are paid

By ; M K P U M A
ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Sequel to the alleged calls and demand for the resignation of Foreign Affairs Minister, Amb. Yusufu Tuggar, the Nigerian envoys have disassociated themselves from such claims, stating that it is the sole opinion of a group known as Mandate for National Values and Integrity (MNVIN), not the position of Nigerian Ambassadors.

In a statement issued in Abakaliki recently, the Nigeria High Commissioner to the Republic of Zambia and Dean of Non-Career Ambassadors of Nigeria, Amb. Nwanne Ominyi, said Nigerian envoys are not involved in the call for the resignation of the Foreign Affairs Minister since members are well-focused and remain steadfast on diplomatic affairs and the welfare of envoys.

Amb. Ominyi further expressed the readiness of the ambassadors to return home once their payment of passages and other entitlements are made.

The Nigeria High Commissioner to the Republic of Zambia and Dean of Non-Career Ambassadors of Nigeria has regrettably taken note of a recent publication by the Mandate for National Values and Integrity in Nigeria (MNVIN), as reported by Sahara Reporters on November 11, 2023. Additionally, there has been a reaction from The Nigeria Grand Progressive Network (NGPN) published by Opr. news of 15th November 2023, associating the Ambassador and his colleagues with MNVIN and its stated opinions.

It is imperative to clarify unequivocally that the views expressed by MNVIN are solely theirs, and the Ambassador is not affiliated with the group,

nor have any dealings of any sort.

Contrary to any suggestions, he has not advocated for the dismissal of the Foreign Affairs Minister, Amb. Yusufu Tuggar. His focus remains steadfast on diplomatic affairs and the welfare of Nigerian ambassadors who entrusted to him the deanship. Ambassador Ominyi for those who know him can attest that he is a courageous politician who does not canvass his opinion under a faceless group.

He also raised concerns regarding the minister's handling of recall, including the failure to send the attendant passages up till now and consequently making it difficult for the missions to pay the envoys their legitimate entitlements, adding that the group expressed their personal opinion as the Ambassadors are not part of the calls for his resignation.

While MNVIN accuses Minister Tuggar of mishandling the recall, it is crucial to emphasize that these are their opinions, and the Ambassador is not inclined to participate in any campaign against the Minister. It is essential to distinguish the legitimate concerns raised by ambassadors, including Ambassador Ominyi from the opinions or actions of external groups.

The Ambassador's primary focus is the advancement and well-being of our country. Nigerian ambassadors are committed to returning home promptly once the payment of passages and entitlements is concluded. This commitment is not a matter of personal preference but a response to the expectations and obligations associated with diplomatic service," the statement said.



Katsina Governor Presents N454bn 2024 Draft Budget To State Assembly



Governor Dikko Radda presenting the budget before the Katsina State law makers

Develop National Soil Information Systems, To Prevent Hunger In Nigeria, Prof Oluwatosin Tells FG

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

University Don and Professor of Soil Survey and Land Evaluation, Prof Gabriel Akinboye Oluwatosin has advocated development of a national soil information system in Nigeria.

Prof Oluwatosin made the call on Thursday, while delivering the 377 inaugural lecture of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife titled, "Soil in Food and National Security: Matter Arising", held at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

The Professor of Soil Survey and Land Evaluation, declared that in doing this, Federal government and other stakeholders should develop a national soil information systems in the country.

He pointed out that this is necessary in order to

ensure production of nourishing food and prevent hunger in the country, adding that the world is presently facing a modern soil crisis and soil degradation.

"Food and national security are intrinsically linked to the soil. Attempting to accommodate growing food demand through unsustainable intensification and management practices is degrading the soil and we are running out of arable and grazing lands", he said.

Prof Oluwatosin added, "To avoid further degradation, land should be used in accordance with its capability. We must care for soil and take measures to maintain its capability and working conditions in order to restore what has been lost through regenerative agriculture.

"Mr. Vice Chancellor sir, I

would like to make the following recommendations: Development of a national holistic soil information systems based on the genoform and capability systems for easy connectivity among scientists and land users. Nigeria needs semi-detailed digital soil maps for ease of planning and policymaking".

The University Don, stressed, "Development and reporting of a national soil capability system and a resolution that is effective across scales (farm, state and regional) to underpin account for soil. Adoption of elevation strategies and indicators of the continuum of soil condition in the form of a minimum data set as well as soil management at local, spatial and temporal scales".

Speaking further, Prof Oluwatosin recommended that, "a national soil

information systems is needed in order to ensure easy connectivity among of scientists and land users", adding that food and national security are linked to the soil.

Emphasizing that Nigeria is running out of arable and grazing lands, he said that to avoid further degradation, land should be used in accordance with its capability, saying,

"Reporting the value of the soil asset through developing a statement of Nigeria's natural capital. Developing a national account for soil in order to recognise the value that soil contributes to the financial and business sectors".

The lecture was attended by the Vice Chancellor of the institution, Professor Adebayo Banire and Executive Director of Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Professor Veronica Obatolu.

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umar Radda of Katsina State has presented the budget estimate of 454,308,862,113.96 Billion Naira for 2024 fiscal year before the State House of Assembly.

The budget comprised:- 124,329,900,378,70 billion naira Recurrent Expenditure and 329,979,518,595,97 billion naira Capital Expenditure.

Speaking while presenting the budget before the Katsina State law makers, Governor Dikko Radda said the year 2024 budget was comparatively higher than the 2023 budget by 153,675,604,150.96 billion naira.

Governor Radda explained that, the total amount of recurrent revenue to finance the 2024 budget was 188,061,977,186.28 billion naira which comprises 40 billion naira as Internally Generated revenue from the State Board of Internal Revenue and other MDAs.

He said the projected revenue to be received from the Federation Account was estimated at the sum of 148,061,977,168.28 billion naira.

Governor Umaru Radda said Water Sector has the largest share of 67,161,802,447.30 billion naira followed by Education sector which has 66,422,889,400.20 billion naira and Works

53,482,733,251.59 billion naira respectively.

However, Health 38,326,241,172.23 billion Naira, Environment 37,700,116,210.24 billion Naira and Agriculture, 20,513,909,753.71 billion Naira.

On Security, the Governor reiterated his administration commitment to leave no stone unturned in its quest to restore peace and tranquility across the 34 local government areas in the state.

Governor Dikko Radda disclosed that, the State and the Local Government councils have committed Seven (7) billion naira on security intelligence, gathering of information, screening and training of security personnel.

Governor Dikko Umar Radda expressed gratitude for the mutual respect, understanding, support and cooperation of the legislature in moving Katsina state forward.

Speakers Katsina State House of Assembly Right Honourable Nasir Yahaya Daura congratulated Governor Dikko Radda for presenting a realistic budget and assured careful scrutiny of its content in conformity to the yearnings and aspirations of the electorates.

Speaker Yahaya Daura commended Governor Radda for giving priority to Security, provision of Portable Water, Healthcare, Education, Agriculture and Rural Development.

"Governor Dikko Umar Radda of Katsina State has presented the budget estimate of 454,308,862,113.96 Billion Naira for 2024 fiscal year before the State House of Assembly."

Governor Uba Sani Approves Appointments, Redeployment In Kaduna Inland Revenue Service

By ; F U N M I
A D E R I N T O , K a d u n a

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has announced the appointment of Jerry Adams as the Chairman Kaduna Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS), pending his confirmation by the Kaduna State House of Assembly.

Additionally, Umar Sani has been appointed as the new Executive Director Revenue Operations, while Dr. Muhammad Lawal has been redeployed to the position of Executive Director Corporate Services, KADIRS.

According to a statement from Secretary to the Kaduna State Government, Dr Abdulkadir Muazu Mayere on November 16, 2023, Mr. Adams prior to his appointment as acting chairman of the service in July 2023, was the Executive Director Corporate Services and will now be replaced by Dr. Lawal.

Jerry Adams is a seasoned tax administrator, chartered accountant, business development expert and marketer with

over 23 years professional experience.

Umar Sani, the new Executive Director Revenue Operations, hails from Zaria LGA and is a graduate of the Ahmadu Bello University and the Harvard Center for International Development, USA, a portfolio management and development finance expert, he joins KADIRS with over 17 years professional experience in treasury management, credit management, revenue and tax management amongst other valuable skills to move the service forward. The appointments and redeployment are based on the proven track records of the appointees, their commitment to the service of Kaduna State and the SUSTAIN Agenda of the administration.

While congratulating the appointees, Governor Uba Sani urged them to be diligent and create strategies and operational plans to move KADIRS to even greater heights.

He wished them God's guidance in the discharge of their duties.

The appointments are to commence with immediate effect.



Some of the impounded bikes

Okada Operators Lose Huge Revenue As Lagos Taskforce Impounds Bikes On Major Routes

By ; R A Y M O N D
T E D U N J A Y E , L a g o s

Recalcitrant commercial motorcycle operators on major routes along Badagry Expressway may have lost huge revenue, as their activities were on Thursday, impeded and some of their motorbikes impounded by operatives of the Lagos State Taskforce.

The operation, which also extended to Festac, Apple Junction and Berger axis, was in continuation of the agency's bid to rid the state of menace of okada operators despite the ban

on their activities on major highways by the state government.

The Director, Press & Public Affairs of the Agency, Gbadeyan Abdurraheem who made the disclosure of the operation in a statement on Thursday, hinted that the exercise, led by the Chairman of the agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye lasted several hours.

It reads, " In continuation of The Lagos State Taskforce's bid to rid the State of the menace of Okada, the Agency has raided major routes along Festac, Apple Junction, Badagry Expressway and

Berger axis where recalcitrant okada operators have attempted reinitiating operations despite the ban on their activities still in place.

" The operations lasted several hours and was led by the Chairman of the Agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye who stated that the Agency would continue truncating the activities of okada operators if they don't turn over a new leaf.

" Jejeloye sounded a note of warning after impounding bikes at Berger axis and other parts of the State.

"Okada operations have

been banned and banned for good. Its hightime operators look for a different line of legitimate work or have their bikes impounded and also risk fine or jail term. There is no room for okada operations in Lagos."

" The Chairman assured Lagosians that the mop up exercise of okada activities and other activities that go against the THEMES PLUS agenda of the State Government are going to be continuous and deliberate until safety and serenity is completely attained in the metropolis".



Gov Sani

DSS, NOA Strengthen Partnership To Combat Crime, Maintain Public Safety, Promote Ethical Society

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The National Orientation Agency (NOA) and the State Security Services (DSS) in Oyo State on Thursday, renewed partnership for excellent performance.

According to a statement by the Media unit of the National Orientation Agency in the state, the joint resolve to mitigate crime in was the outcome of courtesy visit of the Director and the managements of Oyo State National Orientation Agency to the office of the DSS in Ibadan.

Speaking during the visit, Oyo State NOA Director, Dr Olukemi Afolayan

described the visit as homecoming to better partnership,

Praising the DSS for their meritable role in mitigating crime in Oyo State, an exploit to which all indices have pointed, Dr. Afolayan stressed the need for partnership to nip crime in the bud using grassroots sensitisation approach.

She pointed out that since both agencies are community based, their collaboration will produce informal exchange that will put a stop to crime in the state.

Dr. Afolayan reiterated that the target of the agency is to make national core values to be imbibed by all Nigerians, starting

from the youth age cohorts, adding that this has led to the introduction of integrity clubs in 67 secondary schools and university in the state to intimate young ones to the ideals of growing up to be virtuous Nigerians.

She however, berated the escalating drugs abuse among youths and seek collaboration to find a lasting solution to it.

Oyo State Director of the State Security Services, John Macchim in his response emphasised that DSS enjoy good relationship with NOA especially at the grassroots level where they are both present.

Welcoming the NOA Director and her team, John Maxim promised to

work harmoniously with the agency to end ravaging drugs abuse in the state, saying, its time to crash crimes in totality in Oyo State.

The NOA team ably led by the Director, include its Deputy director in charge of local government operations and special services, Prince Adesola Sanda, Mr. O. Akanbi who is also a deputy director in charge of administration and Alhaji Isiaka-Adeniyi, head of media and publicity.

The highlight of the visit was presentation of the national flag by the NOA team to their host. This the Director NOA said, symbolizes the patriotic roles both agencies are playing in nation building.



Oyo State NOA Director with DSS Director

Court Restrains Gov Adeleke, OSHA Others From Removing Osun CJ, Judicial Commission Secretary

*Case adjourned till December 12

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The National Industrial Court, Ibadan Division on Thursday, restrained Governor Ademola Adeleke, the Osun State House of Assembly, the Attorney-General, the Accountant General and the Osun State Judicial Service Commission from removing, suspending the Chief Judge and Secretary to the Osun State Judicial Service Commission by Justice Bola Adepele Ojo and Mr Obidiya.

Justice J. D. Peters of the National Industrial Court gave the order while ruling on the separate suits filed by Chief Judge of Osun state and Mr Obidiya numbered NICN/IB/60/2023 and NICN/IB/61/2023 respectively at Ibadan Division.

The judge in the ruling in the motion ex parte after hearing Oladipo Olasope SAN for applicant with O. G. Ige restrained the defendants from and or otherwise tampering with the enjoyment of the Offices of the Chief Judge and Secretary to the Osun State Judicial Service Commission by Justice Bola Adepele Ojo and Mr Obidiya pending the hearing of the applications on notice of the plaintiffs.

The rulings were delivered on 15th and November 16, 2023, by Hon Justice J. D. Peters in the separate suits filed by the said Chief Judge and Mr Obidiya and numbered NICN/IB/60/2023 and NICN/IB/61/2023 respectively at Ibadan Division.

"An order of interim injunction is issued restraining the Defendants by themselves or their agents or privies howsoever so—called from interfering with removing, reversing or terminating the appointment and

conditions of service of the applicant as the Secretary of the Osun State Judicial Service including but not limited to salaries and other pecuniary benefits pending the determination of the interlocutory application.

"An order of interim injunction is here issued restraining the Defendants from appointing Mrs. Abosede Fagbola to the position of secretary of the Judicial Service Commission and or giving effect to the circular issued by the Defendants dated 711) November 2023 transferring the said Mrs Abosede Fagbola to the Judicial Service.

"The 4th Defendant, Accountant General of Osun State, is here ordered and directed to continue to pay the salary, entitlements, emoluments, remuneration and other benefits and moneys the claimant is entitled to as the secretary of Osun State Judicial Service Commission pending the determination of the interlocutory application." Justice Peters stressed, "Let me add because I feel it is important for me to so add that it is safe for me to and I do take Judicial notice of the obvious fact that His Excellency Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State is a beneficiary of the Judiciary and the Rule of Law. Thus I-lis Excellency would ensure compliance with this order by all and sundry in his administration.

"I direct that this order together with the motion on notice and all other processes in this case be served on the Defendants immediately. Case is adjourned to 12/12/2023 to hear the pending motion on notice. Hearing notice is also to issue and. be served on the Defendants with;the proof of same in the file".

Troops Neutralize Six Bandits During Clearance Operations In Birnin Gwari, Giwa LGAs

***Arms, ammunition, motorcycles recovered**



By ; F U N M I
A D E R I N T O, Kaduna

Troops of the Nigerian Army have neutralized six bandits during extensive clearance patrols spanning Birnin Gwari and Giwa LGAs. Operational feedback to the Kaduna State Government revealed that the troops began their advance along the Kaduna-Sabon Birni-Dogon Dawa Road, clearing Maidaro and Ngede Allah, before proceeding to Saulawa and Kidandan general areas. According to a statement from the Overseeing Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Kaduna State, Samuel Aruwan during the weekend, in the course of these operations, the forces made contact with bandits at Maidaro, Ngade Allah and Kidandan. The troops engaged swiftly, subduing the bandits at each point. Six bandits were confirmed neutralized in total. The troops exploited the areas and recovered two

AK-47 rifles, four AK-47 magazines, 14 rounds of ammunition, along with 40 pairs of bandits' uniforms. Nine motorcycles belonging to the bandits were captured. Receiving the feedback, Governor Uba Sani expressed his satisfaction at the breakthrough achieved by the security forces, and commended the leadership of the GOC One Division and Force Commander of the Operation Whirl Punch, Major General VO Okoro. The governor lauded the troops for their fine efforts, as he urged them to sustain the tempo and focus of operations. Citizens are urged to report suspicious persons or activities to the Security Operations Room for prompt action by security agencies. Any persons found secretly seeking medical attention for gunshot wounds around these locations must not be aided, but should equally be reported via the phone lines 09034000060 and 08170189999.



Kaduna State 2024 Budget: How Far So Far?

By: YUSUFISHAKU GOJE

It is disturbing that less than fifty days to the end of the year, the Kaduna State 2024 budget proposal has not been presented, by Governor (Senator) Uba Sani, before the Kaduna State House of Assembly. By this time last year, the executive budget town-hall meeting had been held, the budget proposal presented to the State Assembly and appropriation public hearing done with.

Worthy of note, the State over the past seven years had returned to the January to December fiscal year. The current delay threatens to take us to the days of uncertainty of our fiscal calendar with huge implication for development and investments.

Not to forget that presenting it to the citizens and State Assembly within a short timeframe to review can compromise the quality of scrutiny towards ensuring fiscal realism and allocations to strategic priorities.

As of this point there is no publicly available information that the State Assembly has approved through a resolution the Medium Term Expenditure Framework MTEF (2024-2026), in line with the Fiscal Responsibility Law, 2016.

The current administration campaigned with the SUSTAIN blueprint to sustain and consolidate on the work of its predecessor. The delay in holding the executive budget town-hall meeting, has raised anxiety as to whether the administration will upload its campaign promise on Nurturing Citizens' Engagement.

There is no gainsaying the State is faced with a myriad of challenges cutting across huge debt service burden, arrears of liabilities, rising poverty, unemployment, inflation, child and maternal mortality, out-of-school children, insecurity amongst others.

Thankfully, these were some of the issues the Governor campaigned on addressing during the gubernatorial elections. This is why all eyes are awaiting to see the content of the 2024 budget, which will be the first budget under the current administration.

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

Yusuf Ishaku Goje is an Active Citizen, writes from Kaduna



Governor Uba Sani

Tinubu And Ganduje Shouldn't Play With Fire In Kano

By: FAROOQA. KPEROGI

In a predictable, premeditated, and carefully choreographed judicial charade, the Court of Appeal on Friday, upheld the verdict of the Kano State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal that reversed the electoral triumph of NNPP's Governor Abba Yusuf of Kano State. I sincerely hope this assault on justice isn't the spark that ignites an inferno in Kano—and in the country.

The signs had been evident since early October that a predetermination had been made that irrespective of the facts, the flawed, preplanned judgment of the election petition tribunal must be preserved at all costs.

For example, on October 6, the Head of the Legal Department of INEC in Kano State by the name of Suleiman Alkali wrote a curious letter stating that INEC, which had declared NNP's Yusuf as the validly elected winner of the governorship election in Kano, was no longer interested in defending its declaration.

"I have been instructed by the commission headquarters that INEC as an umpire has no reason to appeal any judgment," he wrote. "Consequently, the National Commission in charge of Legal Services and National Commissioner in charge of Kano zone directed that the appeal be withdrawn and all processes for all appeals should be forwarded to the Kano Office."

In response to the jolt and outrage that the letter generated, Sam Olumekun, INEC's National Commissioner and chairman of its Information and Voter Education Committee, said Alkali wasn't authorized to write the letter, pointing out that the letter had "since been withdrawn and the officer reprimanded." We weren't told the nature of the "reprimand" because it was a lie.

That was exactly what played out when INEC acted in cahoots with Ahmed Lawan to steal APC's Bashir Machina's Yobe North Senatorial District primary win, which the Supreme Court affirmed in a shameless show of what I called judicial banditry.

(Retired Justice Musa Dattijo Muhammed quoted his colleague's quotation of my abrasive censure of the Supreme Court in his parting shots at his colleagues even though he and his colleague didn't give me

credit—and slightly misquoted me. I said in a February 6 article titled "Lawan and Supreme Court of Shameless Judicial Bandits" that "Nigeria's Supreme Court is, without a doubt, a rotten gaggle of useless, purchasable judicial bandits. The highest bidder gets their judgement." Dattijo used "voter" where I used "rotten.").

Anyway, on September 5, 2022, an INEC lawyer by the name of Onyechi Ikpeazu, SAN, had filed an affidavit at the Federal High Court to discredit the result of its own election that had declared Machina as the winner of the Yobe North APC senatorial primary election.

In the aftermath of the shock and fury that attended this, Festus Okoye, at the time INEC's National Commissioner and chairman of its Information and Voter Education Committee Festus, repudiated Ikpeazu's affidavit and said, "the Commission will review its quality assurance protocols, including the preview by appropriate ranking Officials of all processes filed on its behalf to ascertain their correctness in all material particulars with all reports and all information at its disposal before their presentation so that a situation like this is not repeated."

Well, that situation was repeated in Kano in October this year, almost exactly a year later. It seems to be a well-practiced pattern. INEC first flies a kite, sees how high it flies, then crashes it. But the whole point is to prepare the minds of the public for what is being hatched so as to minimize its shock value when it finally materializes.

If the outcome of the Ahmed Lawan and Bashir Machina case is any guide, it means INEC is deeply complicit in Ganduje's chicanery and plot to steal Yusuf's governorship. It might also mean that the "judicial bandits" I talked about at the Supreme Court are waiting in the wings to feast on another stolen electoral dinner. I hope I am wrong.

The second indication that this appeal court judgment was a well-rehearsed theater came when the appeal court completed its deliberations on November 6 but deferred its judgment until November 17 and then requested that security be heightened in Kano in anticipation of the publicizing of its judgement.

Only people in a dry run for the abortion of justice ask for anticipatory protection from their potential victims.

As I pointed out in my September 23, 2023, column titled "Why the Kano Verdict Can't Stand," it is apparent that former Kano State governor and current APC national chairman Abdullahi Ganduje has resolved to damn all consequences and use the federal might at his disposal to wrest the power that his party and his flunkey lost to Rabi'u Kwankwaso and his son-in-law in the governorship election.

"APC appears intent to get back through judicial manipulation what it lost through the ballot box," I wrote. "It's a higher-order, more sophisticated, and less primitive version of the broad-day electoral heist they perpetrated in 2019 after former Governor Abdullahi 'Gandollar' Ganduje lost to the same Abba Yusuf."

In a defiant disregard for potentially untoward consequences, Ganduje—of course, with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's blessing—has decided to pull all strings to snatch judicial victory from the jaws of electoral defeat.

As I will show shortly, both the election tribunal and the appeal court are not even pretending to be fair in their judgments. They have already been handed a verdict and mandated to fish for evidence to justify it. The verdict, of course, is that NNPP's Abba Yusuf must go and must be replaced by APC's Nasiru Gawuna.

In rhetorical studies, we call that finalism, that is, a conclusion in search of evidence. Psychologists call it "motivated reasoning," that is, tendentious interpretation intentionally designed to produce a predetermined outcome. Philosophers call that armchair hermeneutics, that is, reasoning that ignores the evidence.



President Tinubu

The Daily Trust reported Justice Moore A. Adumein as predicating the nullification of Yusuf's victory on the fact of his not being a member of the NNPP when he was nominated by the party. "As rightfully found, Yusuf Abba was not a member of the NNPP at the time he was purportedly sponsored by his party and he was not qualified to contest the March Governorship Election," Justice Adumein reportedly said.

Yet, in quashing the election of APC's House of Representatives member Musa Ilyasu Kwankwaso and reinstating NNPP's Yusuf Umar Datti as the validly elected member to represent Kano's Kura/Madobi/Garun Malam Federal Constituency seat, the same appeal court said two weeks ago that "the issue of membership of a political party is an internal affair, which no court has jurisdiction on," according to the LEADERSHIP newspaper.

I had thought that this was settled law. As I wrote in a previous column, "A May 26 Supreme Court ruling also says rival parties have no right to question the validity of the internal decisions made by other parties unless they can prove that they suffered demonstrable harm as a result of the internal decisions

another party took. So, the Kano governorship election tribunal's verdict on this issue will be as dead as a dodo upon appeal."

The question now is, why is NNPP's Yusuf being held to a different standard? I get that Kwankwaso and Yusuf didn't handle their victory well. Instead of being happy, their victory roused destructive vengeance and mean-spiritedness in them. But that's no reason to steal their legitimately earned victory.

I am certain that NNPP will take this case to the Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court is guided by its precedents, which is never guaranteed, I have no doubt that it will invalidate the judgements of the lower courts.

But this is clearly not a legal issue. It's a battle for political supremacy in Kano between Ganduje and Kwankwaso in which Ganduje is deploying the courts as cudgels to fustigate Kwankwaso.

My advice for President Tinubu is to be very watchful because this is really treacherous territory. Righteous anger over obvious injustice—on top of ongoing existential torment in the country—can spark violence whose consequence we can't predict.

Farooq A. Kperogi can be reached via Twitter: @farooqkperogi

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

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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
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QUARTER PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	111,692.74	8,376.96	120,069.70

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4	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine)	80,000.00	6,000.00	86,000.00

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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

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	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

An Indolent Labour Union And Matters Arising

By: HASSAN GIMBA

There is no Nigerian that will tell you he is not aware of the NLC even if he does not know that it is an acronym for the Nigeria Labour Congress. What the average Nigerian knows about them is that they always go on strike at the drop of a hat, strikes that have lost their meaning because they always achieve almost nothing.

Well, there's nothing in it for the average Nigerian; only for the vanguards of the congress. At least, that is what an average citizen will tell you. This suspicion, or rather an assumption, is fueled by the fact that days into a strike, the comrades would be shown on national television laughing and exchanging banter with government officials, and the next you hear is that the strike is suspended while the reasons for the strike in the first place remain unresolved.

Citizens suspect the laughs from the chubby-cheeked people on the telly mean each side is happy with what transpired at the closed-door meeting despite the cause of the strike remaining unsolved.

A good example is that of fuel increase or subsidy withdrawal. The labour leaders would shout, give ultimatums and then mobilise workers for a strike. And these strikes affect everyone, not only workers because the public and private sectors are intricately connected. Yet the issue (subsidy) lingers: the palliatives promised, even though mainly targeted to help government workers, are too little or are still being awaited.

We were witnesses to a long strike, getting to almost a year, by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), yet the NLC was nowhere to be found.

But what is getting alarming now is that the labour union, like our governments and their institutions, is becoming a tool for personal causes. There is no reason for the union to call a national strike because its president was assaulted. If he was attacked because he was fighting for fairness and justice, then that should be seen as a sacrifice for his role.

Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Aminu Kano, Gambo Sawaba and many other great freedom and human rights fighters never privatised or personalised their struggles or made people fight the system because they were assaulted.

In any case, how many Nigerians have been attacked, humiliated and dehumanised without the labour union fighting for them? How many have been killed, some by non-state actors and some by security agents? And some victims were public servants. If labour says it is there for the workers, where was it?

And despite this, they are full of cowardice. For instance, the labour union president was manhandled in Owerri, but they came to Abuja Airport to block access roads and, after that, they embarked on a nationwide strike.

We have had many labour leaders, right from Michael Imoudu, popularly known as Pa Imoudu, the father of labour

unionism in Nigeria, but none of them personalised the labour struggle till now.

Wahab Goodluck, the first president of the NLC, who served between 1978 and 1984, led the struggle for better wages and working conditions. He fought against the government's attempt to deregulate the economy and privatise state-owned enterprises. He organised the NLC and made it a force to be reckoned with, but he never personalised the struggle.

Paschal Bafyau, who took over from Goodluck, made the NLC more politically conscious and active, but he never personalised the union. He successfully negotiated a minimum wage and led the union in the fight to usher in civilian rule in 1999.

One of the greatest presidents the NLC ever had was Ali Ciroma, who served from 1988 to 1994. He fought against General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida's move to introduce the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). The union gained strength and influence under his leadership, but one thing he did not do was personalise its activities.

Adams Oshiomhole, who served as its president from 1999 to 2007, gave the labour union more visibility, influence and effectiveness but he never personalised its fight.

One may contend that the quality of the labour union and its search for solutions for the Nigerian worker and, ultimately, the country started nose-diving after Oshiomhole. Many people expected the union to be at the vanguard of solving the country's problems instead of being self-serving and bringing archaic ways to help the workers and the country.

A good example is the one to do with minimum wage. For how long will labour unions continue mouthing 'salary increments' in the face of dwindling national income and the plummeting value of our currency?

Perhaps out of intellectual paucity, they have failed to propose a more intellectually viable option, to both workers and the government, about how to stabilise the naira and make us a nation that produces what it consumes and vice versa.

Every patriot knows that buying things from abroad causes capital flight. A patriotic labour union should be the last to



Hassan Gimba

Monday Column

“One may contend that the quality of the labour union and its search for solutions for the Nigerian worker and, ultimately, the country started nose-diving after Oshiomhole.”

sanction a situation where our government spends hundreds of billions of naira annually to buy cars from foreign manufacturers, thereby keeping afloat other countries' economies to the detriment of ours.

But Nigerian labour leaders feel comfortable being chauffeur-driven in foreign cars, keeping foreign businesses thriving and foreigners employed while Nigerian youths are jobless and languishing in abject poverty because the country's industries are dead. How patriotic! This is why they cannot offer a

better alternative other than asking for a salary increment. They do not have the intellectual capacity to know that it is not the quantity but the quality of the currency that matters.

Take, for instance, the case of China and Germany, where the minimum wages are \$358 (about ₦405,000 as of last week) and 1557 euro (₦1,845,000) respectively, now cast your mind back to when the naira was at par with the dollar and assume our minimum wage of ₦30,000 is \$30,000, don't you think that is more than enough?

Yet still, workers in some of these countries enjoy free housing, healthcare, education, affordable public transport and a constant supply of electricity. This is why salaries have value there.

Our labour union, which should be fighting for better working conditions and stronger currency, is instead fighting for more money, thereby courting inflation and encouraging capital flight through patronising foreign goods and services.

With our bumbling, self-serving and intellectually lazy labour union, it is high time we started scrutinising their motives and their base desires.

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

Kwara Signs Partnership Deal With IHS Towers On Innovation Hub

**Project shows purposeful leadership, says IHS chief*

By **BILIQIS ONAOLAPO**
OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Government has struck a deal with global telecoms giant, IHS Towers on how to effectively deploy the Ilorin Innovation Hub to deliver on its core objectives of making the state the go-to place for innovation, technology and entrepreneurship as well as drive rapid socioeconomic growth.

"Today's MOU signing represents a dream come true for our administration," Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq said on Saturday shortly after signing the deal in Ilorin, the state capital, at an event attended by top government officials and IHS leaders led by its chief executive officer Mohammed Darwish.

"In an age increasingly dominated by digital natives whose lives revolve around technology as well as digital naturals who live the realities of technology and the advantages it offers, we saw a need to lead in giving necessary skills and support to these important cohorts and leverage the same to build a stronger economy. Our objectives are to offer the tools, resources, and the environment that innovators and startups require to flourish, especially in the realm of digital and tech skills. By this, we see a future where Kwara sees job creation, poverty reduction, and improved well-being of the people.

"But having the right partnership and technical support to run this tech space is critical to achieving these objectives, efficiency and sustainability. This is why I am excited about this strategic partnership with the global tech giant IHS Towers to drive the project. With its proven expertise and legacy of innovation, HIS fits into our vision for this initiative.

"This is a partnership of huge mutual benefits. IHS is offering technical and organisational support in the operations, maintenance and management of it in exchange for certain benefits such as use and operation of the hub for the delivery of IHS training and ancillary programmes as well as branding rights, among other things.

"We strongly believe that public private partnership offers the right incentives for sustainability and economic growth. Even



L-R: Chief Corporate Services Officer IHS Nigeria, Dapo Otunla; Chief Executive Officer IHS Nigeria, Mohamad Darwish; Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON); MD Innovation Hub, Temi Kolawole; Commissioner for Justice, Barr. Senior Sulyman; and Commissioner for Business Innovation and Technology, Hon. Damilola Yusuf; during the signing of MOU on Ilorin Innovation Hub at Government House, Ilorin, on Saturday.

so, we are committed to preserving the interest of the people and the state as owners of these investments."

The facility is envisioned to be a leading centre for technology and innovation in Nigeria, focusing on fostering disruptive ideas and supporting startups.

Temi Kolawole, the Innovation Hub's Managing Director, remarked on the synergy between the two entities: "This partnership has identified a mutual focal point in our shared passion for innovation, digital skill enhancement, and job creation. We're committed to ensuring the Hub's sustainability and leaving a legacy, fuelled by Governor AbdulRahman's vision for youth development that will trigger state and national development."

Kolawole also mentioned the upcoming collaboration of the Ilorin Innovation Hub with the Federal Ministry of Communications Innovation and Digital Economy on various programmes, with IHS Towers as a mutual partner.

This partnership is anticipated to further enhance the Hub's offerings and extend its impact, he added.

Darwish commended Kwara State's

progressive digital policies, particularly the free Right of Way for Fiber Optic Cable deployment, which is critical in facilitating the growth of the digital economy in the state.

"With the MoU in place, our focus is on transforming the Ilorin Innovation Hub into a reality by the second quarter of 2024," he said.

Darwish said IHS Towers is firmly established in Nigeria, including Kwara State where it has laid more than 500 kilometres of fibre optic cable aside from connecting many local communities to its telecommunications networks.

"We have a system that we have deployed in rural areas and communities where they hitherto had zero coverage," he added.

Engr Gbenga Adebayo, Chairman Association of Licensed Telecom Operators of Nigeria, said: "Your Excellency sir, I just want to say a big thank you for the good work you are doing in Kwara state. As Chairman of the association of telecom providers in Nigeria, the report we have received is that Kwara is one of the most friendly states for network operators. So, on behalf of the association, I want to thank you for being such a good leader. Kwara is not just on a globe map but Kwara is a state of reference for good governance and good leadership.

"They also told me that your cabinet has a number of young people, and is gender sensitive, and this is something that is very unusual not only in the history of the state but also in the country. Once again, I thank you."

Kazeem Oladipo, Vice President of IHS Towers, said the Governor has shown good vision for the state, and that is paying off already in different areas.

"I want to remind His Excellency of the meeting we had about two and a half years ago, where you signified interest to do a fibre and told us to proceed with deployment. That meeting has brought a lot of positive developments to the state. Today, Kwara state has perhaps one of the top five deployment volumes that we've

done in the entire country. And we are still doing more. As we speak, we are deploying additional fibre in the state. We have a plan to connect more locations, and we will see that through. With the innovation hub coming on board as well, we will provide additional connectivity infrastructure to the state.

"And to add to what Muhammed (CEO IHS) said about rural telephoning, you will also recall we came to you, you gave us land in different local government areas, and we have deployed in those rural networks. And that helps to bring internet and telephoning services to communities that previously had zero access to connectivity services. We will work with the team to continue to look at places where gaps exist."

The Ilorin Innovation Hub, a state-of-the-art innovation facility initiated by the Kwara State Government, is designed to foster a conducive environment for youth, facilitating the learning of digital skills and supporting the growth of businesses through innovation and startup entrepreneurship.

It is a testament to the government's commitment to advancing technological proficiency and entrepreneurial spirit among the youth, positioning Kwara State as a hub for digital innovation and economic development.

IHS Towers, for its part, is the fifth largest independent owners, operators, and developers of shared telecommunications infrastructure in the world by tower count. With a significant presence across multiple countries, the company specialises in building and managing telecom towers and related infrastructure. Renowned for its innovative approach, IHS Towers is famous for enhancing connectivity and supporting the expansion of wireless networks globally. The company's achievements include significant contributions to the telecom sector, marked by the deployment of cutting-edge technology and sustainable practices, making it a key player in the telecommunications infrastructure industry.



L-R: Chief Executive Officer IHS Nigeria, Mohamad Darwish; MD Innovation Hub, Temi Kolawole; and Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON); during the signing of MOU on Ilorin Innovation Hub at Government House, Ilorin, on Saturday.

Skills Not Degrees, Solution Of Burning Certificates

By; AUWAL AHMED IBRAHIM GORONYO

Just recently, a graduate of Ajayi Crowther University burnt all his certificates for not being able to secure a job after his university programme.

Olutimain Ilenre was not the first person that burnt his degree certificate for lack of job in Nigeria, there were numerous graduates that had done similar for similar reason, nationally and internationally.

In 2020, Usman Abubakar from Katsina State burnt his degree certificate including his National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) certificate for suffering years without a government job.

While there are many Nigerian graduates who are depressed, worried and agonized because they couldn't get jobs with their schools' certificates. Bridget Thapwile Soko a Rwandan, burnt a degree certificate in Business Administration for not being able to secure a job, for the crime, the university revoked the certificate.

Also, a graduate of Mount Kenya University burnt his primary, secondary school and university certificates in June 2023 for similar reason of unemployment.

A 33-year-old lady identified as Dr Helana Darwin expressed worries in a tweet, stating that, "How am I 33 with two MAs and a PhD and still so precariously situated on the job market? I feel like I went about my 20s all wrong. Maybe-just maybe-higher education is overrated?" she wrote.

Lack of job can cause psychological trauma that can lead to loss of life and until something is done the pressure on unemployed Nigerians will continue to reflect in many ways.

Unemployment has been a reason for many atrocities in Nigeria, it caused many to indulge in drug peddling, drug

abuse, terrorism, arm-robbery, prostitution and many more criminal activities graduates cannot fend for themselves after study.

Degree is just a certificate but skill matters even without the certificate. The negative impact on so many Nigerian graduates is they pursue the certificate not the skill, and this is the set back among Nigerian graduates.

The book, "Skills Not Degrees: The New White Collar Job by Professor Idris Muhammad Bugaje provided the answer on why Nigeria should have more polytechnics than universities. Polytechnics are skills oriented institutions, they equip students with skills' talent and empower them to be self-reliance even after school, this is why there is no existing story of a polytechnic graduate that burn a diploma certificate. But, thanks to NYSC for introducing a Skills Acquisition & Entrepreneurship Department (SAED) to expose corps members to skills jobs that can help them start business after school.

But, Skills Acquisition & Entrepreneurship Department (SAED) cannot be the core solution to unemployment stress and trauma in Nigeria, the solution is "Skills Not Degrees" because what the graduates can learn in less than two weeks of skill training? How can they get capital to start the business? With this rhetoric questions; SAED can not mitigate unemployment trauma among Nigerian youths who think with their degree certificates they must get jobs as superior officers. Polytechnic students are taught to be servant of work, they are engineers that do the practical work; the work as bricklayer not supervisor or construction managers but the real maker of the work.

With 159 number of



Goronyo

polytechnics in Nigeria and 264 universities in the country the equation of unemployment must go higher than employment. Skills can prepare Nigerian polytechnic graduates to secure jobs beyond the country. They will travel to outside nations with pride and fat salary as skills workers. The criteria of employment in the developed nations is "show them what you can do practically" not what the

expensive grades on degree certificate.

As the government cannot provide job for every graduate, Nigeria need more polytechnics than universities to improve practical science and technology, and this will lead the country to a giant of Africa's position. It will also reduce the high number of jobless youths in the country, cut the size of human trafficking and fast track Nigeria's growth. It will boost

the economy, invite investors and make the country efficient but until more polytechnics are established like China that converted 600 universities to polytechnics.

Auwal Ahmed Ibrahim Goronyo is a lecturer with Department of Mass Communication, Kaduna Polytechnic and can be reached via auwalahmed@kadunapolytechnic.edu.ng

Alice Akinola, Seat Of God Pull Draw As Industrialist Berths Foundation In Honour Of Late Mum



By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Football enthusiasts and who is who in various fields of endeavour gathered at the weekend inside the popular Turf Arena Soccer Pitch Abuja to witness the official inauguration of Alice Akinola Gold Foundation.

In commemoration of the Foundation's launch, tagged "Incentive for the future" which its founder, Engr. Michael Akinola instituted, in memory of his late mother, Mama Wuraola Alice Akinolo, a high-pitch friendly match took place between Alice Akinola FC and Seat of God FC.

The game ended 1-1, with the later scoring first before the

former equalised to the superlative cheering of many distinguished personalities including the National President of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria, Mr. Isaiah Benjamin.

Delivering his inaugural speech, President, Seat of God FC, His Lordship Bishop Ademola Tinuoye, who commended the initiative, described the late matriarch as one who lived an enviable life worthy of emulation.

He said, "Mama lived and she lived well for posterity- evidence and testimony of our gathering this day. It is not about celebration but lessons for and against our own tomorrow. What would be said about us, individually and collectively?

Good or bad, time will tell. "Mama like Apostle Paul (1Cor 3:10) has laid a good and enviable foundation, we are consciously, subconsciously or unconsciously building on the Foundation- if what we build is good, bad or ugly - time will tell." He then appealed to individuals and corporate bodies to key into the project to make it memorable.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the occasion, Mr. Ibrahim Peter Alih, said the Foundation signposts positive vibe in setting long-lasting memory for generations now and those ahead.

"I will proudly state that Alice Akinola Gold foundation is in forefront as one of the

organisations that is assisting youths to stay away from trouble by being gainfully involved in sports.

"As we witness the unfolding drama on the pitch, let us not only revel in the excitement but also recognise the lessons embedded within this beautiful game. Let us carry the spirit of this competition beyond these moments and into our lives, fueling our drive to create a future where every individual is empowered to reach their full potential," he said.

In their sperate remarks, Special Guest of Honour Amb. Akinremi Bolaji and President Alice Akinola Gold Foundation Dr. Francis Ojo remarked that with

Sports, the Foundation has paved the way for all encompasses inclusiveness in Nigeria.

The Foundation Founder and Chief Executive Officer Engr. Akinola who later donated cash N500, 000 cash incentive to the teams appealed for collaborative efforts by all in order to make the dream a reality.

Engr. Akinola also noted that his late mother had been in the vanguard of putting smiles on people's faces while alive through numerous philanthropic gestures.

T-shirts and other valuable souvenirs were distributed to the dignitaries and those present at the ceremony.



Colombia 2024: Falconets Show Greater Potency, Brush Aside Tanzania To Reach Final Round

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Goals by Janet Akekoromwei and Comfort Folorunsho against Tanzania at the MKO Abiola Stadium, Abuja yesterday, gave Nigeria a 2-1 win and progress to the final round of qualifiers for the 2024 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup finals.

After a gloomy afternoon for Nigerian fans following the Super Eagles' disappointing 1-1 draw with the Warriors of Zimbabwe in neutral Rwanda in the race to 2026 FIFA World Cup finals, the Falconets gave the fans something to smile about as they edged their Tanzanian counterparts 3-2 on aggregate to reach the final round, where they will take on Burundi's U20 girls.

The 2022 World Cup quarter-finalists, who have never been absent from the global finals, swarmed on the visitors from the first blast of the whistle, but poor marksmanship on the part of former U-17 team striker Opeyemi Ajakaye robbed them of an early goal.

Akekoromwei eventually put Nigeria in

front after 16 minutes, when she rifled home from the edge of the box after an intelligent pass from Taiwo Afolabi.

Five minutes later, the East Africans were at parity, when goalkeeper Shukur Bakare dropped the ball from an innocuous-looking free-kick 35 yards out and Jamila Mnunduka bundled the ball over the line.

Nigeria would have been ahead in the 25th minute, but defender Shukurat Oladipo's well-struck free-kick from 40 yards was parried away by goalkeeper Zulfa Ally Makau. Ajakaye failed to make hay with another opportunity in the 33rd minute.

On the hour mark, defender Comfort Folorunsho broke the spell of 1-1 draws for Nigeria's national teams in recent weeks, when she leapt highest to head home from Afolabi's cross after a couple of touches from a corner kick.

The Falconets will now take on Burundi in the final round of qualifiers, to determine one of Africa's flagbearers at next year's global championship to be hosted by Colombia.



NPFL: Player Of Month Award Excites Mizo

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Bayelsa United forward, Robert Mizo has said that he is happy to be voted as the winner of the NPFL League Bloggers award for the month of September/October.

Mizo has been in phenomenal form for Bayelsa United since the commencement of the season scoring seven goals in six matches.

The forward who hails from Imiringi in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State received the revered NPFL award for the first time this season with the latest goal coming yesterday at Heartland FC. Mizo clinched the award ahead of his closest contender Sikiru Alimi of Remo Stars, Michael Olalusi of Sunshine Stars, Sporting of Lagos striker Jonathan Alukwu.



An elated Mizo in an interview with Bayelsa United Media, said he was humbled to be voted as League Bloggers player of the month award for the first time, stating that the award was a testament of

continuous hard work. While appreciating the almighty God for the award, he thanked his teammates, coaching crew, management of Bayelsa United and supporters of the club for

the endless support. He dedicated the award to his dad Mr. Aroanyaziba Robert who celebrated his birthday the same day he was announced winner of the League Bloggers award.

South/ West YSFON Commends Sanusi For Sponsorship Of Ilaji U-16 Soccer Tourney

By ; A Y O
OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON) South/West Zone has commended Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of Ilaji Hotels and Sports, Akanran, Ibadan, Oyo State, Engr. Dotun Sanusi for his efforts at grassroots sports development even as it appreciated him for accepting to host the forthcoming Ilaji Football Tournament for U-16 boys.

In a goodwill message signed by the South/West Vice President of the

Federation, Rafiu Abayomi Akanbi, aka Oluaye, it described him as a true sports lover and philanthropist who has used his God given resources to impact positively on the youths through his various sponsorship of grassroots sports programmes, noting that his name will always be written in gold as a supporter of grassroots sports development.

"We at YSFON are happy that you accepted to host this tourney which is a further testimony of your commitment to grassroots sports development as well as

creating more opportunities for young lads aspiring to realize their dreams of making a living in the round leather game and we shall always be grateful to you", the statement said.

Akambi appealed to other well meaning Nigerians to emulate Engr. Sanusi and invest more in grassroots sports development as a way of empowering the youths.

"It's important that I appeal to other well meaning Nigerians to emulate what Engr. Sanusi is doing in grassroots sports development because

government cannot do it alone

He also assured all participating state that the South-West zone is working round the clock to ensure they enjoy the best hospitality Ibadan in particular and Oyo State generally is noted for throughout the duration of the competition.

Meanwhile, YSFON National has concluded plans to serve off the tournament come November 27, 2023. As teams have been enjoined to arrive on before 27th, at the Ilaji Resorts Center, Akanran, Ibadan, Oyo State.

Banditry Roundabout Zamfara: Gov Lawal Never Had A Hand In It

*Submerging Justice over injustice is the worst political banditry

By: TOM GARBA

Zamfara State, nicknamed the land of agriculture, was once peaceful. Serenity in the area used to be iconic. So was unity among the people of one of the old Hausa city-states like Kano, Katsina, Gobir, Kabi, and Zazzau. The people over the years, have struggled for autonomy until the military administration of General Sani Abacha subdivided Sokoto State in 1996 to get the present-day Zamfara.

Unfortunately, the democracy they all yearned for has turned into a nightmare of their corporate existence. Politicians who were not passionate about development used agriculture and mineral resources to inflict pain on the people. The bandits succeeded in ruining the state, killing, maiming, and kidnapping women and children for ransom. Some of the women became sex slaves.

Bandits turned the people into their source of livelihood while politicians used the bandits to settle scores. This was the way of life during the governorship of Bello Mutawalle (now Minister of State (Defence)). During his

days, kidnapping was the order of the day.

Fate and luck took sides with the people of Zamfara State when they all stood up against the tyranny of the bandit-friendly government. They used the 2023 governorship election to vote out the All Progressives Congress (APC). In place came in Dr Dauda Lawal of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) who is transforming the state.

Lawal is restoring the lost glory of Zamfara. Farming as the pride of the state is taking shape in an unprecedented speed, security has been beefed up and the activities of bandits have been drastically curbed. Kidnapping of people is almost becoming a history. This is the new Zamfara State under Dr Dauda Lawal, an erudite and zealous leader with a heart of gold.

Chasing the dark moments of kidnapping with impunity, raping women and killing children for ritual purposes, illegitimate mining of the concentrated mineral resources is already bade goodbye. But the opposition on Thursday saw that the business as usual was no more and went to court to

overturn the judgement and the declaration of Governor Dauda Lawal.

Many political analysts and thought leaders thought what happened at the Abuja Court of Appeal was more of political banditry than due process.

To them, political banditry is the worst form because it robs the economy, the political will, and the mineral resources of the people of Zamfara State, where Governor Lawal has no hand in any of the crimes.

The Federal Government under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu should not turn the other eye, wade in and prevail on the manipulators of the people's mandate to let the able leadership of Dr Dauda Lawal be.

It's a looming bloody situation and the decision of the court may plunge the state into a crisis leading to an unimaginable mayhem. To avert such an ugly situation is to maintain the status quo. To allow the peaceful and progressive nature of Zamfara to flow. The best I see in this is to allow Governor Dauda Lawal to continue to champion the cause of the state because it is the people's choice and their



Zamfara Governor

mandate was given to him.

It is therefore the worst of all the migration of Zamfara State to banditry of the people's will, the future and the collective destiny of every son and daughter of the state.

Lawal is the answer to the needs of the people in Zamfara. He is the solution to the people and is the man with the people's mandate. He has come to work,

to protect and defend the interest of anyone in the state. Submerging justice in the interest of injustice could be catastrophic.

Mr President, please save the situation.

Mr Garba, FICM, FBMC, SPSP, writes from Abuja. He can be reached via; 08030525759, 08172570959 and tomgarba5@gmail.com

WHO Donates Lab. Commodities, Data, Surveillance Materials, To Cross River Govt

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The World Health Organization (WHO) has donated laboratory commodities, surveillance and data tools to Cross River Government to strengthen surveillance systems, improve routine immunization and other primary healthcare services across the state.

The State Coordinator of the WHO in Cross River, Dr. Ibrahim Salisu, while handing over the items to the Commissioner, Ministry of Health in the state, Dr. Henry Egbe-Ayuk, congratulated him for successful completion of the Polio Outbreak Response Assessment conducted by a team of international experts.

"First, I would like to congratulate the Cross River government on the successful completion of the Polio Outbreak Response (OBR) assessment conducted by a team of



Dr. Ibrahim Salisu, WHO State Coordinator donating laboratory commodities, Data & surveillance materials, to Cross River Govt

international experts some weeks ago. Apparently, the preliminary report of the assessment has given us an insight into what is working well and what needs to be improved in our outbreak response

systems".

"We are donating these items and commodities to the government of Cross River as part of WHO Nigeria's efforts to strengthen the Surveillance systems across the

state, improve Routine Immunization and other PHC services as well ensure basic commodities are available in the health facilities to respond to public health emergencies".

"We are determined to see that Surveillance and RI activities in refugee settlements and border communities in Bakassi, Akpabuyo, Etung, Obanliku LGAs, etc. are significantly scaled up. We are also working to strengthen collaborations between the Government of Nigeria, the Republic of Cameroon, and other neighboring Countries in the OBR activities and information sharing" he said.

Dr. Salisu used the opportunity to thank the Commissioner for his strong leadership and commitment to strengthening the entire health system as well called on the community leaders, traditional leaders, partners, and other

stakeholders to continue sensitizing the people and mobilize resources to support the government's efforts in preventing the outbreak of Vaccine-Preventable diseases.

The Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe-Ayuk while receiving the donations, thanked the State Coordinator and WHO for their significant support to the Ministry in strengthening the health system in Cross River state.

He further said "we acknowledge the support provided by WHO to all the health agencies, as they strive to ensure that every Cross Riverian has access to quality health care"

Dr Ayuk further pledged to ensure judicious use of the resources donated by the WHO. The Commissioner was accompanied by the Director of Administration, Director Public Health and other Senior officials from the ministry.