

# New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 6 No. 230

Wednesday 29th November, 2023

Jumadal - Awwal 15, 1445 AH

**35-yr Old Ebonyi Man  
Cries Out For Help  
Over Alleged  
Manhood  
Disappearance**

*\*Solicits 2m for spiritual help*

**Story on Page 2**

## Nostalgic Moment As FGC Kwali 93 Set Hold 30th Reunion

**STORY ON PAGE 12**



*Delta Governor*

## Policy Alert Raises Alarm Over Alleged N126bn Extra- budgetary Expenses in Delta Govt House, 25 Other MDAs

**STORY ON PAGE 4**

# Yuletide: You Are In For Rough Times, Customs FOU Zone B Warns Smugglers

■ Seizes items worth over N2.8bn

■ Harps inter agency synergy



Comptroller FOU Zone B, Comptroller Dalha Wada Chedi handed out the warning while briefing newsmen at the zonal headquarters in Kaduna yesterday.

By: JACOB ONJEWU  
DICKSON

As the 2023 Yuletide closes in, the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Federal Operations Unit (FOU), Zone B Kaduna, has warned smugglers that they would be in for tough times while attempting to smuggle items into the country.

Comptroller FOU Zone B, Comptroller Dalha Wada Chedi handed out the warning while briefing newsmen at the zonal headquarters in Kaduna yesterday.

"I call on all stakeholders, especially traders and business people, including all Nigerians to eschew all activities that are in violation of the customs

extant laws, so that we can continue to respect ourselves and support the development and growth of our national objectives; as we will leave no stone unturned to ensure that all acts of smuggling and anti-economic activities are fully challenged and the full force of the law brought to bear.

"We are not unaware that within the ember months and especially this Yuletide period, many would want to engage in illegal activities, smugglers and all other unscrupulous traders are warned to steer clear of Zone B, our men are fully on ground and combat ready to act in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and as

Continued on Page 3

**Fuel Subsidy:** Hopes Dashed As Kogi Govt Says No Wage Increase For Workers **PAGE 4**

**Uba Sani Bags 2023 Digital Governor Of Year Award** **PAGE 2**

**Police Smokes Out 3 Bandits Leaders In Katsina** **PAGE 2**

# Uba Sani Bags 2023 Digital Governor Of Year Award

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Uba Sani, has bagged the 2023 Digital Governor of the Year award.

The award, organized by the Nigerian Computer Society (NCS), is tagged: National Information Technology Merit Award, NITMA.

The NCS, while presenting the award to the governor in a ceremony in Lagos, said Uba Sani emerged winner after an online voting process by Nigerians.

The organisers commended the governor for his unwavering dedication and efforts in bolstering the application of technology in the administration of the state, especially in the areas of agriculture, revenue collection, health, and education.

"These technological interventions have made Kaduna State a hub of technological innovation and advancement," the society said.

While thanking the NCS for their remarkable work across Nigeria, the

governor said the award will serve as inspiration to him and his colleagues to take proactive steps in advancing the Nigerian digital landscape.

"This award is not only an acknowledgement of our accomplishments, but I believe that this will serve as an inspiration for others to follow our proactive steps in advancing Nigeria's digital landscape," the governor said in a statement by his spokesman, Muhammad Lawal Shehu, on Tuesday. The annual NCS-NITMA seeks to recognise and

celebrate exceptional individuals, state governments, and institutions for their outstanding contributions to the advancement of information technology in Nigeria and beyond.

Uba Sani assured that his government would continue to prioritise the development of technological infrastructure to ensure that all citizens in the state have equal access to digital services and connectivity.



# 35-yr Old Ebonyi Man Cries Out For Help Over Alleged Manhood Disappearance

*\*Solicits 2m for spiritual help*

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

A middle aged young man whose name was given as Eze Ikemsinachi, a native of Ndianwaonya Nsulakpa Ezzangbo in Ohaukwu Local Government Area, Ebonyi State has been exposed to danger following the sudden disappearance of his manhood recently.

Mr. Eze who is worried over his present medical condition, is seeking two million Naira (N2m) to get spiritual solution to his misfortune.

According to a family source who wouldn't want his name on prints, the victim, Mr Eze was contacted through voice note from a friend who resides in South Africa to assist him pick some spiritual medicine from Mr Chinedu Onwe (suspect's) home, which is a nearby compound in order to solve a problem, but later turned out to be a victim after meeting Chinedu.

A close source alleged that the spiritual medicine was to be administered on his friend's sick mother, who sent him on an errand through WhatsApp voice note.

But Mr. Eze after having a handshake, collected the

medicine, but on his arrival at his compound, started feeling strange and unusual in his private part and on a close look, he found out that his penis had shrunk and unable to erect again.

The family source reliably told our correspondent that the victim has been apprehensive, owing to the fact that they have visited so many places for spiritual solution, all to no avail.

They equally confided that efforts are ongoing to raise two million Naira from family members to visit a neighbouring LGA of Ebonyi State to seek for permanent solution to the problem as the accused person has run out of the village and could not be traced.

It would be recalled that a similar incident occurred at Eke Ezzangbo market in Ohaukwu LGA at the weekend, when the suspect was apprehended and forced to reverse the manhood.

Responding, the Ebonyi State Police Public Relation Officer, SP Onome Onovwakpoyeya stated that the command is yet to get the information, but would brief the press once she gets details of the incident.

# Police Smokes Out 3 Bandits Leaders In Katsina

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Police Command has neutralised three suspected notorious bandits leaders and recovered one operational motorcycle.

Spokesman of the Command, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu who made the disclosure to Newsmen at the Command headquarters in Katsina metropolis, said the success

was recorded under the leadership of the Police Commissioner, Aliyu Abubakar Musa in his determination to fight banditry in the state.

Sadiq Aliyu said it was on November 25, 2023, at about 1030 hours while on a joint patrol with members of the vigilante, on reaching Kwarare area of Jibia local government area, some suspected kidnappers opened fire on the joint patrol team, to which the

officers valiantly returned fire, forcing the terrorists to abandon their evil plan and flee into the nearby bush.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Aliyu said while combing the scene and surrounding bushes, the bodies of three (3) neutralised suspected kidnappers as well as one operational motorcycle of the bandits were recovered.

According to him, "bodies of the neutralised suspected kidnappers were later

identified as those of (1) Bala Wuta, a suspected notorious bandits' leader terrorising Jibia LGA and its' environs; (2) Dogo Na Sahura; and (3) Hassan Bukuru. Efforts are on with a view to arresting the fleeing suspects as the investigation proceeds."

He said "while praising the operatives' professionalism, synergy, and bravery, the CP Aliyu Abubakar Musa urged the officers to sustain the tempo

and called on good citizens of the state to keep providing the command and other security agencies with crucial and timely information on criminal activities so that swift and decisive action could be taken to stop any criminal activity in the state and to report to the nearest police station any person seen with suspicious injuries, as some of the bandits have escaped the scene with gunshot wounds."

# Yuletide: You Are In For Rough Times, Customs FOU Zone B Warns Smugglers

\*Seizes items worth over N2.8bn

\*Harps inter agency synergy

enshrined in the Nigeria Customs Service Act 2023," he said.

Comptroller Wada who took over from M.I. Jallo on October 20, 2023, also informed that since assumption of duty, lots of success has been recorded by the zone.

He explained that with the support and motivation provided for the zone by the Comptroller General of NCS, B.A. Adeniyi, officers and men of the command are revved up for action and would leave no stone unturned in frustrating the business of smuggling in the zone.

He reminded that the embargo on Niger Republic by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is still in place, hence their borders with Nigeria remain closed.

"As you are all aware that our primary assignment is that of suppression of smuggling and the combat of all anti-economic activities in all its ramifications, which we do through vigorous customs host community relationship and partnership with all relevant agencies of government.

"Therefore, I am happy to announce that so far, the Unit has recorded a total of Two Hundred and Forty-Two (264) seizures of 21 Different items between the date of my resumption and now, which also clearly speak of our resolve as a Unit to continue to improve on our strategies and

overall performances by building on the strong foundations we inherited," he said.

He used the opportunity to draw attention to the fact that the closure of all land borders with Niger Republic is in full force, I wish to remind all and sundry that our Unit will continue to ensure full compliance with the directives of the leadership and management of the Nigeria Customs Service saddled with the duty of implementing the Federal Government directives. The FOU Zone B. Comptroller emphasized that their unit will continue to leverage on the policy thrust of the Comptroller General of Customs Bashir Adewale Adeniyi MFR in terms of all operational processes aimed at achieving optimal results.

"I am also happy to present the statistics of the detentions and seizures made within the period under review with the Total Duty Paid Value (DPV) of Two Billion, eight hundred and eighty-eight million, four hundred and sixty thousand, two Hundred and ninety-four naira and sixty-Eight Kobo ( N2,888,460,294.68) only," he said.

According to him, the breakdowns of the seized items are as follows:

212 cartons of milky creamier worth N5,525,829  
2,131 cartons spaghetti worth N17,972,861



76 cartons expired seasoning worth N4,679,073.38  
640 bales second hand clothing worth N137,356,402.15  
2,991 bags 50kg rice worth N202,202,737.20  
Others are; 61 Used Vehicles, worth N2,073,835,718.23, 18 means of conveyance, worth N236,386,387.47, 25 Bags of Foreign Parboiled Rice (25Kg each) worth 994,815.00, 292 foreign refined vegetable oils (25 litres each) worth N17,943,400.00 and 2131 cartons of spaghetti, macaroni & c o u s c o u s w o r t h

N17,972,861.32.

Also, 640 Bales of foreign secondhand clothing worth N137,356,492.15, 147, sacks of foreign secondhand shoes worth N21,957,573.75, 360 cartons of frozen poultry products worth N20,308,932.00, 120 cartons of foreign pomade worth N8,973,421.20, 98 pieces of foreign jack knives worth N1,242,961.44, 34 cartons of foreign condensed milk worth N3,808,451.20 and 1972 jerry cans of PMS (25 litres each) worth N22,975,811.15 were seized.

The list also includes, 20 bundles of foreign used tyres worth N917,978.40, 16 cartons of foreign Hookah (Tobacco) worth N4,563,136.00, 337 cartons of foreign cigarettes worth N80,278,792.00, 78 cartons of foreign medicament, worth N3,580,115.76, 870 pieces foreign machetes worth N7,586,186.85, 76 bags of Ammonium Sulphate (25Kg each) worth N15,724,096.38 and 10 bags of foreign flour worth N695,614.00 were confiscated. He explained that the above modest success is in lieu of their intelligence drive and improved strategies to raise our operational performances.

"I like to register my profound gratitude to our critical partners the Military, Nigeria Police Force, National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and all other sister agencies and

to assure them that the Unit will continue to partner with them accordingly.

"We have enjoyed their unwavering corporation and support and solicit for more collaboration, including your good selves, our revered gentlemen of the forth estate of the realm, for showcasing our activities even as we look forward for more of your objective reportage.

"However, in line with our Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), all items seized that are more relevant to our sister agencies' mandate will be handed over to them in the course of this show case specifically NAFDAC where our Unit today will hand over all seized Pharmaceuticals items to them for further investigation and prosecution wherever possible," he said.

Meanwhile, the seized pharmaceutical products were during the briefing, handed over to NAFDAC for further investigation and possible prosecution.

NAFDAC represented by Abubakar Masud who is an Asst Director, said that no security agency can survive on its own He appreciated NCS for synergy to curb illegal drugs from entering the country, hence safeguarding lives of Nigerian public.



## 35-yr Old Ebonyi Man Cries Out For Help Over Alleged Manhood Disappearance

*\*Solicits 2m for spiritual help*

By; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

A middle aged young man whose name was given as Eze Ikemsinachi, a native of Ndianwaonya Nsulakpa Ezzangbo in Ohaukwu Local Government Area, Ebonyi State has been exposed to danger following the sudden disappearance of his manhood recently.

Mr. Eze who is worried over his present medical condition, is seeking two million Naira (N2m) to get spiritual solution to his misfortune.

According to a family source who wouldn't want his name on prints, the victim, Mr Eze was contacted through voice note from a friend who resides in South Africa to assist him pick some spiritual medicine from Mr Chinedu Onwe (suspect's) home, which is a nearby compound in order to solve a problem, but later turned out to be a victim after meeting Chinedu.

A close source alleged that the spiritual medicine was to be administered on his friend's sick mother, who sent him on an errand through WhatsApp voice note.

But Mr. Eze after having a handshake, collected the

medicine, but on his arrival at his compound, started feeling strange and unusual in his private part and on a close look, he found out that his penis had shrink and unable to erect again.

The family source reliably told our correspondent that the victim has been apprehensive, owing to the fact that they have visited so many places for spiritual solution, all to no avail.

They equally confided that efforts are ongoing to raise two million Naira from family members to visit a neighbouring LGA of Ebonyi State to seek for permanent solution to the problem as the accused person has run out of the village and could not be traced.

It would be recalled that a similar incident occurred at Eke Ezzangbo market in Ohaukwu LGA at the weekend, when the suspect was apprehended and forced to reverse the manhood.

Responding, the Ebonyi State Police Public Relation Officer, SP Onome Onovwakpoyeya stated that the command is yet to get the information, but would brief the press once she gets details of the incident.

## A'Ibom Commissioner Explains Why 2024 Budget Is Lower Than 2023

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Akwa Ibom State's Commissioner for Finance, Dr. Linus Nkan, has explained the reasons behind a N4.368 billion reduction representing 0.5% in the state's 2024 budget, compared to the revised 2023 budget.

Governor Umo Eno on Tuesday, presented a budget estimate of N845.632 billion for the 2024 financial year to the State's House of Assembly, showing a slight reduction from the revised N850 billion presented in 2023 by the previous governor, Udom Emmanuel.

During a chat with journalists in Uyo, the Finance Commissioner acknowledged that it was the first time in history that the current year's budget is lower than the previous year's. He explained that the governor expressed a desire for a realistic and implementable budget, focusing on cost reduction and people-centric projects.

Dr. Nkan highlighted the Governor's emphasis on curbing the cost of governance in 2024 and increasing capital expenditure while reducing recurrent expenditure. The budget reflects a people-oriented approach, with careful consideration given to each item. The economic sector receives the largest allocation in the budget

Hear him: "A look at the budget shows that it is people-oriented. When we gave him (the governor) the budget to look at, he came back saying that we should take him item by item and he made sure that the budget was not as bogus as it used to be. The budget is clear, purposeful, and very pragmatic. The economic sector takes the lion's share of the budget."

## Fuel Subsidy: Hopes Dashed As Kogi Govt Says No Wage Increase For Workers

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Kogi State Government has said that there was no provision for any wage increase for workers in the state to cushion the effect of the removal of fuel subsidy by the Federal Government.

The state Commissioner for Finance, Ashiru Idris, stated this yesterday while speaking with journalists on the sidelines of the citizens' engagement in the 2024 budget formulation in Lokoja, the state capital.

The commissioner said the government has not made any provisions for such an award for now.

He said, "If you look at the salary structure of the state civil service, you will realise that it's higher than most states in the country, therefore, apart from the palliative for the general public, there is no provision for further award to civil servants and so no provision for it to be captured in the budget.

"Our focus as a government is to create an enabling environment for workers to operate with little or no hardships through the provision of social amenities and infrastructural facilities that will make life better for the people."

However, the state Chairman of the Nigeria

Labour Congress, Gabriel Amari, said that the decision was at variance with what the governor told them.

He added that the organised labour wrote to the government, and the governor promised to hold a consultative meeting with them after the election to consider their request.

"We have a copy of the letter and the reply of the governor with me, so I cannot react to the commissioner's statement until I hear from him directly, then I will make my comments," Amari said.

Earlier, the Chairperson, Kogi NGOs Network,

Ambassador Idris Ozovehe Muraina, called for the enactment of budget transparency laws that would guarantee the right to access budget Information and mandate the disclosure of key budget documents to create a legal framework for transparency and accountability.

He also advocated the strengthening of institutional capacity where government agencies responsible for budget formulation, implementation and oversight must be adequately responsible for budget effective management and reporting.

## Policy Alert Raises Alarm Over Alleged N126bn Extra-budgetary Expenses in Delta Govt House, 25 Other MDAs

By; UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

A civil society organisation, Policy Alert, working to promote fiscal and ecological justice in the Niger Delta, yesterday, raised alarm over alleged extra-budgetary spending by the government of Delta State, amounting to N126bn within the three quarters of 2023.

This was disclosed in a statement signed and forwarded to newsmen by its Programme Officer, Fiscal Reforms and Anti-Corruption, Faith Paulinus.

According to the statement, "the organisation observed that between January and September 2023, Government House and Protocol, 25 other Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) have engaged in extra-budgetary expending, amounting to N126bn.

"The red flags, according to Policy Alert, were spotted during a review of the Delta State Third Quarter Budget Performance Report 2023.

"Some of the spending had exceeded 200 percent of what was budgeted.

"Government House and Protocol had a budget of N22.38bn, but between January and September 2023 and with a full quarter left to the end of the fiscal year, the office has

already spent N46.67bn which is 208.6 per cent of what was budgeted." The group observed.

Policy Alert also listed the MDAs allegedly caught in the web of extra-budgetary spending to include Delta State Liaison Officer Abuja, Delta State Liaison Office Lagos, Ministry of Finance, Office of the Accountant General, Delta State Council for Arts and Culture, Delta State Water Regulatory Commission, Ministry of Urban Renewal, Judicial Service Commission, and Ministry of Justice.

Others are Ministry of Secondary Education, Delta State University of Science and Technology Ozoro, Delta State Polytechnic Oghara, University of Delta Agbor, State Library Board, Ministry of Health, Traditional Medicine Board, School of Nursing Warri, Delta State Primary Health Care Development Agency, State School of Health Technology Ughelli, Contributory Health Commission, Delta State Environmental Protection Agency, Secretariat of Traditional Council, Delta State Broadcast Service, Special Projects (Political Appointees) and Tractor Hire Agency.

While noting that extra-budgetary spending is a violation of the Fiscal Responsibility Law of



Delta Governor

Delta State, Policy Alert called on the State House of Assembly to immediately investigate the breach of the law and take necessary action to hold the executive accountable.

The organisation also called attention to the unwholesome trend of supplementary budgeting in the state: "We are aware that the House of Assembly recently approved a second 2023 supplementary budget of N167bn in addition to an earlier N71bn 2023 supplementary budget signed into law in the last days of the previous administration. This indicates poor fiscal discipline and could turn the state's budget into a mere ritual rather than a tool for planning and

accountability." The organization however applauded the Government of Delta State for prioritizing capital expenditure over recurrent spending in the last three quarters. "We have observed Delta State as the only State that has prioritized capital expenditure over recurrent among States that have published their Third Quarter Budget Performance Report.

"The report shows that within the three quarters, recurrent expenditure had N261.33bn while capital had N274.45bn. In the third quarter alone, recurrent expenditure had N54.69bn in releases while capital spending had N79.35bn. This is commendable."

# Girl-Child Education: AGILE To Collaborate With Jewel Care Foundation In Gombe



*Dr Amina H Abdul*



*Dr Amina with her Excellency Asmau Inuwa Yahaya*

By: **ABUBAKARRABILU, Gombe**

The Gombe State office of the Adolescent Girls Initiative For Learning and Empowerments (AGILE) has said that it will collaborate with the Jewel Care Foundation in promoting the education of girls in the state.

The Project Coordinator of AGILE in

Gombe State, Dr Amina Haruna Abdul, made this known when she paid a courtesy visit to Dr Asmau Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya, wife of the Governor of Gombe State.

Dr Amina Haruna Abdul, said the visit was meant to identify with her laudable Projects towards the empowerment of the Girl Child especially through Her Jewel

Care Foundation.

The project coordinator said she sought the support of the First Lady for the Success of AGILE programme in the State. In her response, Hajiya Asma'u Inuwa Yahaya promised to give all necessary support towards the success of the AGILE programme in the state.

She also called on Gomabwa's to support the projects and do the needful in seeing to the success of the project in Gombe state. Jewel Care Foundation is the Pet Projects of Her Excellency, Asma'u Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya, wife of the Governor of Gombe state.



*Dr Amina H Abdul with Her Excellency and her team*

# Akwa Ibom HIV Prevalence To Drop By Next NAIIS Survey - AKSACA PM

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

There has been a renewed collaboration with key stakeholders to scale down HIV prevalence in Akwa Ibom State. Project Manager of Akwa Ibom State Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS (AKSACA), Dr Enobong Akpan has disclosed.

Dr Akpan, who expressed concern over the reflected 5.5 per cent prevalence in the state according to 2018 NAIIS report, said the renewed collaboration is part of the responses in achieving better services including prevention, testing and treatment of the HIV related disease.

Speaking on Monday in Uyo during a media briefing being part of activities marking this year's World AIDS Day commemoration, Dr Akpan assured of good times in the state where people will no longer shy away from coming out for testing.

"For us in Akwa Ibom, we are not just waiting to celebrate the World AIDS Day, we have designed a schedule of activities, which will bring every stakeholder to brainstorm on the issue of health in Akwa Ibom, will address the gaps, seek ways to intervene on the gaps that have so far been identified in HIV response in the state.

"We want to assure the people that the good times are here. The days of people shying away from coming out for testing are over," Akpan, a medical doctor added. On this year's theme "Let The Community Leads", the AKSACA PM emphasized that the drive to end HIV/AIDS is triggered by individuals responsiveness and participation

in the fight against the epidemic.

He charged the populace to sensitize and create awareness in all the communities for maximum result.

The Project Manager, who also called on the media to support the vision of the state government towards addressing the spread of the epidemic, stressed the need to educate the public on the various ways of contacting and preventing the HIV related disease just as eroding the beliefs associated with it.

He lauded the state government for the support towards the implementation of its programmes and also thanked the Implementation Partners as well as the Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria and the Association of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria for the collaboration and partnership in the state.

The Project Manager assured that the Anti stigma and Discrimination Bill and other related matters which was passed into Law by the State's House of Assembly would soon be assented to by the Governor.

In her remarks, the Coordinator of UNAIDS, Mrs Idayat Uthman, regretted that life is lost to AIDS every week with 4000 girls and young women being infected with HIV every week.

According to her, out of the 39 million people living with HIV, 9.2 million do not have access to life saving treatment," pointing out AIDS could be ended by 2030 if communities lead the response.

"But communities are being held back in their leadership. Funding shortages, policy and regulatory hurdles, capacity constraints and



AKSACA PM, Dr Enobong Akpan briefing the media on World AIDS Day Commemoration in Uyo

crackdown on civil society and on the human rights of marginalized communities are obstructing the progress of HIV prevention and treatment services.

"If these obstacles are removed, community-led organisations can add even greater impetus to the global HIV response, advancing progress towards the end of AIDS. This shows that investing in community-led HIV programmes deliver transformational benefits, it sets out how programmes delivered by community-based

organisations in Nigeria were associated with an increased access to HIV treatment and HIV prevention service utilization."

Recall on October 27, 1988, the United Nations certified the yearly commemoration of World HIV AIDS Day from 1st December to support the people living with HIV/AIDS world wide

In Akwa Ibom State, activities lined up which will be a weeklong for this year's commemoration that kick started on Sunday with a thanksgiving service held at The Apostolic

Church, Uyo Field include visit to Corp Members, candle light procession and Community Led Awareness Creation/Sensitization Meeting for Women on HIV Prevention, ANC and GBV

Other activities for the event include condoms promotion and distribution with HTS in 3 High Burden Local Government – Uruan, Eket, and Ikot Ekpene of the 3 Senatorial Districts in the state; and a Symposium and finally on December 1 with the World AIDS Day Road Walk.

# 'm Best Guber Aspirant In Edo State, Says Ikpea

By RAPHAEL OKHIRIA, Benin City

Being one of the major financiers of the Edo State branch of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Mr. Joe Ikpea, a frontline governorship aspirant in the 2024, gubernatorial election in the state, believes he stands a chance to pick the party's ticket.

Ikpea, who disclosed this during a visit to the secretariat of the Correspondents Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Edo State council on Monday, insisted that being a foundation member and major financier of the party in the state, he should be compensated with the party's governorship ticket.

Asked if he was aware his party, the APC, has streamlined aspirants from his zone (Edo Central) to three, of which his name is copiously missing, Ikpea said he was aware, but insisted that he would continue with his course, and that with God all



things are possible

"We were invited for a meeting in Abuja where we were asked to provide our membership card, voter card, and proof of support for the party over the years. And if we go by that, I think, I should be the person to be considered. If you look at the history of the party, I am one of the founding members, and not just founding member, but one of the financiers of the party.

"But like I said earlier, the party can do whatsoever it wishes. But I believe in God, I am going to push my course and leave the rest for God."

While noting that the party has the final decision on who to fly the governorship flag, he said he expect that his labour for the party, over the years, is recognised by giving him the ticket.

The aspirant, who promised to support anyone the party gives the governorship

ticket, should he not get it, said his interest to put many wrong things, such as infrastructural decay, unemployment, etc, right, has been the propelling factor to govern the state.

"So, if given the opportunity to govern the state, having known the history, having known the problems of the state, having worked with different administrations in the state, I am in the best position to right many wrongs. I know our challenges. One of our major problems in the state is unemployment.

"Edo is more into agriculture. We have to use the vast land provided by God for us. In Edo South, we have oil, in Edo North, we have solid minerals, these are ways we can create job for the people if we utilise them. If we go into agric, our youths will get jobs. This will reduce several crimes such as kidnapping, experience in the state," he added.

## Kano: Gov Abba Yusuf Appoints New Head of Civil Service

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

**K**ano State Governor, Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf has approved with immediate effect, the appointment of Alhaji Abdullahi Musa as the new Head of Civil Service.

According to a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, the appointment followed the recent voluntary resignation of the former Head of Service, Alhaji Usman Bala Mni who was retained by the present administration from its inception in May, 2023.

A seasoned civil servant who served in various government Ministries, departments and agencies in Kano for over three decades, the new Head of Service hailed from Kiru Local Government area.

Abdullahi Musa served as the Permanent Secretary Kano Government House, Council Affairs Directorate, Admin and General Services of Cabinet Office, Ministry of Special Duties, and Servicom Directorate.

He is a graduate of BSc. International Relations from prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and bagged a Masters degree in Public Policy and Administration from Bayero University, Kano and another Masters degree in Strategy and Security Administration from Nigeria Defence Academy (NDA), Kaduna. Governor Abba Kabir urged the new Head of Civil Service of the state to discharge his responsibility within the confines of the civil service rules and regulations.



Alhaji Abdullahi Musa

## Edo 2024: Dep Gov Shaibu Joins Race

By RAPHAEL OKHIRIA, Benin City

Despite Governor Godwin Obaseki's stiff opposition to his intention to run for the 2024 governorship position in Edo state, Rt. Hon. Comrade Philip Shaibu, the state deputy governor, yesterday, officially declared for the gubernatorial race.

Recall that for several months running, Governor Obaseki has been having a running battle with his deputy, Philip Shaibu, due to the latter's intention to participate in the scheduled September 19, 2024 governorship election in Edo state.

But on Monday in Benin City, Shaibu, who has been the deputy governor of the state since 2016, said he would run for the office of the number one seat in the state on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

After his official declaration, the deputy governor, launched his campaign office also located in Benin City, at an event attended by his friends, political associates, well-wishers and party supporters in branded accoutrements.

"After all the consultation we have made, we needed to now make the answer to our consultation known to our people. And the answer is clear: they have asked me to run," Shaibu disclosed while addressing his audience and teeming



Dep Gov Shaibu

supporters.

The 53-year-old politician said he has put his life on the line for the development and growth of the state, noting that he was determined to make the South-South state great again.

Shaibu is from Edo North Senatorial District, the same district as the immediate governor of the state and current lawmaker representing the district in the 10th National Assembly, Adams Oshiomhole, stated that

though he was being persecuted because of his political ambition but that he not crushed.

The deputy governor who described himself as "100 per cent Home Boy", who knows the state very well, and not someone imported.

Shaibu, however hinged his campaign on mainly five pillars that included infrastructure development, economic diversification, Education, Sports.

Others, he added were

skills development and job creation, healthcare, social welfare system, agriculture, rural development, poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, and transparent governance. He further disclosed that while working closely with Obaseki in the past seven years, a solid foundation for progress had been laid in the state, which he promised to build upon.

## IAEA Donates N150m Nuclear Equipment To ABU Zaria

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

**T**he International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has donated nuclear research equipment to Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria.

The equipment, upgraded Instrumentation and Control System (I&C) of the Nigeria Research Reactor-1 (NIRR-1) have been acquired for installation at the university's Centre for Energy Research and Training (CERT).

Director, Public Affairs Directorate of the institution Malam Auwalu Umar disclosed this in a statement issued in Zaria. He said the equipment

worth N150 million were procured from the China Institute of Atomic Energy, Beijing, the designers of the research reactors, under the IAEA Purchase Order issued in 2022.

According to him, the donation of the equipment by IAEA followed burning beyond repairs of CERT's Computer Control Console some years ago.

Malam Umar said, a four-member team of Chinese experts arrived in Zaria at the weekend for the installation of the upgraded systems at the centre scheduled to commence on Monday.

"When completed, the project will increase the

capabilities of the research reactors in terms of operations, safety and utilization," Umar said.

The Director of the centre, Prof. Sunday Jonah led the Chinese experts to a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala.

Jonah told the Vice-Chancellor that the team led by Prof. Yiguo Li of the Research Reactors Department, China Institute of Atomic Energy, would round off the work in the next 10 days.

While commending Bala and the management staff of the University for the support to the centre, the Director also said that

ABU was the only institution in Africa with research reactors sited on its campus.

Speaking further on the project, Jonah said that the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission, NAEC, and the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority, NNRA, were fully aware of the development.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, expressed delight over the arrival of the Chinese experts for the installation, stressing that the project would greatly add value to the research activities being carried out at the centre.

# Zulum Risks His Life For Nigerian Military - Defence Minister

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

**\*I will sustain support, governor assures**

**B**orno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has been according incredible support to the Nigerian military and in many instances, he risks his life visiting front lines to motivate troops, Minister of Defence, Mohammed Badaru Abubakar has declared.

The minister spoke yesterday at the council chamber of the Government House in Maiduguri.

“My brother (addressing Governor Zulum), the troops here in Borno and indeed the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) asked me to send their appreciation to you for all the support that you have been rendering to the military. You have been supporting us in all our operations, thank you most sincerely. Sometimes you even risk your life supporting and encouraging our personnel, we appreciate you,” Badaru said.

The minister noted that their visit was at the instance of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to assess the security situation in the theatre of operations in Borno State in order to see the end of the over one decade of insurgency.

The minister spoke in the presence of his colleague, the Minister of State for Defence, Dr Bello Mohammed Mutawalle, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Gwabin Musa, the Chief of Army Staff, Lt General Taoreed Lagbaja, the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ogala and the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Hassan Abubakar, all of whom were on the trip to Borno State.

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum in response to the minister and his delegation, reiterated commitment to his continued support for the Nigerian military in the fight against Boko Haram insurgency across the northeast.

“As Governor of Borno State, In Sha Allah, I will continue to support the Nigerian military with a view to achieving our objective of bringing lasting peace and stability to Borno and by extension, Nigeria. I will continue to provide the political will needed to achieve this objective”, Zulum said.

The governor noted that the security situation in Borno has tremendously improved.

Zulum however, charged the military to root out the remnants of the insurgents from Sambisa forest, Mandara Mountains and the enclaves in the Lake Chad Basin in order to completely end the insecurity.

The Governor added that stability in the Lake Chad Basin will allow governments from all levels to harness the agricultural potential of the Lake towards achieving President Tinubu's food security initiative.

Zulum expressed gratitude to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the leadership he has been providing to address the problem of insurgency in Borno and other security challenges across the country.





The closing ceremony of four days NHFSS, National Training 2023, in Adamawa State, the event was colourful with Senior Officers of NHFSS, others Security Agencies, dignitaries, the representative of Emir, held at Mbamb Comer Primary School Yola Town. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS



# UN International Day For Solidarity With Palestine: TY Buratai Foundation Calls For Permanent Ceasefire

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In a bid to support peace and stability in the Middle East, the TY Buratai Humanity Care Foundation has called for a permanent ceasefire between Israel and Palestine.

This plea comes on the occasion of the UN International Day for Solidarity with Palestine.

The foundation's Chairman, Amb Ibrahim Dahiru Danfulani Sadaikin Garkuwan Keffi, and Betara of Biu and the grand patron of the foundation, His Excellency, Amb Lt Gen Tukur Yusufu Buratai Rtd CFR Betara of Biu, have expressed deep sorrow and concern over the colossal loss of lives and damage to property in Gaza.

The foundation, known for its unwavering commitment to humanity and desire to alleviate the suffering of those affected by conflicts worldwide, is calling for an end to the violence and the protection of innocent lives.

"As the Israel-Hamas temporary truce enters its fifth day, there seems to be a ray of hope as both sides completed their fourth releases of captives from Gaza in exchange for Palestinians held in Israeli jails and vice versa. Mediators have stated that the process will continue, indicating a potential breakthrough in the

negotiations.

"Qatar, along with Egypt, has played a crucial role in facilitating indirect talks between Israel and Hamas. Qatar's Ambassador to the United Nations, Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, announced that an agreement has been reached to extend the original four-day truce by two more days. This extension provides an opportunity for both sides to release more individuals, further fostering an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation.

"While progress is being made, it is essential to remember the plight of the occupied people of Palestine. The foundation urges

everyone to take a moment to pray for the innocent civilians, especially the children, who have been affected by the ongoing conflict. It is a time to condemn the senseless violence and hope that the negotiations on the ground will lead to a lasting resolution," it said.

The TY Buratai Humanity Care



**TY BURATAI HUMANITY CARE FOUNDATION**  
**MOTTO: SERVICE TO HUMANITY**

Foundation remains committed to supporting initiatives that promote peace, stability, and the well-being of individuals affected by conflicts worldwide. With the call for a permanent ceasefire, the foundation emphasizes the importance of dialogue and

understanding in resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict.

As the negotiations continue, the foundation joins the international community in praying for a swift end to the war and a brighter future for the people of Palestine.

## Kano Guber: Eedris Abdulkareem, Ajadi, Badmus Rally Support For Kano Gov Through Music

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Nigerian Hip Hop, R&B and Afrobeat artiste, Eedris Abdulkareem, chieftains of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo and South West Public Relations Officer of the party, Kilamuwaye Badmus have thrown their weight behind the Kano State Governor, Abba Yusuf as he set to reclaim his

governorship mandate at Supreme Court as Eedris released a music album in his support.

In the music released by Abdulkareem, through the Bullion Records, he called on Yusuf to seek the intervention of God in the matter pending before the court.

The lyrics in the music include: "Kanawan Dabo stand up and seek for Allah's intervention. Kanawan Dabo don't allow

them to cheat you""Kano is not Lagos. Whatever your intention, we are above you." Abdulkareem urges the people of Kano to support Yusuf to build their children's future and assured them that only Abba can uplift their lives and that they should rally round him.

"In the year 2019, they stole your mandate. This year 2023, no going back. Don't Allow them, they are deceivers",

Abdulkareem charges Abba Yusuf.

Speaking, Ambassador Ajadi who recently paid solidarity visit to Abba Yusuf in Kano, said the wish of millions of people of Kano will stand at the end of the day, maintaining that his claim of four plus four (4 + 4) is certain for Abba Yusuf of NNPP in Kano state.

The NNPP Chieftain who contested the governorship of Ogun State in the 2023 election said Yusuf will be affirmed as the Kano State Governor by the Supreme Court, adding that the good people of Kano State to remain calm and avoid provocation from the opposition who are enjoying a temporary victory.

"I see it as a temporary setback as the judgement cannot stand the test of time. At the Supreme Court will give us judgement. It will rubbish the judgement of the Court of Appeal.

Also, the NNPP South West Public Relations Officer, Kilamuwaye Badmus assured the people of Kano State that Yusuf is going to complete his tenure as he said the Supreme Court will overturn the judgement of the Court of Appeal.

While cautioning the All Progressives Congress, (APC) not to destroy democracy by putting judiciary under pressure, Badmus urged President Bola Ahmed Tinubu not to turn Nigeria to Lagos State where he dominated all aspects of the governance.

The NNPP South West PRO then called on Governor Yusuf to do all lawful to reclaim his mandate.



Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi with the NNPP PRO and the musician

# Periodic Accreditation By NUC Improving Standard Of Education - Greenfield University Pro Chancellor

\*Commends management, staff for dedication

\*Tasks TetFund on developing staff of private university

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The founder/Pro Chancellor of Greenfield University (GFU), Kaduna, Engineer Simon Nwakacha has said that the periodic accreditation exercise carried out by the Nigeria Universities Commission (NUC) is a plus for the country, as it ensures all round education development. He expressed this while interacting with journalists yesterday, November 28, on the sidelines of a visiting NUC team who were at the Greenfield University City Campus Kudenda for accreditation. "I want to commend the NUC team for accreditation process, it is boosting quality of education in Nigeria. "I am quite happy with the process. It's one thing that is helping to promote education.

I wish to commend NUC management and staff for the periodic exercise," he said. According to him, if not for the periodic exercise by NUC, a lot of universities would have gone far beyond standards, if left unsupervised. "We have seen it, anytime NUC is coming around for accreditation, people run around to ensure everything is on order," he said. He explained that the courses they were there to accredit, include cyber security, biotechnology, accountancy, criminology, security studies, international relations and information technology. "Accreditation is very critical for enrolment into universities and also a requirement for graduates to embark on the mandatory National Youth Service

Corps (NYSC). It is in the interest of all universities to get all their programmes accredited," he advised. According to the Pro Chancellor, Greenfield University plans to get more courses to their programmes and subject those courses to accreditation. He disclosed that such courses include, law and a host of others. Speaking further on the need to develop tertiary education in Nigeria, Engineer Nwakacha made a passionate appeal to the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TetFund) to be magnanimous in giving equal opportunities for training of lecturers to both private and public universities. "We also want to ask that the operations of Tetfund is widened to afford equal number of public and private universities.

"If a staff is trained, Nigeria gains, because the staff may move from private to public university, hence Nigeria gains. "As new and new private universities are set up, there will be pressure on staff of public institutions, because they go to hire professors from existing. So TetFund should develop more staff to post graduate level, it will help the system. Though they are doing the training, more should be done," he said. He argued that considering the fact that number of private universities would soon double that of public, there is need for more training to cover more staff of private universities. "Let development of staff at post graduate level, be extended to all private universities," he appealed.



# Nostalgic Moment As FGC Kwali 93 Set Hold 30th Reunion

By; KATO P. LADAN,  
Kaduna

It was a nostalgic moment for some of the alumni of Federal Government College (FGC) Kwali Abuja as the 1993 set converged on the prestigious Kapital Club and Apartments, Asokoro in the heart of Abuja for their 30th reunion after graduation.

They held several activities, including a tour of the famous Jabi Lake Side, grand dinner and condolence visits, during the event, from November 25 to 27, 2023.

Some who missed the 25th edition five years ago, were excited to see those who they spent the largest part of their formative years at the unity school after 30 years of graduation.

They gathered from all over Nigeria and other parts of the world for the three-day event,

with the theme, "Together Forever!" which they described as fun filled and an experience they would always live to remember.

The secondary school classmates, were seen giggling like teenagers as they hugged and embraced each other, reminiscing the times spent in Kwali as teenagers.

In his speech at the event, Governor of Kwaki 1993 Set, Nuhu Sani, described the reunion as successful.

"It is such an honour to be here today, standing in front of all of you, my fellow classmates. As we gather today to celebrate our 30th class reunion, I can't help but think about how far we've all come. I hope we all came with great anticipation of renewing old friendships from years gone by, and to establish a bond between each other for support and encouragement.

We are all here because we are thankful for the role FGC Kwali Abuja played in our development. Have you all thought why all of us are super excited, and have been waiting for this day, to assemble here? It is because of the special fellowship and memories we share and one which we cannot attain with any other class.

I've come to realize how vulnerable we all are and that having the support of a group of people that we formed and shared a common bond with over 30 years is very vital as we grow older. I hope that we are able to laugh at the memories of our Kwali days. To listen and cry with each other as we share the struggles, trials and tragedies we've endured over the years.

Since 1993, we have all gone our separate ways and have lived our own very different lives. According to our separate goals

and interests, we chose a variety of occupations and across these 30 years, we have succeeded in many things and failed in a few. But the one thing we all have in common is that we received our foundation from the same place—Federal Government College Kwali Abuja. This was our training ground and graduation from here was our rite of passage.

Have you all thought why all of us are super excited, and have been waiting for this reunion? It is because of the special bond and fellowship we share and one which we cannot attain with any other group. We are unique in our own way. No other class has the same exact experience we shared 30 years ago. We are one of a kind class today, as we were 30 years ago, as we will be tomorrow and forever!

Lastly, I would like us to stand up for 1 minute of silence to honor

our mates who are no longer with us...

In closing, I will leave us with this quote I read somewhere, "We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing. There are only four secrets to staying young, being happy and achieving success. You have to laugh and find humor every day. You've got to have a dream. When you lose your dreams, you die," he said.

He therefore, called on all of them to bond, network and support one another grow economically.

"Finally, I want to specially thank the organizing team for a good job well done; and all those that support to ensure this event is a success. Also be rest assured that the annual dues funds raised shall be invested in due course to yield profit," he said.



# Nostalgic Moment As FGC Kwali 93 Set Hold 30th Reunion



# UNICEF, Kaduna Govt provides Skills To 500 Adolescents, PWDs

By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in partnership with the Kaduna State Government, has empowered 500 adolescent school girls, boys and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), with gender-neutral skills.

The programme which was implemented under the "transferable and employability skills for adolescents in Kaduna State", selected the beneficiaries from different government secondary schools in the state.

The empowerment training was focused on shoemaking, cap making, bag making and other relevant skills such as life skills, coding and robotics, handled by artisans, teaching the basics as well as the entrepreneurial aspects of these crafts.

The training is expected to increase confidence and self-esteem among participants, enhance their problem solving skills, equip them with critical thinking and creativity skills, improve their collaboration and communication abilities.

Greater awareness of potential career paths and opportunities in gender-neutral fields, help them build stronger connections and support networks among participants and their mentors.

Some of the students who spoke at the Government Secondary School, Narayi in Chikun Local Government Area, expressed appreciation to the organizers and promised to make the best use of their new found knowledge.

According to 18 years old Alice Idoko, an SS3 student, "am happy I have acquired another skill in addition to my tailoring skill that I can use to generate income and support my aunt who have been taking care of me since I lost my parents.

"UNICEF and the Ministry of Education have done something remarkable in my life in the last few days to plan my future and I will not disappoint them I promise."

Alice, hope to impact her community by sharing the knowledge with other young people who were not opportune to be part of the training.

For 17 years old Mercy Shadrach, "I have been telling myself that I don't know how to do anything, but thank God I was given the opportunity to be part of this and am not planning to stop here because I have to take this to another level.

"For me, this is already a career I will have to continue with even after my university education, I don't think I will have to wait for any employment because I can be a boss of my own in while in school."

She thank UNICEF, for the knowledge impacted in her, adding that she now knows how to make the right decision, negotiate and also adjust whenever she makes any mistake.

David Asan, 20 years old, said he never knew that critical thinking has always been in his day to day life, until he was taught that it's an inbuilt skill that needs to be put to use.



"We now understand that we have inbuilt skills in us but we have never put them to use and even when we use them, we use them wrongly. But with this training, I now know exactly what to do with those skills.

"I never knew I could do something like making of turban cap as a male, but today I make them perfectly and you don't need too much capital to go into it. I thank UNICEF for chosen our school and other schools to be part of this." David, explained.

Kasarachi Nwafor, is a 19 years old SS3 adolescent girl, who never believed she could be able

to learn any skill because of her level of comprehension when it comes to skills acquisition.

"I never had any skill in my life, I had given up in learning skills so I just focused on my education, I even tried learning tailoring at some point but I was unable to learn anything.

"But after our orientation at the beginning of the training, I realised that I actually have the understanding to learn skills, as I speak now, I can make turban caps seamlessly. This has added an advantage to my life and I so much appreciate the organizers." Kasarachi, noted.

"This skills are something that

can I can use to support my life in the face of unemployment after school. I want to also give people in my community this knowledge of how to make turban caps and help them with problem solving skills." 18 years old Hussaini Yunusa said.

Nineteen years old Nwanneke Egwuatu, who said his dream is to become a provision seller even after his university education, noted that the he acquired during the training has given him a different perspective about life and career.

"I will like to do this as a business along with my dream trade because I believe it can transform my life in the future."

## Military Operations In Nigeria Beyond Traditional Warding Off Threat - GOC 2Div

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Nigerian Army, Maj. Gen. Bamidele Alabi on Tuesday, said the current military operation in the country has gone beyond the traditional warding off of threat of some aggressors. Speaking during a courtesy visit to the Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lekan Balogun with other top officers of the 2 Division of the Nigerian Army, the GOC disclosed that the Nigerian Army now work more with the people for effective result in combating security challenges in the country.

Major General Alabi pointed out that the current military operation in the country has gone beyond the traditional warding off of threat of some aggressors as the

country now has enemies living within the people, employing terrorism and other vices.

He maintained that Nigerian Army has changed tactics, by engaging in training to deliver effectively, adding that by this, they work more with the people because of the need for intelligence gathering to tackle the problem.

The GOC described the 2 Div as historic division to protect Nigerians and Ibadan very strategic place by virtue of its historical history and population size as the division had over the years been enjoying good and cordial relationship with the people, saying "Ibadan people are loving and peaceful.

"We are leveraging on that and work with others to be able to deliver on our core

mandate of securing our land and our people. We are appreciative of the support of His Imperial Majesty for the Nigerian Army through the Division and urge for more and that of the other critical stakeholders just as I promise that we won't relent on giving out best", he said.

The Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Balogun while hosting the GOC tasked the 2Div, Nigerian Army to collaborate with other security agencies in the state to ensure that the peace being enjoyed in the state remains enduring and unruptured. Oba Balogun while peaking through his Bobajiro and the former Head of Service (HoS) in Oyo State, Chief Tajudeen Aremu, Oba Balogun said Oyo State capital had been peaceful by the grace of God, but not without some skirmishes,

adding that these skirmishes included the menace of land grabbing and that the GOC should collaborate with other sister agencies, including Amotekun to address the problem, adding, "the peace being enjoyed needs to be strengthened by addressing any identified threat.

"In doing this, I'm of the opinion that it needs concerted efforts, the joining of hands of all the security agencies. We all know the importance and strategic position of Ibadan in both the politics and security of the country. With peace in Ibadanland, you can be rest assured that there's peace in Yorubaland and in Nigeria just as any threat to peace and security in the land is capable of snowballing to other parts of the country".

# Improving Electricity: Gov Uba Sani Flags Off Rehabilitation Of Vandalized Power Equipment Across Zone One

BY; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

In fulfilment of his campaign promise to improve electricity supply in rural areas for economic growth and socio-political development, Governor Uba Sani has flagged off rehabilitation of vandalized transformers and power transmission and distribution facilities across eight local government areas in Zone One of Kaduna State.

The flagging off began from Makarfi Local Government Area, covering other councils, by the governor accompanied by party chieftains, traditional rulers, locals

and government functionaries, including Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos.

Uba Sani underscored the importance of stable power supply as catalyst for stimulating economic activities needed for development.

He maintained that no meaningful democratic gains can be achieved without providing electricity for the people, particularly those at the grassroots.

He vowed not to relent in pursuit of good life for the masses until the attainment of optimum level of making available basic

infrastructures in rural and urban communities.

Mamman Lagos, while commending the governor for his many human development strides, said the projects would go a long way in driving economic and industrial activities in the whole zone.

"This is just a tip of the iceberg of what Governor Uba Sani will do for the people of the State as contained in his development agenda for Kaduna State.

"As you have seen since he assumed leadership of our dear State, he has initiated and completed various projects with positive impacts for the masses.

"People have seen his vibrant moves geared towards providing good life for the State, that's why We are witnessing mass movement of politicians from the opposition to APC.

"All we want from beneficiaries of the governor's interventions is goodwill accompanied with support and prayers for the success of the present administration to do more for the state.

"The governor will leave no stone untouched and no sector unattended to in his drive to work for the people," he assured.



# Magazine Backs Defection Of Chikun LG Boss To APC, Says Politics All About Power

By: EMMANUELAGBO,  
Kaduna

The management of Privilege Magazine has said that the defection of the Executive Chairman of Chikun LGA Kaduna state, Hon. Salasi Nuhu Musa from People's Democratic Party (PDP) to All Progressives Congress (APC), will attract development to the grassroots.

The Director, News and Current Affairs, Privilege Communication Nigeria Limited, Abraham Faith Adeyemi, stated this in Kaduna yesterday, during an interaction with journalists, said politics is all about power and authority so that the common man can enjoy the dividends of democracy.

It would be recalled that the Honorable Commissioner, Ministry for Local Government Affairs, Kaduna state, Hon Sadiq Mamman Lagos, received Hon. Salasi, who decamped to the ruling APC alongside other 8 Councilors and his political appointees, including his supporters on the 11th of November, 2023.

Reacting to the development, Faith said the place of power and authority in a democratic setting, can never be over emphasized, noting that aligning with a mainstream political party like the APC will provide greater opportunities and access to resources not only for the chairman but also for the good people of Chikun LGA.

She said, "with Chikun's sizable population, it is crucial to work closely with Uba Sani, the Governor, to attract and consolidate infrastructural development in the region.

"By joining the APC, Hon Salasi can breathe better and focus on reaching greater heights for his people, particularly in the



areas of security, peace, and harmony. This calculated move positions him to have a stronger voice in advocating for the needs and aspirations of his constituents. Working closely with Uba Sani, the Governor, will facilitate collaboration and coordination between the local government and the state

government, this partnership will ensure that Chikun LGA receives the necessary support and attention for infrastructural development, including roads, schools, healthcare facilities, and other essential amenities.

"Hon. Salasi's move to the APC, positions him to have a stronger voice in advocating for the needs and aspirations of Chikun LGA. With the support of the party, he can effectively represent the interests of his constituents and work towards addressing their concerns at both the local and state levels. This will ensure that the community's development priorities are given the attention they deserve, including the area of insecurity."



# Human Capital Development Key To Societal Progression, Advancement - Abba Abdullahi

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

**A** former Director of Administration at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Abba Abdullahi has described investment in human capital as key to the progress and development of every society.

Abdullahi who hailed from Nguru, Yobe State said for any society or community to prosper there must be investment in education, healthcare, infrastructure and skill acquisition among other social amenities.

The former director who made his position known during an interview with the New Nigerian Newspapers, said that while working with the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) between 1997-2000 he single handedly secured loans ranging from 50,000-150,000 naira to about 500 indigenes of Borno and Yobe states for them to be self-reliant. He further said unless people are supported and encouraged on how to develop themselves, backwardness in every sector will continue hence the need for more investment in human capital development for self-reliance.

"I have passion for investing in human capital development because when I was a civil servant, I succeeded in providing support to several individuals especially in securing small scale loans to about 500 persons in Borno and Yobe states.

"Also, during my active service, I succeeded in



**Abba Abdullahi, retired Director Administration, Federal Civil Servicy**

securing 10 kilometer road and drainage projects costing about 1 billion naira in Nguru, provision of solar powered boreholes and solar powered street lights in schools and villages. Simeilarly, two Water harvesting structures were constructed at Nguru and Yusufari local government areas," Abdullahi said.

The former director explained people need little push for them to be productive and self-reliant.

"During the 2022 flood disaster, my people from Hausari, Mallam Baba and Bubari Primary Healthcare centres all in Nguru sought for malaria and cholera drugs which I was able to supply to

1,300 victims free of charge.

"One needs to support his people from time to time because doing so will help in complementing the efforts of the government at each sector. I am happy to announce that about 200 civil servants gained employment following our support grown in the system with many of them risen to the position of Deputy Directors in the Federal government.

"When I supported them in getting employment no one think they can grow to that level. I am also happy that many of our youths benefitted from the Tricycle machines (Kake NAPEP) and are using it tae care of their families."

# Delta Police Busts Cult Initiation, Recovers Guns

By; UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

**D**ELTA: Delta State Police Command has prevented a cult initiation ceremony and recovered one English pump action gun at the scene in Sapele Local Government Area of the state.

This was disclosed to newsmen in a statement by the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Bright Edafe on Monday.

According to the police, "The Command's Raiders Squad while acting on credible information stormed an uncompleted building at Mission Road in Sapele and prevent the initiation from been held.

"Upon sighting the police, the suspects took to their heels and fled in different directions abandoning a bag containing the weapon.

"Efforts are being made to identify and arrest the fleeing suspects.

"In another development, one locally made cut-to-size pistol was recovered from a suspect at Mbiri community in the Ika northeast council of the state.

"The suspect, Francis Sunday had pulled out a locally fabricated cut-to-size pistol, threatening to kill anyone who tried to walk him out of a residence in Umunede during an altercation.



**Delta State Police Commissioner**

"On 23/11/2023 at about 1400hrs, one man (name withheld) reported at the station that while an argument ensued between him and his siblings at his residence in Umunede Community, one Francis Sunday, a resident of same Umunede Community, who was present at the time of altercation was ordered to leave the premises.

"The said Francis Sunday became furiously hostile, and went ahead to pull out a locally fabricated cut-to-size pistol, threatening to kill anyone who tried to walk him out of the residence.

"Upon receipt of the complaint, operatives swung into action, and on 24/11/2023 at about 1230hrs, the operatives of the Divisional Anti-Crime Patrol Team stormed the residence of the complainant at No. 7 Old Agbor Road, Umunede where the alleged suspect was arrested.

"Preliminary investigation led the operatives to search his residence at Mbiri Community Umunede, where one locally made cut-to-size pistol was recovered. The suspect and exhibit are in custody, and investigation has commenced."





# Reappointment: CSOs Hail Tinubu Over NNPCCL Boss, Mele Kyari



By: **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

A group under the auspices of Coalition of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have commended President Bola Tinubu for reappointing Engineer Mele Kyari as the Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL).

According to the CSOs, the appointment is not only well deserved and reward for hard work, but also necessary to ensure that the ongoing reforms are carried out to the later.

In a press statement by the Chairman and Secretary of the CSOs, Comrade Ephraim Jonathan and Comrade Yusuf Ibrahim Kudan said, "By the reappointment of Kyari, President Tinubu has demonstrated a high sense of focus and commitment to uninterrupted and smooth operations of the national oil

industry".

While acknowledging Kyari's reform programmes and the major panacea for enhanced transparency and efficiency in the operations of NNPCCL, the group said, "the idea of setting up of a new trading subsidiary, establishment of a new crude oil marketing division, and the implementation of a new performance management system, which enhances accountability in the Nigerian oil and gas sector was a magic wand".

The statement added, "When Mele Kyari assumed duty as the Group Managing Director of the now-defunct Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) on July 7, 2019, it was at a critical period not only in the life of the corporation but for the entire Nigerian oil and gas sector as well as the national economy.

"With his appointment in 2021 by Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari as chief executive officer of the Nigerian

National Oil Company Limited (NNPCL), the successor company to the NNPC under the new dispensation ushered in by the petroleum industry act, which came into force in 2021, the TAPE became the standard for steering the new company forward in a global economy still reeling from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, which devastated the world in 2020 and 2021.

"It has become obvious that since he was appointed, the performance of the NNPCCL has been impressive with situations, which appeared insurmountable, turned around."

Stating further about on-going reforms and company's growth from a loss-making one into a profit-making commercial entity, the group singled out the efforts at checkmating crude oil theft and illegal refineries as significant spike that help to boost daily oil production.

It added that Nigeria has regained its position as the

largest crude oil producer in Africa, ahead of Algeria's 1.021mb/d and Angola's 1.088mb/d in November 2022.

"It gladdens the heart to note that NNPCCL posted its second consecutive year of 'profit' announcing N674.1 billion in the 2021 financial period and growing it from N287 billion in 2020. The figure represented an increase of N387 billion or 134.8% when compared to the previous N287 billion recorded in 2020.

"We have also noticed that the lingering fuel scarcity characterised by long queues at filling station is gradually becoming history. And with the availability of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) as a feat Nigerians will remember Kyari led management for.

"Worthy of note is the good news that \$2.8bn Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) gas pipeline project will be inaugurated December. The AKK pipeline is a 614km-long

pipeline to transport natural gas from southern Nigeria to central Nigeria.

"The most impressive accomplishments of Kyari's stewardship at NNPCCL is the commencement of commercial oil to exploration in the Northern part of Nigeria. The Kolmani Oil Field, estimated to have a reserve of about one billion barrels of crude oil, OPL 809 and 810, lie in the Gongola Basin of the Upper Benue Trough, straddling Bauchi and Gombe states.

"The laudable Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline (NMGP), which is an initiative of the federal government of Nigeria and the Kingdom of Morocco, is a 5,600 kilometers gas pipeline project traversing 13 African countries namely: Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Gambia, Senegal and Mauritania to Morocco is indeed a great feat". The statement said.

# The Chief Of Defence As Chief Of Complaints, Lamentations

By Owei Lakemfa

**N**IGERIA is at war. Nigerians rely on the government to prosecute and win the war. In turn, government relies on the Armed Forces to win the war. But the Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa, who is expected to lead the armed forces to war and win, has become the Chief of Complaints and Lamentations of the Federal Republic. "People can't eat. People are hungry. No matter how you tell them to keep the peace, they will not because they have to eat and it aids criminality. So, we must have good governance." This is correct. It is also an indictment of governance, at least since 1999 when the military was kicked out of power for constituting a danger to the country and traumatising the populace. General Musa led other service chiefs on November 21, 2023 to brief the House of Representatives in Abuja. He had complaints against the police and the Ministry of Justice that have powers to prosecute. He told the parliament: "I have been in the North-East; there were a lot of Boko Haram elements that have been captured. We have kept them for five/six years. We the armed forces can arrest but cannot prosecute. Some of them have been found wanting but no prosecution." First, the Constitution frowns at the indefinite detention without trial. So, how can the military keep suspects for five-six years without trial? What happens if they are innocent? What did the military as an institution do to ensure justice?

Then General Musa blamed the judiciary: "Another aspect of the judiciary is that you use all your effort to make an arrest, you hand them over, and before you enter your vehicle, the man has been released on bail. Now you have risked yourself in doing that, by the time he is released, he goes to tell the people about the person who arrested him. Now your family members or you are at risk."

This in many aspects is hyperbolic. But if in truth suspects are granted bail, then they must have been charged with bailable offences. Suspects cannot be denied bail because the army thinks otherwise. I am not sure the families of soldiers or those who effect arrest of suspects are put at risk. If they are, what that calls for is a victim protection programme, not blaming

the judiciary for admitting suspects on bail.

Then he turns to the Correctional Services, accusing it of aiding terrorism: "In the North-East, when we were debriefing some of the arrested Boko Haram members, they were telling us how, from the prison, they could plan operations out in the field.

"They pass funds across. They use some of the warders there. We are not saying all of them are corrupt. They use their accounts and the deal is that anyone whose account is used shares it 50/50. Those are the challenges." If this were true, then we should have witnessed the prosecution of these accomplices. Unfortunately, the General did not present any evidence to back up his claims against the Correctional Services.

Also, the Defence Chief lamented: "We don't produce what we need in Nigeria and if you do not produce what you need, that means you are at the beck and call of the people that produce these items." The question is why? The Nigerian military has ran the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria, DICON, since 1964; that is for 59 years now. How come it has been incapable of producing the basic needs of the military? If it has been unable to do that, the Chief of Defence should tell us why, and not just open the Book of Lamentations.

In his theorisation on good governance General Musa argued: "Security is not only military security. We have food

security, health security, social security and education security. All these always play a role. If we don't put these things in place – good governance – there will be problems." This is correct. However, his follow up revelation that: "We (Military) have realised that the magic wand to address insecurity is good governance. Anywhere you have good governance, insecurity goes down", is basic common sense.

His conclusion: "People can't eat. People are hungry. No matter how you tell them to keep the peace, they will not because they have to eat and it aids criminality. So, we must have good governance." This is correct. It is also an indictment of governance, at least since 1999 when the military was kicked out of power for constituting a danger to the country and traumatising the populace.

The Defence Chief was not quite clear when he said: "The security forces can only produce 30 per cent. We can only provide an enabling environment. If other aspects are not addressed, it is a problem." Yes, but a fundamental problem is that the military perceives war as being between it and identified enemies. The truth that the main victims of war, and therefore, those that can defeat the enemy, is the populace, is lost on the military.

The military is a tiny spec in a population of over 200 million people. So, to take on and defeat terrorists, bandits, foreign invaders and separatists, we need a mass

mobilisation of the people and an armed volunteer force of the populace. It makes no sense that a town of hundreds of thousands of people flee and empty out within hours, just because a hundred armed hoodlums on motor bikes ride into town shooting in the air. There is no reason why Nigerians cannot have mass training and be armed to defend themselves, their families and homes. There is no reason why, given our security situation, the National Youth Service Corps scheme cannot be transformed into a paramilitary force that can, with the locals, hold their ground against bandits.

When the military is pointing an accusing finger at bodies like the Executive, Judiciary, Immigration and Correctional Services, it should know that its other four fingers are pointing at itself.

As the military chief complained against government and other groups, he did not do soul-searching. When you have an armed forces and security services imbued with impunity, which manifest indiscipline and do not practice esprit de corps amongst themselves, there is a big problem.

Apart from their usual attacks on the civil populace which has led to alienation, the military and security services have in the last few months been engaged in armed inter-agency combats. Just on November 21, 2023, soldiers invaded the Adamawa State Police Command, killing Inspector Jacob Daniel. The Commander 23 Armoured Corps, Brigadier General Gambo Mohammed, justified the attack on the basis that the invaders went to "rescue" their colleague.

On November 17, 2023, the Nigeria Air Force personnel invaded the offices of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, in Kaduna to set suspects free. The State Security Services, SSS, beat up Nigeria Correctional Services personnel in the Abuja High Court to seize former Central Bank Governor, Godwin Emefiele. The SSS had on May 29, 2023 used force to seize the EFCC offices at 15A Awolowo Road, Ikoyi-Lagos.

When the military is pointing an accusing finger at bodies like the Executive, Judiciary, Immigration and Correctional Services, it should know that its other four fingers are pointing at itself.

"General Musa argued: "Security is not only military security. We have food security, health security, social security and education security. All these always play a role. If we don't put these things in place – good governance – there will be problems." This is correct. However, his follow up revelation that: "We (Military) have realised that the magic wand to address insecurity is good governance. Anywhere you have good governance, insecurity goes down", is basic common sense."

# Once Upon Weah

By Owei Lakemfa

**G**EORGE Oppong Weah is the story of an African child who rose from the slums of Clara Town, Monrovia, to glittering heights in Europe and America but never lost his sense of purpose. Rather, after he had become quite rich and famous, he returned home to give back part of his wealth, and overcame serious obstacles by entrenched local and foreign interests to lead Liberia. Liberia had been in crisis since the 1970s and Sirleaf was part of every government in the country. She was Assistant Minister in 1972 under President William. R. Tolbert Jr. When in 1980, Master Sergeant Samuel Kanyon Doe killed President Tolbert in a bloody coup, Sirleaf served the coup plotters as the Finance Minister in the Doe dictatorship. When Charles Taylor led a rebel army against Doe, she raised funds for the rebels. After Doe was killed, she became a presidential candidate in 1997, losing to Taylor who won 75 per cent of the votes. Later, she left for exile in Cote d'Ivoire and returned after the second civil war.

He is holding his head high in the process of exiting the Presidency; leaving yet another positive example to be emulated, not just by Liberian youths, but also people all over the continent.

Weah, son of a mechanic, William T. Weah Sr, was raised by his paternal grandmother, Emma Klonjlaleh Brown and began playing football at 15 for the Clara Town Young Survivors. He was a switchboard operator when he signed for Cameroun's Tonnerre Younde in 1987.

He went on to play for Monaco, Paris Saint-Germain, AC Milan, Chelsea, Manchester City and Marseille. He scored 18 goals playing for the Liberian National Team; was in 1995, FIFA World Player of the Year; the African Footballer of the Year in 1989 and 1995; and in 1996, was named the African Player of the Century.

He was UN Goodwill Ambassador and formed a political party, the Congress for Democratic Change under which he ran for the Liberian Presidency in 2005.

Weah won the first round of the elections and a vicious local and international campaign against him was launched. One of the issues raised was that he had no formal education compared to his Harvard-trained opponent, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. But those who voted for him knew this before giving him higher votes. Weah had retorted on the formal education issue: "With all their education and experience, they have governed this nation for hundreds of years. They have never done anything for the nation."

President Weah was obviously unaware of the damage the Sirleaf gang had done to Liberia, and in my analysis, was not prepared to introduce the radical measures

necessary to make a change. He promised: "Transforming the lives of all Liberians", including lifting one million or a fifth of Liberians out of poverty. It turned out to be an uphill task, more so when the country had not fully recovered from the effects of the Ebola outbreak and there was a drop in the prices of commodities, including rubber and iron ore.

A second campaign was that he lacked experience in public office. The point was that the experience Sirleaf had was a toxic one which should have disqualified her in the first place. She had, for four decades, been part of the decadent system which led to two civil wars. She indeed was one of those indicted for war crimes. Liberia had been in crisis since the 1970s and Sirleaf was part of every government in the country. She was Assistant Minister in 1972 under President William. R. Tolbert Jr. When in 1980, Master Sergeant Samuel Kanyon Doe killed President Tolbert in a bloody coup, Sirleaf served the coup plotters as the Finance Minister in the Doe dictatorship. When Charles Taylor led a rebel army against Doe, she raised funds for the rebels. After Doe was killed, she became a presidential candidate in 1997, losing to Taylor who won 75 per cent of the votes. Later, she left for exile in Cote d'Ivoire and returned after the second civil war.

In 2003, Sirleaf was the Head of the Liberian Governance Reform Commission charged with overseeing the transition to democratic governance. Two years later, she defeated Weah in a run-off which the latter was convinced he won and protested alleged rigging. But Weah was convinced to drop his opposition; after all he was young, and the elderly Sirleaf had promised she would serve for only a six-year term. However, in 2011, Sirleaf ran again and Weah, who was a Vice Presidential candidate, lost.

Sirleaf virtually ran the country aground, making underdevelopment, subservience to the West, corruption and nepotism the highlights of her government. For instance, her son, Charles Sirleaf, was made the Governor of the Liberian Central Bank; her second son, Robert Sirleaf, was chief executive of the National Oil Company of Liberia; while a third son, Fombah Sirleaf, was head of the National Security Agency, the body responsible for internal security.

So, when Weah ran in the 2017 elections



against Sirleaf's Vice President, Joseph Boakai, he was virtually on a rescue mission to save Liberia from ruination.

George Weah by accepting electoral defeat even when the votes were being counted, and calming down the electorate, scored perhaps the most beautiful goal of his life. He taught politicians in the United States like Donald Trump and in Africa like Alhassan Qattara how to put their countries and people first, rather seeking or holding on to power even at the risk of setting their countries ablaze.

Contesting with former First Lady, Jewel Taylor, as running mate, he defeated Boakai with 60 per cent of the votes. Charles Taylor himself is being held hostage in Durham, England due to Western conspiracy and the connivance of Sirleaf and President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria.

President Weah was obviously unaware of the damage the Sirleaf gang had done to Liberia, and in my analysis, was not prepared to introduce the radical measures necessary to make a change. He promised: "Transforming the lives of all Liberians", including lifting one million or a fifth of Liberians out of poverty. It turned out to be an uphill task, more so when the country had not fully recovered from the effects of the Ebola outbreak and there was a drop in the prices of commodities, including rubber and iron ore.

President Weah took a populist pay cut, revised the school curriculum, capped salaries of government officials at \$7,800 and passed the Land Rights Act on September 19, 2018. The Act delineates various categories of land and the means they can be acquired.

Inflation, which hovered over 20 per cent, salaries delays and an increasingly frustrated citizenry, led to street protests.

In 2020, he told Liberians: "Give me small chance, yah, so I can fix it" and went borrowing at the International Monetary

Fund. Eventually, Liberians got weary of Weah who was stuck in the Sirleaf path of managing or mismanaging mass poverty. The final tally this week was Joseph Boakai: 50.89 per cent and President Weah: 49.11 per cent. President Weah has lost the match in the Liberian elections to 78-year-old Joseph Boakai, the same man he whipped at the polls in 2017, but who knows, there can be a return match

In the rerun elections on November 14, 2023, with the opposition in a comfortable 28,000 vote lead, Weah elegantly conceded defeat. He said: "The Liberian people have spoken and we have heard their voice".

George Weah by accepting electoral defeat even when the votes were being counted, and calming down the electorate, scored perhaps the most beautiful goal of his life. He taught politicians in the United States like Donald Trump and in Africa like Alhassan Qattara how to put their countries and people first, rather seeking or holding on to power even at the risk of setting their countries ablaze.

Also, in a sense, Weah conceding defeat is like a propitiation of a past that saw Liberia holding the record for the most rigged election in human history. It happened when President Charles D.B. King, the 17th President of Liberia ran for re-election in 1927. The registered voters were 15,000. The opposition candidate, Thomas Faulkner, secured 9,000 votes which would have meant a balance 6,000 votes. But the number of votes announced for President King was 243,000 votes! King scored over 16 times the number of registered voters!

The final tally this week was Joseph Boakai: 50.89 per cent and President Weah: 49.11 per cent. President Weah has lost the match in the Liberian elections to 78-year-old Joseph Boakai, the same man he whipped at the polls in 2017, but who knows, there can be a return match.

# LASTMA Impounds 15 Tankers On Lagos Highway

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

No fewer than 15 tankers parked indiscriminately on Apapa-Oshodi Expressway in Lagos were on Thursday impounded by operatives of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA).

The tankers were said to have been impounded during another round of strict enforcement operations along 2nd Rainbow down to Mile 2 Bridge, Oshodi-Apapa Expressway, Lagos.

In a statement issued by the Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of LASTMA, Mr. Adebayo Taofiq confirmed that the enforcement operations were carried out on the directives of the Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Transportation

Hon. Sola Giwa.

It was further confirmed that some of the impounded tankers were apprehended inside Mile 2 Estates after investigations revealed that some of them were now parked indiscriminately thereby causing serious traffic for motorists coming out from the Estates.

According to Mr. Peter Gbejemedede (LASTMA Director of Operations) the enforcement exercise was in accordance with the Law and would be continuous until zero tolerance



*The Enforcement Operation*

is achieved on illegal/indiscriminate parking across the state.

The Transportation Special

Adviser has therefore urged Motorists to collaborate with government by informing LASTMA of any broken down

or abandoned trailer/truck via the Agency hotlines; 08100565860, 08129928515 & 08129928593.

# Activist Faults Allocating N20bn For 2 Flyovers In Bauchi

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

An activist in Bauchi, Comrade Muhammed Ishaq has said that it is imperative to speak out against Governor Bala Abdulkadir Muhammad's decision to allocate a staggering N20 billion of a recently secured N100 billion loan towards the construction of just two flyovers within Bauchi metropolis.

In a statement issued to newsmen, he said, the governor may justify this decision by citing the need to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion, however, the fact remains that in a state plagued by poverty, unemployment, and other fatal problems, basic needs such as education and healthcare should take priority.

Comrade Ishaq said as an individual who values the principles of justice and compassion, we must voice our concerns and urge the governor to reconsider his decision and allocate resources towards more pressing needs.

According to him, "remaining silent in the face of such injustice, we risk becoming complicit in perpetuating the cycle of inequity and oppression.

"To elaborate, the current state of education in Bauchi is a cause for concern. Many schools, both in urban and rural areas, lack basic infrastructure such as classrooms, laboratories, and

libraries".

"This has resulted in overcrowded classrooms, where students in Bauchi metropolis and rural areas are forced to sit on the floor due to the lack of desks".

The activist said the situation is particularly dire in rural areas, where thousands of villages are entirely lacking in schools or any form of learning facility.

"Up to this time, uncountable students take lessons under the shade of trees across the length and breadth of Bauchi State".

He decried of lack of proper functional educational infrastructure has also led to a shortage of qualified teachers, as many teachers are unwilling to work in schools that lack basic amenities.

"This has resulted in a vicious cycle where the lack of resources leads to a lack of qualified teachers, which in turn leads to a further deterioration of infrastructure.

"Similarly, the healthcare sector in Bauchi is in dire need of attention and many hospitals lack the necessary resources to operate effectively, resulting in a shortage of medical personnel and equipment," he explained.

He said this has led to a situation where many people are forced to travel long distances to seek medical care, often resulting in delayed diagnosis and treatment and avoidable deaths.

"Also lack of proper healthcare facilities has also led to a high infant mortality rate and a high incidence of preventable diseases.

"It is widely believed that the allocation of such a whopping amount of money to the construction of just two flyovers serves as a cover for embezzlement and resource mismanagement.

"Many people are skeptical of the true cost of the projects, given the high price tag and the fact that similar projects in other states have been plagued by corruption and mismanagement.

"Moreover, the people of Bauchi are already burdened by extreme poverty and unemployment, which has been exacerbated by unfavorable economic conditions and the removal of fuel subsidies.

"The lack of functional industries further exacerbates the situation, leaving thousands of unemployed youth and women without opportunities.

"As at now, most Bauchi residents do not ply the streets regularly due to a lack of wherewithal to fuel their vehicles, as the fuel prices have skyrocketed beyond their capacities.

"In light of these pressing concerns, constructing a flyover, which is not a necessity, seems illogical, especially

when borrowing is required to fund it," he said.

He called on Governor Bala Abdulkadir Muhammad to reconsider his priorities and invest the allocated funds into addressing the dire state of education, healthcare, poverty, and unemployment in Bauchi State.

He said this can genuinely improve the lives of the people and ensure a brighter future for the state.

"It is time for the governor to prioritize the needs of the people over extravagant projects that serve only to line the pockets of a few. It is time for action, not embezzlement under whatever guise.

"While noting that true leadership involves more than just building flyovers. Leadership is about creating positive change, improving people's lives, and addressing the challenges and needs of the community.

"This can be achieved through various initiatives such as developing policies, providing access to education, healthcare, and employment, promoting social cohesion, addressing corruption, fostering innovation, and enhancing the quality of life for all citizens of the state, including the most vulnerable and marginalised," he advised.

# Zaria Athletic Meet Targeted At Discovering Talents, Sunday Adeleye Explains

By: PETER NOSAKHARE, Kaduna

**A**hmadu Bello University (ABU) Sports Complex, Zaria at the weekend, hosted athletes from across the Northern states for the 3rd Edition of the Athletics Grand Prix/Four Nation Invitation Relays, which according to Sunday Adeleye, Meet Director of the Prix, became necessary in order to discover, nurture and prepare athletes for bigger events outside the country.

Adeleye believes that the aim has already been achieved, because some athletes have attracted interests from athletic clubs abroad.

He said the competition will continue to seek and look out for talents that are abundant in the country, stressing that this kind of event in the past produced the Mary Onyalis, Falilat Ogunkoyas, Chidi Imos and Sunday Utis.

"We know we have the talents in our country and it is our desire to harness and project these athletes to the world."

In his remarks, Lekan Soetan a stakeholder in the athletics family averred that the event was an excellent opportunity for athletes in the north to compete consistently from March till date, which has made it three legs of competition.

Soetan added that with the fact that athletes are gaining cash rewards for their efforts has made it more useful for their development and motivation to pursue their careers.

"The fact that these athletes know they will be rewarded for their efforts has further spurred them to try more and give their best."

In the men's 100metres, Igbube Thank God came first with 10.36 while Alphonsus Akwa

Was second with 10:37 and Enoch Dabo was third returning with a time of 10.39

\*100m women\*

1. Comfort Sule 11.85
2. Happy Rasheed 11.87
3. Taiwo Ogundele 11.91

\*400m men\*

1. Alphonsus Akwaga 47.62
2. Igube Thankgod 48.62
3. Suraju Habeeb 48.65

\*400m women\*

1. Happy Rasheed 55.07
2. Comfort Sule 55.53
3. Taiwo Ogundele 56.63

\*1500m women\*

1. Comfort Aniete 4.46.79
2. Verity Umoru 4.51.36
3. Felicia Adebayo 5.01.10

\*800m men\*

1. Salisu Habeeb 1.55.12
2. Suraju Habeeb 1.56.37
3. Sadiq Yunusa Zakariya 1.57.15

## FIELD EVENTS

### LONG JUMP WOMEN

1. Ewa Peace 5.84
2. Meekness Dogoyaro 5.45
3. Peace Lekwot 5.42

### DISCUSS THROW WOMEN

1. Mustapha Ruqqayah 36.37
2. Patricia Uzuegbu 28.98
3. Grace Ayemoba 21.00

### SHORT PUT MEN

1. Henry Friday 12.24
2. Adamu Abutu 10.34
3. Hassan Lawal 10.14

In the men's 100metres, Igbube Thank God came first with 10.36 while Alphonsus Akwa Was second with 10:37 and Enoch Dabo was third returning with a time of 10.39

\*100m women\*

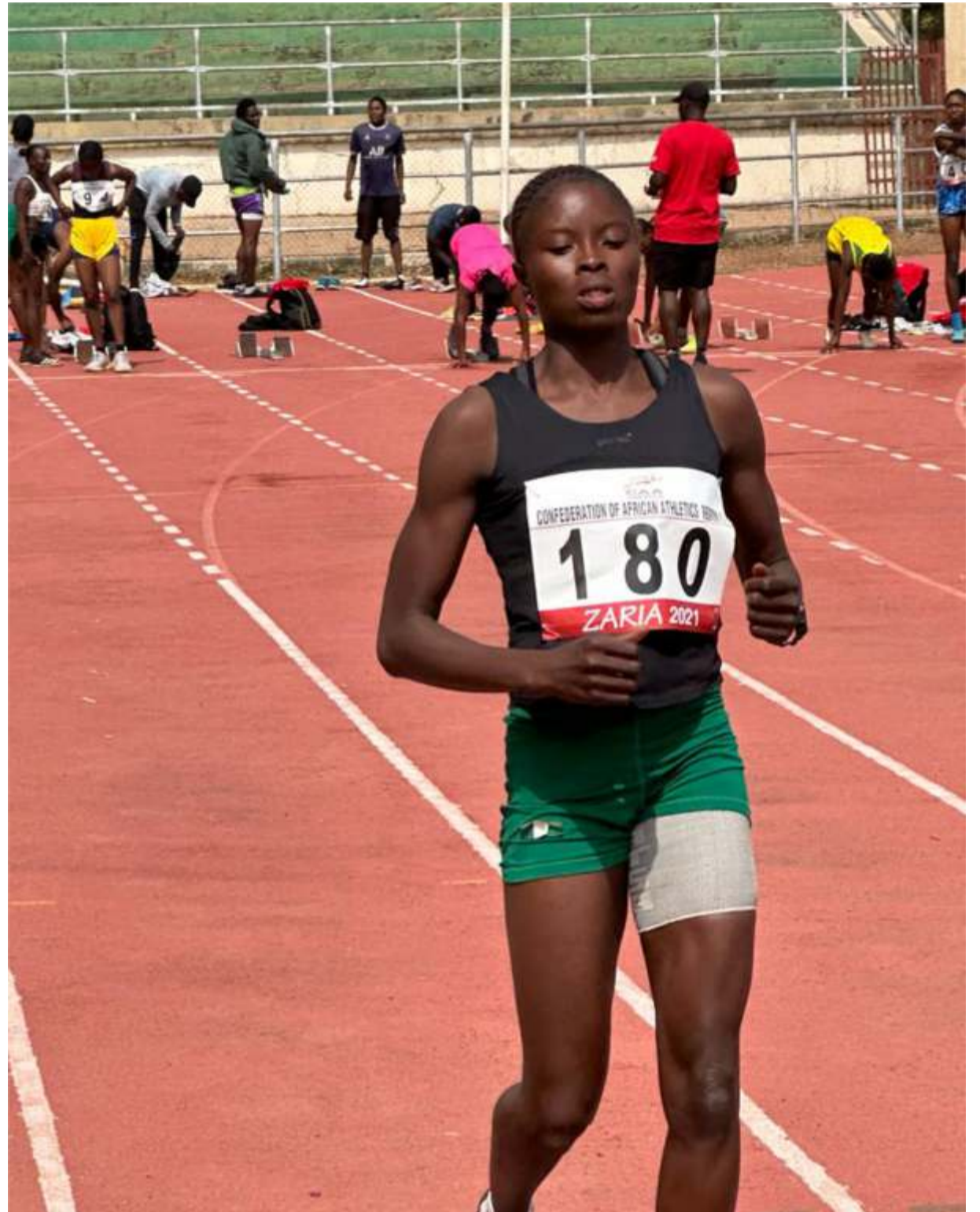
1. Comfort Sule 11.85
2. Happy Rasheed 11.87
3. Taiwo Ogundele 11.91

\*400m men\*

1. Alphonsus Akwaga 47.62
2. Igube Thankgod 48.62
3. Suraju Habeeb 48.65

\*400m women\*

1. Happy Rasheed 55.07
2. Comfort Sule 55.53
3. Taiwo Ogundele 56.63



\*1500m women\*

1. Comfort Aniete 4.46.79
2. Verity Umoru 4.51.36
3. Felicia Adebayo 5.01.10

\*800m men\*

1. Salisu Habeeb 1.55.12
2. Suraju Habeeb 1.56.37

3. Sadiq Yunusa Zakariya 1.57.15

## FIELD EVENTS

### LONG JUMP WOMEN

1. Ewa Peace 5.84
2. Meekness Dogoyaro 5.45
3. Peace Lekwot 5.42

DISCUSS THROW WOMEN

1. Mustapha Ruqqayah 36.37
2. Patricia Uzuegbu 28.98
3. Grace Ayemoba 21.00

### SHORT PUT MEN

1. Henry Friday 12.24
2. Adamu Abutu 10.34

## YSFON/Ilaji U-16 Boys Soccer Tournament Kicks Off

*\*Hosts Ilaji FC trash Ondo state 7-0 in opening ceremony*

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

**T**he maiden edition of YSFON/Ilaji Hotels and Sports Resorts U-16 Boys Championship commenced immediately after the screening of all participating state teams on yesterday at the Ilaji Stadium Akaran, Ibadan, Oyo State.

The tournament was declared open by the sponsor, CEO, Ilaji Hotels and Sports Resorts Center, Engr. Dotun Sanusi, represented by Prince, Adesina Araoye, Chief Operating Officer, Ilaji Hotels and Resorts, alongside, the scouts led by Dr. Justin Fenich (president), SwieQi United F.C, Timothy Gingell, C.E.O, SwieQi United F.C, Saviour Darmanin, Assistant Technical Director SwieQi FC, Henry Ekezie, club scout SwieQi FC and Architect, Etienne Fenech

consultant, SwieQi FC.

Also witnessing the opening match, was the Hon. Commissioner for Youth and Sports in Oyo State, Hon. Wosilat Adegoke and her entourage, Permanent Secretary Youth Sports, Mrs. Oladipupo Olubukola and the Facilities Director, Rain Fatai, saw the hosts, Ilaji, F. C walloping their counterparts from Ondo State 7-0 to grab the three points at stake.

Earlier in the day, YSFON, President, Dr. Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna in a goodwill message delivered by his Secretary General, Patrick Okpavuerhe, gave kudos to the sponsor of the tournament, Engr. Dotun Sanusi for his giant strides to bankroll the youth tournament at this period of time, particularly when all youth have gone into different

kinds of illegal vices.

He urged all the participating teams to be of good conduct before, during and even after every match.

In his words, Engr. Dapo Sanusi, welcomed all the participating teams to Ilaji, home of youth, sports development and grooming them to catch them young to stardom in future.

He commended the organizers of the tournament, YSFON, for collaborating with his organization to make it happen, promising to make it an annual tournament.

Meanwhile, hostilities continue in the preliminary tomorrow and Thursday respectively at the same venue.

Quarter and semi finals shall be decided on Friday and grand finale on Saturday December 2, 2023, at the Ilaji, Stadium.

# New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 6 No. 230

Wednesday 29th November, 2023 | Jumadal - Awwal 15, 1445 AH

## Adamawa Court Rules In Favour Of Sani Against Talatu, Saying Case Not Criminal

By; TOM GARBA, Yola

A ruling of Adamawa State Upper Area Court No.4 obtained by this medium between Talatu Aliyu (Complainant) and Mohammed Sani Shehu (defendant) is in favour of the defendant.

His worship, Hon Ibrahim Ulenda Musa who presided over the matter filed by Talatu Aliyu as a notice of preliminary objection filed and served on the August 25, 2022 by the applicant, ruled that it is not criminal, based on the particulars the complainant tendered to the court.

The Judge in his ruling, said the prayers of the defendant (Shehu) praying for an order of the Honorable court declaring the transaction culminated between the two parties in the case was purely civil. Hon Ibrahim while delivering the ruling, said the particulars of the

complainant did not disclose any criminal offense against the defendant (Shehu) the ground upon which the application is predicted.

The case was based on the fact that the complaint (Talatu) in her particulars of complain, alleged that she sold some textile materials and wrist watch to the defendant (Shehu) who is a known politician in Adamawa State and was involved in a business transaction.

Based on the ruling by His worship Hon Ibrahim Ulenda Musa, which this medium was privy to, Hon Mohammed Shehu Sani has no case of criminal breach of trust against him.

This medium wants the general public to note the earlier story reported by an online platform on November 25, 2023 to have quoted the court summons of August 22, 2022, assuming a criminal



Mohammed Sani Shehu

case on Shehu was done in error as empirical evidence is made available on the contrary. The criminal aspect of the case was ruled by the court that it is a civil transaction not criminal in nature and

the matter was struck out. "We therefore regret any inconvenience caused to Hon Mohammed Shehu Sani by the story published and the story is hereby retracted," the medium said.

## Ex-PTD Leader Warns Aggrieved Members Against Strike Amidst Election Crisis

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

A former National Treasurer of Petroleum Tanker Drivers (PTD), Comrade

Nuhu Muhammad, has cautioned drivers, especially those from the Northern region, not to participate in any strike called by aggrieved leaders of the group following the recent national elections. He also advised members not to allow themselves to be manipulated into causing crisis within the association after the

national election held recently in Ibadan, Oyo State Capital. "There were reports of some members who were aggrieved after the election and are attempting to create a division in the association. This is not the best way to proceed," he noted. Muhammad emphasizes that there was no religious or tribal discrimination during the election, describing it as free and fair. He urged members to accept the election's outcome in good faith, highlighting the integrity of the Northern leaders elected as part of the National Executives. Expressing concern about the attacks on some

elected officials by aggrieved members, he deemed such actions as unfortunate and called for nationwide calm. "I'm urging drivers to be cautious and not allow themselves to be used by aggrieved members to instigate trouble and disunity in the association. The notion of going on strike should be disregarded," he emphasizes. Muhammad attributed the election-related crisis to past injustices within the association's Northern leadership, where elections were halted, and leaders were anointed based on personal interests, leading to the recent turmoil.



### Zaria Athletic Meet Targeted At Discovering Talents, Sunday Adeleye Explains

Story on Page 23

## Late Sheikh Jibril Sahban A Great Scholar, Pioneer Of Positive Impact - Kwara Gov

By; BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRahman has mourned the death of Sheikh Abdullahi Jubril Imam Sahban, describing him as a great Islamic and Arabic scholar and a pioneer of great positive impacts in Ilorin and the state.

Born in February 1940, the renowned educator died on Sunday in Ilorin, the state capital. He was the founder of the popular Muhyi-Deen College of Arabic and Islamic Studies, which was the first diploma-awarding Arabic and Islamic training institution in Ilorin. He also established the Muhyideen College of Education, which was the first privately owned NCE awarding institution in Ilorin.

The Governor salutes the uncommon strides of the trail-blazing scholar, his impacts on learning in

Kwara State, and his positive impacts in the lives of thousands of people who have passed through the institutions.

On behalf of the people and government of Kwara State, the Governor sends his condolences to the family of the Sheikh, the College community, and all his students worldwide who continue to make tremendous contributions to the field of Arabic and Islamic knowledge, and national development.

The Governor said the family and students should be comforted by the great achievements and positive legacies of the late scholar who rose to prominence by dint of hardwork, great thirst for knowledge, commitment to community service, and God's benevolence.

He asks Allah, the Living and Everlasting, to forgive the late scholar and grant him Al-jannah Firdaus, and keep his inheritors and students on the path guidance.



Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRahman