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# Olubadan Demands Constitutional Roles For Traditional Rulers In Nigeria

■ Says Yoruba Obas to converge on Ibadan today

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lekan Balogun yesterday, said that it is time for constitutional role for traditional rulers in the country.

Oba Balogun said this while playing host to the delegates of the Yoruba Obas Forum, who paid him a courtesy visit at the Aliiwo Palace in Ibadan, ahead the conference of the forum holding today in Ibadan.

Speaking through his brother and Baba Kekere Olubadan, Dr. Sen. Kola Balogun, Oba Balogun said as the closest

institution to the people at the grassroots, members of the traditional institution are playing very significant roles bothering on security, economy and the general welfare of the people

He emphasized that the forum at its conference, should make strong demands for constitutional role for the traditional rulers in the country.

Oba Balogun charged the forum to avoid the pitfalls of a similar forum formed in 1944, but which had for a long time, gone into extinction, saying, "this forum has a huge task and I pray that God and our

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## Lagos Police Apprehends Fleeing Mastermind of Dangote Cement Scam In Port Harcourt



Muslims here offering prayers for leaders in the country

## Hon. Abdulmumin Jibrin Organises Special Prayer For Tinubu, Kwankwaso, Abba

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...Says NNPP still open to alliance with APC, other parties

# United Nations: 89,000 Women, Girls Killed In 2022

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The United Nations has said that around 89,000 women and girls were killed in 2022 across the globe

The UN report stated on Thursday that it is the highest annual figure

recorded in the past two decades.

The report explained that the alarming number of femicides is a stark reminder that humanity is still grappling with deep-rooted inequalities and violence against women and girls.

Ghada Waly, Executive

Director of UNODC, in a statement, said, "Each life lost is a call to action, a plea to urgently address structural inequalities, to improve criminal justice responses, so that no woman or girl fears for her life because of her gender."

The Executive Director further explained that

more than half of those murders, around 55 per cent, were committed by family members or partners, compared to about 12 per cent of male victims of homicide.

He said that the highest number of murders of women and girls, around 20,000, took place

## Infrastructure Development: Mamman Lagos Inaugurates Projects Monitoring Committee



Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Kaduna State Commissioner for Local

Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos has inaugurated committee to ensure timely completion and quality deliveries of projects across Zone One.

While unveiling members of the committee headed by Abubakar DanSabo in the Ministry's Hall on Thursday, the commissioner mandated them to monitor and ensure contractors deliver quality jobs for the people, particularly those at the grassroots.

He added that the Committee had been subdivided into three units for effectiveness and service delivery.

They are; Rural Electrification, Road Construction and Solar Street light.

He said the Uba Sani led administration had procured over 42 transformers, cables and other vital components for rural electrification projects across Zone A which he noted would go along way in improving transmission and distribution of electricity to the remotest location in villages.

He said the present administration of Governor Uba Sani had initiated giant and far-

reaching community development projects, he noted would put smiles on faces of the masses.

He urged the committee to ensure integrating notable stakeholders and community leaders irrespective of party, religion and tribe in monitoring activities for effectiveness.

"It is in line with the Governor Uba Sani mandate to the people of the state to hit the ground running by paying the needed attention to infrastructures that matter to the masses, especially those at the grassroots who are in dire need of government intervention.

"What we have done here today is to put a structure in place saddled with responsibilities of tracking awarded contracts across the state to make sure contractors deliver according to terms of contract.

"We are commencing with Zone A and other remaining zones will be captured subsequently as contained in the state government agenda of an all inclusive deal with the people of the state.

"Ensure you mobilize your people, particularly in Soba where a ten kilometer road has been build and delivered by Uba Sani to receive our good and amiable governor on Saturday as he toured the zone," he appealed.



Prayer session for our leaders by Muslims

## Picketing, Boycotting Of Court Job In Osun state, illegal - JUSUN National headquarters

### \*Warns members against participating

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The National headquarters of the Judicial Staff Union, (JUSUN) on Thursday dissociated the union from what it referred to as the "activity of some unscrupulous elements causing confusion in the name of the Union in the Osun State Judiciary".

JUSUN stated this in a circular marked JUSUN/NHQ/Sub.27/V01.1/163 addressed to the Osun state Chairman of the union Comrade Gbenga Kunle Eludire,

The union in the circular signed by Comrade Emmanuel Abioye Esq, the Deputy National

President, for the National President pointed out that the union "has never and will never take any perceived or real partisan position in all its activities with any individuals or organization".

It emphasized that the union "has never and will never take any perceived or real partisan position in all its activities with any individuals or organization".

"Our attention has been drawn to unfortunate incidence of unrest currently permeating the Osun State Judiciary as a result of the activity of some unscrupulous elements causing

confusion in the name of the Union in the Osun State Judiciary and we hereby state as follows:

\* (1)Judiciary staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) as a responsible union has never and will never take any perceived or real partisan position in all its activities with any individuals or organization.

\* (2)Judiciary staff Union of Nigeria has never directed or approved that any of its members should proceed on any protest or picketing activity in Osun State Judiciary or any other state to settle any perceived or real political scores".

It stressed further,

"Consequently, upon the above highlighted position the Judiciary staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) hereby dissociate itself from any action taken so far by any set of people whatsoever under whatever guise and the National Secretariat view such action as a calculated attempt by some get of people to play cheap political games with the intent to blackmail the Union and tarnish our good image and good reputation built over the years".

"We hereby warn that under no guise should any of our members participate in any illegal picketing, protest or job boycotting".

## Guber Polls: Kogi Govt Queries Ohimege-Igu Koton Karfe

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Ohimege-Igu Koton of Karfe, Alhaji Abdulrasaq Gambo Isa has been queried by the state government for his alleged deliberate engagement in partisan role in the just conducted off-circle gubernatorial Election in the state.

In the four paragraph letter signed by the commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Barrister Momodu Ozigi Dedat, government frowned at the action, role and participation in partisan politics that endangered the security of his domain which culminated in the death of a young lady while others suffered various degrees of injuries.

Succinctly put, "the blatant action of the traditional ruler is a sad

contradiction of the expected role of a revered royal father of his status". The letter regretted that the royal father paid nonchalant attitude to the much coveted peace and security of the state at the time that they were threatened.

His words, "in view of the above, you are hereby requested to forward a written explanation within forty-eight hours why disciplinary action should not be taken against you. Oral explanation may also be required from you when the state government sets up a panel to examine your case".

Consequently, the letter advised the traditional ruler to give priority attention to the content and form of the letter.

The letter with reference N o MGCA/CHI/S/P/359/1/36 was dated 22 November 2023.

## Lagos Police Apprehends Fleeing Mastermind of Dangote Cement Scam In Port Harcourt

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

After series of weeks long intensive investigation, operatives of the Lagos Police Command have apprehended the mastermind of a fake Dangote cement price-slash, through which hundreds of unsuspecting Nigerians were fleeced. Identified as Benjamin Ezeukwe, 28, the suspect was reportedly arrested on October 19, 2023 in Rumuolumeni area of Obio/Akpor Local Government area of Rivers State.

The Spokesperson of the Lagos State Police Command SP Benjamin Hundeyin in a release on Sunday, said the suspect was arrested following weeks of intensive investigation by officers of

Area A Command of the State Command.

" Found in his possession were one Tecno phone, one iPhone, three SIM cards including that of 08039691980 which he used for the scam and a Toyota Avalon, which investigation revealed to be a proceed of his crime.

" The suspect had in September, 2023 created a bogus but convincing online advert purportedly by Dangote Cement, claiming a massive price slash. Numerous unsuspecting customers fell prey to the scam, losing millions of Naira to the suspect.

" Investigation has so far revealed that the suspect had perpetrated several other similar scams. Suspect has since been arraigned". Hundeyin disclosed.



The suspect

# Olubadan Demands Constitutional Roles For Traditional Rulers In Nigeria

■ Says Yoruba Obas to converge on Ibadan today

ancestors will see you through". He also maintained that the forum should deliberate on the pull him down syndrome that is fastly becoming the pastime of the Yoruba people, especially among the younger generation which believes not in the established Yoruba norm of respect for elders and those in authority,

The President of the forum and Molokun of Atijere, Oba Samuel Adeoye while speaking said the forum came into existence to foster unity among the Obas in Yorubaland and pursue the goals of living peacefully and that since its formation in 2019, it has been performing the expected roles.

Oba Adeoye stressed that the forum had been used to settle dispute among brother Obas and also played significant roles in



addressing the menace of herdsmen.

" We were in the forefronts of the struggle to free our people from the intruders subjecting our people to harrowing and we are grateful to our governors for their support in that regard", he said.

Oba Adeoye added, "The forum also noted that there's a serious threat to the culture, tradition and language of the Yoruba which all should be concerned about,

saying that the forum "has also taken cognizance of the effect of the downward trend with the aim of addressing it".

Oba Adeoye during the visit came with Oba AbdulRazak Adebayo, Olukotun of Ikotun-Ile (Secretary General), Oba Asunmo Ganiyu Aderibigbe, Alayandelu of Odo-Ayandelu (PRO), Oba Dr. Micheal Ajayi, Elerinmo of Erinmo (Admin), Oba Dr. Abodunrin Kofoworola, Aare Alawo Ekun of Ago-Aare, Oba Dr. Adeoye Gbenga Tunji, Aare Alawo-Ekun of Ofiki, Oba Williams Olusegun Ayeni, Olujumu Ijumu Kingdom, Oba Kazeem Gbadamoshi, Ologijo of Ogijo, Oba Jacob Dairo, Olasole of Lasoleland and Oba Olumuyiwa Ogunbekun, Onileki of Lekkiland.

# Adamawa Lawyer Who Allegedly Defrauds Business Woman Threatens Popular Journalist

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

An Adamawa based lawyer who was alleged to have defrauded a business woman of two million one hundred and four thousand (2,104,000) Naira, Barrister Sani Shehu Mohammed has given a life threatening warning to a journalist.

Sani a former lawmaker to have represented the people of Mubi North Constituency in the Adamawa House of Assembly from 2015-2019 gave a life warning threats to Tom Garba, a publisher of the The General News (TGnews).

The threats are connected to allegation of how he violated the principles of breach of trust between him and one Talatu Aliyu, a business woman in Adamawa State.

It would be recalled that the former lawmaker was reported by the medium to have failed woefully in protecting the principles of a good lawyer whose main duty is to serve as a voice to the voice in a competent court of law.

In the report as published by the medium thus indicated that:

"A summon for a criminal breach of trust was given to Adamawa Lawyer, Sani Shehu Mohammed by Upper Area Court No.4 Yola for refusing to pay Talatu Aliyu, a plaintiff of the originating

Summon.

"The Adamawa Lawyer who is a non-serving member to have represented Mubi North Constituency of the Adamawa State House of Assembly was said to have cheated the plaintiff.

"The summons represented to this medium was read that Talatu is a businesswoman and Sani a Politician is demanding a payment of two million one hundred and fifty thousand naira (N2.150,000).

"The plaintiff in the summons said Sani demanded one Million four hundred thousand (N1,400,000) which she transferred in tranches and collected clothes on loan for his wedding but refused to pay.

"Talatu out of trust gave him the money that he promised to pay within the shortest period but only to insult her whenever she asked for it.

"The court ordered the Honorable Sani Shehu Mohammed to pay N204,000, N1,400,000, and N500,000 as the purchased price, borrowed Money, and damages incurred.

"The total amount the plaintiff is demanding is 2,104,000 which she said Sani defrauded her and wants justice to prevail.

"This medium consulted Talatu over the court summons and worried that the Nigerian Barr Association (NBA) is complacent about some of the

dubious attitudes of some lawyers like Shehu.

She said the NBA should caution him by suspending him from practice because brags about being above the law as a lawyer and all the courts in Yola are under his control.

"She prayed that justice should be done as the Court case still going on and another hearing was slated for Tuesday, 28th November 2023.

"All efforts made for the Barrister to respond to the Court summons proved abortive as calls out through his number were not picked up or returned.

This medium sent an SMS message read: "Honorable Sir, Morning! I'm writing a report that I want you to respond to. Thank you " There is still no reply to Press Time.

"Disturbed over the matter, an indigene of Maiha Local Government area of Adamawa State, Suleiman Abdullahi Maiha alleged that Sani has been a serial fraudster using his law background to cheat on unsuspecting members of the public.

"He alleged that Sani while serving as a member of the state Assembly, defrauded senior civil servants for getting them a Permanent Secretary appointment.

"He enjoined the members of the general public to be wary of



Barr Sani Shehu Mohammed

having any business deal with of whatsoever type and under whichever guise.

"Suleiman who is a public commentator worried that Sani has breached the ethics of Law practice and as an Honorable member to have represented the good people of Mubi North is condemnable.

"He said Sani has committed gross criminal offenses as a practicing Lawyer and a former Lawmaker.

"He called on the NBA to sanction him and the University of Maiduguri to withdraw his law certificate because all he

does is against the principles of an ideal Lawyer.

"This Man over the years nothing he has done than defraud the unsuspecting members of the general public as a lawyer.

"Worst of it all he has never won a single case of whatever type, as a lawyer that is supposed to speak well, but Sani is one of those learned colleagues that is destroying the Queen's language with his unsound English terms, proud cement as a supposed lawyer," Suleiman said

Barrister Shehu on reading this report sent myriads SMS text messages:

"You will pay for the price"

## Give Us Valuable Intel On Criminals, CP Disu Urges Rivers' Cab Operators

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Commissioner of Police Rivers State Command, CP Olatunji Disu has urged members of the Amalgamated Union of APP-Based Transporters of Nigeria and Bolt Drivers (AUATION) to avail the Command valuable information about criminals in its bid to nip their activities in the bud across the state.

CP Disu, who made the call during a meeting with the group over the weekend, equally assured them of adequate protection and safety.

The Police Boss posited that crime fighting is a collective task that should not be left for the police alone.

He stated that his doors are always open to entertain and attend to complaints from the

group and other members of the public.

According to a statement by the Rivers State Police Command Spokesperson SP Grace Iringe-Koko, the centred on how to

effectively ensure the safety of the operators in the state.

Members of the union, who are affiliate of



CP Olatunji Disu (middle) in a group photograph with the cab operators.

the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) were led by its Vice Chairman Nnamdi Esimai.

Speaking at the occasion, Esimai expressed hope of the members in the new Police management in the State.

He however lamented alleged challenges experienced by some members of the group in line of duty in the hands of unscrupulous passengers.

Esimai also pleaded with the Police Commissioner assist in using his office to advice management of the APP based transport owners to upgrade the APP, such that the picture of the person booking the ride is uploaded on the APP, which will make it easier to track in case of an eventualty against the driver.

CP Disu also used the occasion to sound a note of warning to criminal elements in the state to desist from criminal activities or be ready to face the full wrath of the law.

# WISE Seeks Women Inclusion In Matters Of Climate Change

## \*Kaduna Govt pledges support for women inclusion

By: PETER NOSAKHARE, Kaduna

In commemorating the Climate Change Conference (Conference of Parties, COP 28) taking place in Dubai, Women Initiative for Sustainable Environment, WISE Thursday in Kaduna staged a "Road Walk" calling for the inclusion of women in every decision concerning climate change and how it affects the environment.

Convenor and CEO of WISE Mrs. Nike Olugboji Daramola organizer of the walk which had as theme: "Climate Justice For Women Now," said women have contributed to finding solutions to this problem facing the world, but, when it comes taking decisions or making their inputs at conferences whether global, national or local they are left out.

"This narrative has to change. Most women are uninformed on the issues of climate change (global warming) and its effects, especially rural women and these are the ones more at risk because they cook with firewood and charcoal. WISE through this awareness has offered and shown most of them alternative ways of cooking that are environmental friendly." According to her, "we must stop deforestation and this can only be achieved if we discontinue the use of firewood and charcoal. There are cooking utensils that are environmental friendly and reduces carbon emissions."

In his remarks after joining the walk by Kano Road by Ahmadu Bello Way, Abubakar Buba, State Commissioner for Environment and Natural Resources, pledged government's support for the initiative while commending WISE and conveyor for taking the bold step of creating awareness on why women should be heard on issues concerning the universe.

"The state has a climate change policy responsible for encouraging Green Economic Zones (tree planting) and reducing carbon emissions."

Buba added that, since women are more at risk to carbon emissions, the state will do all that is needed to support the efforts of WISE in curbing deforestation, he also assured that the Governor, Senator Uba Sani who will attend COP 28, will meaningful contributions.

On her part, Mrs. Hannatu Usman Biniyat, while re-echoing the views of the conveyor charged authorities and agencies addressing the problem of Climate Change to make advocacy that will include women in decisions that affect Greenhouse emissions.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Environment, Hon. Terseer Ugbo, revealed that the committee targets at the forthcoming COP 28, to get One billion dollars funding for Nigeria at the Conference for sustaining funding mechanism to support climate change adaptation initiative and ensure the successfully implementation, while enhancing the capacity and technical skills of stakeholders involved in climate change adaptation to address climate challenges.



# Convocation: APC National Youth Leader Dayo Israel, Bags Doctorate Degree In Law At Atiba University Oyo



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

All Progressives Congress (APC) National Youth Leader, Hon. Dayo Israel has been decorated with a Doctor of Law LLD. Honoris Causa in Atiba University Nigeria at the Institution's 3rd convocation and investiture of the Chancellor Emir of Keffi, Nasarawa State, Alh. Dr. Shehu Chindo Yamusa III in Oyo.

In the welcome address of the founder of Atiba University, Oyo, James Adesokan Ojebode Ph.D. described the Atiba University, AU, Oyo as "God's Project" which is going to bridge the gap in providing academics excellence and innovation.

Ojebode expressed his gratitude to the parents and management staff of the institution as he said that he is filled with pride for the remarkable birth of the institution.

"Atiba University, was founded with the belief that education is the cornerstone of progress and that an institution dedicated to excellence can be a catalyst for positive change." He said.

The Vice-Chancellor, Atiba University, Oyo, Professor Sunday Olawale Okeniyi giving his address said that the convocation is not a ceremony for merriment but a celebration of knowledge, resilience and transformative power of education.

"Today we are graduating with a combined set of 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 of 178 first degree students, 57 Higher Diploma, and 62 diploma awardees.

"These set of graduates have been satisfied with their learning and character and shall be awarded respectfully." He

concluded.

National Youth Leader of APC, Hon. Dayo Israel expressed his appreciation to the founder and governing board of the institution for finding him worthy of conferment of the Doctorate Degree in Law, he said that it is a testament to the belief the institution is in the the next generation of change makers. He went on to dedicate the Degree to the Government of All Progressives Congress and the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR.

"This is a great feat and it is a reward for our outstanding contribution to society, to education and to young people across the globe.

Dayo Israel further expressed gratitude to the institution and the governing council for the doctorate degree honour, as he described quality education as the bedrock of every great nation.

He acknowledged the Students loan and other welfare packages, the administration of Bola Tinubu has prepared students and lecturers as a succor for the University system in Nigeria.

Dayo Israel is an Alumnae of the Harvard Business School, Cambridge Judge Business School, the Executive Development Program of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and with a LLB in Law and Masters in International Relations from the London Metropolitan University.

Dayo at 21yrs was specially invited by Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh to a private reception at Buckingham palace as a result of his contribution to Africa Diaspora Development, and remains the only ever recipient of the Young PEWA (Person

Earnestly Working for Africa) Award at the office of the Mayor of London. He was also invited by the Obama Administration to the White House President's Forum for Young African Leaders in Washington DC. At 16years, He was selected by the United Nations to represent all delegates to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children on a special CNN Live Interview in 2002 and led the Nigerian Children delegation to the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development in Joburg 2002 and the World Water Forum in Japan 2003 among others global meetings.

Currently undergoing his Executive Doctorate in Business Administration (EDBA), with his research focusing on Increasing Nigeria's Public Sector Productivity through Strategic Change Management, Organisational Culture Reform and Technological Innovation. Dayo's program at Wharton focused on Strategic Consideration in Merger and Acquisition; Operational Excellence and the Link to Financial Performance.

He was named one of the 100 Most Influential People of African Descent (under 40) as part of the 2017 celebration of the UN Decade for people of Africa Descent at the One UN Plaza in New York. Dayo is a member of the British Council Global Change Makers Network, Connecting Futures Program and Fellow of the US State Department International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) that has produced over 400 Heads of Government globally. A Henley Business School Young Leader, Dayo has twice been recognized in 2016 and 2017 as one of 50 UK's brightest young leaders. He was also recognized as one of the top 25

Promising Nigerian Youths under 35 To Serve Nigeria in 2016 and as one of Africa's top 30 most inspirational young people of 2013.

Dayo currently serves at the National Youth Leader of the All Progressives Congress, Nigeria's ruling party and Africa's largest political party; a position through which he aggressively mobilised Nigerian youths for the victory of Nigeria's current President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, by establishing the 200,000 member APC National Youth Wing Campaign Council known as The Jagaban Movement and personally travelling to 33 States to mobilise young voters; as well as pioneering the Operation Deliver Your Street Program for BAT.

He is a Member of the party's national working committee and a strong voice for the next generation on the decision making table of Nigerian politics. Since his emergence, he has energised the youth base of the party through initiatives such as the E-Membership program for the youth wing; and hosted the Progressive Young Leaders Summit that brought together thousands of young people and recently launched the Progressives Young Leaders Award.

As part of his efforts to promote youth participation in politics, Dayo secured 50% discount on nomination forms for young people contesting on the platform of the party, as well as campaigning for them. A first in the history of the party leading to 18 new members in the House of Representatives and 1 in the Senate under the age of 40. He has also pioneered various multisectoral training programs for the youths of the party.

## Reps To FG: Construct Pedestrian Bridges Along Lagos-Ibadan Expressway

By; BAYO AKAMO  
Ibadan

The House of Representatives on Wednesday, asked the federal government to construct pedestrian bridges at strategic places on the Lagos-Ibadan expressway.

The resolution followed a motion moved by the representative of Oluyole Federal Constituency, Tolulope Akande-Sadipe during plenary.

Hon Akande-Sadipe said this is in response to the critical safety concerns posed by the absence of pedestrian bridges along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Hon. Tolulope Akande-Sadipe, urging the Federal Ministry of Works to prioritize the construction of pedestrian bridges in strategic locations along this vital route.

In the motion, the lawmaker highlighted the unprecedented growth of Ibadan, Oyo State, which is now the third-largest city globally according to United Nations data.

"The Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, traversing highly populated sections of the city, has become an essential corridor for daily activities", she said

Hon Akande-Sadipe added, "However, the absence of pedestrian bridges has undervalued the safety of both pedestrians and drivers. Alarming rates of fatal

accidents are recorded daily as people attempt to cross the highway to access schools, homes, workplaces, and markets".

The lawmaker while expressing concern emphasized that despite ongoing advocacy and the safety implications involved, pedestrian bridges have been neglected during the construction of the Lagos-Ibadan expressway. The highway has sadly transformed into what she terms a 'Death Trap.'

The motion recognized the importance of constructing pedestrian bridges at specific locations, including the Technical University, Toll Gate in Ibadan, Félele, Sóka, Sanyo, Bólúwaji, Academy, Elérúku, and several others along the expressway.

Hon Akande-Sadipe said these bridges are crucial to saving lives, reducing the sufferings of commuters, especially school children, and maintaining the economic viability of these highly populated areas.

While calling on the Federal Ministry of Works to allocate funds for the construction of pedestrian bridges in the mentioned locations in the 2024 budget estimates, she urged the Committee on Works and Appropriation to ensure strict compliance with this imperative safety measure.

## Be Mindful Of National Security Implication In Discharging Your Reports, GOC Urges Journalists

### \*Hosts Oyo NAWOJ exco, leaders

By; BAYO AKAMO,  
Ibadan

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) 2 Division of the Nigerian Army, Major General Bamidele Alabi has urged journalists to bear in mind the national security implication in the course of their duties.

Receiving the Oyo State Executives and leaders of Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) on Wednesday at the Headquarters 2 Division Conference Hall, Ibadan, Major General

Alabi emphasized that there is the need for journalists to always consider this in carrying out their reports

Major General Alabi stressed that in doing this, journalists should at all times check their facts and as well bear in mind the security implications, saying, this will do a lot of good for both sides.

The GOC maintained that Nigerian Army sees journalists as partners in progress as the Journalists have the responsibility to inform the country while

the Nigerian Army has the responsibility to protect the country.

While urged members of Oyo state NAWOJ to continue to support the Nigerian Army in her duties of internal security and protecting the territorial integrity of the country, the GOC said the Nigerian Army cherished the relationship it enjoys with the National Association of Women Journalists, (NAWOJ).

Oyo state NAWOJ Chairperson Comrade Jadesola Ajibola while

speaking advocated for 'solution journalism' as key to resolving the gray areas between the Nigerian Army and the Journalists in the country.

The NAWOJ Chairperson thanked the GOC and his Staff Officers for giving them the opportunity for the visit appreciated the GOC and his Staff Officers for the hospitality and the continued support NAWOJ has been enjoying from the Nigerian Army.



Oyo NAWOJ during a visit to the GOC 2Div Major General Bamidele Alabi in Ibadan on Wednesday.

## Minister Of State Defence Warns Against Propagating Violence

### \*Tells Security Chiefs to be on red alert

By; JACOB ONJEWU  
DICKSON

The Minister of State Defence, Bello Matawalle, has issued a stern warning against any groups or individuals propagating for violence against the peaceful coexistence and harmony being enjoyed by the law abiding citizens of the nation.

The minister, who was

responding to high rate of fake news, rumour mongers, those propagating hate speeches, and promoters of violence, in an interview at his residence in Abuja on Friday, directed all security chiefs in the county to be on alert with a view to dealing decisively with anyone found engaging in any act capable of truncating the

nation's democracy.

He said security agencies should ensure total compliance to the provisions of the constitution of the Federal Republic.

The minister said the present government, under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, meant well for all Nigerians and is doing every effort to make the county better for all of us

and should be supported by all.

Matawalle said the President should be respected by the citizens to give him and his government the courage to do what it takes to make this county great.

He said the ministry for defence would not condone any act capable of disrupting the peace and tranquillity of the country.



Hon Tolulope Akande-Sadipe

## Higher Education: Governor Inuwa Yahaya Constitutes White Paper Drafting Committee On Visitation Panels' Reports

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, has constituted a White Paper Drafting Committee on the reports submitted by the Visitation Panels to Higher Institutions of Learning in the state.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Director General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli.

The committee, which consists of key government officials, is to ensure comprehensive analysis on the recommendations put forward by the Visitation Panels.

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi who conveyed the Governor's approval, announced the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice as Chairman, with the Commissioners for Education, Higher Education, Science, Technology & Innovation, and Finance & Economic Development serving as members.

Also, the Chairpersons of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Teachers' Service Commission (TSC) are among the committee members, alongside the Permanent Secretaries of the Bureau for Public Service Reforms and Special Services, Political & Chieftaincy, who will also serve as the Secretary of the Committee.

Recall that the Visitation Panels, earlier set up by the Governor, had conducted their assessments and submitted comprehensive reports with far-reaching recommendations aimed at instituting positive reforms and driving progress in the education sector and overall effectiveness of higher institutions in the state in line with Inuwa Yahaya's vision.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya remains committed to ensuring that the findings and recommendations of the Visitation Panels are meticulously and appropriately addressed towards implementing impactful reforms that will foster conducive academic environments.



Governor Inuwa Yahaya

## EFCC Arraigns Three in Court Over Alleged Diversion of N97million Cocoa Beans

*\*Court adjourns till February 19, 2024*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) on Tuesday, arraigned three persons before Justice Adebukola Olajide of the Federal High Court sitting in Ibadan, Oyo State for conspiracy and diversion of 33.360 metric tons of Cocoa beans worth N97, 578, 000.00 million

EFCC in a statement identified the suspects as Lateef Jamiu Babatunde, Olanipekun Olawale Joseph and Oyetunde Abioye Ibrahim

According to the commission, the three persons were arraigned on three-count charge bordering on conspiracy and diversion of 33.360 metric tons of Cocoa beans worth N97, 578, 000.00 (Ninety-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand Naira only)

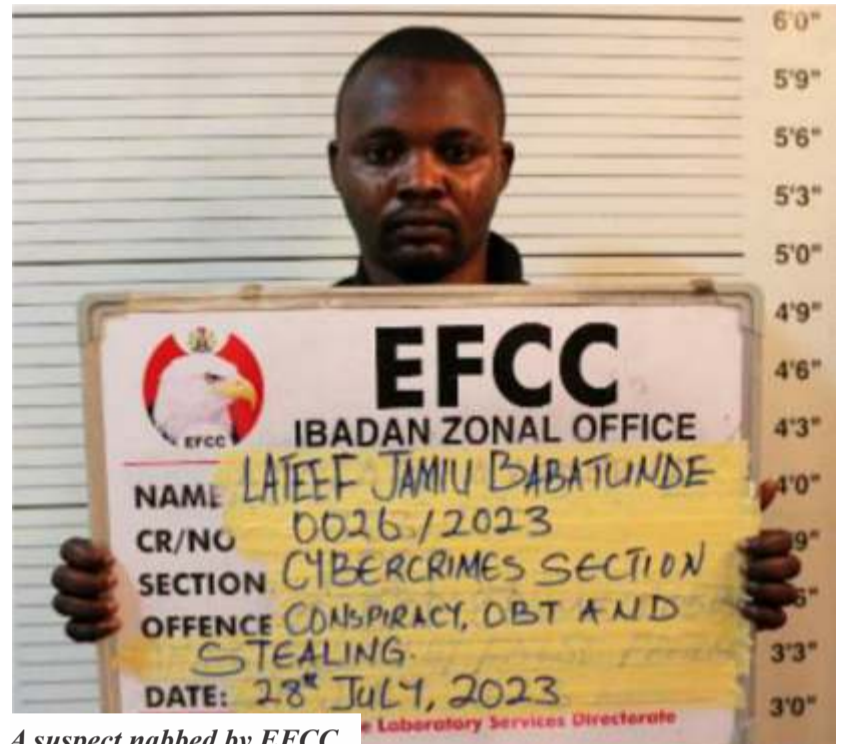
It listed count one of the charge as "That you, Lateef Jamiu Babatunde, Oyetunde Abioye Ibrahim, Wahab Yusuf Adisa (at large), Razaq Afeez Babatunde (at large), Ayobami Yusuf Bello (at large), Ibrahim Akin Fatai (at large) and Oladimeji Mutiu Olaitan (at large) on or about the 21st December, 2022 at Ibadan, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, conspired to fraudulently convert 33.360 metric tons of Cocoa Beans valued at N97, 578, 000.00 (Ninety-

Seven Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-eight Thousand Naira) belonging to Olam Nigeria Limited, thereby committed an offence of Conspiracy to commit Felony, to wit: Stealing by Conversion contrary to Section 516 of the Criminal Code, Cap 38, Laws of Oyo State, 2000."

The second charge reads "That you, Olanipekun Olawale Joseph on or about the 24th December, 2022 at Ibadan, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, received 33.360 Metric Tons of Stolen Cocoa Beans valued at N97, 578, 000.00 (Ninety-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-eight Thousand Naira) belonging to Olam Nigeria Limited, thereby committed an offence of Receiving Stolen Property contrary to Section 427 of Criminal Code Law of Oyo State 2000."

The defendants pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when read to them and the prosecution counsel, Damilare Odemuyiwa asked the court for a trial date.

Barrister Odemuyiwa also prayed the court to remand the defendants in the



A suspect nabbed by EFCC

Correctional Centre pending their date of trial.

Counsel to the defendants, Alabi Ogor said his bail application has been filed before the court.

Justice Olajide granted the defendants bail in the sum of N10,000,000 (Ten Million Naira only) each and two sureties in like sum each. The sureties must be gainfully employed, they must also provide evidence of three years tax payments, including land documents within the jurisdiction of the court. Others are: passport photographs, residential and office addresses which must be provided and verified by the court.

The Judge further ordered that the defendants be remanded in the EFCC custody pending the fulfilment of their bail conditions and adjourned

the matter till February 19, 2024 for the commencement of trial.

EFCC stressed that the three persons were arrested based on a petition accusing the defendants of diverting and absconding with 33.360 metric tons of Cocoa beans worth N97, 578, 000.00 (Ninety-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand Naira only) belonging to Olam Nigeria Limited.

They were authorized by their employer, Isiaka Saheed, Managing Director of Sidoclear Services Nigeria to deliver the said goods at Tincan Port Apapa, Lagos State between December 21 and December 24, 2022.

## Katsina Police Rescues Kidnapped University Student

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Police Command has announced the rescue of one of the five kidnapped female students of Federal University Dutsinma whose identity is being withheld for security reasons, in Bilbis Village, Zamfara State.

The Command Public Relations Officer, Superintendent of Police, Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu who disclosed this to newsmen at the Command headquarters in Katsina Metropolis said as the "rescued victim

receives essential medical attention, the command wishes to express gratitude to the rescued victim for her courage and assistance in providing valuable information."

He said "This information will undoubtedly aid our ongoing investigations, significantly increasing the chances of rescuing the remaining victims who are still being held in captivity."

"She was rescued on November 20, 2023 unhurt through a remarkable, diligent and sustainable efforts of the Katsina State

Police Command," he said.

According to ASP Sadiq Aliyu as part of its efforts to collaborate with relevant agencies and stakeholders, the Katsina State Police Command is actively coordinating with sister security agencies and relevant stakeholders to gather additional intelligence and support.

"This collaborative approach aims to maximise efforts to swiftly bring the remaining captives back to safety. We will continue to employ every available resource, adopt all necessary measures, and leverage strategic partnerships to

ensure the unhurt rescue of the remaining kidnapped victims," he assured.

He explained that, the Katsina State Commissioner of Police, Aliyu Abubakar Musa has urged members of the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the nearest police station.

"We highly value the support and assistance of the public in contributing to our collective efforts in the ongoing fight against all forms of crime and criminality in the state," CP Aliyu Abubakar Musa emphasized.



# NUJ President Tasks NAWOJ On Peace



**By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna**

The President of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Chief Chris Isiguzo on Saturday, called on Nigerian Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) to embrace peace as they are advocating for a change in electing their new leaders for the next three years.

He made this call at the Opening of NAWOJ 11th Triennial National Delegates Conference with all National Officers, State Chairpersons, State Secretaries of NAWOJ.

The Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), 11th Triennial National Delegates Conference: Abuja 2023 with a theme, "Unite, Activism to end violence against women and girls: the role of the media".

The 11th Triennial National Delegates Conference of the

Association, tagged: Abuja 2023, at Maryam Babagida National Centre for Women Development, Central Business District in Abuja on November 24-26, 2023.

According to him, NUJ is committed to collaborating to ensure the growth of NAWOJ.

"We extend our hands of fellowship to the incoming leadership," he added.

The President said that, "together, we can achieve more in journalism, now that the campaign is over in the interest of the association, it is time to set aside every bitterness and embrace peace and unity for progress."

He added that, "let us embrace understanding in unity and in togetherness, we shall usher in progress".

In a remark, the incumbent President of NAWOJ, Comrade Ladi Bala expressed happiness with the national officers and all

women who were present to give God glory for what He has done through them in the last three years.

She noted that three years ago, "we went around and today the evident are there to see as a result of partnership of people we have around who have been in support."

The President noted that NAWOJ is celebrated because of following the template of the elders in the association as Saturday marks the beginning of activities.

"NAWOJ operates on a mandate to promote children and less privileged in upholding the rights of women, we are the one to speak for women", she added.

She challenged the women to report adequately because women issues are global issues, adding that at the end of the election, "let's mark this day with activities that will mark women and children."

She celebrated every woman because they were able to burst the structure of NAWOJ to attract action aids and to be encourage at state level.

She said, "we are here for election, to encourage the women to conduct themselves hence never do things that will not glorified God.

Ladi admonished women to work as sisters and build a strong NAWOJ, "we must build NAWOJ first before any other things".

"I encourage us to protect the right of women, she trust God that He will take everyone home safely.

The Host, Nigerian Association of Women Journalists, FCT Abuja Mrs Hannah welcomed the women, it is a day that the Lord has made, with the theme today we are moving the Association forwards with new leaders today.

She welcomed everyone to the

city of Abuja and wish everyone a fruitful elections.

Meanwhile, Chief Mrs Moji Makojuola MFR, she salute everyone who have made it possible to witness 2023 Nawoj election.

She explained that NAWOJ was started over thirty years ago, she was not a mother but today by the grace of God she is a grandmother.

She said whatever we are doing today we should remember our foundation, we are not where we should be but I call you to be united.

She said, "when we started it was very rocky, NAWOJ stood today as elders, NAWOJ is for Nigerian journalist therefore there must be unity in whatever we are doing.

"Today we are to show the genuineness of an election that will show the way to greatness with the purpose to show the world that women can show the way."



# Lawyers Petition NJC, Demand Investigation Over Kano Guber Appeal Judgement

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Some legal practitioners, under the auspices of Judiciary Watchdogs, have called on the Nigerian Judicial Commission (NJC) to investigate the circumstances surrounding the conflicting Appeal Court ruling on the Kano State governorship election.

Speaking at a press conference on Friday, the spokesperson of the group, Barr. Emmanuel Agada said the judiciary has become an object of ridicule and tool in the hands of politicians.

Recall that the court had sacked Governor Abba Yusuf and declared the All Progressives Congress (APC)'s Nasiru Gawuna as the winner of the March poll.

But a Certified True Copy (CTC) of the judgment emerged on Wednesday, affirming Yusuf's victory in the exercise.

Barrister Agada lamented that some persons are desperate to remove Governor Abba Yusuf at all costs, even at the expense of the will and aspiration of an overwhelming majority of Kano citizens.

He, however, urged the Appellate Court to come to the rescue of the legal profession in Nigeria by thoroughly dealing with all the appeals arising from the 2023 electoral contest, particularly that of Kano and Plateau States.

The statement reads: "The recent judgment of the Court of Appeal that purported to sack the elected governor of Kano state, H.E Abba K. Yusuf, has become unimaginably scandalous, having come at the behest of many incurable inconsistencies that some persons may arguably pin to a pre-determined end, - to remove the Governor at every cost, even at the expense of the will and aspiration of an overwhelming majority of Kano citizens. Who voted for him in 2019 and again in 2023?"

"It is shocking that despite the recent judgment of the Supreme Court, when the membership of the Presidential candidate of the Labour Party, Peter Obi, in the Labour Party was called into question, the membership of a party was an internal affair of the party, the Court of Appeal will on Friday, predicate its sack of the

Governor of Kano state, H.E Abba K Yusuf, on his not being validated nominated by his party, the New Nigerian People's Party (NNPP).

"Noting that he was not a member of the party. When has our hallowed temple of justice started reprobating and approbating? This question begs for an answer in the lips of every Nigerian regarding the political development in Kano state.

"The greatest of all the scandals that trailed the ruling in the Kano State Guber appeal, was the conflicting conclusions that were contained in the 72-page judgment of the Court of Appeal panel that sat over the case. While we have already written a letter to the Nigerian Judicial Commission (NJC) to investigate the circumstances surrounding the conflicting conclusions, we wish to also use



this platform to express our displeasure as lawyers on the new low such actions have dragged the bench.

"As young lawyers, we look to the future, our struggle is for the older folks to bequeath to us, a legal profession that still commands the respect and reverence of the world. A judiciary that dispenses justice without fear nor favour. It is on the above basis that we have risen to raise this alarm that if the profession continues on this

path, it will soon lose its essence. The future will be bleak and the world might soon pick stones against all of us.

"It is our hope and prayers that the Apex Court comes to the rescue of the legal profession in Nigeria by thoroughly dealing with all the appeals arising from the 2023 electoral contest, particularly that of Kano and Plateau states so that justice will not only be seen to have been done but manifestly done."

# Frank To Tinubu: Your Quest For Recognition In Guinness World Records Misplaced

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The quest by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to be recognized in the Guinness World Records over reforms initiated by him since assumption of office is a misplaced venture.

A former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, made this assertion in a statement in Abuja in reaction to the President's comment in that regard while speaking in Germany recently.

Tinubu had while addressing an audience at the 10th German-Nigerian Business Forum, in Germany, said, "Nigeria voted

for me for reforms and from day one of my inauguration, I started the reforms. To me, if you didn't mention me in the Guinness Book of Records, I'd strive to find a way to insert myself because I did it without expectation."

But Frank insisted that the only world record the President had set is to have inflicted severe economic pains and unbearable hardship on the people.

"You brandish your removal of fuel subsidy on Inauguration Day as an evidence that you 'hit the ground running' but you have failed to realise that that singular action has heated up average citizen with attendant pains, tears and sorrow.

"Your purported reforms have wrecked the nation's currency with \$1 now exchanging for over N1,000, up from N600 prior to your swearing-in as President. Yet you claimed to have broken a record capable of earning you a global recognition in the GWRs," he said.

He insisted that even though the President claimed he was in Germany to woo

investors, that none will be willing to invest in the country because of the negative world records he had already set as a personal.

"No investor will want to come to Nigeria when they know the President's character is questionable because investors will always do background checks before they go to anywhere.

"Such background checks would among others reveal the negative reputation of the man inviting them as a certificate forger with proven links to drugs trafficking.

"Foreign investors will definitely not go to a country with a flawed electoral process or where

the judiciary cannot be trusted to guarantee justice to protect their investments.

"So, while investors will not come to Nigeria under your government, your name, if at all, can only be written in Guinness World Records as a certificate forger in line with the ruling of a Chicago Court," he said.

He also cited some false claims made by the President as additional reasons why his drive for investors would not yield any positive result.

Frank who is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) Ambassador to East Africa and the Middle East, said: "He claimed that he had

removed fuel subsidy, but fuel is still being subsidised by his administration even though the people now languish under the burden of astronomical increases in the pump price of fuel and other essential petroleum products.

"He claimed that he worked for Deloitte but Deloitte has since denied having his employment records.

"This is a President who often claim he is from the private sector but which genuine business has he done that qualifies him to be part of the private sector?"

"He went to Saudi Arabia and India and upon return claimed he had convinced investors there to invest in Nigeria. But up till this moment no investor from Saudi or India has indicated interest to invest in Nigeria.

"If they didn't corrupt the system, we're not supposed to look for investors. Investors are supposed to look for Nigeria with her abundant human and material resources that can attract investors.

"These obvious flaws are reasons why we are mobilising Nigerians, both locally and in diaspora, for a Tinubu must go mass protest to resist and stop all these illegalities and deception, targeted at the gradual annihilation of the people through high cost of food, medicare, goods and services, among others, in the country."



**Timi Frank**

# Insecurity: Yoruba Elders Raise Alarm Over Challenges In SW

\*Lament high rate of inflation, insecurity, seek Tinubu's intervention

By: **BAYOAKAMO Ibadan**

The Council of Yoruba Elders (CYE) on Wednesday, raised alarm over the recent reoccurrence of security challenges in the South West region of the country.

Raising the alarm in Ibadan at a press parley addressed by its Secretary General, Dr. Victor Taiwo, the group called on President Bola Tinubu to urgently intervene in the situation.

According to Dr Taiwo, there are reports of recent reoccurring insecurity challenges in the South west region of the country resulting in high cost of food items and other essential commodities in the market which has made life more unbearable for Nigerians.

"A lot of reports reaching our office on daily basis regarding the effect of the renewed Fulani herdsmen attacks on our farmers, the ravaging of our farmers' plantation fields, the abductions of our people for ransom by bandits and the indiscriminate killings of our people most especially in Ondo and Oyo states respectively have become a sort of nightmare to us", he said

The CYE scribe added, "It was a kind of relief for us when we witnessed reduction in the menace immediately after the government changed hands in May, 2023, but quite unfortunately what we are witnessing now is resurgence in a high profile".

"It is also an understatement to say armed robbers are literally on the rampage in the land. You can imagine that widely published sad occurrence of gruesome murder of a 62-year-old grandmother, Iyanuoluwa Adamolekun, of Similoluwa area, Agbaluku Arigidi Akoko in Ondo State."

The Secretary General stressed, "We also

have in our record the kidnap incidents in Saki, Okaka and Ipapo, Oke-ogun, Axis of Oyo State here. So, within a month, Fulani herders' attacks on farmers in Afon, Ipokia, Ogun State, Iwere-Ile, Komu and Otu in Oyo State."

"We also heard about the killing of Rev. David Musa of the ECWA in Obajana, Kogi State on October 14, 2023, and also the abduction of about 15 church members in Ondo State in September, all these challenges should be critically look into by Mr President before it escalate into something else."

Commenting on the level of inflation in the country, he blamed it to the insecurity issues across the country as well as the fuel subsidy removal to the high cost of food items in the country.

"The recent attacks on our farmers in the South west and the fuel subsidy removal have resulted into high cost of food items in our markets, the Fulani herders through their series of attacks are preventing our farmers from freely accessing their farms and this has naturally led to a deficit in food items and it has resulted to high costs of food items.

"The high cost of transportation due to the removal of fuel subsidy has also contributed a lot to the high cost of essential commodities in our markets and Nigerians are finding it so difficult to maintain their three square meals on daily basis."

He stressed, "We reviewed the state of the economy and it is very lamentable that the suffering the masses are passing through is fast becoming unbearable so much that the rate of deaths by suicide due to hunger and hopelessness is quite unprecedented in the history of this country."

"The rate at which inflation on foods and general goods and services is sky



rocketing is very much disturbing to the nerves so much that deaths by hunger are no more news to the ear. The rate of unemployment in the country has literally become paradoxically a norm and terribly alarming. So, out of sheer hopelessness for our youths at securing employments, they find solace or alternative means of survival in yahoo businesses, kidnapping of their fellow citizens for ransom and several other criminal activities."

Dr Taiwo maintained, "For all that is obvious, since the so-called fuel subsidy was removed by the government, the loop effect has been too much telling on the general economic life of the people. And

yet all efforts by the government to ease the hardship have not effected any positive change in the lives of the people but rather excruciating agony."

"Now, as the new voice for the Yoruba people of Yorubaland, we cannot feign ignorance of the cries our people are inundating us with on daily basis. What is, therefore, the way out for our people in Yorubaland suffering in the midst of plenty? So, we are using this opportunity to call on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to find a lasting solution to all these issues at hand for our people to truly have rest of mind."

## NASS Working To Improve Nigeria Electoral Process - Senator Alli

By: **BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan**

The Chairman Senate Committee on Electoral Matters, Senator Sarafadeen Alli on Wednesday, disclosed that the 10th National Assembly joint committee is working towards improving Nigeria electoral process.

Senator Alli according to a statement made available to journalists in Ibadan by his Special Adviser on Media, Mr Akeem Abas, stated this while featuring on a Channels Television programme 'Sunrise Daily'.

The Chairman Senate Committee on Electoral Matters said in doing this, the joint committee of the 10th National Assembly would abridge the

time for filing and concluding election petitions in the country.

According to him, pre-election matters must be concluded before elections, while election matters are concluded before swearing-in, Senator Alli.

"We will work assiduously to ensure improvement on the technology deployed for the electoral process and guidelines already in place," he said.

The Chairman Senate Committee added, "We were in Lagos some days back for a retreat. By the 28 of this month, we are having another town hall meeting here in Abuja to ensure people bare their mind on the electoral laws".

"We, in the 10th Senate will ensure laws are made to have

positive impacts on the electoral process and our people. We want to ensure that by next year, we would have made lots of improvements,"

Speaking further, Senator Alli noted that the last general election in the country was better than previous elections, as there have been significant improvements on the electoral process.

He maintained that majority of Nigerians and INEC itself wants the commission unbundled in terms of functions, while every matter concerning electoral process would be looked into to allow for more transparency in our electoral system.

Emphasizing that there was no perfect elections anywhere in the

world, Senator Alli pointed out that the electoral process in Nigeria was getting better on daily basis, Senator Alli said "Perfection is relative. We still have issues on election across the world. If we can improve the electoral process to get 90 percent perfection, then we are good for it".

Lauding the 9th National Assembly under the leadership of Sen. Ahmed Lawan for passing the 2022 Electoral law which allowed the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) as game changer, Senator Alli said the Electoral Act 2022 brought lots of improvements to the voting process and other legislations concerning the election. Senator Alli pointed out that

efforts would be made to ensure the BVAS machine store data to prevent interval reconfiguration of the machine by INEC and that though the electoral law does not mandate INEC to upload results on a portal, they would mandate INEC to upload every result on the portal in the coming elections.

The Senator who was part of the team that monitored the just concluded Liberian presidential election, described the election as well organised, transparent and fair.

Senator Alli commended the patriotism displayed by Liberians during the election, urging Nigerians to emulate such attitude as they look forward to a greater country.

# Lagos Govt Begins Mass Deworming Exercise, Targets 1.4m School Age Children

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

In a move to tackle Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH), the Lagos State Government has initiated a free school-based mass deworming program across ten endemic Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the State.

Partnering with the Federal Ministry of Health and a Non-governmental organization, Evidence Action, the campaign aims to treat 1.4 million school-aged children between five and 14 years old, who are susceptible to parasitic worm infections in Lagos State.

Speaking at the flag-off of the exercise today, at CMS Primary School, Bariga, the Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi explained that the mass deworming exercise will hold in 10 soil transmitted helminthiasis endemic local governments including of Ajeromi-Ifelodun, Amuwo-Odofin, Apapa, Badagry, Epe, Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, Ojo and Shomolu.

According to a release by Tunbosun Ogunbanwo Director, Public Affairs, Ministry of Health, the Commissioner added that children, aged five and 14 years, in Schools and communities in the 10 LGAs will be dewormed and treated for soil transmitted helminthiasis using Mebendazole Tablets (500mg) during the exercise.

Prof. Abayomi who was represented by the Lagos State Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Coordinator, Mrs. Modupe Dawodu further disclosed that the exercise would run for five days, from Tuesday 21st to Saturday 25th November,

2023.

In his words: "The Lagos State Ministry of Health is happy to collaborate with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and Evidence Action to commence implementation of the school based deworming exercise targeting children 5 to 14 years to treat soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH) using Mebendazole; a medication used to treat infections caused by worms.

"This round of treatment will focus on 10 endemic LGAs – Ajeromi-Ifelodun, Amuwo-Odofin, Apapa, Badagry, Epe, Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, Ojo and Shomolu reaching approximately over 1.4 million at-risk children in public and private primary and junior secondary schools and the communities with safe and free medicines received from the Federal Ministry of Health through the World Health Organization drug donation program to be administered at no cost to eligible children."

Abayomi noted that School-based deworming is an important evidence-based strategy to treat children at risk of parasitic worm infections adding that teachers and community health workers have been trained to safely and effectively administer the medicines to the children.

While urging residents in the affected LGAs to take advantage



Some of the pupils dewormed during the exercise.

of exercise, the Commissioner noted that the exercise reflects the State Government's commitments towards a worm-free state for all, especially school aged children.

Also speaking, the Country Director, Evidence Action, Pharm Tope Ogunbi who was represented by the Senior Program Manager, Maryann Edeh noted that the school based deworming programme is an effective and cost effective strategy to ensure that the diseases disrupting the educational growth of children are treated.

She noted that the mass deworming campaign reflects the commitment of the Lagos state government through the ministries of health, basic education and State Universal

Education Board (SUBEB) and Evidence Action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals one and three, as well as the Government's top health priorities in reducing poverty.

The Country Director explained that Evidence Action has delivered over 1.8 billion deworming treatments globally and is happy to continue to support governments across the world and in Nigeria with cost-effective and evidence based health interventions to reduce the burden of poverty. She stressed that Evidence Action through the Deworm the World program is proud to collaborate with the Lagos State Ministry of Health to provide mass deworming treatment of STH targeting 1.4

million children across the 10 endemic LGAs through active collaboration with other line ministries in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Health.

"Public school teachers and community health workers have been trained to safely and effectively administer this medicine to children, during the school days, and in communities with supervision and support of frontline health workers in the state", She said.

She encouraged parents residing in the affected LGAs where the exercise is being held to ensure that their children and wards within the target age bracket receive deworming treatment, noting that the treatment is free and effective.

# Governor UBA Sani Mourns Mama Miller-Akanya

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has said that he received with sadness, the death of foremost public servant, Mama Dora Maude Akanya (née Miller), who passed on at the age of 90.

According to a statement from Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State, Muhammad Lawal Shehu, Mrs Dora Miller Akanya and her late twin sister, Mrs Mary Jummai Jarma were born in Zaria in 1933 and attended the

Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, Zaria.

"In her lifetime, she was an astute public administrator, teacher and Commissioner of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in whose honour the Kaduna State Ministry of Health complex is currently named," it said.

Governor Uba Sani in a condolence message to her loved ones described Mama Miller as "one of the earliest icons of female empowerment in Nigeria, who rose to the pinnacle of her career as a

public servant, due to her sheer grit, diligence and incorruptibility."

Mrs Miller-Akanya served in several capacities in the civil service such as adult education officer in the Ministry of Information and Public Enlightenment of the old government of Northern Nigeria, Principal Government Girls Secondary School, Minna, in 1967. Commissioner in the newly created North Central State in the same year; a position that made her the first woman to be appointed as a Civil Service Commissioner in Nigeria at the

time.

She also served as Commissioner for Health and Social Welfare, after which she returned to the Kaduna State Ministry of Education, where she retired in 1980 after 27 years in public service.

On behalf of the people of Kaduna State, Governor Uba Sani has extended his deepest condolences to the family and called for prayers from well-meaning Nigerians for them during this difficult time.

# Folarin To NCDM: Monitor, Mentor Your Trainees

*\*Facilitates training, equips 500 youth on solar power installation, maintenance.*



By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The All Progressives Congress (APC) governorship candidate in the 2023 general elections in Oyo State, Senator Teslim Folarin on Tuesday, tasked the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDM) to monitor and mentor its trainees.

Senator Folarin gave the task while speaking at a certification ceremony for over 500 beneficiaries of an empowerment training facilitated by him organised by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDM), held at Jogor Event Centre Ibadan.

He stressed that this can be done by creating a database for proper monitoring and mentorship of the beneficiaries in their

various areas of specialization.

The former Senate leader said at the training, over 500 youths acquired skills in solar and renewable energy installation, repairs and maintenance and will become self-reliant, employers of labour, which will go a long way in curbing youth restiveness and insecurity in the state.

"With the one-month intensive training, the beneficiaries are now able to design simple solar grids, install, maintain and repair SPV technologies and other renewable technologies and also be able to trouble shoot and repair solar street lights amongst many other skills acquired", he said

Senator Folarin added, "I urge the beneficiaries form a Cooperative society while NCDMB should consider them for contracts. Also, there is

need for NCDMB to create a database for proper monitoring and mentorship".

Lauding the Engr. Simbi Wabote-led NCDMB for their cooperation and support over years, Senator Folarin said over N500m was expended on training and equipping the youths.

"Each beneficiary received starter pack and toolbox. N60,000 out of N120,000 start-up capital have been paid to each participant during the training; they will receive alert of the balance immediately after ceremony".

The Executive Secretary of NCDMB, Engr. Simbi Wabote represented by the Director Policy and Research Studies, Alhaji Abdulmalik Halilu declared that the programme is aimed at providing the youth means of livelihood.

He commended the training initiative and

Senator Folarin for his visionary leadership and for equipping his constituents with skills that is relevant to modern trend.

New Nigerian recalled that Senator Folarin facilitated training and equipping of over 500 youths of Oyo Central on solar power installation and maintenance. And also commissioned new ICT centres in two secondary schools.

In the empowerment training, 500 beneficiaries passed through one-month intensive training in Ibadan, Oyo and Ogbomoso zones of the state.

Senator Folarin commissioned two new ICT centres at Community Secondary School, Badeku in Ona-Ara LGA and Iresaadu High School in Surulere LGA.

## Antimicrobial Resistance: NGO Moves To Check Abuse Of Antibiotics In Animals

By; **ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna**

Worried by the abuse of antibiotics in livestock, a Non-governmental organization (NGO) under the auspices of Alliance for Sustainable Livestock (ASL) has commenced campaign on antimicrobial resistance which it said is harmful to humans.

The campaign which took place in 19 locations in Kaduna State educated various producers and sellers of livestock in the State with a view to addressing the global pandemic.

The Project Officer, ASL, Dr. Latifah Abdulkarim during a visit at the Waff Road Chicken Market in Kaduna metropolis, said, "We organized the campaign with support from SAC Center, Geneva to create awareness on antimicrobial resistance, because we have a global pandemic where antibiotics are no longer working for people and when you use it subsequently, it does not seem to work".

She noted that there is also an animal health perspective where the use of antibiotics is abused leading to animal's harbouring resistant bacteria in them.

"We come in contact with animals and when we come in contact with produce from these animals like meat, milk and eggs which are not properly processed; those bacteria come in contact human, so when you get an infection like typhoid, you will discover that the drug will not work because the bacteria are presently resistant.

"Also, just coming in contact with the feces of the animal that is used for manure to grow crops consumed by humans, anyone that eats the crops comes in contact with the resistant bacteria. That means from all fronts, we are coming in contact with the bacteria."

She said the organisation recently trained community animal health workers on antimicrobial resistance saying, adding that they are doing a step down campaign in communities where they work for livestock farmers in order to create awareness on the need to vaccinate more.

"There is no way to identify infected produce which is a very big problem and it is just like your fate is in the hands of the farmers and sellers and that is why they have to be aware and conscious. As a person, what you can do to prevent antimicrobial resistance is to take your drugs properly when you are given antibiotics".

Responding, the Chairman, Waff Road Chicken Sellers Association, Bala Namanu said even though they just buy and sell chicken on a daily basis, he hoped it will be a stepping stone to addressing the challenges in the livestock business to provide safe and quality produce for the consumption of the masses, he added.

He then commended the association for bringing the awareness to their door steps and called on his members to use the knowledge they have gained to sustain their business and livelihoods.

## We Are Closely Monitoring Your Conduct, Consider Consequences, Northern Elders Forum Warns Nigerian Judges, Others

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Northern Elders Forum (NEF) has called on the country's judiciary to "consider the consequences of its actions and decisions" and uphold the rule of law in all its activities around the elections where Nigerians voted.

The NEF in a statement, on Thursday by its convener, Prof Ango Abdullahi, said the forum and other stakeholders would "closely monitor the conduct of the judiciary and advocate for its ethical revitalisation to safeguard the interests of all Nigerians."

There have been outcries in the country over the recent judgments given by the Court of Appeal in cases involving states ruled by opposition political parties which are Kano, Plateau, and Zamfara.

Speaking for the NEF, Abdullahi said, "The potential consequences of these actions may ultimately validate the concerns raised by retired Supreme Court Justice, Dattijo Mohammed in his valedictory remarks about corruption and undue compromises within the judiciary.

"We recognise the importance of a fair and impartial judiciary in upholding the rule of law and



Prof Ango Abdullahi

safeguarding democratic principles.

"The judiciary plays a critical role in ensuring justice, protecting citizens' rights, and preserving the credibility of the electoral process. Any actions that compromise these principles undermine the very foundation of any democratic nation.

"NEF, therefore, calls on all levels of the judiciary to uphold the highest ethical standards and maintain impartiality in their decision making processes.

"Judges should exhibit unwavering integrity and

resilience when adjudicating cases, especially those pertaining to elections.

"The judiciary plays a crucial role in sustaining constitutional democracy by ensuring the rule of law, protecting individual rights, and providing checks and balances on the other branches of government. However, if the judiciary fails to fulfill its responsibilities, it can have severe implications for the stability and functioning of a democratic society.

"The current trend may encourage politicians to view

politics as a do-or-die affair. When the judiciary fails to effectively adjudicate disputes and hold politicians accountable for their actions, it creates an environment where politicians feel emboldened to engage in corrupt practices, abuse their power, and disregard the principles of democracy.

"This erosion of trust in the judiciary can lead to a breakdown of democratic norms and values, ultimately undermining the legitimacy of the political system.

"Furthermore, a collapsing judiciary jeopardises the safeguarding of constitutionalism, which is the cornerstone of any democratic society. The judiciary acts as the guardian of the constitution, ensuring that laws and policies adhere to the principles enshrined within it.

"Without a functioning judiciary, there is a risk of constitutional violations going unchecked, leading to the erosion of citizens' rights and freedoms. This can result in a loss of public confidence in the democratic process, as citizens may feel that their voices are not being heard or that their rights are being trampled upon.

"The fairness and transparency

of the judicial system are vital for fostering public trust, confidence, and belief in the democratic process.

"NEF believes that the judiciary should be an unbiased and independent arm of government, which is essential to the success of democracy and it should not be seen as compromising the integrity of its decisions particularly at a time when the nation is grappling with a range of challenges.

"NEF, therefore, calls on the judiciary to consider the consequences of its actions and decisions and strive to uphold the rule of law in all its activities to justify the confidence reposed on it by Nigerians. The NEF called on the public to remain vigilant in as to the direction the nation's judiciary is headed and not to hesitate to expose any perceived misconduct on the part of the judiciary.

"It is our firm belief that a strong and incorruptible judiciary is crucial for the development and progress of our great nation. NEF, alongside other concerned stakeholders, will continue to closely monitor the conduct of the judiciary and advocate for its ethical revitalisation to safeguard the interests of all Nigerians," he added.

## ODIRS Gives Sam Maris University Thumbs Up Over Robust Take Off

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The Ondo State Internal Revenue Service (ODIRS) has lauded Sam Maris University, Supare-Akoko as a fledgling institution, and described the leadership as exemplary.

The Revenue Service gave the applause on Thursday, during a courtesy visit to the Institution by its representatives, led by the Oka-Akoko Tax Station Manager, Mr. Frank Akinkuotu. Akinkuotu who lauded the developmental strides of SMU on behalf of ODIRS, noted that his visit as a forerunner of ODIRS Management Team, was geared towards fostering organizational relationship and sensitization on the position of Ondo State Government on the payment of taxes, land use charge and development levy amongst other things.

He said, "I commend the Management of Sam Maris University over the robust take off of the Institution and commitment to the ideals of the

Ondo State Internal Revenue Service. We, on behalf of ODIRS, take great pleasure in expressing our profound appreciation to the Leadership of Sam Maris University for your pacesetter approach, and demonstrable commitment to strict compliance with the provisions of the Tax Law."

"As staunch advocates for educational advancement, we have closely observed the University's trajectory since inception. We are delighted to note the robust take off of the Institution. We are also pleased that Management is steering the ship in the right direction devoid of tax encumbrances, towards attaining the goal of the University."

"We are seizing this opportunity to state that adherence to accurate deductions and timeous remittances of tax help Government in the execution of its projects, and infrastructural development of the State for the general well-being of its citizenry".



In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor of Sam Maris University, Prof. Francis Gbore acknowledged the commendable feats of ODIRS under the leadership of its Chairman, Mr. Tolu Adegbe. Gbore urged the Revenue Service to sustain its corporate

social responsibility to regular tax payers, as the gesture will continue to serve as a motivational factor to the tax payers, and also as an encouragement for tax defaulters to rise up to fulfilling their obligations to the State.

In conclusion, the pioneer VC,

thanked the representatives for the visit and for their complimentary remarks about the citadel of learning, SMU. He assured the representatives that Sam Maris University would subscribe to policies and initiatives of the ODIRS.

# North East Govs Lament Poor Infrastructure In Zone

## \*Urge FG to award contracts for all federal roads in North East

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR,  
Maiduguri

The North East Governors' Forum (NEGF) has expressed continuous dismay over the poor state of basic infrastructural facilities in the region, positioning its concern more on the federal roads within and between the states in the zone.

The forum also lamented extensively on the manner the trunk "A" roads and highways have been neglected for so long by the federal government while calling on the Federal Ministry of Works to follow through with road contracts awarded in the region.

The forum which comprises of the Governors of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe states, held its 9th meeting in Yola, Adamawa State, expressing delight at the growing strength of cooperation and collaboration among the member states in the region.

A communique issued and signed by Professor Babagana Umara Zulum, the Chairman of the NEGF who is also the Governor, Borno State on Saturday, made available to journalists in Maiduguri, said the Forum also reaffirmed its commitment to foster a common ground and pursue collective course on matters of security, social and economic integration of the region despite the poor road network which is fuelling insecurity and stalling development as well making life more difficult for our people in the region

The forum noted that the contractual dealings on some of the bad federal roads within and between the States are major setbacks to the infrastructural development of the region. It calls on the NEDC to work with State Governments and the Federal Ministry of Works to remove the emcumberances and find more practical ways to

intervene on these roads.

The forum also noted the poor energy situation in the region. To mitigate the situation, forum resolved to work with Shanghai Electric to construct 60 MW Coal Power Plant or 50 MW Solar Power Plant in each state of the region.

The forum also noted with dismay the poor rail system in the region. It equally notes that the repairs on the old gauge rail lines is not useful and sustainable technology while calling for inclusion of the region into the Nigerian National Railway Transport Plan using the Modern Gauge rail and the National Road plan that the zone is missing.

The forum resolved to hold the 10th Meeting in Bauchi between 23rd February – 26th March, 2024 at the end of the meeting where the forum after exhaustive deliberations, resolved and submitted that the Forum reiterated the need for subregional integration and

resolved that each member state should take up the matter with more seriousness by assigning such responsibility to an appointee with a cabinet status.

It also Forum noted that Climate Change and Environmental degradation are still major issues affecting the subregion. Thus, resolved to strengthen its collaboration with all initiatives such as the Great Green Wall and the Global Initiative of Carbon Credit financing.

The Communique added that the Forum notes with appreciation, the readiness of the Bauchi State Government to host the North East Regional Trade Fair between 26th February – 3rd March, 2024 and called on all the subnational entities within the region to actively participate in the fair while inviting the nation, Africa and the world to come and experience the rich culture, tourism potentials, hospitality, and economic opportunities that abound in the region.

It further stated that the Forum appraised the compliance of the states with the decision earlier taken at the 8th meeting in Maiduguri to domesticate the Education Law 2022, as recommended by the Northeast Education Council and called on states that are yet to domesticate the Law to do so as a matter of strategic regional integration.

The Forum noted that although the security situation is improving positively in the region, there is need for more collaboration among member states in the design of the security achitecture for the region and resolved to work more with the security agencies to have a common security roadmap for the North East.

The Forum acknowledged the need for a robust platform for regional economic devepment. It thus, resolved to work as an entity in strengthening the human capacity and socio-economic development of its people.



# Atiku: A Man For All Seasons

By: PHRANK SHAIBU

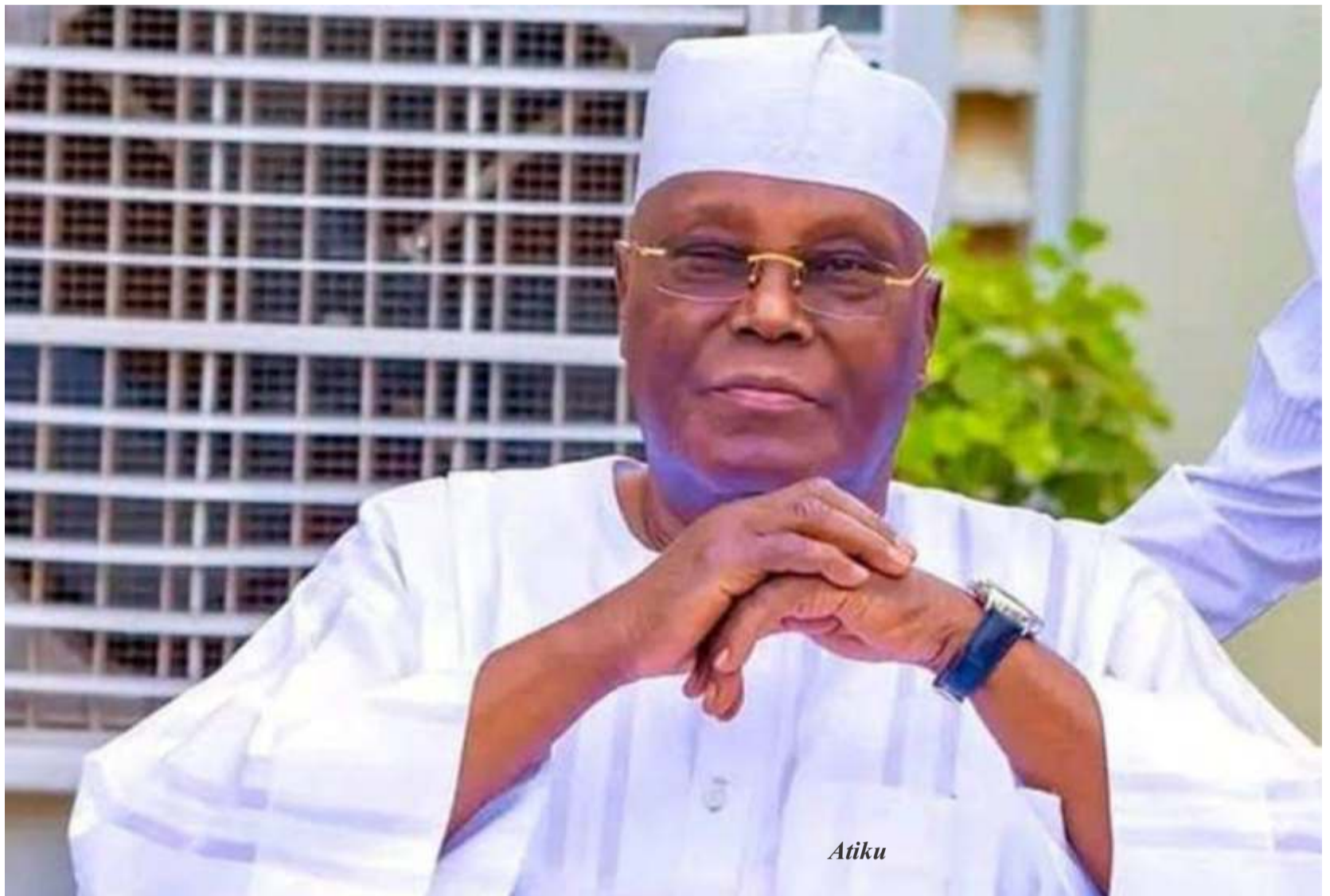
Champions are made from something they have deep inside of them – a desire, a dream, a vision, says the great Mahatma Gandhi. This typifies clearly the life and times of Waziri Atiku Abubakar, who, despite the odds against him from early childhood, overcame all the hurdles and vicissitudes of life.

Born on November 25, 1946, to the family of Garba Abubakar – a Fulani trader and farmer – Atiku was the only child as his sister died at infancy. Before adolescence, his father died by drowning while crossing a river to Toungo, a neighbouring village in Jada. He was thus raised by his widowed mother, Aisha Kande, and his maternal relatives. As the man of the house, he did menial jobs while also schooling at the same time to provide for the family. He was a herder, a trader, and a farmer.

Of course, his life changed when he joined the Nigeria Customs Service in 1969 and quickly rose through the ranks to become one of the most senior officers within just 17 years of service. And through it all, Atiku never forgot his humble beginnings. This is one of the reasons he has continued to support several causes and foundations and has awarded dozens of scholarships to indigent students so that they can also have a chance of a bright future.

In the late 80s, he joined partisan politics even though he did not need to having fulfilled his immediate dream of lifting his family out of poverty. But out of this burning desire to lift millions more out of poverty so that they could achieve the Nigerian dream just like he had achieved his, he decided to join partisan politics. Despite winning the governorship election of Adamawa State back in 1991, his victory was questionably annulled by the powers that be.

He contested the presidential primary of the Social Democratic Party and lost. But he soldiered on. Even though he was not directly affected by the annulment of the June 12, 1993 election since he was not on the ballot, he put everything he had on the line in order to fight for democracy and was almost killed by Abacha's goons in the mid 90s. Despite getting his fingers burnt in politics, he decided to contest again in 1999 for governor of Adamawa State and won. But he was picked as running mate to General Olusegun Obasanjo and subsequently became Vice



President.

As Vice President, he fought against attempts to amend the constitution and extend the tenure of executive office holders even though he could have been a beneficiary of such a move. By this move, he played a role in not just entrenching democracy but preventing Nigeria from becoming a failing state like some African countries that have removed term limits for their heads of state.

During his trying days as Vice President, his official privileges were revoked by the powers that be. But this did not stop the Waziri from paying salaries and allowances of his personal aides. He continued to look after them and tried as much as possible to shield them from persecution.

Many in government today are products of Atiku's benevolence, including some in the country's ruling party today who have gone on to become senators and governors. Simply put, he is a leader amongst leaders.

He also believes in the power of education as a liberating force for the individual and the country. He often says that education gave him all the advantages he had and that he will also stop at nothing to make sure that quality education becomes a priority in Nigeria. Atiku, also, is a deliberate educationist

As a family man, he is almost immaculate. His belief about family is that discipline should be the watchword. His children, of course, are well educated, and he enjoins them to be good ambassadors of the family who must not be associated with any immoral conduct that will tarnish the family name.

As a principal, I say without hesitation that Atiku Abubakar is a father figure. He is compassionate and humane. He is affectionate, too. It is almost impossible to be around him and not feel the energy of the goodness of his character.

He is also a deliberate politician. He sees political power as an instrument to create a progressive society. He is very deliberate about everything he does and takes time out to reach out to associates in their great moments and sad ones

Atiku has made several unsuccessful attempts at the presidency, which have cost him money and comforts but he continues to do so in the service of motherland.

He has made mistakes but has also been a victim of the fraudulent nature of Nigeria's elections and the judicial malpractice associated with election cases. Despite his string of defeats, not a single life has been lost on his account. This is because he continues to have

faith in Nigeria and its people and also believes that his ambition to serve the people of Nigeria cannot be done at the expense of human life.

This cannot be said of other politicians who have promoted violence because of electoral defeat. For some, Atiku's many attempts at the number one seat in Nigeria smacks of desperation. They think he should remain a private businessman and retire from politics. He may not have succeeded at becoming president, but he has tried and has done so for the most altruistic of reasons.

Some had even argued that he should not have challenged the result of the presidential election in such a vociferous manner but congratulated the winner of the fraudulent election so that he could continue to enjoy government patronage. But he stood his ground and pursued the truth and made sure that Nigerians knew it. This is the height of bravery even though our courts decided to dwell on technicalities rather than substantial justice.

There are no regrets whatsoever. Because as Theodore Roosevelt once said, "It is not the critic who counts... The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who

strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming. If he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Without a doubt, the story of Atiku Abubakar is one of victory, success, and beating the odds. It's about a man who was dealt a bad hand early in life but refused to be limited by his background and rose from the ashes like a phoenix. It is about a man who, despite his many defeats, has refused to lay flat on the canvas like a defeated boxer but continues to rise every time he falls. He is a man who has lifted others and has continued to trust in humanity despite the many betrayals he has faced.

His, indeed, is a life well spent. It is only fitting to conclude that Atiku Abubakar is a gift to the world. Waziri, your birthday deserves to be a national holiday, because you are a special treasure for all that you've done.

May the love you have shown to others return to you in manifold measures. I wish you the happiest of birthdays, Your Excellency Phrank Shaibu is Special Assistant on Public Communication to Atiku Abubakar





## Balancing Family Care

By Safiya I. Dantiye

**I**N OUR society, culture and even religion demand that you help your relations, especially those in dire need. Not only them, you are expected to help anybody in need if you could afford to. Only that as a friend once told me, you cannot save the world when she helped a woman in the hospital with the last money in her bag. That is, you can only do what you can.

Some however take the generosity of their, say, brothers for granted and become so relaxed to try to fend for themselves, comfortable in the knowledge that the brothers must find a way to help them!

This family situation needs a balancing act because any slight perceived non-help from the rich brother is blamed on the wife. That she doesn't want her husband to help his relations, but want him to spend only on her and her children. And of course, her relations.

I read an article some time ago where the writer was talking about the economy of the north. He said mostly there was only one bread winner in a family and he caters for everybody, including extended family members.

In any case, while it is good to help them, some don't want to be helped to set up something to be self-reliant. They would rather the brother works tirelessly to earn money and then for him to give them some amount to feed, pay school fees for their children, medication and so on.

There was one man who was wealthy but he worked very hard as an engineer. He tried many times to help his brothers to earn their own money, but they didn't do it. They lived aimlessly in their town. Instead they accused him of sending his children school abroad without including their own children.

I feel that everybody should live according to his means. If you cannot afford an expensive school why must your child go to that school and expect your brother to pay for it because his children go there? And this brother still helps you with feeding and pays your children's school fees, even though you are not grateful.

Some brothers may decide to also take the children of their brothers to expensive schools, but that is if they want to.

This family situation needs a balancing act because any slight perceived non-help from the rich brother is blamed on the wife. That she doesn't want her husband to

help his relations, but want him to spend only on her and her children. And of course, her relations.

This makes some women to question whether they and their children don't have a right in their own home. In fact, in some cases even the food they eat is a source of gossip, that they are enjoying while the relations are suffering.

One woman said her husband bought houses for his younger brothers, but they are always envious of her children comparing them with their own, even though they don't live in the same town.

"I hope it would not create enmity between our children, because the way they speak makes it look like we make our children superior to their own," she said.

The wife and the children have a special place in a man's life. They should be given their right to enjoy the wealth of the man as husband and father. Brothers, sisters and extended family members are also important and they should be cared for. But where possible they should be assisted and encouraged to be able to cater for themselves. They should not claim some right that is not their own.

Some men take it to the extreme as if they would live the life of their brothers for them. They would rather go to any extent to meet their brothers' needs than encourage them to fend for themselves.

They borrow money or if available to them go into corruption so as not to tell their brothers that they could not afford their demand at times.

In one such case the man bought expensive things like phones and computers for his brothers' children, but declined such demands from his own children. If it is his own children, he would say he doesn't have money. Any time the wife found that he bought such items for his brothers' children they had a fight.

The irony is that when such a man falls on hard times the brothers blame the wife of taking away his money, refusing to see their part in it. Some would even try to chase her away from the house.

The wife and the children have a special place in a man's life. They should be given their right to enjoy the wealth of the man as husband and father. Brothers, sisters and extended family members are also important and they should be cared for. But where possible they should be assisted and encouraged to be able to cater for themselves. They should not claim some right that is not their own.

## Hon. Abdulmumin Jibrin Organises Special Prayer For Tinubu, Kwankwaso, Abba

...Says NNPP still open to alliance with APC, other parties

**H**on. Abdulmumin Jibrin Kofa, Member representing Kiru/Bebeji constituency, Kano, in the House of Representatives, has today hosted 1,000 Ulama at his country home of Kofa, Bebeji, Kano for a special prayer session for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the country, the national leader of NNPP and Kwankwaso Movement, Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, PhD, FNSE, the success of Kano State Governor, Abba Kabir Yusuf at Supreme Court, and for the success of the honourable member. During the session, the clerics completed Quran

1,101 times and offered special prayers.

According to a statement by his Media Aide, Sani Ibrahim Paki, in his brief remarks, Hon Jibrin said his relationship with President Tinubu is no secret. He added that Kwankwaso is his mentor and will continue to support harmonious relationship between the president and Kwankwaso.

Jibrin said the NNPP is a very promising party and still open to collaboration, alliance and merger with the APC and even with the PDP, LP or any other party that shows interest, so long as it is for the good of Nigerians.

The fourth term lawmaker also promised to deploy his modest political network to reach out to gladiators in Kano politics towards resolving all resolvable issues and to de-escalate the current tension in the state as a result of the Kano Governorship seat.

Also, after the prayer session, he hosted 5,000 primary school kids across his constituency, as he often does, provided them with school kits and assured them of the good plans of the federal and state governments, especially on free education and school feeding programs.



## Group Stumbles On Website Bearing Buhari's 8-year Scorecard

\*Says, the website stands as a reliable source, offering a detailed accounts of his achievements

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

**A** group under the auspices of Protectors of PMB Legacy (PPMBL) has disclosed that it has recently stumbled on a website where the achievements of the immediate past President, Muhammadu Buhari were clearly laid out for the general public to access and judge him by themselves. The Coordinator of the group, Mohammed Yusuf Ajiji in a statement yesterday, advised Nigerians not to buy into Misinformation about Buhari's achievements for eight years in office.

The Protectors of PMB Legacy, a political pressure group, said nobody should be misled and deceived that Buhari did not achieve anything during his two terms in office.

"We are being compelled to address some claims asserting that the government of former President Muhammadu Buhari has not achieved anything during its tenure.

"Such assertions are not only misleading but also disregarding the numerous accomplishments documented on the PMB scorecard website: [www.pmbscorecard.gov.ng](http://www.pmbscorecard.gov.ng).

"We were actually blown away when we stumbled on the site and discovered the quantum of projects executed by the PMB Administration.

"Contrary to the misinformation being circulated, the Buhari administration has made significant strides across various sectors, contributing to the overall development and progress of Nigeria.

"We encourage all concerned citizens and members of the media, musicians, political critics and other interest groups to visit the PMB scorecard website, which meticulously outlines and provides transparent insights into the achievements of the government.

"The website serves as a comprehensive repository of verifiable data, illustrating the administration's accomplishments in areas such as infrastructure development, economic reforms, social intervention programmes, security, agriculture among other initiatives.

"We emphasize that constructive criticism and public discourse are essential elements of a vibrant democracy. However, it is crucial to base such discussions on accurate information and facts.

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| 6" x 4 Col   | 145,728.00 | 10,929.60 | 156,657.60 | 98,002.08       | 7,350.16  | 105,352.24 |
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- Cancellation of previously booked advert will be accepted in writing within four working days notice, less than 24 hours to the date of publication will attract 25% surcharge.
- Advertisers/Agencies are to provide their Camera ready artwork in electronic copies, in PDF, or JPEG format.
- Advertisers will be surcharged 20% of the applicable rate where artworks are not provided.
- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
- Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing at least 24 hours to desired alteration date.
- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
- The management of New Nigerian Newspapers Limited reserves the right to reject an advert or any publication in any of its titles where such materials are considered distasteful for public exposure or libelous.

### TECHNICAL DATA

|                  |           |         |             |
|------------------|-----------|---------|-------------|
| <b>6 COLUMNS</b> |           |         |             |
| Depth            | 38.1 (CM) | Depth - | 15 (Inches) |
| Width            | 25.4 (CM) | Width - | 10 (Inches) |

### POLITICAL RATE

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

### LOOSE INSERTS

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

### CLASSIFIEDS

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

### Special Position

| SPACE   | RATE         | VAT        | TOTAL        |
|---|--------------|------------|--------------|
| FULL W RAPA ROUND                               | 6,750,000.00 | 506,250.00 | 7,256,250.00 |
| HALF W RAPA ROUND                               | 4,500,000.00 | 337,500.00 | 4,837,500.00 |
| PA GE 2 O R 3                                   | 400,000.00   | 30,000.00  | 430,000.00   |
| PA GE 4 O R 5                                   | 375,000.00   | 28,125.00  | 403,125.00   |
| PA GE 6 O R 7                                   | 325,000.00   | 24,375.00  | 349,375.00   |
| FR ONT PA GE M A S T H E A D E A R P I E C E    | 215,000.00   | 16,875.00  | 231,875.00   |
| FR ONT PA GE S O L U S                          | 312,500.00   | 23,437.50  | 335,937.50   |
| FR ONT PA GE S T R I P                          | 375,000.00   | 28,125.00  | 403,125.00   |
| B A C K PA GE E A R P I E C E                   | 200,000.00   | 15,000.00  | 215,000.00   |
| B A C K PA GE S T R I P                         | 250,000.00   | 18,750.00  | 268,750.00   |
| C E N T R E S P R E A D (C O L O U R )          | 837,500.00   | 62,812.50  | 900,312.50   |
| D O U B L E S P R E A D (C O L O U R )          | 700,000.00   | 52,500.00  | 752,500.00   |
| C E N T R E S P R E A D (B L A C K & W H I T E) | 575,000.00   | 43,125.00  | 618,125.00   |
| D O U B L E S P R E A D (B L A C K & W H I T E) | 590,000.00   | 44,250.00  | 634,250.00   |
| FR ONT PA GE (10" X 6)                          | 3,250,000.00 | 243,750.00 | 3,493,750.00 |
| R O P S T R I P (C O L O U R )                  | 125,000.00   | 9,375.00   | 134,375.00   |
| R O P S T R I P (B L A C K & W H I T E)         | 85,000.00    | 6,375.00   | 91,375.00    |

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

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

# Mr President, Please Save Our Judiciary, Our Democracy, Our Country

By: HASSAN GIMBA

“A corrupt judge is more harmful to the society than a man who runs amok with a dagger in a crowded street. While the man with the dagger can be restrained physically, a corrupt judge deliberately destroys the foundation of society.”

– Justice Samson Uwaifo, a retired justice of the Supreme Court.

About two weeks ago, Mr Olumide Akpata, a former president of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), at the International Bar Association (IBA) conference in Paris, France, lamented that only by sheer luck will the Nigerian judiciary produce a good judge and that the country is under “judiciary capture.”

He said as president of the NBA between 2021 and 2022 when he was a statutory member of the National Judicial Council (NJC), the body saddled with the responsibilities of recruiting and disciplining erring judges in Nigeria, he found out that Nigeria's political class was desperate to pocket the judiciary.

“It is deliberate, and it is intentional. And it is achieving results for them,” Akpata said, adding that such a move has very insidious consequences for the rule of law in Nigeria. Speaking in the same vein, Chidi Odinkalu, a law professor and former chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), on his X handle also wondered why heads of courts like the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Olukayode Ariwoola, and the presidents of the Court of Appeal and National Industrial Court of Nigeria, Monica Dongban-Mensem and Benedict Kanyip, respectively, would appoint their children or spouses as judges. He also described the situation as “judicial capture.” He even said one of the three justices who heard the appeal concerning the Kano governorship petition is a nephew of the Chief Justice of Nigeria.

Odinkalu had spoken in a television interview about how merit is sacrificed by the judiciary's top hierarchy in favour of nominating their wards, wives, and mistresses as judges.

Mr Akpata, who disclosed that “some chief judges kneel before the governors” to beg for funds, said judicial unions in Nigeria have been demanding financial independence but to no avail. Judges' salaries are abysmally poor, a situation, he said, that breeds corruption. He said this is why some judges are living above their legitimate income by sending their children to Ivy League institutions like Cambridge, Yale and Harvard.

And he said, “When you know a man (judge) that knows the law but his judgement flies in the face of what the law should be, you know that there is something else motivating him or her.”

According to the then chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), “the justice sector had the highest level of corruption with a score of 63. Stupendously high amounts of money offered as bribes to judges by lawyers handling high electoral and other political cases heightened the level of corruption in the justice sector.”

He put the electorally related bribe money “demanded, offered and paid between 2018 and 2020 at ₦9,457,650,000.00 (₦9.45

billion).

Just last week, reacting to the Court of Appeal judgement regarding the Kano governorship election petition, Dr Kingsley Moghalu, former deputy governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, (CBN), writing also on his verified X handle, warned that Nigeria's judicial and electoral systems were collapsing.

He wrote, “Nigeria's judicial and electoral systems are collapsing. This has ominous implications for our aspirations for democracy. Often, those who benefit from these systemic failures are intoxicated by their advantage. But history tells us that, longer term, the prognosis isn't pretty.”

Many people are keying into Professor Odinkalu's opinion that the judiciary, for reasons that may not entirely be noble, is rendering the people's votes waste as it crowns people into office. He said such started when Rotimi Amaechi, who was never on any ballot, was declared governor of Rivers State in 2007 by the Supreme Court and gave its reasons a month later.

Right or wrong, the public has scant confidence in the judiciary and that is a dangerous threat to Nigeria's peace and stability.

Mr Akpata puts it succinctly: “Sadly, we all know, or we should know, that a country is only as stable, just and fair as its judiciary, and once the citizenry loses faith in it (judiciary), then rebellion against the law and constituted authority becomes the fashion and chaos sets in. The trajectory, sadly, is inauspicious.”

In a recent interview, Prof Itsejuwa Esanjumi Sagay, SAN, speaking on the Supreme Court, said: “Without any question, the Supreme Court decision endorsing former Senate President Ahmad Lawan as the All Progressive Congress' candidate for Yobe North senatorial district together with its separate ruling in another case endorsing Godswill Akpabio's candidature for Akwa Ibom North Central senatorial position created a great embarrassment to senior lawyers who have an idea of the law. It is a great embarrassment. You could see Okorochoa making fun of Lawan in the Senate, saying he should tell us the trick of how he managed to make it back to the Senate.

“You know, it is an open secret about how they got there. Certainly, it was not a legitimate exercise that took them there. Everything that took them there was contrary to the existing law - the 2022 Electoral Act. No doubt about it, the magic by which they got there would remain a mystery for a long time. And this has not done anything good to the image of the Supreme Court.”

Then throw in the magic of how Senator Hope Uzodinma, who INEC said came fourth in the ballot, became the governor of Imo State in 2019 (many still derisively refer to him as the Supreme Court governor!) and the current confusion in the Kano governorship appeal court ruling where what was read out in open court as judgement is contrary to what is contained in the Certified True Copy (CTC) of the judgement – signed and stamped - and the picture is something else – the exact term used by retiring Supreme Court Justice Mohammed Dattijo in his valedictory speech recently in which he gave a



**Hassan Gimba**

## Monday Column

broadside to the institution he served for 47 years.

But there was a time when we could say that the Nigerian Supreme Court ranked among the best in the world. That was when we had jurists like Justice Kayode Esho, Justice Chukwudifu Akunne Oputa, Justice Augustine Nnamani and Justice Mohammad Bello. But politics has since come with its baggage and it has started dancing in the marketplace.

Even though some people have given their kobo's worth of suggestions regarding how the judiciary can be reformed, the buck stops at the desk of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

He needs to do something urgently about the judiciary so that the average Nigerian will believe that he can get a sanctuary there. After all, democracy and nations are just as strong as their judiciary is just and fair.

It is high time the Nigerian judiciary sped up its justice delivery process. We recently saw how courts in America can adjudicate a matter and deliver judgment within 48 hours. There, they believe that justice delayed is one denied.

Then perhaps we should limit the type of cases that end up at the Supreme Court. A situation where any case can end up there makes it hard for the speedy delivery of justice.

We should also look at the remuneration of

judges. They need to have decent salaries and allowances and conditions of service that will make them very comfortable and that would make them able to resist temptations and outside pressure.

Perhaps appointment into the highest court and the appellate courts should not be left only to those who now form the recruitment base. This tradition of appointing only those from the bench may have outlived its sell-by date; let's have the best brains in there. Who said someone like Femi Falana will not make a good Chief Justice of the Federation? Sometimes you need an outsider to shake up a poor system.

Maybe our legal education should also be overhauled, the syllabus redrawn and the law school training deepened. What we have now seems to have outlived its usefulness. Otherwise, can you imagine a situation where about fifty senior advocates of Nigeria (SANs) could not score a reasonable point in a court of law? We saw how the lawyers of Atiku Abubakar, Peter Obi and Allied Peoples Movement (APM) could not differentiate between a good case and a bad one, eventually failing to convince the judges at both the election petition tribunal and the Supreme Court on even a single point of relevance. Unless, of course, there is something else.

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

# Take Not The Path To One Party Rule

By Jibrin Ibrahim

**T**HE REVELATIONS in the CTC of the judgment of the Court of Appeal on the Kano governorship race is the clearest indication that politics rather than law is determining judicial outcomes on election litigation. The three-member panel of the Court of Appeal led by Moore Adumein had nullified Governor Kabir's victory on the ground that he was not an authentic member of his political party, the NNPP. Consequently, the appellate court declared his closest challenger, Nasiru Gawuna, of the All Progressives Congress (APC), as the winner of the 18 March governorship election. However, the certified true copy (CTC) of the judgement issued by the Court of Appeal, states in some sections that Mr Yusuf won the election but also said the opposite in other sections, contrary to its clear ruling last Friday. The Chief Registrar of the appellate court, Mr Bangari, in reaction to revelations in the CTC claimed that the discrepancy between what was read in open court and what was contained in the certified true copy of the judgement as a "clerical error". It cannot however be a clerical error as it is not a question of a couple of misspelled words but about considered judgements contradicting each other, which means they were rewritten and someone forgot to remove what the new text was supposed to have replaced.

In some of the judgments delivered, the judges made no attempt to hide their bias. In the Kano State governorship election petition decided last September, Benson Anya, a judge on the tribunal, openly pronounced that NNPP supporters are "bandits in politics" and decided "to condemn the gang of Red Cap wearers (NNPP supporters) as being a violent and terrorist cult who chased us out of Kano and put us in the fear of our lives. How can such a judge be seen to be fair after such commentary? The Court of Appeal judgements in favour of the ruling APC party are all coming out in the context of some of them having had their names proposed for elevation to the Supreme Court and many people think this fact has been used to blackmail some of them. For some of the others, financial inducement might be the mechanism of choice. There have been numerous allegations of significant escalation of bribes being directly offered to judges. In one instance, the appellate court declared for example that: "I will conclude by stating that the live issues in this appeal are hereby resolved in favour of the 1st respondent (APC) and against the appellant (Governor Abba Yusuf)", but went further to contradict itself in another sentence. The court said: "In the

circumstances, I resolve all the issues in favour of the appellant (NNPP) and against the 1st respondent (APC)." The court further shot itself on the foot, declaring: "Therefore, I find no merit in this appeal which is liable to be and is hereby dismissed." But in the final line of the judgement, the court set aside the judgement of the tribunal, which sacked the governor.

"The judgement of the tribunal in Petition No.: EPT/KN/GOV/01/2023 between: ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS (APC) v. INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION & 2 ORS. delivered on the 20th day of September, 2023 is hereby set aside," the CTC of the judgement read.

In the past week, the appellate court has sacked three governors that INEC declared as winners in the March 2023 poll. All the three governors sacked by the appellate court are in opposition parties. They are Abba Yusuf of the New Nigerian Peoples Party (NNPP) and declared his All Progressives Congress (APC) counterpart, Nasir Gawuna, as the winner of the poll. In Zamfara, the appellate court removed Governor Dauda Lawal of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) when it declared the poll inconclusive about eight months later. The court ordered INEC to conduct a fresh election in three local government areas of the state. PDP's Lawal and APC's Bello Matawalle are the major contenders in the race. Last Sunday, the appellate court also removed PDP's Governor Muftwang and ordered INEC to issue a Certificate of Return to APC's Nentawe Goshwe. The court held that the party violated the court order that a valid congress be conducted in the 17 local government areas of that state. On Thursday, the same court reinstated Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State who had previously been removed by the Election Tribunal. The story is clear, the courts are restoring to APC, seats that the voters have voted them out of. It is a dangerous place for Nigerian democracy to find itself.

One of the most worrying issues is the lack of consistency in the use of precedent and established principles of law. Depending on the party in question, the principle of not bringing pre-election matters to the appellate court is used or thrown out. This type of behaviour makes nonsense of the law and tells litigants from opposition parties that whatever the merits of their case may be, the law will be used against them. When APC member of the House of Representatives, Yusuf Gagdi, arrogantly declares that "They'll know who we know" when the matter relating to the Plateau Governorship race gets to



Jibrin Ibrahim

the Supreme Court, he is telling the world to forget law and justice, they will use the courts to turn Nigeria into a one-party state. It's frightening. It must be resisted.

As Femi Falana has argued in reference to the Kano governorship election, a mistake was done by INEC and the court is using that to punish Kano voters by wasting 165,000 votes, declared invalid because some electoral officers committed an error by not stamping them. In the numerous seats taken from the PDP by the court in Plateau State and given to APC, there is no argument that PDP won the elections, technical arguments were simply marshalled to turn winners into losers. This is the pathway to dismantling Nigerian democracy.

In some of the judgments delivered, the judges made no attempt to hide their bias. In the Kano State governorship election petition decided last September, Benson Anya, a judge on the tribunal, openly pronounced that NNPP supporters are "bandits in politics" and decided "to condemn the gang of Red Cap wearers (NNPP supporters) as being a violent and terrorist cult who chased us out of Kano and put us in the fear of our lives. How can such a judge be seen to be fair after such commentary? The Court of Appeal judgements in favour of the ruling APC party are all coming out in the context of some of them having had their names

proposed for elevation to the Supreme Court and many people think this fact has been used to blackmail some of them. For some of the others, financial inducement might be the mechanism of choice. There have been numerous allegations of significant escalation of bribes being directly offered to judges.

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

# Bring In More Investors To Energy, Oil, Gas Sector For Better Dev't, WEOG Tells FG

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

**G**as flaring does not only degenerate the environment, it is also a waste of resources. The oil and gas has a lot of bye products that can be useful in developing our Nigeria Economy.

This was disclosed by the International Forum for Women in Energy, Oil and Gas (WEOG) at a one day Investiture, inauguration and induction of Delta chapter in warri, Delta State.

WEOG also urged the Federal Government of Nigeria to bring in more investors into the energy sector just to allow sustainable growth.

The newly inducted pioneer Director of WEOG, Delta chapter, Mrs Ogochukwu Okepolo said at the International Forum for Women in Energy, Oil, and Gas WEOG, that, "Nigeria as a country was an energy-driven nation, that whatever affects the oil and gas industry also has a multiplier effect on every other sector's." She added that, "Gas flaring does not only degenerate the environment, it is also a waste of resources. The oil and gas has a lot of bye products that can be useful in developing our Nigeria Economy.

"WEOG recognized the crucial role played by the women in shaping the future of energy, Oil and Gas sector in Nigeria.

"Women in oil and Gas shaping the future of energy. Today, we embark on a journey to amplify the voices, contributions and aspirations of women who have been and continue to be instrumental in driving innovation and progress in our field.

"Our forum is not just a gathering; it is a testament to our collective commitment to break barriers, challenge, norms, and create a space where women can thrive and lead. We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, pioneers who defied expectations and blazed trails, opening doors for the generations that followed.

"The energy, oil, and gas sector has long been considered male-dominated, but the landscape is changing. Our presence here today is a testament to the fact that women

are not just seeking a seat at the table; we are ready to lead discussions, shape policies, and drive the transformation our industry so desperately needs.

"The energy, oil, and gas sector has long been considered male-dominated, but the landscape is changing. Our presence here today is a testament to the fact that women are not just seeking a seat at the table; we are ready to lead discussions, shape policies, and drive the transformation of our industry so desperately needs.

"The Delta State chapter of the International Forum for Women in Energy, Oil, and Gas is not merely an organization; it is a force for change. We will be a platform for collaboration, mentorship, and advocacy. Our goal is to empower women at all levels, from entry level professionals to executives, ensuring that every woman in our industry has the support and resources she needs to succeed.

"Together, we will address challenges, celebrate achievements, and work towards a more inclusive and equitable future. We will build bridges, not just within our chapter but across the industry, fostering connections that will propel us forward.

"I invite each and every one of you to be an active participant in this journey. Your ideas, experiences, and perspectives are invaluable. Let us collaborate, inspire, and elevate each other, knowing that by doing so, we contribute not only to our individual success but to the prosperity of the entire energy sector".

"Those present at the event includes: His Excellency, the Governor of Delta State represented by the Hon. Commissioner for Oil & Gas Hon. Vincent Oyibode: The Honourable Commissioner for Women Affairs, Delta State, Hon. Bar. Evangelist Princess Pat Ajudua PhD: His Royal Majesty, Major General Mujakperwo rtd, The Orodje of Okpe Kingdom, The Chairman traditional ruler Delta State

"Others are, Her Royal Majesty, Olori Atuwatse III, The Queen Consort, Warri Kingdom: The Managing Director, Delta



State Oil producing Area Development Commission, DESOPADEC. Chief Festus Ochonogor: The Chairman, Delta State Oil producing Area Development Commission, Barr Chief John Nani: The Vice Chancellor Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun, Professor Akpofure Rim-Rukeh: The National President, International Forum for Women in Energy Oil and Gas, Dr Oladunni Owo: The Regional

Coordinator, Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, Ogunnubi, B. O: The State Coordinator, Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, Engr. Victor Ohwodiasa: The Pioneer Director General Local Content, Delta State, Dr Morris Idiovwa and The Managing Director, Warri Refining and Petrochemica Company, Effifia Chu". Mrs Ogochukwu added.



# Uba Sani Redeems Campaign Promise: Commissions Kudan Township Stadium

By: AMOS EBUTE MATHEW;  
Kaduna

Governor Uba Sani on Saturday, fulfilled a campaign promise of youth and sports development by completing and commissioning a township stadium in Kudan, Kaduna State.

The governor amidst fanfare in the company of important dignitaries, government functionaries, sports administrators and enthusiasts, including former Super Eagles player Tijjani Babangida, vowed to take sports to rural areas hence, the motive of building a stadium complex in Kudan.

Governor Uba Sani emphasized unifying and life transforming ability of sports in the life of youth, adding that his administration would not relent in ensuring that sporting events and steady competitions become part of life of rural dwellers so professionals could be produced from these areas.

He vowed to maintain and keep in good shape the newly commissioned stadium and other sports facilities in the State through regular maintenance.

Kaduna Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos who was part of the governor's entourage to the venue reiterated the resolves of Uba Sani to fulfil every item in his campaign promises, including sports development.

Sadiq in an interview with newsmen underscored the importance of sports as an agent of positive change in lives of youth.

He disclosed that he had earlier inaugurated organizing committee for Uba Sani Unity Cup to be headed by an ex international Tijjani Babangida.

He added that the committee was saddled with the responsibility of organizing competitions among all 23 local governments in the State and creating professionals in the process.

Mamman Lagos lamented absence of a known thriving football club in Kaduna State, adding that Uba Sani would ensure emergence of one and others in the nearest future.

He said raw talents would be recruited through competitions at the grassroots and also serve as a tool for keeping the youth from drug abuse and other antisocial behaviours detrimental to peaceful coexistence in the society.

He said Uba Sani as a passionate lover of sports and youth development would not relent until Kaduna State becomes a hub in recreational activities in Africa and beyond.



# Two New NBA Stores To Open In Cape Town, Durban, South Africa

By: MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Kampala

NBA Africa and Shesha, a premium retailer of exclusive and limited-edition footwear, apparel and accessories, today announced that two new NBA Stores will open in Durban and Cape Town, South Africa. The NBA Store in Durban will be located at Gateway Mall and open on Friday, Nov. 24, while the NBA Store in Cape Town will be located at V&A Waterfront and open on Friday, Dec. 1.

The new stores build on NBA Africa's existing merchandise offerings, including the first NBA Store on the continent located in Sandton City, Johannesburg and the league's first e-commerce site dedicated

to fans in Africa, which provides fans in select countries with the widest selection of official NBA merchandise ever available on the continent. To celebrate the new store openings, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famer Clyde Drexler will engage with fans at launch events in Cape Town on Tuesday, Dec. 12 and in Durban on Thursday, Dec. 14.

Both stores, which will be operated by Shesha, will feature an extensive range of officially licensed NBA merchandise for youth and adults, including current and former player jerseys, apparel, headwear, footwear, sporting goods, toys and collectibles from major brands such as Nike, Mitchell & Ness, New Era and Wilson. The

stores will also feature a customization area where fans can personalize NBA jerseys.

"We are excited to expand our merchandise offerings in Africa as part of our multiyear collaboration with Shesha," said NBA Africa CEO Victor Williams. "There is tremendous demand for official NBA merchandise from fans in South Africa and across the continent, and these beautiful new stores will allow fans in Cape Town and Durban to more easily represent their favorite teams and players." "Following the launch of Africa's first NBA Store in Johannesburg last year, we are excited to also deliver the NBA Store experience to fans in Durban and Cape Town," said Shesha CEO Nirmal Devchand.

"The launch of the new NBA Stores will provide more fans in these cities with better access to their favorite teams and players' merchandise, and we look forward to welcoming them to these new locations."

Drexler, a 15-year NBA veteran who retired from the league in 1998, is an NBA champion, 10-time NBA All-Star, five-time All-NBA selection, and member of the NBA's 50th and 75th Anniversary Teams. He was inducted twice into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, first in 2004 for his individual career and again in 2010 as a member of the United States Men's National Team at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.

There are more than 400 NBA-

branded, licensee-operated, retail stores and attractions worldwide that serve as the league's official destinations for fans around the world. NBA fans in Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, the Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe can continue to shop online at [NBASStore.Africa](http://NBASStore.Africa).

Earlier this month, the Basketball Africa League, a partnership between the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and NBA Africa, announced that the league's fourth season will tip off in March 2024 in South Africa. Fans can register their interest in tickets to games at [BAL.NBA.com](http://BAL.NBA.com).



## Boys Brigade Nigeria Gets New National Patron

By: EMMANUEL AGBO, Kaduna

Boys Brigade Nigeria has inducted Arc. Nuhu Yahaya Dikko as its new national patron.

Dikko was inducted in Kaduna yesterday, during his investiture ceremony held in ECWA church Barnawa, Kaduna with the commitment to build youths with high sense of responsibility in preparedness for leadership and managerial skills.

He said the Boys Brigade was founded 140 years ago by Sir. Williams Alexander Smith with the objective to inculcate discipline into the male children so that they can grow in the fear of God, conforming to the image and likeness of Christ Jesus.

Speaking on character building and inculcating discipline into youths as future investments, Nuhu noted that youths are unique force in every society,

and as such they must be given proper orientation as future fathers even as the world rely on them dimensional shifts in all ramifications of life.

Nuhu further disclosed that his ambition for the boys is to catch them young through imparting them with the Word of God and also to empower them to be self sufficient with or without their certificates.

While noting that the place of skill acquisition is fundamental to every child as panacea to self reliance and nation building, he remarked also that the boys will be given the needed support and empowerment through his various humanitarian scheme, like his NGO.

He urged them to embrace love, forgiveness, kindness and self service, alongside attributes such as leadership development, strength and character

molding initiative so they can be fully conformed to the image of Christ and as proud youths to champion the course of national interest.

In his remarks, the National President, Nigeria Boys Brigade, Prof. Samson Duna urged youths not to be deterred by the current economic realities and other forms of restiveness because they will soon become a thing of the past.

Responding to whether youths are still the leaders of tomorrow in the Nigerian project, Prof. Duna said every country has their own unique challenges in the sense that the world is evolving and dynamic, therefore no present challenge is permanent as youths can leverage on what they view as disadvantage for their turnaround.

"We believe in the country call Nigeria and with a lot of government policies

going on I believe that the country will be better and there will be future for the youths in Nigeria.

"A youth is a leader of tomorrow. The youths must shun violence, drugs and be focus to do something. Despite the many difficulties at the moment, there is a need for them to learn one skill or the other so they can be able to help themselves.

"There is a need to have something doing so we do not depend on government collar job alone by so doing I am sure the youths will contribute their quota to nation building."

"We are trying everything possible to train the boys because when you train a boy, it means that you are training a father tomorrow, you are training a leader tomorrow in Nigeria. So our aim is basically to train a boy with the hope of bringing up a solution for the country tomorrow," he said.

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## Suspected Cultist Died In Hospital Not Police Custody - Ogun PPRO

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Contrary to media reports and speculations in some quarters, the Ogun State Police Command has debunked insinuations that a suspected cultist one Seyi Samson died as a result of torture in its custody.

The Command asserted that Seyi, 39, died at Ijaye General Hospital, Abeokuta, while being treated for bite inflicted on himself.

In a statement by its Public Relations Officer, SP Omolola Odutola, the Ogun State Police Command Headquarters hinted that the deceased had gone berserk on Friday, 24th November at about 5.00am, shouting, biting with teeth, and assaulted other suspects in the cell until he got exhausted.

According to the statement, other suspects in the cell alerted policemen on duty and he was taken to the police hospital and later to Ijaye General Hospital Abeokuta, along with other suspects he gave bites in the cell for medical treatment against infection.

While other suspects were treated and discharged, while on medical attention, later gave up the ghost.

The statement reads, "It is a fact of public knowledge that Sagamu town witnessed a series of cult clashes where 5 rival cultists were murdered.

Following an intelligence report that suspected cultists on the wanted list of Ogun State Police Command, were within Atoyo area of Sagamu, on Tuesday 18th November 2023, the police swung into action on a covert operation where two suspected cultists were apprehended. Oduyiga Seyi Samson



Ogun CP

"m" 39 years and Gbenga Adejoke 'm' notorious members of Buccaneer and Eiye confraternity were arrested.

" On Interrogation, both Seyi and Gbenga made a confessional statement to being members of the outlawed Buccaneer and Eiye confraternity Secret cult. Seyi confessed he was initiated in 2015.

" The Ogun State Police Command vehemently refutes that the deceased was tortured to death as it is being speculated in some online media. Ogun police command holds a strong commitment to upholding fundamental human rights laws, particularly when it comes to treatment of suspects. Torture is strictly against our protocols and principles. Ogun state police command is well

versed in the legal framework that safeguards the rights of individuals in custody, free from all forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

"For the records, the deceased was already charged for Cult related activities and he was taken to Court on Thursday, 23rd November 2023 where he was to be arraigned before a special Court on cultism case in Isabo Abeokuta, but the honourable Court did not sit, and he was brought back to Eleweran in Abeokuta the same Thursday. Seyi was to be taken back to the court at the next available day that the Court will sit, which is on Friday, 24th November 2023.

" However, on Friday, 24th November, at about 0500 hours, Seyi went berserk, shouting, biting with

teeth, and assaulted other suspects in the cell until he got exhausted. Other suspects in the cell alerted policemen on duty. He was taken to the police hospital and later to Ijaye General Hospital Abeokuta, along with other suspects he gave bites in the cell for medical treatment against infection. Other suspects were treated and discharged, but Seyi, while on medical attention, later gave up the ghost.

" Every other allegation is hereby debunked as the accurate position is what has been stated above.

" As soon as the autopsy report about the deceased is out, the Police will give further details. However, the Commissioner of police, CP Alamutu Abiodun Mustapha, commiserates with the deceased family".

By; RAPHAEL OKHIRIA, Benin City

The Law Faculty of Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State, has received a donation of books worth millions of naira, courtesy of BENSU Law Class '87 Association. The donors, who are products of the Faculty's class of 1987 graduates, decided to give back to the institution that produced them.

Presenting the books to the University,, Prof. A.D.Badaiki (SAN), supported by Dr. Dennis Ejere representing the officials and members of BENSU Law Class '87 Association, said it became imperative for their set which graduated in 1987 to support and contribute to the growth of the Faculty.

"Considering the fact that Bendel State University, Ekpoma, now Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, being the foundation of whatever we may have become today, deserves our modest contributions for its continued growth and development.

"The Faculty of Law, AAU Ekpoma has produced erudite lawyers, law officers, law teachers, and other prominent citizens amongst whom our set is. We did resolve that as a body of graduates from here we should collectively give back to the Faculty and the University so that current students will enjoy a better learning environment laced with adequate facilities.

"Beyond this, our individual members are also not limited to these donations as some are planning their personal support and donations for

the Faculty," Prof. Badaiki stated.

While welcoming the donors, the Dean, Faculty of Law, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Prof. A.O.O Ekpu, who also is an alumnus, thanked the Class of 87 graduates for the initiative which he said would go a long way to helping the Faculty reclaim its pride of place among the comity of institutions In Nigeria.

But the Acting Vice Chancellor of the group Prof. Asomwan Sonnie Adagbonyin, who personally received the book donations on behalf of the University, said "the value of the books goes beyond the cost but the spirit behind the gesture".

"This would to a long way to tell everyone that growing a suitable education system vis-a-vis National and individual development is not an exclusive reserve of government to do but a collective effort of all.

"In developed climes, University education is majorly financed and supported by alumni, other institutions, and business concerns. I will have to use this opportunity to call on all the alumni of this great institution to rally around our University, as no building stands without a foundation. This is your humble beginning, let's join hands to make it great."

While appreciating the donor set of 87 graduates of the Law Faculty, the Acting Vice Chancellor enjoined other sets as well as others from other faculties and departments to look back and contribute to the growth of the department and faculty that produced them.