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## Tudun Biri Incident Inexcusable, Failure Of Intelligence - Arewa Consultative Forum

- Demands redeployment of 1 Div GOC
- Welcomes visit of Defence Minister

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON, ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi & FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), has described the unfortunate bombing at Tudun Biri in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State as inexcusable, resulting from failure of intelligence.

This was expressed in a statement signed by the ACF National Publicity Secretary, Prof. T. A. Muhammad-Baba, made

available to our correspondent in Kaduna yesterday.

"The wounds of the injured were and are still fresh and many of the dead unburied at the time of the statement. For these reasons, authorities should not minimise or downplay the monumental tragedy that the incident represents. Indeed, ACF considers the Defence Headquarters' response as prove positive that the disaster was a consequence of an inexcusable and incompetent failure of intelligence.

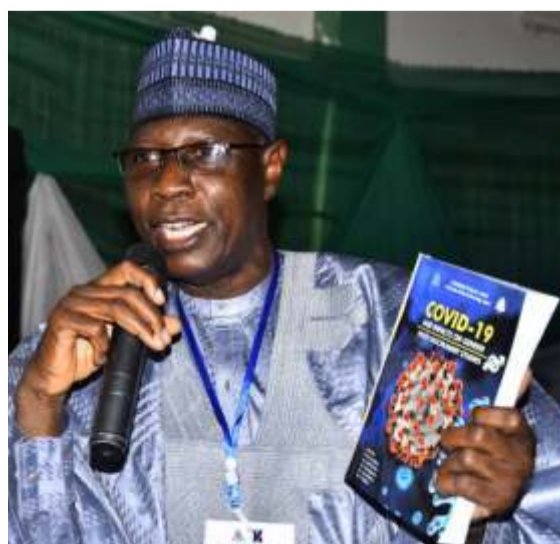
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Vice President Shettima at the bedside of a patient during a visit to a hospital in Kaduna yesterday

EFCC Chairman Never Said 7 Out Of 10 Nigerian Students Are Criminals - Commission **PAGE 3**

*\*Says he is committed to progress of Nigerian youth*



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NASS Poised To Removing Tertiary Institutions From IPPIS - Speaker

# Tudun Biri Incident Inexcusable, Failure Of Intelligence - Arewa Consultative Forum

- \*Demands redeployment of 1 Div GOC
- \*Welcomes visit of Defence Minister
- \*Rejects Defense Headquarters' response to incident
- \*VP Shettima visits, says Tinubu seriously worried by incidence
- \*Says president means well for North
- \*Tinubu assures of building houses, roads, schools, hospital in community
- \*Northern CSOs make case for victims of military drone attack



"ACF draws particular attention to four (4) specific issues in the Defence Headquarters' reaction in reference above, as follows: (i) that the military could deploy an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) without proper ground assessment was a strategic error because it resulted in deaths and injuries to mostly children who were not even as little as carrying sticks and stones; (ii) the Defence Headquarters claimed a "threat"

was "eliminated" but such threat was tragically a gathering of mostly children as obvious from video clips and photographs now trending on social media, of the before-and-after the Tudun Biri Massacre; (iii) the Defence Headquarters asserted that the community ought to have informed the military about its activities, an assertion tantamount to a classic blame-the-victim strategy and typical gaslighting of the

victims of the incident," the statement said.

It explained that in the contrary, the usual practice is for communities to be informed about impending military operations; and while it is entirely plausible that terrorists often disguise as civilians and entrench themselves in civilian population, the Tudun Biri gathering was clearly that of innocent civilian citizens, and as obvious from

photos of the before-and-after the incident," it added.

"ACF hereby reiterates its earlier stance position (refer to our Press Release of 4th December, 2023). While ACF recognizes and unequivocally supports the resolve and sacrifices of the nation's armed forces to totally exterminate banditry and terrorism in the nation. However, the Armed forces should always remember

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## EFCC Chairman Never Said 7 Out Of 10 Nigerian Students Are Criminals - Commission

*\*Says he is committed to progress of Nigerian youth*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday declared that the commission Chairman, Mr Ola Olukoyede is committed to the progress of Nigerian youth.

EFCC in a statement made available to journalists, said there was no time the Chairman said "seven out of 10" Nigerian students are criminals".

According to the commission, Mr Olukoyede's commitment to the progress of Nigerian youth underscores his

calls for collaborative interventions in offering them more productive and sustainable alternatives.

"The attention of the Economic and Financial Crimes (EFCC), has been drawn to some needless misrepresentation of the concerns of the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede to the rising incidences of internet-related crimes involving youths across the country", it said.

EFCC added, "At a recent meeting with some representatives of Civil Society Organisations, CSOs that paid him a

courtesy visit, he called for wider media enlightenment of youths as a counter-measure against the menace of internet fraud".

"He did say that reports and intelligence available to him indicated that, unless this trajectory of youth involvement in internet fraud is addressed and reversed, the future of their leadership of our great nation may be threatened and if it continues in the next 10 years, 7 out of 10 of our youths may be getting involved in cybercrimes". The statement stressed, "

At no time did he say that "seven out of 10" Nigerian students are criminals", adding, "His concerns still bother on breaking the jinx of mass indulgence of youths in cybercrimes".

It noted further, "The EFCC wishes to assure the public that Olukoyede is doubly committed to the progress of Nigerian youths and this underscores his calls for collaborative interventions in offering them more productive and sustainable alternatives".

## NASS Poised To Removing Tertiary Institutions From IPPIS - Speaker

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The National Assembly has restated its commitment to removing tertiary institutions from the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) as part of its efforts to enhance lecturers welfare and reduce brain drain.

Dr. Abbas Tajudeen, Speaker House of Representatives made this known in Zaria during the 3rd International conference of the Gender Policy Unit, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria.

Tajudeen, represented by Dr. Abubakar Fulata, House Committee Chairman on Education, said the House would pursue the interest of academia and one of those issues on contention was the issue of IPPIS.

According to him, IPPIS is a single minded computer programme that is anti-intellectual, anti-education and completely ignorant of the issues involved.

"It is our determination to ensure that universities, polytechnics and colleges of education are removed from IPPIS.

"It is also our determination to make sure that education receives a substantial portion in the national

budget at least to meet up with the United Nations requirement of 26 per cent of the National budget," he said.

"The Speaker said you cannot be a politician, soldier, or anything without education and unfortunately the system has downgraded education to a level where a teacher's survival was put at risk".

He noted that without meeting the requirement of teachers there can never be a good society as such the house would also insist on improving the remunerations of the lecturers.

He said the National Assembly had an engagement with the vice-chancellors across the country and they were made to understand that a professor's take-home after deduction was less than N450,000.

The lawmaker described such salary (N450,000) for the university professors as embarrassing to the education sector.

The Speaker was also a recipient of the Award of



Excellence in the fight against poverty, gender inequality and Insecurity at the conference.

He said fighting against poverty, gender inequality and Insecurity was not merely a moral imperative but a fundamental necessity for the progress and prosperity of the nation.

Earlier, Prof. Kabiru Bala, Vice-Chancellor, ABU, said the conference was another step towards realizing the ABU's aspiration of becoming a world-class academic and research institution that would produce high quality human capital with gender sensitivity.

Bala, represented Prof. Ahmed Doko, Deputy

## Condolence: Governor Inuwa Visits Late Gombe LG Chairman's Family



Gov Inuwa Yahaya

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, earlier today, led a government delegation to offer condolences to the grieving family of the late Caretaker Chairman of Gombe Local Government Council, Aliyu Usman Haruna.

A statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, said that Aliyu Haruna passed away on Wednesday at the age of 58 at an Egyptian Hospital, where he was undergoing treatment.

At the residence of the deceased in Dawaki quarters, Governor Inuwa was received by the father of the late Chairman, Alhaji Usman Haruna along side Alhaji Bala Magaji (Magajin Garin Gombe) and other family members.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya paid tribute to the late local council chairman, describing him as a reliable political ally, confidant, and a committed gentleman whose leadership and

managerial expertise will be sorely missed.

He expressed his deep sorrow on the immense loss felt not only by the immediate family and Gombe LGA, but by the entirety of Gombe State.

"On behalf of the government and the people of Gombe State, I pray that Almighty Allah forgives the departed soul and grants him a place in Jannatul Firdausi," the Governor conveyed during the visit.

Accompanying Governor Inuwa Yahaya were the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, the Head of Civil Service, Ahmed Kasimu Abdullahi, Commissioners, and other to government functionaries.

Special prayers were observed to honor the memory of the deceased. Governor Inuwa Yahaya had earlier conveyed his condolences through an official statement following the passing of the Gombe State ALGON Chairman, acknowledging the significant contributions and the loss felt by the state due to his demise.

## Humanitarian Crisis Rocks Benue Over High Turnover Of IDPs, SEMA Appeals For Support

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

Following the renewed attacks on some Benue communities, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), has appealed to well spirited individuals and humanitarian partners come to the aide of the state.

New Nigerian Newspapers in Makurdi, reports that following the renewed attacks in some communities, over 14 new camps have sprung up as temporary accommodation to the Internally Displaced Person's (IDPs), Executive Secretary Benue State Emergency Management Agency, BSEMA Mr James Iorpuu

who stated this in Makurdi, expressed pains over dehumanizing condition of the displaced persons and at Agagbe, Ichwa and Anyiin camps. He further disclosed that there are new arrivals at camps in Ukum, stressing that some of these IDPs who have ran as a result of fresh attacks from herders and now occupying Primary and Secondary schools that are available within communities. The BSEMA boss while explaining that the development has truncated academic calendar of such schools and activities, described hardship as unnecessary and inhuman.

He however, commended Doctors Without Borders for constructing shelters in

Ortese and Daudu, as well as drilling boreholes at Ortese, and appealed that they and any other group moved by the humanitarian crisis in Benue should come to the aide of IDPs at Ichwa, Agagbe and Anyiin.

He equally commended NEMA and other International and Local partners for their various support to the crisis, equally expressed appreciation to governor Hyacinth Alia for always providing logistics support, "the governor has directed that food and non food relief items be shared to both old the new 14 IDP camps in Ukum, some institutions such as Mama Abayol orphanage home in Makurdi, the special school for the

handicapped Vandeikya as well as the rehabilitation center."

According to him, the governor has directed that 4,200 25kg bags of rice, 2,810 bags of beans, 2,370 bags of gari, 4,159 cartons of indomie, 324 gallons of palm oil, 191 gallons of G- nut oil, 433 cartons of magi, 363 bags of sugar and 366 bags of salt be distributed across the camps.

He also announced that National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, has donated some items including rappers, mens and children wears, cooking gas and blankets, adding that 600 units of rappers, 300 mens wears, blankets and mattresses have already been distributed.

## Bandits Activities In Katsina State Curbed - Governor Dikko Radda

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State said activities of rampaging armed bandits in some volatile local government areas of the state has drastically been curbed. Governor Umaru Radda stated this in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Mohammed Kaula. Emphasizing that, this was made possible by the support the state government received from the 34 local governments chairmen in the state.

Governor Radda was speaking in his office while meeting with the Chairmen at General Muhammadu Buhari (Government) House, Katsina on Monday, December 4, 2023, Mohammed Kaula said.

Other issues discussed at the meeting between

Governor Radda and the 34 Councils Chairmen according to Kaula includes:- Security, Agriculture, Food Security, and Primary Health care.

The governor applauded the local government chairmen for their joint efforts in addressing insecurity in their respective local government areas, acknowledging that, Armed Banditry in the frontline local government areas had drastically reduced.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda while speaking on agricultural also reiterated his administration's commitment to boost Irrigation across the 34 local government areas and assured to distribute improved seedlings and support local farmers with farming equipment in their quest to provide food security in the state.



## Speaker Expresses Concerns Over Wrong Target Bombing Of Tudun Biri Community In Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Speaker, House of Representatives, Abbas Tajudeen, has expressed concerns over the killing of several persons at Tudun Biri Community in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State by a bomb said to have been inadvertently dropped by personnel of the Nigerian Army.

The incident was said to have occurred when

hundreds of residents of the area gathered for the annual Maulud celebration on Sunday night.

In a statement on Monday, the Kaduna State Government said the Nigerian Army had claimed responsibility for dropping the bomb, in what it described as 'an unfortunate and unintended attack'.

A statement by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Musa Abdullahi Krishi, the Speaker

described the incident as one too many.

Speaker Abbas expressed worried that innocent people who were going about their lawful activities got killed in such circumstances and called for a thorough investigation by the Nigerian Army to ascertain what led to such 'a costly mistake'.

According to him, "The Nigerian Army should leave no stone unturned to unravel what happened

with a view to forestalling a repeat of such an unfortunate incident."

He sent his heartfelt condolences to the people and government of Kaduna State, especially the family of those that lost their loved ones and those injured in Tudun Biri community.

He prayed Allah to grant them eternal rest and give their families the fortitude to bear the loss and quick recovery to those injured.

## AA Condoles Kaduna Govt, Families Of Victims Of Drone Incident

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The Action Alliance (AA) has said it is shocked by the military drone attack that killed over 80 people in Tudun Biri of the Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

The National Chairman of AA, Dr Adekunle Rufai Omo-Aje expressed this in a statement to commiserate with Governor Uba Sani and the people of the state.

The statement made available to the media in Kaduna yesterday, said that Dr. Adekunle Rufai Omo-Aje expressed the party's sadness over the attack, which left many innocent civilians dead as well as several others with serious injuries, disclosing that he has personally declared a one-week mourning for the victims.

He however, said that accidental bombing of the Nigerian military during an operation against bandits in a Kaduna village is a matter of serious concern, regarding the safety and well-being of civilians in conflict zones. saying steps should be put in place to avoid future occurrence.

The AA National Chairman

joined other Nigerians to call for thorough investigation into the incident, saying that the Kaduna State Government has risen to the occasion and also pledged that the victims of the strike will be compensated.

He commended Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani for his prompt response to the unfortunate incident, saying an investigation is essential to ensure justice for the affected civilians, prevent future occurrences and uphold the principles of human rights and international humanitarian law.

"I stand in profound consternation and grief over the tragic incident that unfolded at Tudun-Biri village in an Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State, during a Maulud celebration, as was reported.

"It is thus with heavy heart that I express our deepest condolences and sympathies to the families, as well as the loved ones of the deceased and we fervently pray for the swift recovery and healing of those

# Tudun Biri Incident Inexcusable, Failure Of Intelligence - Arewa Consultative Forum

that they must remain accountable for their actions. Therefore, ACF is constrained to further recommend that:

"The General Officer Commanding of One Division of the Nigerian Army, Kaduna, along with his immediate subordinate officers should be redeployed to allow for unfettered investigations. As a trite principle of justice, One Division of the Nigerian Army must not and should not be allowed to investigate itself. An independent panel of investigators is clearly indicated. Further, the results of the investigations must be made public, issues that border on national security considerations excepted.

"The Defence Headquarters should retract its needless statement. The Ministry of Defence, and the Armed Forces in particular, should take steps to ensure that such incidents are avoided or contained to the barest minimum humanly possible.

"The Federal Government must take responsibility for full compensation to all victims of Tudun Biri. The gesture should also be extended to victims from all previous such incidents.

"Since the Sunday 3rd December, 2023, incident of the bombing of the Tudun Biri community in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State, two significant events have occurred to warrant a reaction by the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF).

"ACF warmly welcomes the visit of the Minister of State (Defense) along with the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and other top Government officials to the Tudun Biri Community, on 6th December, 2023, where the delegation also attended the funeral rites of some of the 126 victims of the incident.

"The visit was very appropriate and gave the Federal Government as well as the Nigerian Army a needed human face. ACF considers the visit a welcome departure from earlier rather insipid response to the incident by officers of One Division of the Nigerian Army, Kaduna. Although ACF is not aware of specific words of apology from the Minister of State over the incident. Arguably, the visit was in itself an apology enough to the Tudun Biri community?

"The COAS had announced a donation of N10 million to the community which ACF considers as grossly inadequate, firmly believing that it is the Federal Government, not the Nigerian Army, that should take responsibility for full compensation for deaths and injuries to victims arising from the incident. Still, ACF urges the Army Chief of Staff, as a sign of good faith, to follow up with additional steps to ameliorate the pains and suffering of the community. The plaintive Tudun Biri Community must not be left alone in its recovery process.

"The statement of the Defence Headquarters of the Armed Forces, released on 5th December 2023 was totally unnecessary. Without necessarily wishing to join

issues with Defence Headquarters, but the statement, as credited to the Director of Defence Media Operations, left much to be desired in its choice of words and even outrightly contemptuous. It was especially painful viewed, as it must be, against the human costs of the tragedy," it said.

\*Northern coalition makes case for victims of military drone attack.

Meanwhile, a coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from the Northern part of Nigeria has strongly appealed to the Federal and Kaduna State governments to adequately compensate parents and relatives of recent mistake Military Drone attacked in Tudun Biri Village, in Igabi local government of Kaduna State.

The group equally called on the Federal and state Government to take full responsibility for the treatment, welfare and all other logistics necessary for the injured victims.

Addressing a World Press Conference in Kaduna yesterday, Sabiu Muhammad Baraua, Coordinator Northern Solidarity Peace Initiative Forum described the attacked was termed to be "Mistaken" following a military targeting terrorist and bandits as very unfortunate.

"Let me categorically state that over the years in this part of the world, we have witnessed series of such attacks that are tag to be 'Mistaken'. And these attack are mostly on the innocent souls in several" the coalition said.

The group enjoined governments and other critical stakeholders in managing the security architecture of Nigeria to work out modalities that will guide against a repeat of this ugly tragedy," Our security operatives should be seriously cautioned putting in mind that time will come when silent will no longer be golden".

The coordinator who commended the quick response of the Kaduna State Government, consoled the families of the deceased and pray that God Almighty forgives their shortcomings and accept their souls with Rahma.

The coalition urged the Federal Government and all concerned authorities to approach this with topmost sincerity in ensuring that Justice is done in accordance to the law of the Nation.

New Nigerian Newspapers recalls that recently, Military Drone mistaken a group of people in Tudun Biri Village, Afaka ward of Rigasa District of Igabi Local Government Area, Kaduna State, performing Maulud Celebration in line with Islamic faith were killed and some Injured.

In a related development, Nigeria's Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima yesterday, expressed sadness over the ugly incident that happened at Tudun Biri village that claimed several lives and injured many.

Earlier on Thursday morning, the Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani received Vice President,

Senator Kashim Shettima at the Airforce Base, before leading him to Tudun Biri and to also see the victims who were hospitalised at Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital in Kaduna.

After visiting Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital to see patients of the accidental drone attack at Tudun Biri, Vice President Kashim Shettima also discussed with stakeholders at Kaduna State Government House.

According to him, "I am in Kaduna on a condolence visit, to commiserate and sympathies with the people and government of Kaduna State, because the president is deeply concerned.

Vice President Kashim Shettima led a high-level government delegation to the Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital in Kaduna to express heartfelt condolences and empathy with the injured victims.

He noted that his visit to Barau Dikko, was to see some of the persons who were injured in the tragic incident.

He said, the heart of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is with the bereaved families and the federal government stands by the community and people.

Vice President said, he registered his gratitude to religious leaders and community leaders who have served on the part of moderation and maturity.

He therefore, said, "the president assured that, they will build houses to compliment what happened in Tudun Biri including roads, schools and hospital as the president meant well for the North and the entire nation.

However, he noted the state governor, Senator Uba Sani has embraced the part of moderation and dialogue.

"I extend my sincere appreciation to him for the message of peace in the state.

"The Presidency has affirmed an unwavering commitment to conduct a thorough investigation into Sunday night's 'error bombing' by the Nigerian Army in Tudun Biri, Kaduna state.

"They have vowed to hold accountable anyone found responsible for this tragic event, assuring the public that justice will prevail as per the provisions of the law," he said.

He conveyed President Bola Tinubu's deep concern over the unfortunate attack, stressing the need for robust measures to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

In a gesture of support, the government announced its "POLAKU" initiative which will extend comprehensive assistance to the victims.

Vice President said, Tudun Biri has been slated to be the pioneering community in the North West zone to undergo reconstruction under this programme, set to commence next month.

Barau Dikko Hospital is still witnessing an influx of injured victims. On Wednesday more than 15 persons were brought in including minors who are now orphaned



## OYACA Sensitizes Corps Members On Impact Of Corruption On Economy, Society

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Chairman of Oyo State Anti-Corruption Agency (OYACA), Hon. Justice Eni Esan (rtd.) on Monday charged Corps members serving in the state to imbibe the anti-corruption spirit.

Hon Justice Eni Esan (rtd) gave the charge at a sensitization campaign for the National Youths Service Corps (NYSC) serving corps at the Permanent Orientation Camp along Okeho road, Iseyin

Represented by the OYACA Executive Secretary, Barrister I. O Tijani, Hon Justice Eni

Esan (rtd) emphasized that there is the need for the NYSC members to imbibe the culture from the outset to guard against corruption and prevent all forms of corrupt practices that are prevalent in the society

She called on the corps members to avoid acts that will bring the names of their parents into disrepute when they start working in the public or private sector after their service.

"We decided to extend our enlightenment campaign to the NYSC Corps members because you will soon be posted to the nooks and crannies of Oyo State for your primary assignments and to serve

in different MDAs and other government establishments", she said.

The OYACA Chairman added, "In addition, as the future leaders of this nation, we want you to imbibe the anti-corruption spirit from the outset so as to guide against corruption and prevent all forms of corrupt practices that are prevalent in the society."

Hon Justice Eni Esan (rtd) noted that the youth corps members were parts of the reasons for the sensitization to enable them imbibe the anti-corruption spirit from the camp so as to guide against corruption and corrupt practices predominant in the working society they

will soon join.

Oyo State NYSC Coordinator, Comrade Odoaba Abel Oche while speaking appreciated the Oyo State government and the leadership of OYACA for a very impactful orientation programme against corruption, which he said has caused so much negative consequences for the nation.

Comrade Odoaba said the sensitization has achieved the success of pre-empting any corruptive acts and as certainly nipped in the bud, any thought to carry out such dastardly act in the future by the corps members.



## Kaduna Bomb Tragedy: Northern Group Exonerates Defence Minister Badaru Of Blame

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna

A group known as Northern Progressive Alliance has exonerated Minister of Defence, Muhammed Badaru Abubakar of blame over the tragic bombing that caused loss of lives of civilians over the weekend in Kaduna.

In a statement, National Coordinator of the group, Barrister Hussaini Saraki described Badaru as a competent public official with excellent track records earned over many years of serving the country. Saraki while expressing sadness over the bombing tragedy, chided those calling for the resignation of the Defence Minister as playing to the gallery to appeal to an orchestrated agenda of some

unpatriotic elements with selfish agenda.

"Though what has happened could be described as a monumental tragedy and a huge loss to our dear country at this time that the new administration is fervently trying to settle down and address issues of governance.

"We must however, point out the seeming self-serving agenda of some unscrupulous individual who are out to smear the good record of our Defence Minister who has been unsettled by the loss of lives of innocent Nigerians in that ill-fated drone attack by the army.

"It is instructive to set the records straight and address issues as they are so that undeserving blames cannot be apportioned and heaped on

our hard-working defence minister.

"The minister has been very active since he assumed duties in quest to address the challenges of insecurity and insurgency across Nigeria, particularly in northern region of the country.

"He has been working in synergy with important stakeholders to ensuring that the challenges of banditry that has devastated our people is a thing of the past.

"We therefore, see no reason in the call seeking the resignation of the minister due to an incident of no fault of his.

"We are by this statement, calling on Mr. President to disregard the call because purveyors of this unpopular call are not speaking the minds of the northern people," Saraki affirmed.

## Govt Charged To Diversify Country's Economy

### \*Told to make tax payments work

By; PETER NOSAKHARE, Kaduna

The country's lack of economic growth and problems can be traced to the dependence on crude oil exports only, love for foreign goods and non-diversification of the economy by the federal government and Nigerians.

Being an import dependent country government must do the buying in dollars and this huts the Naira. It's expected of government to develop other sectors of the economy.

This assertion was made by Prof. Uche Uwaleke a lecturer at the Nasarawa State University at the 2023 Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) Week Technical Session held at Command Guest House, Kaduna on Tuesday.

The expert on capital market, said that government's continuous reliance on crude oil money at the expense of other sectors like agriculture, mining and marine to run the country will continue to affect the naira and breed inflation.

According to him, "the country's inflation rate is fast increasing on alarming progression and this means rising prices of goods and services."

"The reason the Structural Adjustment Programme, SAP, of Gen. Ibrahim Babangida didn't work 1986, was because the country

solely living on proceeds from crude oil and that narrative has to change very soon."

In his paper "Tax to GDP Ratio" delivered at the event, Prof. Godwin Oyedokun, said as much as important as tax payment is to the Gross Domestic Product of the country only a few Nigerians actually pay taxes.

He said that in the country only the formal sector (public/civil servants) remit their taxes since the deduction is done at source.

"In the country today most private owned businesses either don't pay taxes or when they do they don't pay accurately."

He added that if taxes are paid accurately most of the basic infrastructures like good roads, schools and well equipped health centers will and can be provided by government.

Prof. Oyedokun charged the appropriate agencies responsible for tax collection to double their efforts by ensuring strict compliance by Nigerians to tax payments.

"The agencies that are responsible for tax collection should carry out enlightenment campaigns to enable the know that government also needs taxes to boost its revenue reserve."

"Though not much in percentage payment taxes are compulsory and government needs it to be able do some projects for its people.

# Uphold Honesty, Integrity, Lagos Speaker Charges Accountants

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, has charged members of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN) to always uphold the virtues of honesty, integrity and trust as components of their practice.

Dr. Obasa said the three virtues, if practised with a deep sense of patriotism, would contribute to making Nigeria greater and having a more positive global image.

The Speaker gave the advice when he received the executive members of ANAN led by its president, Dr. James Ekerare Neminebor, at the State Assembly complex.

"I congratulate you for the level you have taken your association to make your

members capable of favourably competing with their counterparts across the world. Training people alone is a major task. It is an exercise we embark on regularly at the Lagos State House of Assembly.

"I want to urge you to continue to sustain the practice of learning, because learning does not have an end.

"Without people of your profession, there is hardly an organisation or institution including this House of Assembly that can stand in Nigeria. This is because records of transactions must be kept.

"However, we must all be ready to address the issues of honesty, integrity and trust. I am very sure that with your association, this can be achieved.

"Where your people carry out their duties with honesty, integrity and

trust, they would assist Nigeria tackle what confronts us in this nation. We have been labelled to the extent that when you mention Nigeria, what people think of is corruption.

"With your association, we can change the tide and send positive signals to the rest of the world. You know nothing can happen in any organisation without being noticed by an accountant," Obasa said.

In a statement by his Chief Press Secretary Eromosele Ebhomele, the Speaker expressed joy that the association chose Lagos for the last leg of its training programme for its members saying the State remains open and receptive.

Earlier, Dr. Neminebor, who said they were at the House to inform the Speaker of their training

programme holding in Lagos, commended the Assembly for helping to advance the growth and progress of the State through its legislative activities.

"I came to Lagos first in 1985. I have also visited in the recent past. But, I can see the wonderful things happening, because, you, a good man, decided to offer your service. Some of us who feared to come to Lagos in those days are now struggling to come.

"A colleague once said if a neck sits fine for a good head to stand on, the head will always succeed. The governor is working very hard because the House of Assembly provides him the ambience to succeed, thank you sir," he said while commending the House for the safety currently enjoyed by visitors and residents of the state."

We've uncover plans to disparage Gov Yusuf , Senator Kwankwaso NNPP CWC raises alarm Members

*Ask Public to be wary of Expelled*

BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The National Working Committee, (NWC) of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) on Monday raised alarm of plans to disparage some leaders of the party including the Kano State Governor, Abba Yusuf and the party's Presidential Candidate in the last election, Senator Rabi Musa Kwakwaso. NNPP Working committee raised the alarm in a statement issued and signed by Ladipo Johnson (Esq) on behalf of the NNPP National Working Committee under the leadership of Ag. National Chairman Hon. Abba Kawu,

In the statement, the NNPP CWC alleged that some expelled members of the party have been hired to disparage some leaders of the party and that the general public against should disregard the action and utterances of such expelled members.

According to the statement, the expelled members are to hold a press briefing in Abuja "to falsely state as a form of propaganda, that H.E. Abba Kabir Yusuf was not a member of the NNPP as at the time of the election and that His Excellency, Senator Rabi Kwankwaso is dismissed from the

party".

Emphasizing in the statement that all these allegations are totally false and inaccurate, the NNPP CWC stressed, " We state that the Kano State Governor was a bonafide member of the NNPP at all material times and that we have confidence in the Supreme Court of Nigeria that justice will be done".

"These hired/paid hands who seem to be lackeys in the hands of the APC seem to have "sold their souls" and will do anything for pecuniary gains at the expense of the Nigerian electorate", it said.

The CWC added, " We remind the general populace that Chief Boniface Aniebonam, one of the founders of the NNPP, recently spoke out in favour of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf and asked that his election be upheld".

"Therefore it is a mystery that some of his loyalists would stoop so low as to become hired hands to misinform Nigerians. In conclusion we urge that Nigerians ignore the false statements by these enemies of the Nigerian electorate".

Conclusion we urge that Nigerians ignore the false statements by these enemies of the Nigerian electorate".



From left Osun State Commissioner for Justice, Bade Oluwole; Osun State Commissioner for Information, Barr Kolapo Alimi, Osun State Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi and Osun State Chairman Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (Jusun), Kunle Eludare during an appreciation visit to the state government by the Osun State JUSUN for quick intervention between the union and the state Chief Judge @ Exco Lounge, Governor,s Office, Abere Osogbo. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

# November: NDLEA Confiscates 478kg Illicit Substances In Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

About 478kg of illicit substances have been confiscated by the operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)' Kaduna Command in November.

A statement issued by

Shuaibu Yusuf-Omale, the command's spokesperson said, "The command has arrested 90 suspects for drug trafficking, drug dealing and usage, during the period under review."

The substances seized according to the statement include cocaine, heroin, cannabis, tramadol, methamphetamine and

other psychotropic substances.

The agency' he said also carried out a sensitisation programme in a bid to reduce the menace of drug trafficking and usage in the state.

In its efforts to combat the drug scourge in Kaduna State through the drug demand reduction

activities, the statement added that the command carried out numerous sensitisation programmes across the state.

He explained that it was with the aim of enlightening the citizenry on the ills associated with drug use and illicit trafficking;



## Off Circle Kogi Guber: UFD Alleges SDP Ajaka Yet To File Petition

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

A civil society organization named "United Front for Democracy" (UFD) has alleged that the candidate of Social Democratic Party (SDP), Muri Ajaka has not filed any petition against All Progressives Congress (APC) and its candidate, Ahmed Usman Mr Ododo after he has been declared winner of the election. The "non partisan organization" expressed fear that the Social Democratic Party's candidate might smuggle in the petition through the back door against the 21 days window allowed by the electoral laws as amended.

Addressing a press conference in Lokoja on Monday, the convener of UFD, Barrister Yetunde Olubunmi Suaubu said that the organization is speaking out due to its commitment of protecting democratic values and to ensure that the judiciary is not slaughtered on the slab of political desperation and corruption.

"Our organisation has credible intelligence that the candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) is yet to file his petition against the winner of the election, Alh. Ahmed Usman Ododo, 22 days after the declaration of results" he lawyer alleged.

According to her, "the 21 days window elapsed at the midnight of December 3, 2023", stressing that Section 134 of the Electoral Act is very clear as to when an electoral petition can be filed with all allegations and evidence relating to the petition front-loaded.

She pointed out that by virtue of Section 134 of the Electoral Act, the

SDP and its Candidate have failed to file their petition within the period allowed by Law and should therefore be made not to waste the time of the Honourable Panel.

"Inasmuch as we would want to leave the determination of the validity of a petition filed out of time to the Honourable Panel to determine, we owe the populace a social and legal responsibility to expose a clandestine move by the SDP and its candidate to file their petition through the backdoor and backdate same to circumvent the provisions of the Electoral Act.

Depending on very credible source, the legal luminary asserted that the SDP and its candidate are still preparing their petition with the intention of filing same within the week and have it backdated so as to make it look like it was filed within the legally stipulated duration saying "this must not be allowed to happen in the spirit of justice, equity and fairness".

She said, "the wisdom of the Electoral Act is that anyone with credible evidence should be able to put such forward within the legally stipulated period. We are however disappointed that the SDP is about to lose the opportunity to test the law with a competent petition".

"The People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the African Democratic Congress (ADC)" she said, "opted to avoid the embarrassment of searching in futility for evidence by deciding not to challenge the election at the tribunal" a condition that the group prescribed for SDP and its candidate.

# Gov Makinde Presents N434.2bn Budget For 2024

\*Says no plans to increase tax, education gets highest share

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Governor, Engineer Seyi Makinde on Tuesday, presented a budget proposal of N434, 221, 765, 938.79 to the state House of Assembly in Ibadan for the 2024 fiscal year.

The governor while presenting the budget christened, "Budget of Economic Recovery.", declared that the figure is made up of a capital expenditure of N222,337,

320, 199. 85 and a recurrent expenditure of N211,884,445,728.95.

Governor Makinde said in the 2024 budget proposal, the capital expenditure is 2.4 per cent higher than the recurrent expenditure and that the budget is estimating an increased Internally Generated Revenue of N72 billion with an average of N6 billion monthly.

According to the governor, in the 2024 budget proposal, Education will get the highest share of the budget N90, 664, 994, 252

(20.88 percent)..

He stressed that education is to be followed by infrastructure with N74, 316, 325, 706 (17.11 percent); health has N40, 998, 197, 758.30 (9.44 percent) while Agriculture had N15, 848, 707, 310.80 (3.65 percent)

The governor maintained further that Oyo State Government will continue to use technology to block loopholes in the state as done in previous years, and that the state government has no plan of increasing tax.

He however, assured that the budget will cover projects, policies and actions which when implemented will cushion the effect of the hardship the people are facing as a result of fuel subsidy removal.

The 2024 budget proposal presentation was witnessed by top government functionaries, traditional rulers, political office holders, notable politicians from across the state as well as other supporters of the Gov Seyi Makinde administration



Gov Seyi Makinde presenting Oyo state 2024 budget to the House of Assembly on Tuesday.



# Kaduna To implement Third SAP In 5 Commitment Areas - CALPED, OGP

By: EMMANUELAGBO, Kaduna

**K**aduna State Government since 2018 has implemented two state action plans and is currently working towards validating another, following its commitment to Open Government Partnership, (OGP).

A member of Coalition for Association for Leadership Peace and Empowerment and Development (CALPED) and Kaduna Local Government Accountability Mechanism, Yusuf Goje made the disclosure in Kaduna yesterday, during a meeting held to validate documents that will enhance government and civil society partnership.

According to Goje, Kaduna State since 2018, has been part of the OGP, a global commitment of good government and civil society to carryout reforms that will strengthen transparency, accountability and responsiveness and citizen's engagement in the governance process.

He added that the programme is expected to help them reflect on critical areas that would birth reforms, so that together they can work towards delivery.

"The programme is to validate the documents so that both government and civil society can agreed that this document reflects the reforms that together they will work towards delivery, so this is part of the cooperation process that it's a critical central principle sector of the OGP mechanism.

"Kaduna State so far, has implemented two state action plans and we are currently in the process of validating the third action plan which has five commitment areas that the government and civil society has made in intense of open budget contracting, citizens engagement, service delivery in health and education and also strengthening social protection system." He said.

In her remarks, Hadiza Umar, from OGP, State's Action Plan, 2 (SAP) said the activities of civil societies in Kaduna State have been able to put the state not only on national level but on global map.

Hadiza said, "for Kaduna, we are targeting five commitment areas which is the budget and contracting citizens engagement, social protection health and education and so far we have done our best because during our time we were able to achieve relevant milestones and also we were able to put Kaduna on the map.

"More so, we were able to open more doors for civil societies to engage government, especially looking at the fact that we now have a public hearing that citizens can interact and the institutionalization of community development charter budget and processes and we also have the legislative being interested in what we are doing.

"The Open Government Partnership has gone beyond the former government and the current administration has also embrace the OGP and Kaduna has not only just being on the national map but also on global map for the successes that we have achieved."



# Kaduna Deputy Governor Chairs JAAC Session, Mamman Lagos, Others Attend

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Balarabe on Wednesday, chaired Plenary Session of Joint Account Allocation Committee (JAAC) for the month of November as part of Governor Uba Sani's principle of transparency and accountability in disbursement of public resources for provision of infrastructure needed for growth and development of the people.

Joined in the meeting held in the State's

Ministry for Local Government Affairs, was the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon Sadiq Mamman Lagos, Permanent Secretary Mahmud Lawal, all Chairmen of 23 councils, heads of agencies and others.

The technical session for joint allocation of resources is critical in entrenching transparency, accountability and above all, in fulfillment of one of the principles of Open Governance to which Kaduna State is a signatory to.

The Deputy Governor harped on the need

for even, effective and fair distribution of the shared funds to impact positively on lives of the masses, particularly those in the rural settlements.

She reiterated the resolve of Governor Uba Sani to ensure independence of local government as an important arm and by virtue of being the closest to the people to be utilized to realize the administration's rural areas development plan.

In his submission, Hon Sadiq Mamman Lagos called on bosses of Local Governments to serve as agents of reaching out to the people through

genuine empowerment and transparent distribution of resources for the purpose they were meant for.

He stressed the imperative of complementing the efforts of the state government by local government councils to achieve and sustain developmental initiatives of the Uba Sani led administration.

Mamman Lagos assured the people of the state of upholding tenets of democracy for transparent and accountable distribution of resources by local governments.





## Decongestion Exercise: 68 Inmates Regain Freedom From Zaria Correctional Facilities

**By; SANI ALIYU, Zaria**  
**S**ixty eight inmates have regained freedom from Zaria Correctional Facilities under the decongestion exercise which was flagged off by the Minister for Interior, Dr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo. The minister was represented by the Assistant Legal Adviser to

the Minister, Barrister John Otuko, who said their release is based on the Federal Government's efforts to decongest correctional facilities across the nation. Otuko urged those that are lucky to get themselves out that they should be of good conduct and behavior as well as use the opportunities they got by

learning something that can sustain their life. He warned them not to repeat the crime they committed, which led them to be in the correctional facility. Earlier in his address, the Comptroller, Kaduna State Command Dr. Ado Saleh told the inmates that their freedom is as a result of President Bola Tinubu's

gesture. He added that after paying off their fines and compensation as well as gave each the sum of N10.000 for transport to go home. Some Inmates who spoke to journalists expressed appreciation to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for granting them freedom and in addition with N10.000 for transport.



## Adoption, Resilience Strategies, Mitigation Practices Will Address Climate Change Challenges - ABU VC

**By; SANI ALIYU, Zaria**

**T**he Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, Professor Kabiru Bala has called for encouraging sustainable intensification practice, adoption and resilience strategies, as well as mitigation practices, insisting they will help address the challenges posed by climate change and contribute to food security in the long run. He stated this at the 2023 National Agricultural Extension Review and Planning Meeting at NAERLS Conference Hall.

Represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Professor Raymond Bako, he said the situation has made it increasingly challenging for many Nigerians to access the sustenance they require for survival, especially in regions marred by conflict and displacement. According to him, the repercussion of food security are multifaceted, ranging from stunting and malnourishment to an increased susceptibility to illnesses.

"The foundation of our nation's peace and prosperity are under threat, as we are

witnessing significant decline in food production coupled with a surge in food prices". He said addressing the root causes of food insecurity is equally critical, focussing on resolving conflicts, adapting to climate change impacts and alleviating poverty. Prof. Kabiru Bala said Ahmadu Bello University is committed to playing pivotal role in tackling the food security crisis.

In his welcome address, the Director National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS) Professor Emmanuel Ikani called on the government to quickly address the food crisis that it is threatening the peaceful co-existence of Nigeria.

He said, presently Nigeria's population is estimated to 220 million people that need food to eat.

Prof. Ikani said it is time to abandon the old tradition of hoe and cutlass farming and adopt the farming technology with modern farming facilities.

"Also farmers should start using improved varieties of seeds from recognized seeds companies," he advised.

## Rescue Movement For New Nigeria Condemns Accidental Bombing Of Kaduna Village By Nigerian Army

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

The Rescue Movement For New Nigeria aka Rescue The Vulnerable Initiative a duly registered NGO in Nigeria, has condemned in strong terms, the accidental bombing of Tudun Biri in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State by the Nigerian Army on Sunday, leading to the death of innocent law abiding villagers.

This was disclosed by the National Director of Media and Publicity, Rev Emmanuel Olorunmagba, in a statement made available to newsmen in Kaduna State, after leading some of the members of the group on a sympathy visit to the affected community.

Describing the situation as "quite unfortunate", Rev. Olorunmagba called on the authority concerned, "as a matter of urgency, ensure thorough investigation into the direct and remote causes of the bombing "in error" and ensure adequate punitive measures on personnel that is culpable either through negligence or whatsoever.

"This is neither the first nor the second time that the Armed Forces of the country will carry out airstrike on a group of innocent Nigerians resulting in mass murder only to blame such "on error. The pertinent question to put to the government as well as the Service Chiefs is that are

our uniformed men not trained effectively before they given dangerous weapons that they are now turning the weapons against law abiding innocent citizens going about their normal legal business?"

"This time it is innocent villagers celebrating Maulud, an Islamic event that were brutally murdered yet we have not heard of such massive onslaught against the bandits terrorising Nigerians.

Lamenting that with the rate things are happening in Nigeria, "it's gradually getting to the point where an average Nigerian is no longer safe even when you see military aircraft flying over your village.

"We the entire members of Rescue Movement For New Nigeria aka Rescue The Vulnerable Initiative stand with you the good people of Tudun Biri of Igabi LGA at this trying time and we bring our condolence message from the leadership and the entire members of the group and precisely the National Leader in person of Comrade Faduri Oluwadare Joseph aka Fadojoe, a former presidential aspirant under Labour Party, who would have liked to be present in person to commiserate with you, great people of Tundu Biri and the chief if not that he is in far away United States of America (USA). But we hereby convey his condolence message though I absentia, he concluded.



Rev Emmanuel Olorunmagba

## Kogi: Police Speaks On Alleged Attack On Tribunal Secretary, Cautions Public On Statements That May 'Prejudice Investigations'

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The Kogi State Police Command has urged the general public to refrain from statements that, "may prejudice ongoing investigation into" the alleged attack on the Tribunal Secretary, David Mike.

The spokesperson for the Command, SP Williams Ovyeye Aya, made this known in a statement on Wednesday in Lokoja, the state capital.

The statement reads, "On Monday 04/12/2023 about 1820hrs, one Mr David Umar Mike 'm', Secretary to Kogi State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal, along with Labode Apreala (f) Confidential Secretary and Hassimu Adamu, Assistant Secretary, came to State Criminal Investigation Department, Kogi State Police Headquarters and reported that on the said date, the three of them left their Hotel rooms in Lokoja



about 1300hrs heading to their Office at the High Court Complex driving in his (David's) Peugeot 406 car."

"That just before the CBN at about 1320hrs, one SUV vehicle which had earlier overtaken him blocked his car with two other SUVs following behind."

"All of them surrounded and blocked him as he attempted to reverse. That he saw about seven hooded men all heavily armed and dressed in black attire who shot severally into the air and dragged him and his two other colleagues out of their car,

ransacked the car and made away with all the documents including Petitions filed by four (4) Parties namely Action Alliance (AA), Action People's Party (APP), Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) and Social Democratic Party (SDP)/two (2) Record Books/a Bag containing his personal items."

"He claimed to have also reported to the DSS Office. Hence a thorough and diligent investigation into the incident has been ordered by the Commissioner of Police, Kogi State Command."

"The attention of Kogi State Police Command has been drawn to series of distorted information on the incident hence the need to set the records straight." "The general public is advised to avoid statements that may prejudice ongoing investigation into the matter."

"The Command also appeals to anyone with useful information on the alleged incident to provide same to the Command. The public will be updated as investigation progresses."

## Demolition: Failure Of Defence Respondents To File Processes Stalls Kaduna Club Suit

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Failure of the defence respondents in a suit filed by four members of the Kaduna Club located along Muhammadu Buhari Way over the demolition and reallocation of the land belonging to the club by the state government, has stalled the continuation of the trial at the Kaduna State High Court 1.

The suit which was slated for proof was again adjourned to January 22, 2023 to allow the defence respondents file their processes.

Counsel to the plaintiffs, Barrister Micheal Ogbonaya asked the court for another date since there were no statements tendered by the defence

respondents.

The presiding judge, Justice Yakubu Badamasi obliged his request and adjourned the matter to January 22, 2023.

The members include,

Mahmoud Sule, Jibril Akaba, Mustapha A. Dandago and Abdulgafar Bello are seeking for an order restraining the defendants from further processing, maintaining

and touching of the property.

They claim that 1st defendant did not comply with the extant Land Use Act in allocating the club land as there was no notice of revocation of title issued and no compensation paid to the club.

The defendants in the suit are the governor of Kaduna State, the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Kaduna State Geographic Information (KADGIS), Kaduna State Urban Planning and Development Authority (KASUPDA), Incorporated Trustees of Kaduna Club, Thames & Hudson Architects



# Governor Bago Signs Pact With UAE Based Company To Address Climate Change

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Niger State Governor, Mohammed Umaru Bago has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Blue Carbon, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) based company to develop sustainable climate change solutions.

Governor Bago met with Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al-Maktoum, one of the members of Dubai's ruling royal family who signed on behalf of the Company while Governor Bago signed on behalf of Niger State Government.

The agreement will see one billion economic trees across one million hectares in Niger State geared towards improving the forestry within the region.

Among other things that Niger State tend to benefit from the agreement include creating new job opportunities and promoting economic development in Niger State while the initiative also aligns with Sustainable Development Goals as well as ensuring long-term environmental health and economic prosperity.

The project is also expected to involve local communities and in the long run, promote awareness about environmental conservation.



# A'Ibom Govt Confirms Total Integration Of Refugees

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

**A**head of the 2023 Geneva Conference on Global Compact on Refugees, the Akwa Ibom State Government has confirmed total integration of Refugees in all its Socio-economic activities and programmes.

To this end, refugees are granted free access to facilities and social amenities provided by government to indigenes in such areas like education, agriculture, healthcare, commerce, water supply and entrepreneurial development, among others.

The State Deputy Governor, Senator Akon Eyakenyi made this known Wednesday in Uyo, while declaring open a workshop on Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) organised by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

Senator Eyakenyi said programmes and policies of the state government were aligned to favour both indigenes and residents of the state, including refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs.

"Both the government and



Conference of Refugees in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State

people of Akwa Ibom State have been very accommodating and hospitable to refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, because it is in our nature to love and accommodate strangers." The Deputy Governor commended the United Nations

High Commission for Refugees and its partners for working assiduously to make the world a better place, stressing that, the administration of Governor Umo Eno will continue to strengthen its relationship with UNHCR and other relevant agencies to

improve the welfare of refugees in the state.

Earlier, the Associate Protection Officer, UNHCR Ogoja, Nigeria, Mr. Jonathan Darko, said the workshop was aimed at drawing a wide range of critical stakeholders for important

deliberations on the implementation of the objectives of the GCR in Akwa Ibom State.

Speaking, the Commissioner for Information, Comrade Ini Ememobong, acknowledged the necessity of the workshop geared towards solving the problems of human and opined that the quality of the discussions will be of great benefit to the advancement of the cause of Refugees in the State.

Comrade Ememobong appreciated the UNHCR for the good work done in the state and assured that the Ministry of information was ready to partner with the organization to create Public awareness to ensure that Refugees become a thing of the past.

State Commandant of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Mrs Obot Bassey, Comptroller of Immigration, CIS Francisca Dakat and the Clan Head of Uquo Clan in Esit Eket local government area, HRH, Chief Etteudo Ikot among others gave goodwill messages at the event.

# FG Ready To Support e-Village Project - Minister

*\*Says it's in line with Tinubu govt vision for tech-driven future*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Chief Uche Nnaji has hinted that his ministry is ready to render necessary support to the Entrepreneurship Village (E-Village)

Chief Nnaji who dropped this hint in Abuja during a meeting with the stakeholders of the E-Village acknowledged the pivotal role such an initiative like E-Village will play in driving innovation, job creation and economic growth, noted that the initiative aligns with the ministry's vision for a tech-driven future.

According to the minister, such an initiative like the Entrepreneurship Village aligned with the vision of the present administration in the country for a tech - future driven

"The Entrepreneurship Village aligns with our vision for a tech-driven future, and I am excited to endorse and support this endeavor wholeheartedly," he said

Chief Nnaji maintained that the initiative represents a crucial step towards positioning Nigeria as a hub for technological innovation and added that the ministry will not hesitate to make collaborative efforts and policy

initiatives aimed at propelling the Entrepreneurship Village to greater heights.

Speaking on behalf of other stakeholders, the President of the Africa's Young Entrepreneurs (A.Y.E.), Dr. Summy Smart Francis said "e-village is a social impact and legacy project that addresses the need that the African economy currently faces in the education, entrepreneurship and infrastructural sector."

Dr. Francis noted that the entrepreneurial eco-system provided by e-village ensures that budding entrepreneurs are identified, trained, supported and produced to the economy to create jobs and to solve the many challenges currently experienced and yet to be experienced in the continent.



The E-Village will house institutions such as New York institute of Finance, London Academy Business School (LABS), Metropolitan School of Business and Management, UK;

and the School of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (SORAI). Also, it will house the Octagon Business Hub, Megamindz Creative Academy, Research Cube amongst other institutions that would enhance human capacity development. On board of this legacy are reputable people from diverse backgrounds namely Steven Freidmutter, CEO SF Ventures (Advisory Board Chairman); Dan Walkovitz, CEO Mainstay Solutions; Hon. Shina Peller, The Ayedero of Yorubaland, Founder Aquila Group & Quilox Nightlife; Dr Tony Bello, Chairman and Co-founder of Shine Bridge Global. Others are Professor Thorsten Klieve (Professor for Innovation Management and Business Development at Münster, University of Applied Sciences, Germany); Professor Frank Azeke, (Director Major Gifts and Asst. Professor, Business & Entrepreneurship, American

University of Nigeria); Tammy Darmel Moore (Founder of Footprints in Africa) and Dr Franklin D. Redd Jr. (Founder/Principal, Embassy Capital Group, LLC).

Others include Sophia Shepodd, CEO of Global Islamic Investment Impact Forum (Advisory Board Vice Chairperson); Dr. Larry Jones-Esan (E-Village Director of Academics); Sahil Affriya, Principal Savant Capital Cape Town, South Africa; Modupe Marc-Dawodu (Managing Consultant, MarcForte Business Consulting; Mrs Raliat Oyetunde (CEO/Lead Consultant at Prinsult Global Consulting Limited) and others.

In addition, the project is expected to bring together aspiring entrepreneurs, start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), international institutions and multinational corporations into the same space, thereby creating an "explosive economic boom". Interestingly, according to Dr. Francis, the E-Village is also targeted at entrepreneurship development with a focus on 40 per cent women, 15 per cent of persons living with disabilities, and 45 per cent youth, in order to reduce inequality and create a sustainable economy.

# People With Disabilities Seek Peace In Kano

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A group of people living with disabilities from Kano State has called on the Bola Tinubu-led federal government to do whatever it could to ensure that Kano State is not destabilized.

This was made known in a statement signed by its convener, Sagir Ibrahim, made available yesterday.

Together with other well-wishers, the people with disabilities yesterday,

gathered at Karonmajigi community in Abuja to draw global attention to the need for restoration of peace in the state.

They were referring to the governorship election in the state which outcome is now being challenged in the Supreme Court after strange judgements were delivered at the lower courts.

They called on the president, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, to save democracy and also save Kano State from a conflagration.

"We voted for Abba Kabir Yusuf, not

Gawuna," they stated, adding that, in spite of their physical challenges, they still travelled back home to vote for Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf.

They said Governor Yusuf was so caring and passionate about Kano. During the distribution of items donated as palliatives, he specially set aside items for people living with disabilities. Less than seven months in office, he has made tremendous improvements and progress in governance and for the state in general.

They requested the Supreme Court to ensure that justice is dispensed without fear or favour in order to sustain the people's confidence in the judiciary.

They highlighted the impact Abba Yusuf's administration has made in their lives since his assumption of office. With a strong voice, they called on President Bola Tinubu not to disappoint the people of Kano. One of them said, "We still believe in the judiciary; we are optimistic they will do justice to the case."



# Condolence: Governor Inuwa Visits Late Gombe LG Chairman's Family

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, earlier today, led a government delegation to offer condolences to the grieving family of the late Caretaker Chairman of Gombe Local Government Council, Aliyu Usman Haruna.

A statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, said that Aliyu Haruna passed away on Wednesday at the age of 58 at an Egyptian Hospital, where

he was undergoing treatment.

At the residence of the deceased in Dawaki quarters, Governor Inuwa was received by the father of the late Chairman, Alhaji Usman Haruna along side Alhaji Bala Magaji ( Magajin Garin Gombe) and other family members.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya paid tribute to the late local council chairman, describing him as a reliable political ally, confidant, and a committed gentleman whose leadership and managerial expertise will be sorely missed.

He expressed his deep sorrow on the immense loss felt not only by the immediate family and Gombe LGA, but by the entirety of Gombe State.

"On behalf of the government and the people of Gombe State, I pray that Almighty Allah forgives the departed soul and grants him a place in Jannatul Firdausi," the Governor conveyed during the visit.

Accompanying Governor Inuwa Yahaya were the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim

Abubakar Njodi, the Head of Civil Service, Ahmed Kasimu Abdullahi, Commissioners, and other to government functionaries.

Special prayers were observed to honor the memory of the deceased.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya had earlier conveyed his condolences through an official statement following the passing of the Gombe State ALGON Chairman, acknowledging the significant contributions and the loss felt by the state due to his demise.





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

### TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

- All adverts are expected to be in cash or bank draft in favour of New Nigerian Newspaper's Limited.
- Series discount is subject to the stipulated number of insertions, and it is payable only at the end of a campaign (to be deducted from balance pay).
- COPY DATE:** for all the Title Heads is three working days for the North and four working days for the South.
- Cancellation of previously booked advert will be accepted in writing within four working days notice, less than 24 hours to the date of publication will attract 25% surcharge.
- Advertisers/Agencies are to provide their Camera ready artwork in electronic copies, in PDF, or JPEG format.
- Advertisers will be surcharged 20% of the applicable rate where artworks are not provided.
- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
- Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing at least 24 hours to desired alteration date.
- Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
- The management of New Nigerian Newspapers Limited reserves the right to reject an advert or any publication in any of its titles where such materials are considered distasteful for public exposure or libelous.

### TECHNICAL DATA

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

### POLITICAL RATE

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

### LOOSE INSERTS

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

### CLASSIFIEDS

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

### Special Position

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

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

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

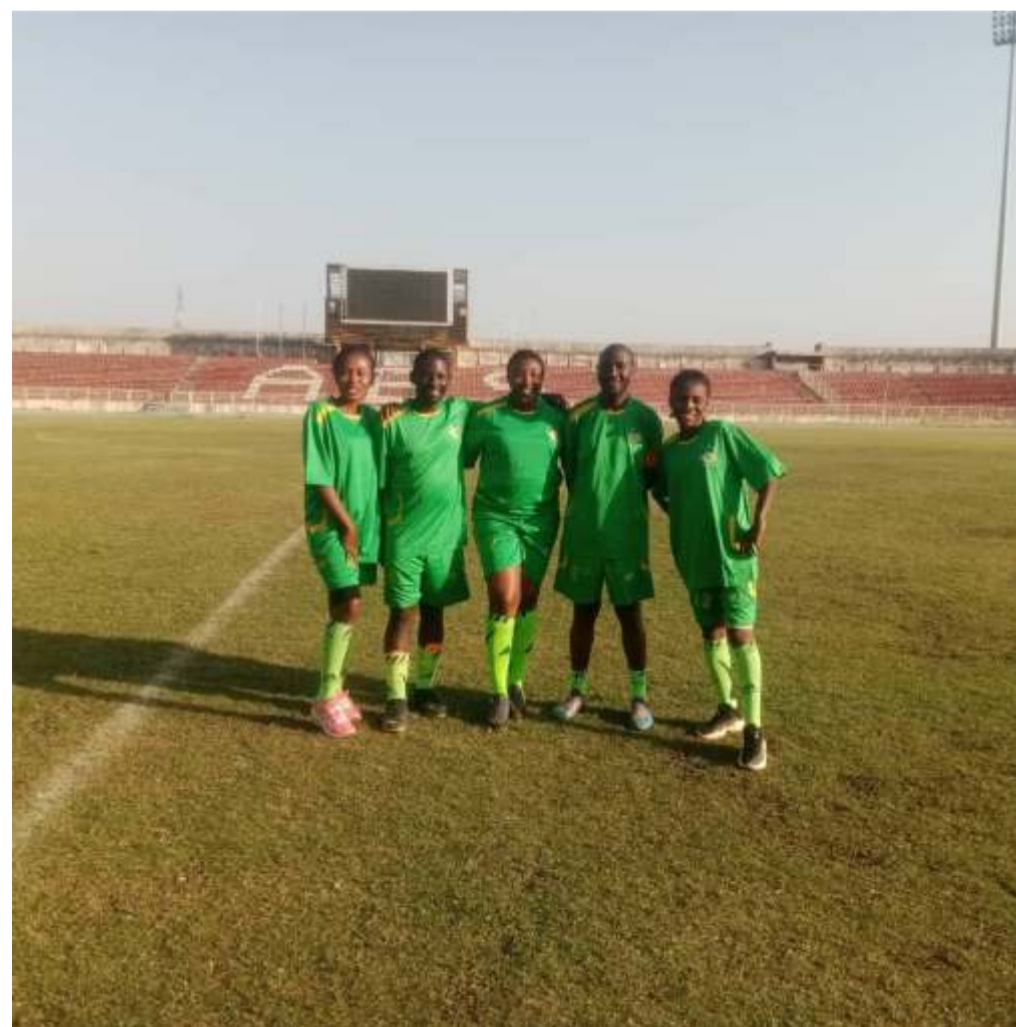
# Tudun Biri Bombing: SWAN/Kaduna Sports Ministry Novelty Match Postponed

The much anticipated novelty football match between the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) and the Kaduna State Ministry of Sports Development has been postponed. This was contained in a statement signed by the Secretary Kaduna SWAN, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, made available on December 7, 2023. Announcement of the postponement was

conveyed at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Kaduna after the players of both teams were kitted and ready for the kick off. Addressing the players and spectators at the stadium, Kaduna State Commissioner of Sports Development, Professor Ben Gugong explained that the decision was taken in honour of those who lost their lives in the tragic mistaken bomb incident at Tudun Biri Community, Igabi Local

Government Area of the state, resulting to loss of lives and injuries. He used the opportunity to commiserate the governor, Senator Uba Sani and the families of deceased and injured. Also speaking, SWAN President, Isaiah Benjamin explained that the decision to postpone the match was the best. He said the victims of the tragic incident deserve to be honoured by all.

In his remarks, SWAN Kaduna Chairman, Shehu Abdullahi commended all for the turn out. He said that a new date will be announced for the match, in collaboration with the sports ministry. One minute silence was held in respect of the victims who died from the incident.





President Tinubu

## COP-28: APC-IGG Canvasses Wider Representation

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Prior to the reactions about the sponsorship of Nigeria's delegation to attend the climate summit known as COP 28, the APC Initiative For Good Governance (APC-IGG) has canvassed support to wider representation for better climate change knowledge spread.

A statement issued to newsmen by the initiative's National President, Ambassador Musa Mohammed Tsoken, said that the number of participants did not exceed the national representation, especially nowadays when the globe is advancing in climate change and other related programmes.

"APC Initiative For Good Governance

supports the wider representation in order to ensure that the vital information tends to be widely circulated for the knowledge of the citizens and other stakeholders especially at present when the issue of climate change is becoming a global warming, we therefore, commend the federal government under president Tinubu for considering the issue of climate change in Nigeria"

The statement called on all well meaning citizens to understand that the total delegates sponsored by the Nigerian government is 422, while other were sponsored by different means of opportunities all in order to bring success to Nigerians on the issue of climate change.

## Host City Wins YSFON/Ilaji U-16 Football Tournament

By; AYO OJEDOKUN Lagos

Team representing host city, Ilaji on Saturday, emerged winners of the maiden YSFON/Ilaji Hotels and Sports Resorts U-16 boys championship.

In an entertaining final decided at Ilaji Stadium, the team recorded a 3-1 victory over Ekiti State to be crowned champions of the weeklong competition just as Oyo defeated Kwara by 2-1 to emerge the third best team of the competition.

Speaking while presenting trophies and medals to the

teams, sponsor of the tournament, Engr. Dotun Sanusi who also doubles as the Chief Executive Officer of Ilaji Hotels and Sports Resort expressed happiness that the competition was hitch free and the players competed in a friendly environment urging them to continue to imbibe the spirit of fair play.

According to Sanusi who was represented by the Chief Operating Officer of the Hotel, Prince Adesina Araoye, his organisation will continue to partner YSFON in grassroots sports development just as

he commended the body for its leadership position in talent discovery in the country.

"I'm happy that the competition lived up to expectation and the players competed in a friendly environment and displayed some good football artistry that got the attention of scouts.

"My promise is that we will continue to partner with YSFON to develop players at the grassroots and I want to assure you that the next edition will be more glamorous".

In his remarks at the closing ceremony,

National President of YSFON, Dr. Nasiru Gawuna who was represented by the Secretary General Patrick Okpavuerhe, Engr. Sanusi deserves commendation for his sponsorship of the tournament even as he appealed to other well meaning Nigerians to emulate him and give youths opportunity to exhibit their talents.

The President of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Ibrahim Gusau was represented at the finals by the Federation's Director of Media and Publicity, Ademola Olajire.

## Oyo Speaker To Tee-off Maiden TOPOSYI Golf Tourney At TGC

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Speaker of the Oyo State House of Assembly representing Ibarapa East constituency under the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Hon Adebo Ogundoyin will be at the prestigious Tiger Golf Club Ibadan on Saturday December 9, 2023 for the ceremonial tee-off of the first edition of Ayomiposi Ibrahim Foundation Charity Golf Tournament.

The two-day golf tournament was designed as part of activities to celebrate the birthday of an Ibadan based real estate guru and seasoned developer, Mr. Ayomiposi Ibrahim the CEO of TOPOSYI Realtors.

About 120 golfers across the country and West African countries have registered their intention to participate in the golf tourney scheduled for Friday when the golfers will arrive and have a feel of the golf course with practice rounds, and subsequently treated to a welcome cocktail with a live band and a kegite display.

The Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December according to the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Mr. Sikiru Jimoh is the ceremonial tee-off, a golf tournament and a Closing Ceremony at the pavilion of the Tiger Golf Club.

"Everything is set for the golfing event, as the beautiful golf course of Tiger Golf Club, which recently adjusted as one of the best golf courses in Africa is ready to host golfers and well wisher that will be

coming around to celebrate the philanthropist and a distinguished member of the TGC," said the



organizing committee boss.

He added that the TOPOSYI Realtors with his Ibrahim Ayomiposi Foundation will also be

reaching out to put smiles on the faces of the less privileged in the society as part of his style of celebrating his birthday annually.

# New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 6 No. 233

Friday 8th December, 2023

Jumadal - Awwal 22, 1445 AH

**Tudun Biri Bombing:  
SWAN/Kaduna Sports  
Ministry Novelty  
Match Postponed**

Story on Page 18

## Delta Mourns As Labour Icon, Frank Kokori, Passes On At 80

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori yesterday, expressed deep sadness over the demise of elder statesman and erstwhile General Secretary of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers of Nigeria, (NUPENG), Chief Frank Ovie Kokori.

Kokori, a renowned Labour Leader, who hailed from Ovu in Ethiope East Local Government Area of the state, died in the early hours of Thursday, coincidentally on his 80th birth anniversary.

As a pro-democracy activist, he headlined and epitomised the national struggle for the revalidation of the historic June 12 1993 presidential election under the Abacha regime.

A month ago, Kokori was reported to have fallen ill and was immediately visited at hospital by Governor Oborevwori.

In a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Sir Festus Ahon, in Asaba, Governor Oborevwori

commiserated with the family, the people of Ovu community in particular and the Urhobo nation over the passing of the fiery labour leader and chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

He described Kokori's passing as a "monumental loss" not just to NUPENG, Deltans and Nigerians, but to the entire world, adding that he fought gallantly for the people.

According to him, the deceased was a well respected elder statesman, an illustrious Deltan and recalled his visit to him on his sick bed in Warri.

Governor Oborevwori, said: "I have just received with shock, news of the passing of one of Nigeria's greatest statesmen, Chief Frank Ovie Kokori, a Deltan of unparalleled patriotism.

"I am saddened that at a time like this when his patriotic zeal is needed in our dear nation, Nigeria, death came calling. I will forever cherish our last moments together when I visited him in the hospital. He was

ebullient and was in very high spirit despite his ailment. He fought a good fight.

"I send my heartfelt condolences to the family, the Urhobo nation, NUPENG, APC, Deltans and Ovu community in particular over the passing of the renowned elder statesman and labour icon.

"As a bastion of inspiration, labour icon and a man of great political depth and insight as well as a leader of leaders, he contributed immensely to the development of our state and country throughout his lifetime.

"As a government, we were committed to ensuring that the now late elder statesman got back to his feet but, unfortunately, against the grain of our expectation, he couldn't make it back from the hospital.

"On behalf of the Government and people of Delta State, I mourn the exit of a great elder statesman, Chief Frank Ovie Kokori, whose contributions to the June 12 struggle and Nigeria's democracy remain an inspiration to many.

"As the nation mourns him, I



Frank Kokori

enjoin the Kokori family, friends and associates to honour his memory by continually upholding the values and principles which he lived for and never stopped fighting for till his death".

"My government will be fully active in giving this patriot a befitting funeral. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this critical time. May his gentle soul rest in peace".

## Benue Police Command Arrests 31 Suspects

By: ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

In decisive efforts to clamp down on criminal elements in Benue State, the State Police Command, has arrested 31 suspected criminals during joint operations by the police and other security operatives.

The newly posted Commissioner of Police Mr George Chukwu, who disclosed this during an interactive session with journalists at the Police headquarters in Makurdi, hinted that ten arms were recovered, while, two kidnapped victims rescued during the operation.

He explained that on December 3, the Police in Gboko received distress calls that armed robbers were robbing at Ayaba in Gboko, and that a team of Police Officers on patrol in the area swiftly moved to the scene and pursued the robbers to a nearby bush where four of them were arrested including Sangeun Ngugs male 23 years, Vershima Yaasa 23,



Aondofa Targema 18 and Terngu Gbam age 17 of various addresses.

Items recovered from the the suspects according to the Commissioner include; one Toyota Jeep, plasma Tv and their operational motorcycle, pointing out that one Terfa Msugh, owner of the motorcycle was also arrested.

Speaking further on some of the

remarkable successes of the Venue State Police Command, Mr Chukwu said that on December 2, one Mark Akpobari 27 of Rivers State origin, a corp member at the Wannune Orientation camp was on his way to Port Harcourt when he came into contact with one Iji Joseph at Wurukum, Makurdi.

According to the Commissioner the

meeting did not end well as Joseph raised an alarm that the corp member stole his genital organ which attracted a mob attacked on the corp member beaten up until a police patrol team intervened, "victim was taken to a hospital for treatment while the suspect arraigned in court for defamation of character and assault as medical report pointed to the contrary"

Speaking on the Yuletide period, the Benue Police boss want members of public that the Command was carrying out operations to secure the state, warning that the ban on knockouts is still in force.

He Implored parents and guardians to caution their children and wards against acts capable of breaching peace, adding that the Police will arrest anybody found violating the order during the periods, promising to sustain and maintain a cordial working relationship with the media community in the State.